

# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

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MAY 2021

## JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER SANDOVAL (1996-2021)

Stella Maestas

How do you say goodbye to a young man who lived so little, and died so soon? It's not easy. We are all struggling with this question. On April 29, Our Lord took Joseph's hand, and said, "Come, Walk With Me." Although he walked alongside us for such a short time, he certainly made an impression on everyone whose lives he touched. Joseph was many things to many people, a son, a brother, a nephew, a cousin, and a friend.

Joseph was born the second son to Frank Sr. and Sadie Sandoval, September 16, 1996. He was preceded in death by his brother Frankie, grandparents Anastacio and Libby Sandoval and Manuel and Marina Benavidez. Joseph was a lifelong resident of Galisteo. As a youth, he attended Santa Fe Public Schools, and later worked for The Bill King Ranch. His most recent employment was grounds maintenance with Woody and Dianna Gwyn. He had a wonderful sense of humor and an infectious laughter. He was such a friendly young man, with a smile that immediately invited one in return. He was always ready to help anyone that needed his assistance.

Joseph was often found in the garage working on one of his vehicles. This was one of his favorite hobbies. He contributed greatly to the renovation of La Sala de Galisteo, working as an intern in the summer La Sala Youth Internship Program, where Joseph and other young people worked alongside expert builders. Through them he learned how to make mud bricks, replace piers under the building, and many other building skills. Joseph became an excellent mud troweler, becoming a master at getting the mix right. Working as an intern in this program, Joseph learned the basics of a skill that he likely used in his home. Whenever he found time, he also enjoyed spending time at their other residence in Gonzales Ranch, New Mexico. There he rode the four-wheeler, went hunting, hiking, and fishing. Joseph was an expert fisherman, and he always caught enough fish for a family fish fry. He loved hunting, and was always lucky enough to bring home a deer.

Now Joseph has joined his brother in heaven, and we can imagine the two hugging each other tightly, and catching up on the years gone by. We, the family and friends who are left behind must take over, and carry on. It will be difficult. Death may have taken our Joseph, but the memories he left us are ours to keep.

"Ride that four-wheeler, Joseph, you are free."



## MIDDLE AGE AND RUINS

As we all know, Saddleback Ranch has been sold to the Modern Elder Academy, which is also vying for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Retreat and Conference Center in Santa Fe, in order to offer both an urban and a rural approach to those who need help coping with middle age. (A "modern elder" is 45 to 75!). A few weeks ago, Charlie Holloway (who worked for the previous owners of the ranch for 10 years) and I (your editor) were invited to see the remains of a tiny community called Colorado, which I had never visited. I believe it existed in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps into the 20<sup>th</sup>, but I've found little information on it and could be all wrong. After a wild ride on roads that had disintegrated since Charlie's years there, we found the rough stone ruin of a house and possible remains of outbuildings, but little else, which suggests that the "community" probably consisted of one family. Near the Rio Galisteo, and the Arroyo Colorado, the residents probably farmed. (Any villager know more about this? If so, do let El Puente know.)

The ranch's headquarters building presents a striking contrast to this humble site. The main room is replete with a gigantic stone two-sided fireplace, antlered chandelier, and cow-hide furniture, left by the previous owners. The four movers and shakers of the new project were friendly, interested, and clearly eager to be on good terms with the village. (*El Puente* will continue to report on MEA's progress).





## JUST SLITHERING THROUGH...

Snake season is here. A couple of years ago snake expert C.J. Carman came to the fire station to educate the community. Following are excerpts from his presentation and handout -- information that should be useful now that reptiles are coming out of hibernation in Northern New Mexico.

Snakes are beautiful but sometimes dangerous creatures that are a vital part of our environment, especially because of their beneficial role in rodent and disease control. Hanta Virus, transmitted by deer mice, is a particular threat after a wet winter [we should be so lucky!] 80% of the snakes in the area are non-venomous and it's better for our health and our environment to let them roam. Since only 1% of venomous snake bites in the U.S. are lethal (usually to children and the elderly), and 60% of people infected with Hanta Virus die, you stand a better chance with a snake than you do with a mouse. Having snakes around is a far better choice than rising rates of rodent-borne illnesses (including the Bubonic Plague).

New Mexico has eight species of rattlesnakes. Most will rattle to warn you. They are not naturally aggressive. They don't want to see you any more than you want to see them, but they don't like being surprised. Most snakes can strike only a half to a third of their length. It's ok to admire a snake from a distance of several feet if you don't annoy it; if you are too close, step away cautiously; don't jump. There might be another snake nearby.

To avoid being bitten, wear boots or high-top hiking shoes. Most importantly, watch where you are walking. Step on to logs and rocks, never over them since you can't see what's on the other side. Do not put your hands where you can't see. (Most bites are on the hands.) Always use a tool to turn over rocks, boards, or sheet metal. Do not try to kill, catch, or harass a snake. Do not hike alone. Know your species so you can identify the dangerous ones on sight.

Prairie and Western Diamondback are the most common rattlers in New Mexico. The Prairie is usually greenish with light to dark brown saddles down the back, with a triangular head, less than 4' long. It does not rattle readily so you can unwittingly get too close. The Western Diamondback has a pronounced triangle-shaped head and varies in color, though it is usually gray, light brown, or tan with darker and highlighted "diamonds" down the back and obvious black and white bands on the tail above the rattles. It can reach 8' in length.

The Bullsnake/Gopher Snake -- not poisonous and an efficient rodent feeder -- is often mistaken for a rattler, which it will sometimes imitate, shaking its tail, though it has no rattles.

Typically yellowish or light tan with brown or reddish saddles down the back, and a long thin head, it can reach 8 1/2' long. Another harmless local snake (though they will bite) is the very long, thin (3' to 7 1/2') Red Racer or Western Coachwhip, sporting various shades of pink to red; it can be striped or mottled.

Nearly one third of all venomous snakebites are "dry," meaning no venom is injected. But if you are bitten, don't count on it. The quicker you get medical assistance the less damage is inflicted. Your best friends are a phone, a friend, and access to a vehicle. If bitten: first and foremost, remain calm and as still as possible; immediately remove rings, bracelets or anything that might restrict blood flow when swelling starts. If bitten on the arm, hold it at heart level until you get to a hospital. *Do not* make cuts over a bite or puncture, suck the venom out, or use electric shock, ice or ice water. Remember, snakes are fascinating and beneficial animals so long as we leave them alone.

Eldorado Snake Relocation Volunteers (ESRV) are willing to deliver workshops to communities outside Eldorado proper for residents to learn how to create their own snake relocation programs. For example, Arroyo Hondo is self-sufficient with four volunteers. Relocation requests from outside Eldorado might not be served given the recent increase in demand. This was a difficult decision, but there is extraordinary growth along the 285 corridor. Contact Lyn de Martin at 505-603-0250 or demartinlyn@gmail.com to show your community how to appreciate or relocate snakes; to learn more, follow the ESRV Facebook page @eldoradosnakes.

And of course Galisteo has its own snake whisperer. Jim Sloan is available to remove and relocate poisonous critters from our homes. And he knows everything there is to know about our slitherin' friends.

## EPSTEIN REDUX

The late Jeffrey Epstein continues to haunt the Galisteo Basin. A while ago, Fox News reported that after a painting of Bill Clinton wearing a dress went viral, another "unnerving painting" surfaced at the Zorro Ranch. "This one depicts a young girl wearing a wedding band and snuggling with a lion." A snapshot was sent to Fox News by a contractor who worked on the property in 2013: "We would talk about how creepy it was." The fate of the Zorro ranch is unknown and will probably be tied up in legal knots for a long time, given all the claims being processed from Epstein's victims.

And it is also being reported that Bill Gates's association with Epstein was one of the issues in his and Melinda Gates divorce proceedings. It would be ironic if it turns out that the currently unconfirmed rumors about Cerro Pelon Ranch being sold to Bill Gates turned out to be true. If so, it was probably acquired via his Cascade Investment, front man Michael Larson.

Gates is reported to be the largest private owner of farmland in the US -- c. 242,000 acres, much of it the traditional territory of Native nations. Red Nation leader Nick Estes writes: "Land is power. Land is wealth, and more important, land is about race and class....To put that into perspective, that's twice the acreage of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, where I'm an enrolled member. A white man owns more farmland than my entire Native nation!" (*The Guardian* 4/6/21).

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

When Deb Haaland of Laguna Pueblo, the first Native American to hold a Cabinet position, began her tenure as the 54<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Interior on March 17th, she hit the ground running with a virtual all-staff forum where she was welcomed by representatives from each bureau. Our own **Freddie Cárdenas**, principal at Jemez Day School, was selected from 184 Bureau of Indian Education schools across the US to represent them in welcoming Haaland. The event was viewed by more than 15,000 agency employees of BIE. She delivered remarks and highlighted the work of team members in each of the bureaus and offices. Freddie says it was an honor, and he was very excited to represent the Bureau.

Two Galisteo-born elders, living in Santa Fe, passed away recently. **Victor Chavez**, 88, was the son of Paulita and Felipe Chavez, related to Galisteans Antonio Chavez and the Peñas. **Henry P. Anaya**, 91, was the son of Miquelita and Basilio Anaya, related to Jean Moya and her family, and the Peñas.

**Harmony Hammond's** paintings are in "Women in Abstraction: Another History of Abstraction in the 20th Century" at the Centre Pompidou in Paris thru 8/23; the show travels to the Guggenheim in NYC, 10/22/21-2/27/22.

**Corona virus cases in our zip code** have risen to 36.

In early May, there was an **attempted horse theft** on Avenida Vieja at NM 41. A colt was slightly injured and a fence torn up. Police were notified.

Time to Play! The beautiful new **GCA playground** next to the Community Center is finally complete. All are welcome. Summon your children, grandchildren... and your inner child.

Our State Rep **Matthew McQueen** is referenced too often to cover him in *El Puente*, but a full-page ad in *The New Mexican* (4/11) from an array of environmental organizations thanking the legislature's Democratic office holders for acting on the Gila Diversion Project also mentioned two congressmen: McQueen and Nathan Small.

Highly recommended reading for those who care about **New Mexico's environment**: *At the Precipice: New Mexico's Changing Climate*, by Laura Paskus, published by the UNM Press. Especially the chapter on water: "'Hot Drought' and Dry Rivers." She's a terrific writer and long-time *Nuevo Mexicana*. Her book is as good as it gets for this precipitous moment.

**Pueblo Chico: Land and Lives in Galisteo Since 1814** has received the Fabiola Cabeza de Baca award for "an outstanding publication relating to domestic life in New Mexico" from the Historical Society of New Mexico.

The Cerrillos Ortiz Mountain clinic (next to the Cerrillos post office) may still have **extra Moderna vaccines**; they were looking for anyone wanting a shot (first or second), focusing on the 20-40 age range, though anyone is eligible. Call for an appointment: 505-471-6266. Smiths and Albertsons are also doing vaccinations two days per week. *Vaccinations are good for you and your family and your community.*

## SUPPORT OUR GCA

The Galisteo Community Center (GCC) serves us: it is the "center" where we Galisteños meet, celebrate and share. It has been sorely missed since its closure in March 2020 due to the pandemic. Our last fundraising request was in September 2018, when your generous donations helped us to meet our annual expense budget: a minimum of \$6500 per year for insurance, maintenance, supplies, etc., and to make improvements to the playground, as well as a 25% match for a USDA grant used in 2019-2020 to enhance mechanical and structural aspects of the building.

However, with a lack of area movie contributions or private rentals due to the shutdown, we need to replenish our bank balance. When we all contribute, we can raise the necessary funds easily! Please, do your part by sending your tax deductible donation today in the stamped and addressed envelope you will find in your mailer.

We look forward to re-opening for rentals this summer and then later this Fall with a tentatively planned Chile/Margarita Fiesta on Saturday, September 25th (depending, of course, on pandemic and vaccination status and state health guidance).

Questions? Contact GCA President Roger Taylor 466-3469 or clearskynm@gmail.com; Vice President Anna Cárdenas (505)466-8967 or galigirl312@centurylink.net; or any of the other Board members: Treasurer Jessica Spring, Secretary Deirdre Africa, and Directors Vernon Anaya, Greg Boardman, Paul Davis, Stella Maestas, and Bjarne Sletteland.

## CLEANUP SUCCESS

The GCA Board thanks all who pitched in. It was a great turn-out. An enthusiastic crowd (and some very creative masks) made for a thorough clean-up of the roads here, and in particular NM41 all the way to the intersection with 285 (a new record for that stretch). A few small patches were missed, such as both sides by the hogback. Perhaps someone can cover that area in the next several weeks. Many thanks to Michael Anaya for hauling off the trash (two trips), and special thanks to John and Tanya Young for sponsoring this effort!



**BLACK + WHITE, an on-line Artico show**: 22 NM artists, including Galisteñas Peggy Diggs, Caroline Hinkley, Janice Wall, and Laura Yeats, extends to May 31<sup>st</sup>. All artwork is available for purchase through the e-commerce enabled website *artico.org* with options for shipping and local pick-up.

## GVFR: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thanks to the ongoing lives and new opportunities of several departing members (see last issues), the GVFR needs some new blood! Showing the way is the new Junior member (below right) – **Clive Smith**, son and stepson of Ethan Smith and Heather Frazar-Smith, newish Ranchitos residents who have been hidden away during the pandemic. GVFR stalwart Don Truax is on the left. (Photo: Alice Kruse)

And *yet* another reminder to **fill out your pre-plans**. We're getting there, but everybody needs to do it so we all get lower insurance rates, not to mention much more safety for people, pets, houses, and belongings...if there is a fire in this scary season of "exceptional drought" and strong winds. Be VERY VERY careful with cigarettes, campfires, parking hot cars in dry grass, etc.



## EL PUENTE SPONSORS: JOHN AND TANYA YOUNG

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. PLEASE CALL 466-1276 TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: JUNE 15.

#### FOR RENT

**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.

#### FOR SALE

**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](mailto:info@taluswindranch.com).

**Button Box Aprons** by Deirdre Africa of Rancho Bueno: call or email if you are interested in aprons, napkins, and potholders: 505-670-5198, [www.buttonboxaprons.com](http://www.buttonboxaprons.com), or [africadeirdre@gmail.com](mailto:africadeirdre@gmail.com).

## SERVICES

**Assistance with organizing, filing, bookkeeping, and other tasks for studio, office, individual, or small business.** Work experience and references available. Jenny Langston, 660-8048, or [jenlangston@gmail.com](mailto:jenlangston@gmail.com)

**Dave's Auto Repair:** restoring, minor repairs, painting. Local references. Free estimates: David Montoya, 505-577-1720.

Exciting **Adventure Travel** around the world with professional wildlife photographers Jami Tarris and Theo Allofs of Wild Focus Expeditions. For more information: 466-3640 or [www.wildfocusexpeditions.com](http://www.wildfocusexpeditions.com). Come with Us!

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

**Orchard Full-Service Catering:** Personal chef, experience with special needs and dietary issues. Corey McGillicuddy, 466-1831, [mcgillicuddycorey3@gmail.com](mailto:mcgillicuddycorey3@gmail.com).

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

**Intern will travel:** Need help during parties, snow shoveling, yard cleaning, housekeeping or pet sitting on Saturdays or Sundays? Call John Garcia at 505-310-3812.

**Welding, flagstone, moss rock, fountains, plumbing, sprinkler, drip systems, plus Gopher Control.** David Maestas, cell 670-8608 or 660-9715.

**Linda Vista Stables:** Local horse owners: I can take care of your horses when you're away, in the comfort of their own barn. Call Maria, 466-8930

**Pet, House, and Garden Care.** Janet Pfeiffer, 399-9238.

**Galisteo Yoga:** Virtual yoga with Mare! Zoom Yoga Weds. 12:30. Sunday noon. \$12.00 per class pay pal or check options. Contact Mare at [profundus@aol.com](mailto:profundus@aol.com) for the Zoom Room Link.

**Yoga Zoom** classes with Julia: Every Mon., Wed., and Fri. Gentle Yin, Vinyasa Flow and Yin Yang. Contact 505-466-1935 or [julia.c.cairns@gmail.com](mailto:julia.c.cairns@gmail.com) for more information.

**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.

**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.

**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, 577-6004.

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

**Meditation & Knowings** with Chris Griscom via video on Sundays. Chris is now filming *Knowings* & taking questions by email, plus offering other free and helpful videos on YouTube. For more information: 466-1975 or [thelight@lightinstitute.com](mailto:thelight@lightinstitute.com)

### +++EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

**Editor:** Lucy R. Lippard. **logo** by Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. All donations welcome. **Comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276 or flip14@centurylink.net. NEXT DEADLINE: JUNE 15. TO SPONSOR: Make out check for \$80-\$150 (or more!) to GCA, noting "for newsletter," and send to El Puente (above).**