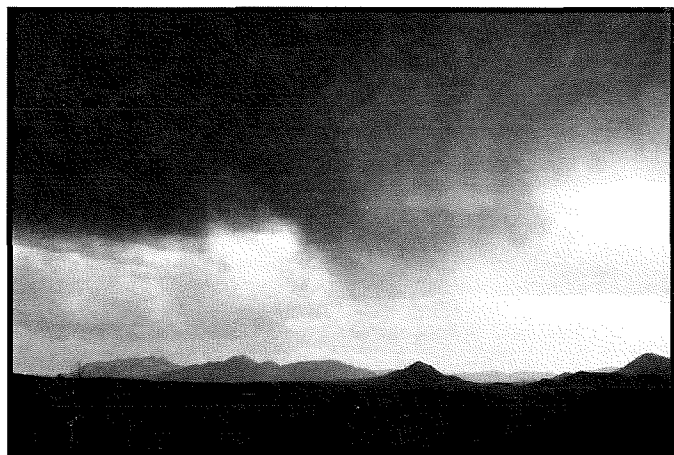




BEARING DOWN

Thanks to the drought and absence of fruit in orchards this year, Black Bears looking to beef up for hibernation are in bad straits. They have been coming down arroyos from the mountains and the Galisteo Bosque is one of their refuges. In the last few weeks, reports of a young male bear and a mother with two cubs have flooded the village airwaves. Seen on both sides of the creek and all over Ranchitos, bears are after garbage, birdfood, grease on grills, compost heaps, and at my house, a bag of appropriately-named YumYum. The friend staying here reported two visits that had my dog going ballistic. A souvenir remains -- a huge muddy pawprint on a window which was not even washed off by the rains. When Janice Griscom heard a rumpus around her goat pen, she got in her car and drove back there. The mother stood up to full height, ready to protect her cubs. Margaret Wrinkle has also had a dramatic encounter, as presumably others have too.

Sightings have now diminished. As of this writing it seems the poor bears may have wandered off to more fertile feeding grounds. Lemon berries could be ripening in the mountains, providing some food for desperate creatures. In August, *High Country News* reported that New Mexico activists were trying to get the state to "implement an emergency 'diversionary' feeding program to feed bears in the backcountry" to reduce human confrontations, but not everyone agrees this is a good idea.



Evening Storm. Rain was the other big news. (Photo: Nicholas Trofimuk)

SAT. SEPT 28, GCA Annual Chile Cook Off. 6:00 at the Community Center. Contestants should bring their Chile or Margaritas by 5:30. Prizes, music, all free, all welcome.

*

OCTOBER 19-20, Galisteo Studio Tour.

BEAR MEDICINE

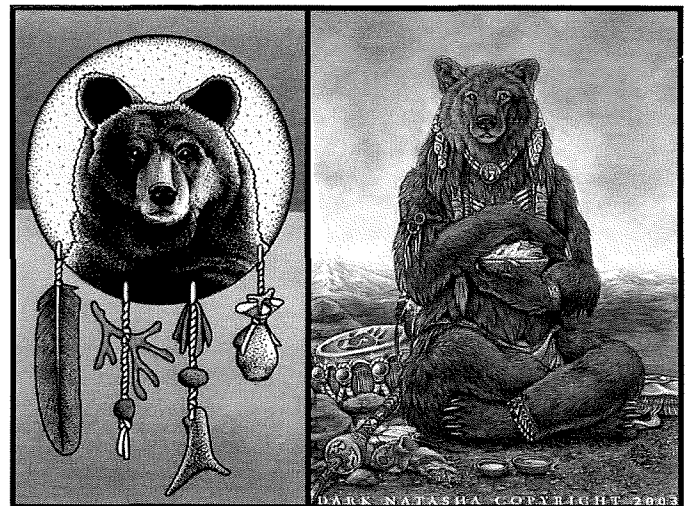
Ruby Renshaw

When my father retired, he directed some of his time towards genealogy. Not too far in, he learned, to everyone's surprise, that his lineage included Native American ancestors.

I found this fascinating and delightful. I had always been interested in Native American traditions—attending sweat lodges and the occasional ceremonial dance. After my father's discovery, I began learning and integrating Animal Medicine into my life.

With beautiful, curious bears honoring us with their presence, it is interesting to look at the Animal Medicine, or message, that Bear is bringing.

In many Native American traditions, "medicine" refers to anything that improves one's connection to all of life. This would include the healing of body, mind, and spirit. (Cont. p.2)



(left: James Finnell; right, Dark Natasha.)

Bear Medicine cont.)

This medicine is also anything that brings personal power, strength, and understanding. Native American Medicine is all encompassing as it involves being on the earth in perfect harmony with the Universe or "Great Mystery."

Native American Animal Medicine teaches that our fellow creatures exhibit habits that can relay messages and lessons for healing to anyone through sightings, observation, or resonance with a particular animal. Each animal is assigned a lesson based on a specific concept for the sake of simplicity. This is free, precious medicine.

"The strength of Bear Medicine is the power of introspection. Bear seeks honey, or the sweetness of truth, within the hollow of an old tree. Bear enters the womb-cave-Great Void to hibernate and digest the year's experience.

"To accomplish the goals and dreams that we carry, the art of introspection is necessary.

"The Great Void is the place where all solutions and answers live in harmony with the questions that fill our realities. If we choose to believe that there are many questions to life, we must also believe that the answers to these questions reside within us. Each and every being has the capacity to quiet the mind, enter the silence, and know.

"Bear invites us to go within.... so that our dreams become concrete harmonious realities." (Jamie Sams and David Carson *Medicine Cards: the Discovery of Power through the Ways of Animals*, Santa Fe: Bear & Company, 1988.)

GOLD IN THEM THAR HILLS

The price of gold rose to \$1,420 an ounce at the end of August, and industry pressure is mounting to permit Santa Fe Gold's new \$2 billion mine project off NM 14 in Carache and Lukas Canyons. It would be near Lone Mountain (the volcanic peak many of us see from our windows), where there is also an abundance of copper to be extracted. (The Martinez administration has gutted the pit rule protecting ground water at copper mines.) The company has sent out thousands of glossy brochures asking for support, which they are unlikely to get from most locals.

Among the opposition are archaeologists, Pueblo tribes protesting the impact on many ancient and sacred sites, wildlife advocates, residents worried about machinery and dust, destruction of the landscape, tourism, trucks on the Scenic Byway, expansion of mining in the Ortiz, and the 200 acre feet of water they would need for ten years, although the Madrid well, originating in the Ortiz, has been dropping 15 feet a year.

SF Gold (affiliated with an infamous Australian corporation) claims it will use a new environmentally friendlier technology instead of cyanide leaching (though not for the copper), but they will reportedly level two hills in the canyons in an open pit operation. This is happening just as the gold scar from an earlier mine on the eastern slope of the Ortiz mountains (*see p.4*) is beginning to grow over. In the mid-1980s, a citizen's group successfully sued LAC Minerals over water contamination from that mine. Looks like it's time to rev up again. See Stop Santa Fe Gold on Facebook.

BOB: THE BACKSTORY

David van Dyk

Bob is part of Eric's dummy collection (last count thirteen -- from his past doing visual display work at Macy's). Bob was bought on German Ebay two years ago for \$25. The seller in Berlin said anybody who can "get this thing out of my apartment today can have it." It belonged to her former boyfriend and she had Bob posed on a couch with a top hat, a necktie and a wine bottle. He looked homeless and hated. But as John Nissen is a top mannequin model, Eric had my nephew in Dusseldorf call a friend in Berlin and hand the lady the twenty five bucks the same day. (How about that for global transaction!) Then Bob was packed and UPSed (\$225) and arrived in Galisteo with the usual delivery sarcasm: "Got another body here for Eric Thomas!"

Bob got a new set of blue glass eyes, and sat around here up on the Hill, clothesless, scaring unsuspecting souls who responded with "that's creepy" and mostly "Eric does what?!"

So, when Jean Moya was talking at a La Sala meeting about how the lurking squad car would be better with a cop in it, Bob's services were offered and he got the job -- legless, with a wig.

(and) STALKING BOB

Bob was in the Rodeo parade, "incognito" (cowboy hat with mirror sunglasses) on La Sala's float. He had such a good time with the candy-throwing kids that he lost his donut on the parade route. On Monday morning, Jean Moya left a message: "I'm looking for Bob! He's late to work!" Obviously, he'd had a good time at the rodeo and was hung over on the Hill.

One day Jean, our fire chief, got a visit from the police chief. She was afraid she was in trouble, but he said he wanted to see for himself if a dummy cop worked. He spent over a half an hour watching the traffic and concluded that "Bob works!"

The latest is that one morning at the beginning of August, when Jean brought Bob "down to his job," a dark car followed her from the bridge and stopped to watch as she set Bob up south of the church. As she was struggling to get Bob's arm up on the steering wheel, a well-dressed woman approached and knocked on the squad car window. Jean rolled down the window, apprehensively, and the woman said she'd come by the other morning on her way to NM 14 and had stopped to ask Bob for directions. When he didn't respond, she went around the back of the car. When she realized Bob was a mannequin, she said she laughed and thought, "Oh, am I the dummy!"

So, the reason she was stalking Bob (and Jean) was that she was building a house off NM14, was brand new to the area, and wanted to photograph Bob for her Christmas card! She told Jean that Bob was the "most ingenious" thing she had found all around Santa Fe.

So now Bob is getting smart (and smug) and considering a Santa suit to make some extra cash for the holidays. We may even see him as a poseur during the upcoming Galisteo Studio Tour!



PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Emily Montoya was quoted in a *New Mexican* story (9/2) on raising the County's minimum wage as she was working at La Sala (\$10.50 an hour). Although she is attending the Community College, she told the reporter that it wasn't for everyone and "if they could find a job without a college education doing something that they love, it would be good."

Craig Moya won second place at Spanish Market with his straw appliqué *Illusions*.

The CR 42 dummy on the front page of the last (Summer) issue was set up by Michael D. Anaya. He found it (in another incarnation, with a blonde wig) and brought it home in the front seat. When his wife saw him coming in the driveway, she thought it was her sister-in-law.

The new Legal Tender chef is Alex Trovato, who lives in Galisteo and is an active member of the Fire Department.

Candyce Garrett's *Emergence* (her stone sculpture is familiar to Galisteños crossing the old bridge) is a feature of the new Santa Fe Botanical Garden on Museum Hill, which is a truly lovely addition to the City Different.

La Sala (now on line at LaSala.org) received yet another chunk of media attention with a front-page feature in *The New Mexican* (7/19). It quotes Eric Thomas, citing his doctorate in sociocultural anthropology and archaeology from UC Berkeley: "Everything that I studied, it's all right here in one building... History can fall away unless you prop it up." The bad news is that as work continues, new adobe damage is appearing; despite the \$50,000 already raised, another \$30,000 will be necessary to complete the job.

The Rodeo de Galisteo got congratulatory front-page coverage in the Sports Section (7/20) and more feature coverage the next day. The Rodeo now has a Facebook page and a website, and is dealing with an excess of photographers, who sometimes try to sell their wares to the family. Audra Baca (Rudy Sena's daughter who, along with her sister Amy Gallegos, is running the show now, said "I can take my iPhone and iPad and take the exact same picture and not pay \$500." (So much for the artist's eye....) Baca also insisted the family did not want the Rodeo to become bigger and lose its grass roots appeal, a desire aided by the fact that there is no water or electricity on the Rodeo Grounds: "These guys here, they're local and this is their 15 minutes of fame."

Vista Clara Ranch is up for sale (again) for just under \$5 million. It includes 138.5 acres "with underground aquifer" (!) Judge Reinhold was mentioned in the national *Parade* magazine (3/11/12) gossip column, which noted that he was "54, continues to act and has a film in the works": *Comics Open*.

Community Plans at Work (let's hope this goes for Galisteo's plan too): Santa Fe County's plan for the Santa Fe Canyon Ranch (now aka La Bajada Ranch) was stalled by several issues, among them residents reminding us that La Cienega's community plan prohibits the use of imported water to increase the density of development. The CDRC tabled the issue.

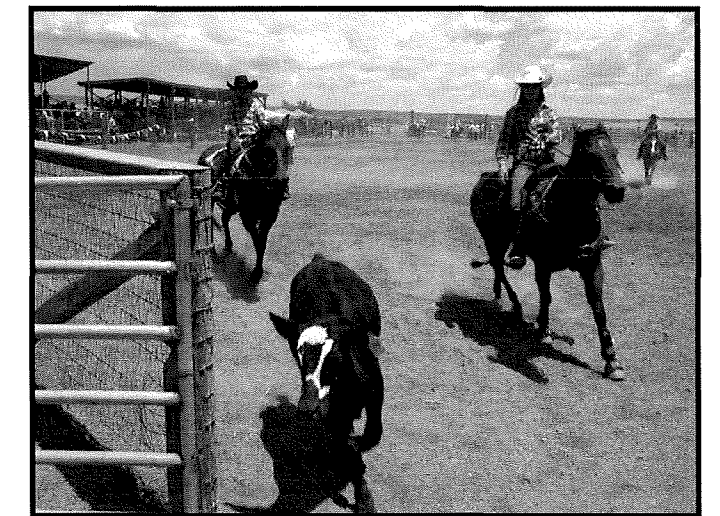
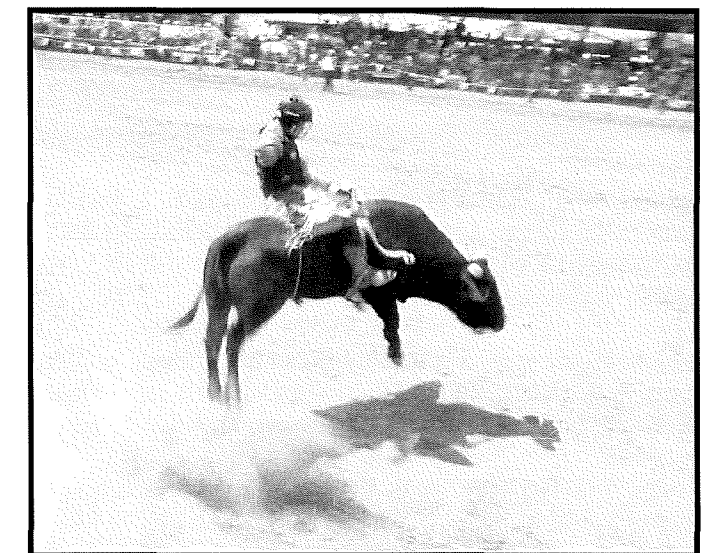
Tommy Lee Jones will star in a remake of John Wayne's *Cowboys* (mentioned in *The New Mexican*, 9/8), though La Mitotera didn't seem to know that it was filmed on the San

Cristobal ranch, where you can still see the set's disintegrating ranch house and windmill from NM 41.

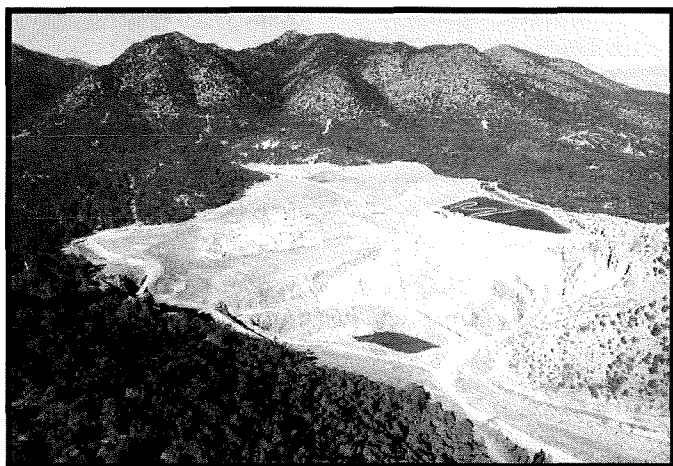
New Mexico Wildways, coordinated by Jan Willem Jansens, is a recently formed organization working to implement wildlife habitat connectivity across the Galisteo Basin. It is a member of Western Wildways Network -- 22 respected conservation groups focusing on protecting and restoring regional wildlife habitat corridors to form a continental pathway for wide-ranging creatures. It was featured in the June issue of *Green FireTimes*.

Thanks to generous support from the PNM Resources Foundation, REI, and the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, the Commonweal Conservancy is adding 3.74 miles of hiking and biking trails to the Galisteo Basin Preserve's trail system, expanding the network to more than 22 miles -- making it one of Santa Fe's largest recreation resources for hiking, mountain bike riding, trail running, equestrian use, and wildlife viewing.

We are not off the hook yet on gas and oil development despite the great victory of 2007. The HPD gets regular calls about energy development in the basin. The good news is that BLM has removed mineral rights from their lands here.



(Rodeo photos by Bill Mitchell.)



Old Gold Mine Scar (Photo: Bill Baxter)

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