



ISSUE #246

SUMMER 2021

## BAD NEWS, VERY BAD NEWS

You may have noticed that the La Sala de Galisteo Arts Center sign is down. In 2020, the building's owners – La Sociedad de San José de Galisteo (a men's society connected to the church) declined to renew the lease to La Sala de Galisteo, the non-profit organization that organized the transformation of the old dance hall. Extended negotiations failed to produce a 2021 lease by June 1, forcing the return of a \$9000 grant earmarked for additional window restoration.

After Galisteans have put into the building more than \$40,000 in donations and grant funds plus an incredible amount of community work and great programming -- including exhibitions, talks, films, and fiestas – since 2008, it is unclear what the Sociedad's plans are. The organization La Sala de Galisteo will continue, although it will be forced to take on a different form without the historic dance hall as its base. Its mission is to educate the general public about local music, art, literature, film, and the history of northern New Mexico.

A new chapter, but a very sad prologue.

## NOTHING BUT CLEARSKIES AHEAD?

Looking for an off-beat public installation? Take an hour's drive down NM 41 to La Cantina in Willard to see a lime mirror piece by New York art star Sherrie Levine. Sponsored by Clea Rsky, an international non-profit network of contemporary art spacelets ([www.clearsky.art](http://www.clearsky.art)) named respectfully after Bruce Nauman's Clea Rsky works, the installations are presented in "Outposts" -- small display boxes. Artists are invited to interact with them however they choose: objects, photos, performances, music, etc. Each artist is then given a portal space on the website to fill as they like.

As of this writing there are outposts in Brooklyn, Beijing, Antwerp, Coxsackie West, Medellin, Boston...and Willard, New Mexico, thanks to artist Stuart Arends who lives nearby. The Willard installation opened June 12<sup>th</sup> with a lively gathering including several artists from New York and elsewhere and will be up until July 31. We might get an Outpost in Galisteo?



## COMING UP

The next *El Puente* is in September, so mark your calendars for the beginning of the Galisteo Fall Social Season! (Note that these are target dates, and will be dependent upon Covid guidelines and pandemic conditions at that time).

**Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>: Galisteo Chile & Margarita Fest.** (The Community Center will re-open for rentals starting Oct., possibly earlier depending on local Covid guidelines).

**Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 16-17<sup>th</sup>: Galisteo Studio Tour.**

**Saturday Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>: The Galisteo Volunteer Fire & Rescue will hold a Community Breakfast during its Annual Open house.**

## GVFR NEEDS WILDLAND AND FIREFIGHTERS, EMTs

The Galisteo Volunteer Fire & Rescue has a long history of dedication since 1992, providing rapid, professional, and humanitarian service essential to the safety and health of our town. Proudly serving Galisteo and offering mutual aid to surrounding areas, GVFR members are committed to the preservation and protection of life, property, and environment.

Interested in becoming a firefighter, wildland firefighter, or EMT? Certifications are required and provided by the Santa Fe County Fire Dept. Meetings and trainings are every Tuesday at 6:30PM – open to all Galisteo residents. Stop by then, or call Chief Jean Moya at 505-607-1517 for more info.

## COUNTY BUREAUCRACY AND DANGEROUS CR 42 SALT SPILL

In November, 2020, a truck belonging to a private hauler was carrying salt for the State Highway Department from the NM Salt and Minerals depot in Loving, NM (a Kansas-based corporation). The driver was speeding and didn't make it around the curve near McKee Road. The truck rolled and spilled its c. 5-cubic-yard load where, incredibly, it still lay at this writing, (photo, left) despite protests from residents beginning in December, when GCA president Roger Taylor got calls from Evelyn Gregory, Cindy Lux, and Shaun Gilmore, who had been alerting the County but getting nowhere.

In mid-February, Taylor wrote to Ryan Ward of the County Public Works Department, noting that the salt cinders pile (Cont. p.2)

had spread and was seeping into the soil and the surrounding groundwater; piñons and junipers were already dying (see above). He wondered if there were any plan to remove the salt "before any potential monsoon activity spreads it further?" Ward replied that they had "already involved our Risk Department, to help mitigate this situation. John Sanchez is currently working on this request" and would most likely use Taylor's photos and police reports to contact the company responsible for this spill.

That was that, until Roger recontacted Ward and received this: "Our Risk Department has been pursuing the trucking company that caused the spill for several months now, to no avail. Being that this was an accident and the salt is contaminated, the County cannot dispose of it and requires it to be remediated by a contract company. To the best of my knowledge, there is a contract currently under review for approval to get this cleaned up, as of this week. Again I apologize for the delay, but the trucking company has been unresponsive to our Risk Department and unfortunately, this is an accident insurance claim."

Other Galisteans entered the fray, notably Deirdre Africa and John Benjamin, who contacted other officials. Benjamin took detailed notes for *El Puente* on his June 10<sup>th</sup> conversation with Erica Oncayo, County Risk Management specialist, whom he had contacted on May 27. At that time she told him that "she was aware of the pile but had assumed that it had been cleaned up as she had assigned the job to one of her employees." When he spoke to her again "she told me that she has been working feverishly to get the situation rectified. Her family is from Galisteo."

Benjamin's notes continue: "The driver's insurance paid for damage to his truck but not for the damaged trailer which is still at the local wrecking yard. Ownership of the trailer is unknown.... Two days ago I observed that four white sign posts with the numbers 1 to 4 had been pounded into the ground in various spots adjacent to the pile of salt. Erica did not know what these signs were.

"The State of New Mexico takes no responsibility because they had not yet paid for the salt. NM Minerals is taking no responsibility because it was a private hauler who spilled it. Santa Fe County was expecting one of the above to have already cleaned it up. Erica reported that SF County Public Works director Gary Jiron knew it had not been cleaned up but had not reported this fact to the Risk Management office.

Benjamin's notes continue: "Hopefully before the first big thunderstorm the salt will be cleaned up. Of course just picking up the pile is not enough. All the dirt that has been contaminated must also be removed. Curiously, the Emergency Response Guide does not consider salt to have any environmental impact! Tell that to all the ancient armies that routinely salted the fields of a defeated enemy...As of yesterday (June 9) the wheels of action have been set into motion and the County has decided to clean it up themselves and sort out who will pay later. (We pay.)"

Adjacent to the salt pile, the Arroyo de los Angeles (originally called Arroyo del Infierno because of its flash floods) runs into the Rio Galisteo which runs into the Rio Grande. So this is quite a saga that has ramifications beyond Galisteo. As this issue of *El Puente* was almost finished (6/14), we got a notice that the County had completed the surface removal and planned to contact the Environment Department "to determine where we can dispose of the salt material."

**Bulletin:** as we go to press (6/17) Benjamin heard from Richard Chang, who told him that County Maintenance will remove 3 feet of earth in the contaminated zone, lowering the cost, though taxpayers are still footing the bill.

## DRY, DRYER, DRIEST: WHAT NEXT?

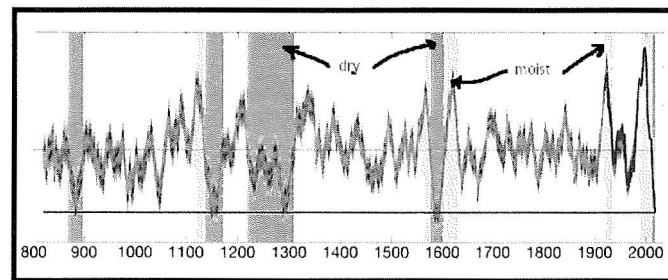
Paul Davis

Anybody paying attention to the news recently will have seen much talk of the ["exceptional and extreme"] droughts currently affecting the US southwest. My own interest in and concerns about the supply of water and its role in life here has led me to do a lot of reading, and below you'll find the first of a four-part effort to summarize the big picture, and to figure out the questions we need to grapple with.

### PART ONE: A History of Water in the Southwest

Whoever your ancestors were that first came to the southwest, they all had something in common: after they arrived, despite wet years and dry years, in the long run, things got drier. The last known high point for water availability was about 15,000 years ago, at the end of the last ice age, when high levels of ice in our hemisphere helped push Pacific storms to deliver rain and snow. 10,000 years ago, when humans definitely lived in this region, it was fairly moist and quite tropical, and supported many large animals. By 4000 BC, things had become significantly drier, and many modern plants and animals settled into their current distribution throughout the region, despite the continuing long term reduction in water availability that followed. During the last 1200 years, there have been at several notable periods for moisture levels in the southwest:

#### Soil moisture in SW North America, 800-2018.



During some of these dry periods, many of the people living here did what people everywhere do when there's not enough water: they moved. The major droughts of 1140 and 1210 seem likely to have been a significant factor in a major rearrangement in where the ancestors of today's Puebloan people lived, despite their apparent ingenuity with various water management techniques. The mean soil moisture level has been declining since 1999, and is now as low as it was in any of the dry periods over the last 1200 years. So far things are not as bad as they became during the medieval droughts, but the signs are strong that the southwest is already in another of these exceptional "megadrought," periods.

We should remember where our planet's fresh water actually is. 87% is frozen (mostly in the polar regions). Rivers and lakes contain only 1%; the remaining 12% is in the ground. These are average numbers for the whole planet, but they match where New Mexico gets its water supplies. Unlike the Ancestral Puebloans, today we have wells, rain cisterns, much bigger dams and even river diversions to help provide us with water even when it stops being available in rivers or lakes. Our access to groundwater is unparalleled throughout human history. As we continue into the third decade of what is almost certainly another "mega-drought", will that be enough to sustain the current human presence here?

## CHICKEN SHORTAGE 2021

Jan Saunders, Drawing by Catherine Ferguson

Just so you know, "the sky is falling" on America's supply of *Buffalo Wild Wings* and *Chic-Fil-A Fried Chicken Sandwiches* as chicken becomes the #1 protein choice for a pandemic-quarantined public. In the first nine months of COVID, Americans consumed more than 25 billion chickens a day. During Super Bowl LV, we gobbled up more than enough wings to circle the planet three times. The unprecedented winter cold in chicken-growing states like Texas compounded the problem. Demand is up, supply is down, and Wing Nite slips to the bottom of the pecking order.

Closer to home, right here in Galisteo, we experience our own chicken shortage as a ravenous Badger launches a determined attack on the Linda Vista Stables hen house. Overnight, five prize egg layers disappeared without a trace -- no feathers, no blood, no chickens. Snatched from their nests, it was R.I.P. for Maria's favorite Buff Orpington and four of her Jersey Giants.

Of all living animals, chickens (*I am not making this up*) are the closest relatives of T-Rex. Recent studies rank them as the smartest birds on the nest whose thinking skills are on par with mammals and primates. The good news that chickens are no "dumb clucks" is outweighed by the bad: brood hens are defenseless against every predator that happens to walk, fly, or slither across their path.

Knowing this, Maria wasted no time in launching a counter offensive to protect her remaining flock. She locked her hens in rabbit cages on stilts, set a humane cat trap baited with hamburger (it didn't work), called New Mexico Game and Fish, and hedged her bets by hiring two guys to pour a concrete floor in the chicken house.

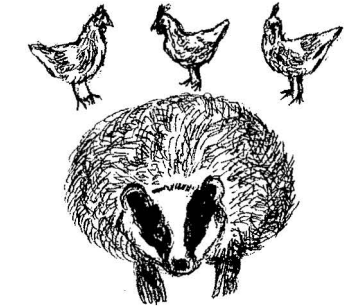
In a flash, the Game and Fish agent arrived, located Badger's burrow down toward the river, and made a valiant but futile attempt to smoke out the chicken thief. He left Maria with a heavy-duty humane trap and advised baiting it with chicken parts from the grocery -- no success.

Still on the hunt and not to be put off, Badger pulled up stakes, moving closer to his food source and digging a new burrow with a tunnel system opening directly under the hen house. Chickens continued to spend the night in rabbit cages and Maria continued to be frustrated. Simply put, this was War. Plotting and planning, she realized that Badger does not shop at the Agora; he eats in the wild. Searching for road kill, she scooped up a freshly squashed squirrel, baited the trap, and the next morning found the trap empty of squirrel but full of an enormous (and exquisitely beautiful) American Badger. Everyone (especially Maria's egg customers) celebrated, praised the squirrel, admired the Badger, covered the cage with a tarp, and proclaimed success. Feeling relaxed and relieved, Maria went about her chores while waiting for Game and Fish to show up to relocate Badger. When she and the agent went to the cage...No Badger. Flown the Coop. Impossible! Some secretly wondered, did a misguided-overzealous-tree-hugging-animal lover take pity and spring him loose?

Bottom line: Badger was on the rampage and it was time to start "baiting and waiting" again. She tried them all: small ground squirrels, rabbit hind quarters, gophers--no dice. Lured by a fat prairie dog carcass, Badger side-stepped the closing mechanism and escaped clean with a free meal. This called for desperate measures. As soon as the veterinarian castrated the little Scout

at El Tanque Viejo, the trap was baited with the parts of anatomy the pinto colt no longer had. Again -- no luck. But as life would have it, all signs of Badger slowly disappeared and the "girls" seem to be enjoying life in their newly remodeled "badger free" hen house.

The question remains: A peaceful truce or just a lull? This writer thinks Badger saw the handwriting on the Chicken Coop wall when the concrete floor was poured, and decided to do the "skedaddle" in search of easier pickings elsewhere in his/her two-thousand-acre summer range. I guess we'll see. Best be on the lookout.



## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

John Shannon left his news announcer post at KSFR at the end of April and has now started his own Podcast called Radio Free Galisteo.

Galisteo artist Judy Tuwaletstiwa teamed up with Diana Gaston, director of the Tamarind Institute, on June 12<sup>th</sup> for a walk-through of the Tamarind Print exhibit (in which Judy has three artworks) at Pie Projects on Shoofly St. in Santa Fe. They discussed the Tamarind Institute, printmaking, and specific prints, including Judy's.

The fire access sign at the gate into the bosque on the east side of the creek was found on the ground. It has now been re-installed. If someone drops a cigarette in the bosque in this terrifying drought, it is crucial that the fire department has access; cars have been parked blocking the gate. The other sign asking visitors to take care with wildlife on the Bosque's private property had deteriorated and will be replaced.

A miracle? The number of covid cases in our zip code (87540) as announced in the *New Mexican*, went down from longtime 36 to 35 a couple of weeks ago!

The cleanups in memory of Joseph Sandoval continue after two Saturday mornings in which a large number of community members turned out to help. (Photo: Alice Kruse)



## PLEASE, WE BEG YOU, JUST DO IT TODAY!

This is the *fourth* reminder to return the Emergency Planning Documents for your property. One quarter of the community still has not responded. If you need assistance or have misplaced the documents sent to you in February, please contact Ed Epping at 505-466-1568; epping@williams.edu. A member of the GVFR will be glad to help you get this project done. We cannot emphasize enough the benefits: **vital information about your property in case of an emergency; prevents unnecessary delays if we need to respond to your home; will help our State Insurance Rating, reducing your home insurance. And -- bottom line -- it might save your life or your family's or that of courageous members of the community volunteering to be our first responders.** You may mail completed documents or hand-deliver them to the GVFR mailbox on Avenida Vieja.

## EL PUENTE SPONSORS: JAMI TARRIS AND THEO ALLOFS

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. PLEASE CALL 466-1276 TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: SEPTEMBER 10.

#### 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.  
**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, or africadeirdre@gmail.com

#### SERVICES

**Pet and/or housesitting:** Banyan Fierer, 469-2116.  
**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  
**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.wildfocuspeditions.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, mcgilllicuddycorey3@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 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 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. She also offers other free videos on YouTube. For more information: 466-1975 or 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: SEPTEMBER 10. TO SPONSOR: Make out check for \$80-\$150 (or more!) to GCA, noting "for newsletter," and send to El Puente.**



**Cleanup:** Judy and Phil Tuwaletstiwa, Sadie Sandoval, Bjarne Stetteland (Photo: Alice Kruse)