



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY: GUESS WHO!

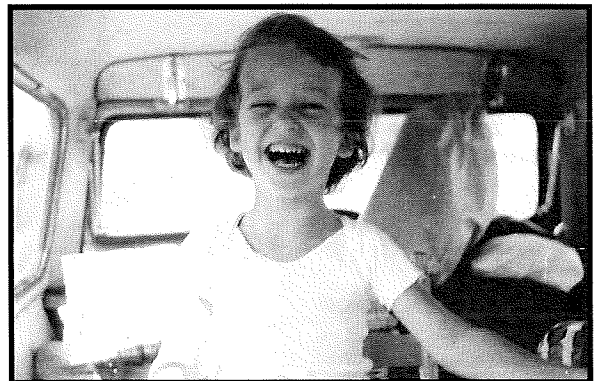
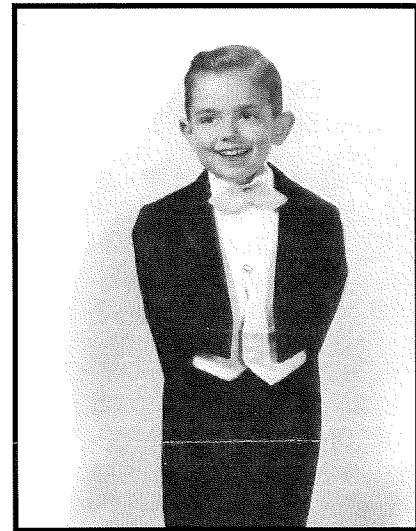
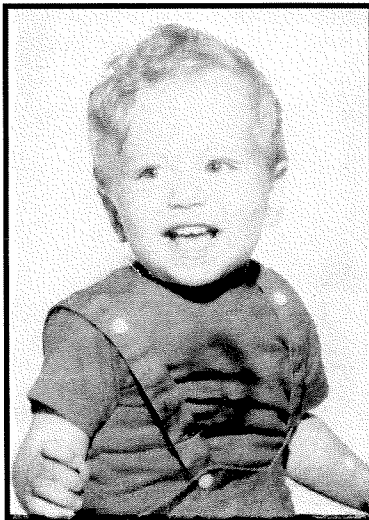
Cindy and Frank Lux, impresarios of the annual GFVR Holiday Party (held this year on January 8th), came up with a challenging theme. *El Puente* is happy to let the entire community enjoy baby pictures of some GVFR members, which were displayed (unidentified) on the bar at Arable. In honor of V-Day we offer two prominent local couples. (More to come in future issues.)

*** Saturday Community Breakfasts Coming Up ***

March 9th, GCA Board Election: (if you'd like more info please contact Roger Taylor) followed by a Community breakfast sponsored by Wayland Wong, Greg Salustro, and Suzi Shanklin.

April 6th, sponsored by Rancho Bueno (Deirdre Africa, Heidi Johnson, Craig Fulmer), Antonio Chavez and Mare Tomaski.

Breakfasts usually start at 9:30 and end at 11:00.



THE JACK

Jan Saunders, with drawings by Catherine Ferguson

The Jackrabbit is not a rabbit at all. He is a Hare, born "bright-eyed," long eared, and fully furred with long, strong back legs that propel him at speeds of 40 mph while scoring 10-foot-long hops and 20-foot-high leaps. Mark Twain popularized the name "Jackass Rabbit" (later shortened to Jackrabbit) because of the long donkey-like ears.

Our Black-tailed Jackrabbit is the most common Hare of the American Southwest. And, trust me, this Jack is no Bunny. An adult Jack easily holds his own against larger predators thanks to his excellent hearing, and built-in ability to hop, leap, and zig-zag his way out of *most* trouble. However, the fact that there are many more Hares (on the lower level of the food pyramid) than Coyotes, Cougars, or Eagles (at the top), is a dead giveaway to the reality that our Jack is an important food source for many apex predators.

The key to understanding any critter is often a little research into its natural history. Here are the "hare" facts:

Weight: 3-9 lbs. The doe is larger than the buck.

Life span: 1-5 years in the wild.

Gestation: c. 50 days. Babies, called *leverets*, average 4 to a litter. Doe does not stay with new born leverets. Returns only to nurse once a day.

Vocalizations: Nose clicks, teeth grinding, pleasure squeals, "death cry."

Range: Do not migrate nor hibernate.

Food: Mix of shrubs, grass, forbs, wildflowers, sage and cactus.

Activity: Mostly nocturnal. They sleep during the day.

Behavior: Recognize their own kind, form social communities.

Diseases: Carriers of *ectoparasites* (new word for me) like fleas, ticks, lice, and mites. Susceptible to Tularemia which is quickly fatal. *Warning: wear gloves when handling carcasses. Keep pets away.*

Sub species: White-tailed and Antelope* Jacks, larger than Black-tailed.

I can't leave the page without mentioning another important Jackrabbit feature, the eyes. Placed strategically far back and to the sides of the head, these large, expressionless globes are alert to predators approaching from all directions. Their purpose, not to focus but to pick up motion, explains the "glassy stare".

Some people see Jacks as vermin infested pests and shoot them for sport. The other side of the argument may speak to their importance in the food web as a primary food source to avian and mammalian icons of the West we all feel lucky to see.

*Antelope Jacks are found in Southern Arizona. Not to be confused with Jackalopes found locally on Cerrillos Road.



IN OUR BACKYARDS

"The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), America's largest wildlife conservation and education organization, is pleased that **Deirdre Africa at Rancho Bueno in Galisteo, New Mexico** has successfully created a Certified Wildlife Habitat® through its Garden for Wildlife™ program. NWF celebrates this effort to create a garden that supports birds, butterflies, bees, and other local wildlife (lizards!).

"Every Certified Wildlife Habitat garden provides natural sources of food, water, cover and places to raise young and is maintained in a sustainable way that incorporates native plants, conserves water and doesn't use pesticides. Every Certified Wildlife Habitat garden is now also part of the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, a national effort to create a million gardens that provide habitat for declining pollinator insects such as butterflies and bees."

And in a related story, Trump's EPA is threatening to allow use of even more bee-killing pesticides on our farmlands. Chemical giant Dow has requested permission to ramp up use of these toxic chemicals. If the EPA grants Dow's wish, the impact on bees and other pollinators could be devastating. All the more reason for each of us to do what we can.

According to *Cool Green Science* (courtesy of Frank Lux), more frequent sightings of both Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks are being reported across the United States. These two similar-looking hawk species (genus *Accipiter*) –have increasingly colonized urban areas. "The 'return of the raptors' is a trend reported (often via citizen science) around the country. And a big part of it is the bird feeder in your backyard.... More than 40 percent of U.S. households feed their backyard birds.

"By the mid-20th century, many raptor species, including Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks, had declined precipitously. Direct persecution and pesticides had taken a heavy toll. Decades of protection have caused populations to rebound, leading raptors to reclaim habitat. But as the birds spread, they found a new world: one of growing cities. One might initially conclude that predators would not find this new world to their liking, as it was covered in concrete and buildings instead of forests. And that's certainly true for many wildlife species.

A Riddle from the late Simona Baros Garcia:

Caballito de Vanda, que no come, ni bebe, ni anda. (Little horse of the edge, who doesn't eat, drink, or walk) Who am I? *



(* El Puente)

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Vicki and David Snyder have relocated in Santa Fe for easier access to medical resources, after being here for decades (in three houses). They will be missed.

Newcomers **Joe Cappello and Pat Thoms-Cappello** pitched right in and offered a delicious "New Jersey Breakfast" at the Community Center on Feb. 2nd. It was so well attended that Pat apologized for running out of lox.

More on **Bruce Nauman's** MoMA show: Kathy Halbreich proposes in her catalog essay that the artist's move to New Mexico in 1979 echoes a theme of "disappearance" in his work (!). Can you "disappear" into Texas? Arizona? Colorado?

State Rep **Matthew McQueen** is leading the battle against setting traps on public lands that cruelly wound and kill wild animals (and pets).

The GVFR and friends and neighbors celebrated member **Steve Beecraft's** 60th birthday on Superbowl Sunday.



(Photo: Alice Kruse)

In January, **Jan Saunders** worked as a Spanish translator in Antigua, Guatemala with a team of nurses from USA and

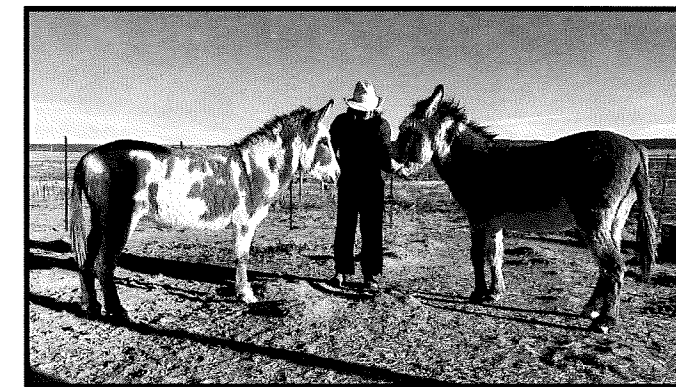


Guatemalan doctors who were teaching rural midwives the skills necessary to revive babies born not breathing. "An experience of a lifetime!" she reports. See [www.Facebook.com/Baby's Breathproject](http://www.Facebook.com/Baby'sBreathproject).

Harmony Hammond, Cady Wells, and Marsden Hartley are among the LGBTQ artists featured at the New Mexico Museum of Art Library this month.

DONKEY MOM

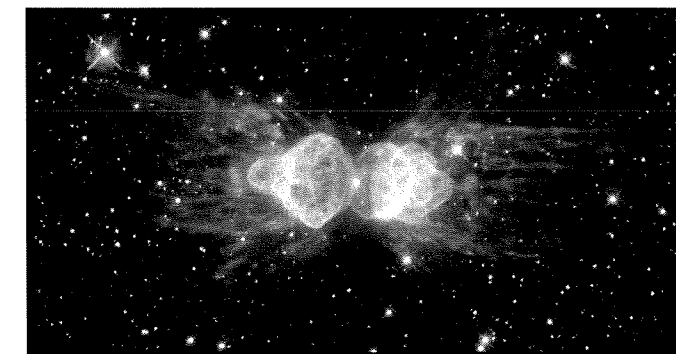
Angelica Heath with two adorable donkeys, mother and daughter, Rachel and Rebecca. (Photo: John Watson-Jones)



For some time now, Angie Heath has been working as a foster mother with The Longears Safehouse, a unique organization based in Edgewood, founded by former philosophy professors Dorothy Lotter and Andrew Cross. Its mission is "... to make the world a better place for donkeys and related long ears such as mules and hinnies. TLS provides education about the mental and physical needs of long ears, their nature, training and care, rescues donkeys in need, rehabilitates and rehomes them, and helps long ears in times of crisis or emergency situations."

TLS subscribes to the 5 Freedoms of Animal Welfare, which are internationally recognized as the "gold standard" both in agricultural contexts and in those of animal rescue and rehabilitation: Freedom from Hunger and Thirst; Freedom from Discomfort; Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease; Freedom to Express Normal Behavior; and Freedom from Fear and Distress.

You may have seen Angie and John walking around the village with the previous couple, Emma and Valentine, who were 25 and 35 years old and have since found a forever home. (The critters are only fostered and adopted in pairs.) However, Rachel and Rebecca (c. 8 and 6 years old) balked at crossing the bridge or the creek, and mostly luxuriate in their big fenced field behind the Watson-Jones home. Angie notes that donkeys "can be very hard headed when spooked by the unfamiliar, which is a survival mechanism." Due to a complicated adoption policy, she has chosen to continue to foster long ears (bunnies and jacks excluded), and wants the word to get out that since the Safe House has no physical location, temporary foster homes for these loveable critters are always needed. See their website or contact Angie for further information.



Happy Valentine's Day again; may the comets collide!

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ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. PLEASE CALL 466-1276 TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: March 5th.

FOR RENT

Land and barn north of Galisteo. For more information, call 466-8930 or mariaopino@aol.com.

Charming vacation casita in the heart of Galisteo, available for rent by the night, week or month. Steve or Jean, 466-1544.

Vacation casita for rent by the weekend, week, or month. 900 sq.ft., open floor plan, 1BR + bath. Call Roger Taylor, 466-3469.

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Casual Bed&Breakfast @ Quatermill Farm, evening meals available upon request. Call Denise Lynch 505-466-2255.

FOR SALE

House at #1 Magdalen: Darling two-bedroom, one-bath, just under one acre, private well: perfect for gardening and animals. Serious inquiries only, please. Denise Lynch 505-466-2255.

Land & building for sale in the center of the village. Situated on 1.27 acres, electricity, phone line, has own well, no plumbing. Building is 630 square ft. adobe, vigas, fireplace, wood stove outlet, two entrances onto property. Call 466-8930 for more info.

Priscilla Hoback's Gallery (Prints, Poetry, Paintings and Pots) is open by appointment and most weekends: 466-2255.

Amanecer Gallery offers oil paintings by Freddie Cárdenas and micaceous pottery by Anna Cárdenas, 505-466-8967.

Talus Wind Heritage Meats. Local New Mexico lamb and pork. Contact info@taluswindranch.com.

Button Box Aprons by Deirdre Africa of Rancho Bueno in Galisteo, for sale at the Santa Fe Railyard Artisans Market most Sundays 10-4. Check out www.buttonboxaprons.com and call 505-670-5198 or email deirdreafrica@msn.com.

SERVICES

Pet, House, and Garden Care when you can't do it. Janet Pfeiffer 399-9238.

Dave's Auto Repair: restoring, minor repairs, painting. Local refs. Free estimates: David Montoya, 505-501-1991.

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home, and limited boarding. 20 yrs. experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

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

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Linda Vista Stables: Local horse owners: if you need someone to take care of your horses while you're away, I can do it in the comfort of their own barn. Call María at 466-8930.

Galisteo Yoga: Mondays 3pm, Tuesdays 9:30am @Dorothy's 466-2339 stretching & breathing. Private & Group Sessions w/Ruby 466-1961 ruby@rubyrenshaw.com *Kundalini & free-movement based* Fridays

10-11 am @ Galisteo Community Center w/Mare: profundus@aol.com *slow flow & therapeutic blend of Vinyasa & Iyengar.*

Yoga for Everybody: Julia Cairns and Mary Horst run yoga classes at the Eldorado Community Center, Mon.-Fri. All levels welcome! See www.yogaforeverybody.com for more information. Julia: 466-3393.

Grow Y'own hooped and covered raised beds for year-round gardening! Ken 490-1849. Preparing your garden for next year? Repairing erosion? **Aged compost and mulch** available at Goose Downs Farm north of the village. Free if you load, \$15 if we do: Tom, 670-7031.

Intern will travel: Need help during parties, snow shoveling, yard cleaning, housekeeping or pet sitting? Call John Garcia at 505-919-8147.

JVS will remove (live) rattlesnakes. Call 466-1064.

We build and repair coyote fences; haul trash; yard work & other odd jobs. Fair prices, local references, Michael J. Anaya, 660-2275.

Pet and housesitting, watering plants, feeding animals, etc. Call Linda Jones, 310-2904.

The Orchard: Full service catering, personal chef, and Care Network. Corey McGillicuddy, 466-1831.

Firewood, Misc. Hauling, Odd Jobs, Humane Custom Butchery, CAD services. Phone 466-8967 or cell: 435-3067, adan.cardenas1@gmail.com.

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

Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors; also electrical work. Ted Montoya, 231-3671.

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

Meditation and Knowings class with Chris Griscom, Sundays at The Light Institute: 4-5:30 pm. Free to Galisteo residents. 466-1975.

Book Writing and Marketing Services: by Random House author with 20 yrs. experience. Also **Voice Training and Singing Lessons** for children, adults and **Angel Readings:** Connect with loved ones from the other side. Stella Togo, 714-433-6148; www.stellatogo.com

Dentistry: Specializing in Endodontics (Root Canals) Free telephone consultations: Dr. Bernie Gavron at 505.988.7356.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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