

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #114

APRIL 2008

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP: Saturday April 26th. Meet for coffee/donuts and pick up trash bags at Philip Watts III Park, behind mailboxes, 9-11 AM. Bring your own work gloves, water, etc.

UPDATE ON GAFFORD/CLAYTON SUITS

Richard Grsicom

On January 24, 2008, the New Mexico Court of Appeals affirmed the District Court orders which dismissed the Gafford/Clayton attempts to quiet title several pieces of land in Galisteo. The Court of Appeals incorporated the following language in its opinion: "Plaintiffs have been laboring under a fundamental misunderstanding of the law."

This is something we in the village have long believed and several of us have even attempted to convince Gafford and Clayton. Amazingly, there is evidence to suggest that the two still do not believe they have lost their cases, despite the action by the Court of Appeals. *

Unfortunately, the affirmation of the District Court orders by the Court of the Appeals applies *only* to the defendants who did *not* file counterclaims against Gafford seeking recovery of attorney fees (based on malicious abuse of process). Claims *were* filed on behalf of those village defendants whose interests are represented by the Galisteo Community Association and attorney Patrick Whelan. For them, the case is not quite over, (Cont.p,2)

GCA ELECTIONS: THURSDAY, MAY 8, 7PM, COMMUNITY CENTER (tentative; keep an eye on bulletin board for updates)

*

MAY 17th COFFEE/BOOK EXCHANGE
Community Center (host: Frank Croft)

BCC CANDIDATES SPEAK OUT ON OIL/GAS

Covering the races for two vacant seats on the County Commission, *The Santa Fe Reporter* made the Galisteo Basin a primary issue. All eight candidates were on "our side."

District 5, which includes Eldorado, has five hopefuls. **Liz Stefanics:** "If the oil companies want to go to lawsuits, the County should stand up to the lawsuits. We should also take it a step further and go to the Legislature to try to pass some laws that would protect private landowners." **Steve Wust:** "... What government needs to do is to ask, 'What are the community values of the Galisteo Basin?' That's what the ordinance should protect and preserve and then we'll tell the oil companies you either do it this way or you don't get to do it." **Mark Martinez:** "I'd like to see the whole ordinance rewritten so that the restrictions on oil and gas out here are so high that they will just not want to even attempt to drill in Santa Fe County at all." And **Ralph Jaramillo:** "I'll fight 'till the end, whether or not it goes to court. I will exhaust every effort as your County Commissioner to stop this." (Photo: from *Drilling Santa Fe*)



but it is just a matter of time. Discussions are under way with attorney Whelan as to how best to proceed on the counterclaims. Those defendants in the village who had other attorneys (usually through title insurance companies) should double-check with their own attorneys as to their status in the case.

*

**THIS IS NOT AN APRIL FOOL'S JOKE: It has just been brought to our attention that Peirce Clayton is advertising land for sale at "10 Avenida Vieja," for a lot of money. Stay tuned.*

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Marine Private First Class Elizabeth Montoya, daughter of David and Veronica Montoya, is stationed in Miramar, California, where she is in charge of logistics. After three years, she will train troops in Hawaii or Japan, and then to Afghanistan.

NMSU sophomore Tana Cárdenas, daughter of Freddie and Anna Cárdenas, has accepted a scholarship and summer internship with General Motors. She will be working for 12 weeks in the power-train division, located in Romulus, Michigan, beginning May 8th.

Susan Rothenberg and Bruce Nauman have adopted the dog called "Princess" from Cochiti, whose owner, a well-known potter, was killed in a car accident. Princess was written up in *The New Mexican* when she was rescued at the pueblo. She lost a leg, but has landed in clover.

Candyce Garrett is making a large stone sculpture for the new Farmers Market Building. *Replenishing the Earth* will consist of two 11' columns with interspersed black ledges holding granite spheres representing seeds, and a cascade of water. She was interviewed about the project on southwesttexaslive.com. Garrett is also working on a piece requested by Eve Enslar (of *Vagina Monologues* fame) for a women's shelter in New Orleans.

Chanteuse **Nacha Mendez** (our own Marghreta Cordero) was recommended in *The Santa Fe Reporter* Valentine's Day issue as "Old Fashioned Amore," whose "sexy vocals and jazz sound evokes New York clubs of the 1950s and exudes a romance normally confined to old movies."

Isabella Gonzales is showing a new work on the Iraqi war dead in "Occupying Forces," a sculpture show at Adams State College in Alamosa, CO. ("Salmonella Capital of the West..."). **John Massee** also contributed a large sculpture to the show.

Dorothy Vyse-Yarnell, who lived in Galisteo for many years, passed away on March 25th in Santa Fe. Her house -- now part of Tim Willms' store project -- was once a *cantina*. It stood right next to the old jail and, according to one native Galisteña, "they just went back and forth between the two."

Among José Antonio Esquivel's genealogical research papers in *La Herencia* (reprinted in *The New Mexican* 3/30/08) was one which featured the Madrid family, who were among the founders of the Villa de Santa Fe before 1610. It featured a picture of **Francisco Madrid (b.1889)** and his wife **Feliz Gutierrez (b. 1893)** who were both born in Galisteo, although their families later moved to Tarrant County.

Santa Fe County has a satellite office in Eldorado, at 14 Avenida Torreon (the Senior Center), open from noon to 5PM,

Tuesdays thru Thursdays. County Staff will answer questions, help resolve resident problems, issue landfill permits and register voters. For information, call 466-7039.

GALISTEO'S CIVIL WAR

During the Civil War, Galisteo became a crossroads for both Union and Confederate troops, the latter hoping to make New Mexico join the South, like neighboring Texas. The Confederates were mostly Texans based in San Antonio, despised by New Mexicans for their failed attempt to annex the Territory in 1843. They entered New Mexico and won the battle of Valverde, south of Socorro, in December 1861. New Mexico militiamen, led by Galisteans Brigadier General Nicolas Pino and his brother Col. Miguel Pino, followed the victorious Confederate troops as they marched north to take Albuquerque and Santa Fe, occupying Northern New Mexico from February to April 1862.

When Union Captain Enos learned the Confederates were marching from Valverde, he evacuated Albuquerque. Six wagons of supplies headed for Santa Fe were attacked by 500 deserters at Galisteo and held until Lt. Col. William Scurry and the 4th Regiment of Confederate Texans arrived. (The initials CSA -- Confederate States of America -- are carved into beams at the Ortiz y Davis hacienda in Galisteo, now the home of Woody and Dianna Gwyn.) The Confederates gathered and camped at Galisteo, en route to take over an undefended Santa Fe on March 13th. The Territorial government had fled to Fort Union. The Texans hoped to go on to capture Fort Union and acquire the desperately needed supplies there, but this was not to be.

The three-day Battle of Glorieta Pass began on March 26th. On the 28th, both sides took the field in the major battle at Pigeon's Ranch. The Confederates appeared to be winning, but the same day, a battalion of "Pikes Peakers" -- Colorado Volunteers of the Union Army under Col. John M. Chivington -- serendipitously came upon the eighty Confederate supply wagons hidden near the Galisteo Creek at Apache Canyon. Displaying the cruel efficiency that marked his later Sand Creek Massacre of the Cheyenne and Arapaho, Chivington destroyed the wagons and killed 27 soldiers, leading to a Confederate retreat and dashing the South's hopes of making New Mexico a slave state.

After the victory at Glorieta, the Colorado volunteers pursued the retreating Texans to Galisteo, but they escaped. Alarmed villagers kept watch from the hill known afterwards as *La Loma Tejana* -- either the hill where Judith Masin's house is, or The Hill itself.

An interesting footnote to Galisteo's Civil War is an undated letter in code, attributed to Nicolas Pino, that is archived at the State Library. Estimated to have been written in late 1860 (perhaps later), it reports to an unknown recipient the movement of Confederate forces, implying that Pino was spying for the Union. Deciphered and translated from Spanish, the letter reads: "Sir, rumors are that the Confederates are organizing a force that will march through New Mexico. This will need confirmation. If such news exists and gets to this remote area of mine, you shall be informed." Pino was later commended officially for having "rendered valuable services to the Union during the Civil War."

GALISTEO ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Richard Griscom

On March 27th, twelve village residents attended a potluck/meeting sponsored by Earth Works Institute about setting up a Galisteo Stewardship Team which would have the following functions: 1) **Identifying priorities** for village stewardship activities (workshops and other events); 2) **organizing those activities**; 3) **coordinating monitoring efforts** and communicating the results; 4) **servicing as an information exchange** on environmental issues in the village; and 5) exploring ways to **pass on stewardship** interest and capacity to the **village's youth**.

There was a consensus among those present that the team should be a committee of the Galisteo Community Association.

Earth Works agreed to help get the team started by: 1) providing technical assistance with monitoring activities, including a map of monitoring sites and help with presentation of the data gathered by monitors; 2) helping to get village youth involved by looking for funds for youth activities; 3) facilitating workshop(s) on clearing invasive species without unduly disturbing bird and animal habitat.

The team's **next meeting** will be on **Earth Day, April 22**, at 6:30 at the Community Center. It will be another potluck and all are invited. (The food this time was delicious!) The purpose will be to set up working groups and develop timelines for activities.

THE BARD'S BIRD

Jan Saunders

Shakespeare in the Galisteo Basin? Well, no -- but thanks to Eugene Schieffelin's plan back in the 1890s to introduce into North America all bird species mentioned in Shakespeare's plays, the Bard's bird is here. The European Starling is part of the group of avian ex-pats, like the White-winged and Collared Doves and English Sparrows we see every day hanging out around our church steeple.

I'm being honest here, folks, when I say that all my bird-watching days I have detested Starlings. In spite of their lovely, glossy, greenish-black feathers, I have demeaned them for their raucous, unmelodic songs, decried their stumpy-tailed, ungraceful flight, and despaired of adding their numbers to my bird count lists. I have called them (to their faces) ugly, messy, public nuisances. I secretly suspect their kind has gone over to the dark side. In short, I have branded Starlings as useless, unattractive, un-American, evolutionary blunders. And now, with all humility and a whispered pardon to Starlings everywhere, I admit the inaccuracy of my embarrassingly narrow minded judgment.

The European Starling is an exceptionally successful and uniquely adaptable species with several admirable traits. For one, the jarring squeaks, squawks, and whistles so annoying to our ears are a learned musical score far more complicated than the genetically pre-programmed lyrical trill of vocal non learners like the Kingbird or Phoebe. Starlings, along with Mynas, Mockingbirds, and Parrots, are capable of learning new songs all

their lives and frequently copy sounds from other birds, humans, and machinery. I read of a Starling that learned to imitate the whistle of a tea kettle. Even after the owner bought a new kettle without a whistle, the Starling proudly provided the sound of the whistle every time the kettle was set to boil. Some bird!

Starlings are also highly successful early nesters whose babies get the jump on other birds by being first in line for available food. While most birds are looking for mates and establishing territory, Starling parents are bracing themselves for the empty nest syndrome, and revving up their family planning to include a second brood. The Starling's wide distribution and enormous numbers represent the most successful avian introduction in the history of North America.

Sadly, their success comes at the expense of farmers, livestock breeders, and cavity nesting birds. Starlings are highly social birds that feed, roost, and migrate in huge flocks. They degrade public parks and buildings, destroy fruit crops, consume grain meant for livestock (I know, they also eat a few insects and garbage, but let's not give them too much credit!) and evict less aggressive, more desirable birds out of prime cavity nesting sites. Valiant human efforts at managing their legions have been mostly unsuccessful. And so, at the end of the day, the European Starling endures as an extraordinarily adaptable survivor that maybe, just maybe, deserves a little respect.

*

CORRECTION/APOLOGY: EL PUENTE apparently mangled "Spring Hints" ("from" not "by" Jan Saunders) in the last issue, trying to fit it into the space available. If the beleaguered Blue Birds befuddled you, check out www.sialis.org or call Claudia in Eldorado (466-1950) for better information. **MORE FOR THE BIRDS:** There will be a Kids Bird Walk on Saturday, May 3, 8-10AM. Meet in front of the Galisteo Inn. Bring binoculars, water, snack, and wear hat. Questions? Call Jan Saunders, 466-6620. The **International Spring Migratory Bird Count** takes place on **Saturday, May 10**. This is a team effort. Less experienced birders will be placed with those more experienced. Interested? Call Sheila Gershon, 988-3143.

GCA REPORT

Linda Braun, Secretary

GCA Board members Steve and Amy Tremper regretfully informed the Board that due to the demands of their work they had to resign their positions on the Board.

Saturday Coffees are getting better and better -- great conversation, coffee, and food. Come on over and join the fun. Bring along some books to trade and take some new ones home. June and August are still open. To sign up, call Anna Cárdenas, 466-8967.

Given the success and fun of last year's "Paint the Mailboxes" event, the Board is considering another round this spring/summer on Rte. 41. Because these boxes are so close to the road, we will ask the Fire Department's assistance in blocking off that side to traffic, to guarantee safety. We'll keep you posted.

The Board has decided to place bookshelves in the large room at the Community Center so that everyone can select and donate books more easily. **Next meeting: April 17th, 7PM.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The GVFR had a busy month in March, answering more calls than usual, including 5 brushfires, 2 structure fires (mutual aid elsewhere in the County), a vehicle rollover, an alarm check, and a waterline break

Christian Mee, who works at the Galisteo Inn, is a new member of the GVFR. You too can step up: **THE GVFR IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS.**

Because of the hot, dry, and windy weather, please be very careful. Get a burn permit from GVFR if you are planning any burning. **Don't dump your fireplace ashes anywhere but at the Transfer Station.**

EL PUENTE SPONSORS DOROTHY VICTOR AND SAM SLOAN

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Call 466-1276 by May 5th for next issue.

FOR RENT

Apartment in village, \$750 incl. utilities; no dogs; call Steve or Jean, 466-1544.

FOR SALE

Siri Hollander rebar horse sculpture, \$1459. Sina, 577-4045.
John Conell Plaster Flamingo. Paper cutter. Easel. Frames. Slide projector, and SO MANY books, art, and you name it. View by appointment, Liz and David, 466-6003.

WANTED

Small space (c. 20x20') wanted for blacksmith shop. Mark Russell, 466-0661.

Mature, responsible woman seeks summer house-sitting in Galisteo area; loving care of pets and gardens; local references. 520-896-3315 or pwbarton@theriver.com.

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

SERVICES

Rocky Mountain Handyman. Can do anything! Call Mark Lyons, 466-2157.

Remodelling, additions in adobe and frame, mud plaster, stonework, metal lathe plaster, flagstone and building maintenance, Sina Brush, 577-4045.

Computer tutor/personal assistant. Contact Paige, 466-1002.

Mac Tech Support and Tutoring, photo digitizing and organizing, and Photoshop lessons: Tom Martinelli, 466-1020. Beth is available for **petsitting in Galisteo**, 470-7606.

Need a pet sitter or house sitter? I will do short or long-term care, occasional overnights, reasonable rates, refs. available. For info, call Maria, 466-8930.

Petsitting, call Marghreta, 466-4457.

White Dog Cyclery: Certified bicycle maintenance/repair. Your family bicycle service. All bikes, repairs. Call Frank, 466-2121.

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

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

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home; also limited boarding. Twenty years experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

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

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.

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.

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

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

El Puente de Galisteo
14 Avenida Vieja
Galisteo NM 87540

Susan Cook
166 Coalisteo Lane
Santa Fe
NM 87505