



ISSUE #109

NOVEMBER 2007

### TEMPERS IGNITED BY GAS AND OIL

The November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at the Genoveva Chavez Center on gas and oil drilling in Santa Fe County was crowded and contentious. Although *The New Mexican* reported the audience at 300 with the overflow seated outside the meeting room, others counted many more. Bill Dirks, managing partner of Tecton, the Houston-based company that has leased 65,000 acres of mineral rights and is hoping to drill for 50-100 million barrels of oil, spoke for about an hour, often interrupted by outraged residents.

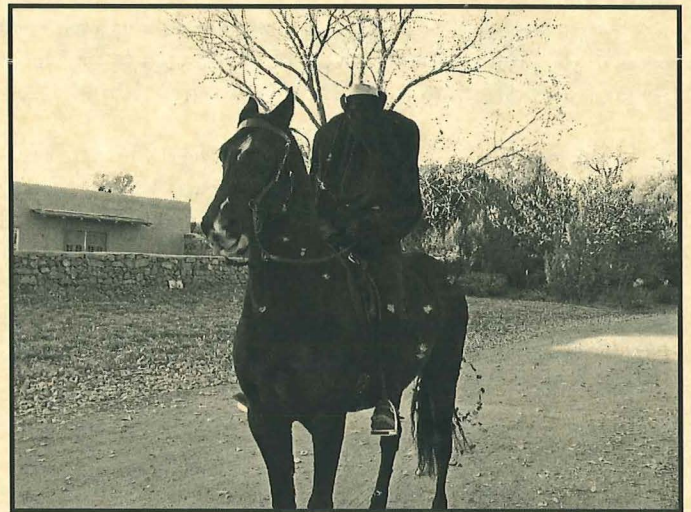
Last Spring, Tecton paid \$861 for 67,000 gallons of potable water from Santa Fe County for their explorations. Later this month, the company will be applying for a County drilling permit for eight wells (approximately 2 days supply of oil for the U.S.). If these are successful, "there will be lots of wells drilled" and the big companies like Exxon, Shell and Chevron will be brought in. The area affected lies between Madrid and Nambe. ("I bet they aren't drilling in Las Campanas," said one cynic.)

A woman who worked for 18 years in the gas and oil exploration business said the type of drilling planned was very risky in terms of guarding our water sources. Once contamination seeps out of the protective casings, as it often does, there is no way to stop it. Dirks insisted that there would be no leaks.

The two groups of people who were most incensed were those living on the west side of the Galisteo Basin where exploratory drilling has already begun, and real estate agents. Some homeowners, living in isolated sites, many off the grid, can already hear the roar of the generators. (They were supposed to be "muffled," but Tecton's excuse is that they cannot lay electric lines until they are permitted). Realtors have already found their businesses affected. They must advise buyers about mineral rights and warn them about the possibility of industrial incursions.

Jack Sullivan was the only County Commissioner attending, but presumably others will be at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting at Eldorado. Sullivan said that "the public can rest assured that this application is going to get intense scrutiny."

It is becoming increasingly clear that we must go all out — sign petitions, make calls, fight this operation and demand the tightest restrictions we can get. Otherwise we are complicit in the potential sellout of the Galisteo Basin.



The Headless Horseman made a surprise appearance just after his story was read to Halloween revelers in the Bosque.



Pirate Seth Griego and friends at Halloween Party  
(Photos: Jan Saunders).

## PROTEST: ELDORADO WANTS MORE WATER

Richard Griscom

The Galisteo Water Association, along with a few other water associations, neighborhood groups, and individuals, has protested an application by the Eldorado water system for approval of the annual use of 818.4 acre-feet of water. This is about 300 acre-feet more than Eldorado has used to date, and it could result in a substantial increase in consumption. Some of this additional water would probably come from Eldorado's Lamy Well, which draws on the same shallow alluvium as Galisteo's water source.

The Galisteo and Ranchitos water associations have each contributed \$250 toward the legal costs of this protest. However, more money is needed. Therefore the Santa Fe Basin Water Association, which is coordinating the protest, is requesting donations from everyone who might be negatively affected by such a substantial increase in water use by Eldorado – and that means all of us.

If you would like to make a donation to help pay the legal costs of the protest, **send your check to: the Santa Fe Water Basin Water Association, POB 6132, Santa Fe NM 87502.**

\*

Commonweal Conservancy has received the first level of County approvals for its proposed Galisteo Basin Preserve just south of Lamy Hill. However, the County attached several conditions, all of which are aimed at protecting Galisteo's water supply. Discussions with Commonweal regarding how it can comply with these conditions are about to begin. If you would like to be part of them, directly or indirectly, **call Richard Griscom, 466-3996.**

## GVFR NEWS

For the month of October Santa Fe County volunteer fire fighters wore pink shirts to raise awareness of breast cancer. They were inscribed "Santa Fe Firefighters Are Tough Enough to Wear Pink." (How tough *is* that?)

We are proud to announce that Chief Jean Moya was awarded "EMT of the Year Basic" by Region One.

The '08 Galisteo Phone Directory is in the works. If your listing is ok, do nothing. To create a new listing or update your old one, call Frank Lux at 466-2121 or email him at [forbeslux@aol.com](mailto:forbeslux@aol.com) before Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you want to say thank you to the GVFR, mail checks to Frank Lux, 52-A Las Tres.

## WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Richard Griscom

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the quarterly Galisteo Watershed Partnership Forum was held at the Community College. The theme of the meeting, which was open to the public, was community participation in the County's new planning process. Amy Tremper, Philip Pfeiffer and I attended from Galisteo.

For planning purposes, the County has been divided into four areas, one of which is the Galisteo Basin. A Growth Management Strategy will be developed for each area. As a major component of this strategy the County wants public input on what we see as our "desired future." For its part, the County says one of its primary goals in this process is protection of the environment.

Jack Kolkmeier, the County's Land Use Administrator,

answered questions regarding the proposed oil and gas drilling. The County Attorney's office is now drafting regulations specifically to regulate gas and oil drilling. The regulations will be released in draft form, with an opportunity for the public to comment on them before the Board of County Commissioners acts on them.

Kolkmeier recommended that we look at the draft regs when they are ready, comment on them, and attend the meetings of the BCC when they are considered. He says that the number of people who attend BCC meetings and express themselves on issues like this makes a big difference, with far more impact than presenting a written petition

## GARDENING THE BOSQUE

Dana Richards, Earth Works Institute

The Earth Works Institute convened a community stewardship meeting at the Community Center on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Reports were given by Richard Griscom and Harmony Hammond on monitoring well data and photo-point data from the Bosque over the last few years. Both activities were applauded. Griscom said that he could use some help. He would like to form a team of folks that can continue with this data collection and initiate new categories of data to help the community understand ground water patterns and the relationship between climate, surface flows, local uses, and upstream development.

Hammond's photos showed several years of vegetation and streambed conditions in the Bosque. They sparked an animated discussion about how to combine habitat needs for birds, removal of invasive species, and esthetic and recreational values into a restoration effort we are loosely called "Gardening the Bosque."

Among the goals of the meeting were to hear community input on and encourage participation in the Earth Works restoration project being developed between the two bridges, and to explore the possibility of a Stewardship Council for the village.

A number of action items emerged. **First**, the need for agreement from landowners along the restoration site, including those who are party to the Gafford/Clayton lawsuit, to pursue the restoration project no matter how the dispute gets resolved, and to put this in writing for the NM Environmental Department.

**Second**, the need to develop a team to move forward with systematic monitoring efforts and possibly add other monitoring sites. And **third**, to develop the restoration design and implementation to reduce erosion, improve water quality and quantity, increase flood capacity, preserve and regenerate biological diversity, maintain and enhance community access, preserve bird habitat while transitioning from non-native to native plant species at each vertical level in the riparian corridor, and generally develop the notion of gardening the Bosque.

Based on this list and on the group's enthusiasm, it was decided to form a Stewardship Council with the purpose of advancing the above agenda and bringing more residents of the Village into the stewardship process. Since these plans are within the scope of the Earth Works Institute's Watershed-Wise Communities initiative, EWI will help organize the first couple of sessions.

## WINTER BIRD SONG

Jan Saunders

By the end of October, the Galisteo Bosque fills up with falling and fallen leaves, fresh snow sparkles from the summits of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the sky turns an impossible blue, and an enormous full moon decants its phosphorescent glow over the chilled landscape. Fall is a fading memory. Winter is a pressing promise.

The woods are strangely silent. In the riverbed, chilled lethargic waters cut channels through golden leaf-covered sandbars. Buzzard trees are empty of their black-shrouded watchers. Gone are the spring and summer songs of the Blue Grosbeak, Wilson's Warbler, Lesser Goldfinch, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Western Wood Pewee. The tropical hues of Orioles and Western Tanagers now burn brightly in the forests of distant southern latitudes. Old friends have moved on in search of a warmer sun and richer feeding grounds.

Before I can slip into despair and longing for the familiar companionship of summer birdsong, I hear the flute-like tones of White-crowned Sparrows, a sure sign of winter. They sing tirelessly from the grasslands around the Community Center and just outside the window near my feeder. A friend reminds me that Dark-eyed Juncos (often called "snow birds") sound like the tinkling of little bells. I watch for the flare of white outer tail feathers as small clocks move ahead, constantly twittering and searching for ground food. The sharp crisp cry of the Northern Flicker splits the stillness. My eyes follow the bright red of familiar wings flashing through the cottonwoods. In the distance I hear the calls of both Red and White-breasted Nuthatches acrobatically hunting insects in the dried leaves and on the branches and trunks of trees. A clearly whistled "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" announces the presence of a Black-capped Chickadee and a raspier version of the same call belongs to the Mountain Chickadee. A growing number of American Robins "whiney" their way through the underbrush. Always vocal flocks of Piñon Jays and Red-winged Blackbirds hurry overhead.

Winter woods are not silent at all. Just walk at a slower pace, keep your eyes open and your ears tuned to a cold weather frequency, and discover beautiful birdsongs that are the antithesis of springtime warbling. Under a surprisingly warm late October sun, my friend Catherine and I dawdled along the river watching Pepper and Billie sniff and dig at critter holes, when a ratcheting chatter caught our attention. A different unexpected bird was calling near the Galisteo Inn pond. Catherine's guess at a Kingfisher turned out to be spot-on. We watched as a beautiful female Belted Kingfisher chattered and flew back and forth over the pond. Neither of us can recall ever seeing this bird in Galisteo. The sighting made our day and put the patina on a fall-winter bird walk.



## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Architects Suby Bowden and John Morrow were awarded the first Jeff Harnar Award for Contemporary Architecture for the residence of Emily Fisher-Landau and Sheldon Landau, now for sale on the **Saddleback Ranch near Galisteo.**

*Earth Lines*, the newsletter of the Santa Fe Conservation Trust (Fall 2007) contains an article by Ted Harrison on the **Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve.** For those who need more information on the project, Commonweal Conservancy's preserve's website is [www.galisteobasinpreserve.com](http://www.galisteobasinpreserve.com)

**John Massee** had a unique sculpture show at High Mayhem, 1803-B Lena St., that evolved around the drawing of a cart. "Come see what happens when an artist puts the cart before the horse," wrote Paul Weideman in *Pasatiempo*.

**Nacha Mendez** (aka Marghreta Cordero) is back in Galisteo! She is playing regular gigs at El Farol and El Meson.

## TRUCKS ROLL, OVER VILLAGE SOUL

*The New Mexican's* now defunct Eldorado section (10/24) printed an article by David Collins headlined "Study: Let the trucks roll on N.M. 41." Despite the hard work of our Road Committee, it seems that the die has been cast. Tankers and their cousins will not be banned. According to the DOT Legal Department, "overall, even with traffic consistently moving 10 or 15mph in excess of the posted speed limit near Galisteo, data suggests N.M. 41 is twice as safe as average highways statewide." That's a meager compliment that does not address the safety of pedestrians and animals or the fragility of the historic village. Hopefully this is not the end of the story.

## GCA MEETING OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup>

Linda Braun, Secretary

During the Open Forum, John Slater from the Appaloosa film company now working at Cerro Pelon Ranch, thanked the village for allowing his crew to film here. He mentioned that they are trying to restrict their impact on land and community and requested that residents contact him if anything related to the filming is problematic. He then presented a generous check to the GCA.

Richard Griscom came to the meeting to answer questions about the Bosque lawsuit which is currently in the Court of Appeals. Counterclaims have been filed by property owners hoping to be reimbursed for their legal expenses. The whole thing could take another three to six months. The Board will continue to discuss our options when this case is settled.

Keven Saunders presented her idea for a Halloween party down at the bosque, which was approved, and happened, and was a great success. (See photos page 1)

Driver feedback signs on NM 41 has been installed south of the village.

It was agreed to raise money for our legal defense against the gas and oil incursions. Instead of their November meeting, the entire GCA Board will attend the **County meeting on gas and oil at the Eldorado Elementary School Thursday Nov. 15, 7-9PM.**

## LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Halloween night, while I was out of town, a small fire broke out on my front deck. Apparently a man I had hired to refinish the deck placed some used stain rags in closed paint cans (as he later told me was his custom), and left them there for further use. During the day they most likely heated up in the sun and that evening combusted. The fire spread to the decking.

Amazingly some guests of Jim West spotted the fire, and through the Galisteo grapevine reached Shaun Merrick, Ken Kuhne and 911. Thankfully our volunteer fire department arrived within seven minutes and extinguished a small blaze that within another five minutes could have exploded into the house and totally destroyed it.

Obviously I am deeply appreciative of my caring concerned neighbors for their prompt action and of course for the marvelous professional skill of our fantastic fire department.

I am not sure that the community I came from outside of Chicago -- with 5,500 people and volunteer firefighters-- would have been as responsive. I have often pointed out with great pride to my urban visitors that even though this is a small rural community we have a greater togetherness and great public safety, even without police. A wonderful place to live!

--Frank Hirsch

*Editor's note: One caller to 911 was 9-year old Grace Morris. The initial responders from the GVFR, who extinguished the blaze, were all women: Jean Moya, Linda Anaya, Barbara King, and Melissa Moya. The GVFR also notes that the rags were soaked in linseed oil, a particularly dangerous substance.*

## EL PUENTE SPONSORS: RICHARD BUCKLEY AND TOM FORD

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Call 466-1276 by December 5th for next issue. PLEASE CALL TO RE-RUN AD.

#### WANTED

Looking for permanent ranch or farm work and cleaning, etc. Local recommendations. Martin and Maria Elena, 490-9900.

#### SERVICES

**Mac Tech Support and Tutoring**, photo digitizing and organizing, and Photoshop lessons: Tom Martinelli, 466-1020.

**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](http://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.

**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 231-6352

### +++ 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: December 5th. TO BE A SPONSOR: make out check to GCA for \$75, note "for newsletter," and send to address above.**

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