



ISSUE #127

SEPTEMBER 2009

FALL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 17th: Board of County Commissioners' hearings on *Saddleback Ranch* development and *Tienda Anaya* plans (around 4:00 PM County Courthouse, Grant and Palace).

SEPTEMBER 19th, 6PM: ANNUAL CHILI CHALLENGE at the Community Center. (Contestants for Chile and Margarita prizes please come at 5:30; bring food in plug-in crockpot to warm and ladle to serve). *Nacha Mendez and Melanie Monsour* will provide music. **PLUS!** "Star Party," with astronomers from Capital City's Astronomy Club (working in conjunction with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust's Night Sky Program), high-powered telescopes will show us constellations, double stars, nebulae, and Jupiter with four of its moons.

OCTOBER 3, 10AM: COFFEE AND BOOK EXCHANGE PLUS COMMUNITY CENTER LANDSCAPE WORKDAY. (Bring work gloves, wheelbarrows etc.)

UNTIL OCTOBER 11th: "The Harvest: Of Love, Of the Land," (work by Galisteo artists) at Woody and Dianna Gwynn's Galisteo Historical Museum; to be followed by a show of Studio Tour participants.

OCTOBER 17-18th: STUDIO TOUR.

OCTOBER 25th: NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LOS REMEDIOS 125th ANNIVERSARY Mass, Procession, and Fiesta. **DONATIONS ARE WELCOME.** Call Maria, 466-8930; or make checks out to Sacred Heart Society, send to Pat Matchison, POB 3, Stanley, NM, 87506.

HELP! El Puente needs someone to pick it up at printer and label, stamp and mail the OCTOBER ISSUE (which has an early deadline of Oct. 1 because your editor will be working out of the country from Oct.7-17.) It only takes a couple of hours at most! Please call Lucy at 466-1276.

(Photo: Denise Lynch)



UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

Galisteo is up to its neck in local issues this fall: Saddleback Ranch's development proposal, the El Dorado water rights protest, Joe Miller's rockcrushing operation, Galisteo's water contract with Commonweal, the Tienda Anaya, plans for NM41, and the ever-ongoing Gafford/Clayton land-grab suit.

Muriel Fariello, now the GCA point woman for the Saddleback development, reports that County Commissioner Mike Anaya, and Jack Kolkmeier and Shelly Cobau from the County Land Use Department spoke to the Community Association August 15th regarding the County's requirements for any development at Saddleback Ranch. (See also GCA, p.3)

Muriel also reports that she and Joette and Nick Trofimuk attended the El Dorado water rights meeting in late August. Galisteo is among several communities protesting. Both parties agreed to mediate the requested water rights. No meeting for negotiations was agreed upon; it probably won't happen for a while. A meeting with the hydrologist for this project is scheduled for September 18th at 11AM at the Office of the State Engineer in the Manhattan building.

The Sand and Gravel permit requested by Ponderosa Aggregated (Joe Miller) for a rock crushing operation near the junction of NM 41 and US 285 was denied by the State EPA. The company can request another review, but not without a public hearing.

Galisteo's water contract with Commonweal Conservancy, the product of two years work by an ever-changing local committee, is almost ready to be signed, once a final phrase or two are negotiated. The BCC Hearing on Phase One of Commonweal's Galisteo Basin Preserve project is taking place as this *El Puente* goes to press and will be reported in the next issue.

A community meeting was held August 5th to discuss plans for the "Galisteo Village Store" at the Tienda Anaya by Tim Willms, although he was not at the meeting. On August 19th, an open house was held at the property, where much work has already been done. On both occasions, the community had many questions, the answers to which are not resolved. The grocery store/coffee shop project is generally welcomed by villagers, whereas proposals for a new two-story building right up against Priscilla Hoback's and for a wine "club" accessible only by private membership (though preferable to a drive-in!) have raised controversy. The meat storage is already in place. The CDRC hearing was postponed from August to Sept. 17th to allow further discussion with the neighbors.

NMDOT has hired a professional surveying service as consultant for a corridor study on NM 41 from Clark Hill to the US 285 junction, which presumably includes the controversial bridge project at the southern edge of the village. They will begin "on or around Sept. 14th." Questions should be addressed to Phil Gallegos (476-4232), David Quintana (827-1635), or David Pennington (505-379-9058) who is the consultant team lead. We had better keep a close eye on these proceedings. In an article in *Parade* (3/6/09) the Missouri state transportation secretary was quoted as encouraging "good, not perfect" roads with innovative design. He had this to say about "replacing worn-out country bridges with large concrete decks": "You don't need an extra 18 to 20 feet."

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

The mini-retrospective of art by **Bruce Nauman**, who represented the United States at the Venice Biennale this summer, received the Golden Lion Award. *The New York Times* wrote: "Bruce Nauman commands center stage unlike any American representative since perhaps the young Robert Rauschenberg, 45 years ago." *Art in America* said "It's a long way from a horse ranch on the high plains of Galisteo, N.M., to the teeming multicultitudes of the Venice Biennale."

Nacha Mendez won *The Santa Fe Reporter's* "Best of Santa Fe 2009" award for best female vocalist.

The paintings of former Galisteña **Deborah McNaughton** (1954-2005) were shown in a retrospective at Peyton Wright in June.

The life of **Susan Elizabeth Butcher**, who died on April 15th, was celebrated at the Galisteo Inn on June 27th. A well-known architect and designer, she lived on Marcellina Lane with her husband **Henry Noestheden**.

The Galisteo Studio Tour is featured in the Sept./Oct. *New Mexico Journey* (the Triple A magazine) with photographs of **Mela Montoya** and **Maria Ortiz y Pino** and local landmarks -- a nice PR piece on our "quiet, rural village."

Harmony Hammond is now the Santa Fe art critic for *The Albuquerque Journal North*; her reviews appear on Fridays.

La Sala de Galisteo artists have received the final report from the State of New Mexico clarifying what the building owned by La Sociedad de San José de Galisteo requires for renovation and occupancy. Because they have not received a lease agreement from La Sociedad, they are waiting to move forward on building development while pursuing other options.

A picture in *The New Mexican* (9/6/09) showed **Tobias Anaya** helping to set up the 1953 Zozobra.

County Open Space and Trails Director Beth Mills has had her hands full with **tours to "Petroglyph Hill"** on CR 42. The 60 slots (4 tours of 15 people each) announced in July were filled up before the general public had a chance at them. The 780-acre property was bought with the open space bond in 2000 for \$2.2 million from Thornton Ranch, but has never been opened to the public because of its fragile archaeological resources. Other tours are planned. To place your name on a waiting list to hike this stunning site, call Mills at 992-9857 or at bmills@santafecounty.org.

Robert Keaton and **Christine Mackenzie** are working on a film trilogy: *The Introduction*; *Healing the Earth*, the *Masculine* and the *Feminine*, and *Prophecy and Teachings*. DVDs are for sale at Santa Fe Soul or through the internet: www.vimeo.com/615186, 6042471, and 6042471. Keaton has also documented the work of Australian Aboriginal elder Banjo Clarke (*Cont. p. 3*)

(DVD at www.WisdomManBook.com), while Mackenzie has received full funding for a feature film "To Life!" — a German-American co-production. She has been working on this project for eight years and has offered the role of a Russian actress to **Denise Lynch**, who was in a stage reading at the Santa Fe Film Center.

Prairie dogs are being relocated from Santa Fe to the Galisteo Basin Preserve in mid-September. A mountain lion was seen in the Bosque from the old bridge. Warblers are coming through the Bosque now.

An article in *New Mexico Wildlife* on **turkey vultures** offers the following revelations: Without talons with which to grab or defend themselves, turkey vultures have evolved a remarkable sense of smell, sensing carrion from up to eight miles away. If attacked, they produce a putrid vomit that repels almost anything. With a wing span of up to 70 inches, they can soar great distances, flying for up to six hours without flapping their wings. "Their slow graceful flight" endears them to many, among them Galisteños awaiting their arrival in mid March and mourning their departure around mid October.

Additional roofs for seating at the **Rodeo Grounds** were provided by one of the movies based there last summer. The impressive **ramada at Philip Watts III Park** behind the mailboxes is coming along. An issue with poor construction of the roof was resolved by architect **Rob Civitello** with Commissioner Mike Anaya's office. It will be re-done and completed in time for the church anniversary. The gray stain on the pillars was a surprise and may be modified.

Tecton capped the Black Ferrill No. 1 oil well in June, marking the end of the company's operations in the Galisteo Basin.

GCA MEETINGS

From Secretary **Rob Civitello's** notes covering meetings of **June 29, July 20, and August 26**

Richard Griscom and Tom Morin updated the Board on the legal status of the Gafford/Clayton vs. GCA countersuit, which is still awaiting the judge's signature on the final judgment.

Wendy Chase, Frank Hirsch and Barbara Pfeiffer were suggested as Galisteo representatives to United Communities of Santa Fe, the organization formed to give voice to villages whose community plans are affected by the Santa Fe County Growth Management Plan.

More careful consideration of potential impact upon neighbors must be given before committing to future movie rentals of the Community Center.

At the July 20th meeting, the Board received an unscheduled visit from Gabriel Bethel, representing Saddleback Ranch. He offered information on the potential development, maps of proposed lot line adjustments and current parcels, and a handout letter. Although encouraged to do so, Saddleback did not call a general community meeting, (See **Updates**, p. 2.)

THE BARD'S BIRD

Jan Saunders

Shakespeare in the Galisteo Basin? Well, not exactly, but thanks to Eugene Schiefflin's grandiose plan back in the 1890s to introduce all bird species mentioned in Shakespeare's plays into North America, the Bard's bird is here. The European Starling is one of the avian ex-pats, like the White-winged and Collared Doves and the English Sparrows we see every day hanging out around our church steeple.

I'll be honest, folks. 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 ungraceful, stumpy-tailed 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 suspected that their kind had 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.

Old obsessions die hard, but facts force me to admit that Starlings are an exceptionally successful and uniquely adaptable species. Their jarring squeaks, squawks and whistles 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 when the owner bought a new kettle without a whistle, the Starling proudly provided the sound 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 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. Their wide distribution and enormous numbers represent the most successful avian introduction in the history of North America. From the scant 100 individuals released in New York's Central Park just before the turn of the 20th century, their population has now reached the 200 million mark.

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

THIS ISSUE OF EL PUENTE IS DEDICATED TO THE BELOVED ANIMAL COMPANIONS WHO DIED recently, including the Griscoms' CHUÑO, Muriel and Barbara's (and Antonio and Denice's) BUSTER, Shira's STANLEY, Tom and Isabella's ROSIE, the Kings' ARCHIE and RUSTY, and Lucy's CHINA. Let me know who I missed and I'll print an occasional memorial.

This year's RODEO DE GALISTEO was, as usual, a great success despite El Puente's screw-up of the dates. Apologies all over again to Rudy Sena and family. *The New Mexican* did a great job of covering it so El Puente's "rodeo correspondent" (Wayne King) abdicated this year.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: ROMONA SCHOLDER

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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.

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+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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