



ISSUE #254

MAY 2022

UP IN FLAMES

As we all watch in horror, howling winds exacerbate the gigantic smoke clouds piling up to our east, signaling the constant expansion of the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire in San Miguel and Mora counties. It has swallowed 422 square miles (as of May 14) and containment wobbles between gains and losses. To our west the Cerro Pelado fire in the Jemez is partly contained. There was a brief but ominous small fire near Clines Corner – too close for comfort. And now parts of the Pecos area, just across the mesas from us, are being evacuated. As we all know, hundreds of structures have gone up in flames and thousands been evacuated, many with nowhere to go.

So far Galisteo is safe, but recommendations for the READY, SET, GO plan suggest we should all be prepared for the onslaught. *Have a go-bag of important documents and valued personal items ready, follow instructions about cutting grass and vegetation around your home, and keep track of the local news and alerts.*

On April 13th, the Santa Fe County Fire Marshal announced a ban on open burn permits; all current County burn permits are suspended, along with the issuance of new permits, continuing until further notice. Open burning is prohibited within the county until further order of the Fire Marshal. Those found violating the order will be cited. For more information, please contact Communications Coordinator Carmelina Hart at 505-469-0083 or chart@santafecountynm.gov. or Fire Prevention Specialist Jeff Folgate at 505-995-6517 or jjfolgate@santafecountynm.gov.

On April 26th, Santa Fe County's Board of County Commissioners (BCC), following a presentation by Fire Marshal Jaome Blay, unanimously passed an emergency ordinance to mitigate fire hazards by imposing restrictions on open fires, smoking, and other ignition sources to reduce the rapidly increasing likelihood of an accidental wildland fire during our traditional spring fire season.

The following week the US Department of Agriculture, which manages the Santa Fe National Forest (and is responsible for the blaze), implemented Stage II Fire Restrictions, restricting building, maintaining, attending or using fire, campfire, or stove fire. Since that time, fire conditions have worsened, as evidenced by the National Weather Service red-flag warnings. The County is currently reviewing an adoption of a fireworks ban.

Additional tools the County uses to promote fire safety is registering community members on the **Smart 911 app**. The Santa Fe area alert platform also known as **Alert Santa Fe** issues

warnings to registrants in likely event of wildfires. Drought conditions are forecast to persist and deepen throughout Santa Fe County and New Mexico during the coming months and the County Fire Department will continue to diligently work to keep the community safe.

The rest of it is up to us. Be incredibly careful, especially in the bosque, of cigarettes, campfires, catalytic converters in dry grass. And cross your fingers; dry lightning could spark the next blaze.

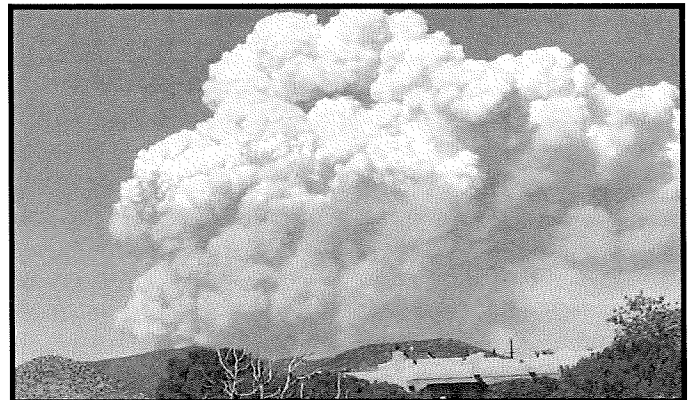
WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT PROPOSED

Chan Osborn de Anaya

I am honored to have been accepted to the Water Board as I am deeply committed to the community and lands of Galisteo. I hope to gather those already using water conservation devices and techniques to grow gardens, trees, etc. and ask like-minded residents to call me (505-716-8445) on the following proposal for **Community Water Conservation Organizing**:

- * Identify those with skills/desire to conserve.
- * Host a Water Conservation Brainstorming session to identify skill sets and needs.
- * Visit conservation projects within group.
- * Identify educational/skill resources of community members.
- * Reach out to MEA to evaluate their resources and ideas for sharing and hopefully education planning.
- * Submit a proposal to the Galisteo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association for approval of a Community Conservation/Education plan. And then enact it.

I am very interested in any suggestions you might have.



Fire this week from Eldorado (Photo: Helen Ballantyne, in *Next Door*)

CLEANUP: GCA ELECTIONS

On the clear and calm early morning of Saturday, April 30th, c. thirty six Galisteo residents gathered at Watts Park to socialize and partake of pastries (courtesy of John and Tanya Young) and coffee (thanks, Anna), and to vote for the GCA Board.

After a review of the proposed slate of candidates, the voters approved the Board updates by acclamation: **President, Anna Cárdenas; Vice-President, Greg Boardman; Secretary, Deirdre Africa; Treasurer, Jessica Spring; Members of the Board of Directors: Vernon Anaya, Paul Davis, Stella Maestas, Ann Senuta, Bjarne Sletteland, and Roger Taylor.**

Following the election, participants gathered trash bags and water bottles and headed out to their clean-up areas. Many thanks to Michael Anaya and Jerry Anaya who drove around picking up the many bags of trash left by the roadside and brought them to the transfer station in Eldorado.

FIRE EMERGENCIES: WHERE TO DONATE

The Santa Fe Fire Department's Station 5, 1130 Siler Road, is accepting donations of food and supplies between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Items requested: nonperishable foods, sports drinks, children's clothing and toys, diapers, personal hygiene items and paper products, as well as animal feed, troughs, hay, bowls and crates. The All Together New Mexico Fund is accepting monetary donations at alltogethernm.org. Grants from the fund will go to emergency shelters, food and water distribution and access to medical support. The State Employees Credit Union is accepting monetary donations that will go to the "Northern NM Fires" fund. The credit union also is accepting nonperishable food items, bottled water, new and unused blankets, clothing and hygiene products. Santa Fe Habitat for Humanity is accepting goods at the ReStore, 2520 Camino Entrada. Requested items: nonperishable food, hygiene products, cleaning products, feminine products, clothes, diapers and baby food. The Food Depot Disaster Relief Fund is accepting money, food, water and hygiene items for evacuees and emergency responders (thefooddepot.org/disaster-relief).

Pet and livestock shelters: The Santa Fe Animal Shelter is taking in cats displaced by the fire (505-983-4309, ext. 1606) and offering supplies for displaced pets and accepting donations. The Santa Fe County Fairgrounds is taking in dogs, cats and chickens (505-471-4711) and supplies. The Zamora arena is being used to temporarily house livestock and horses; contact livestock inspector Matthew Romero (575-643-6805).

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

A celebration of **Susan Rothenberg's** life and legacy at the Museum of Modern Art in New York traces the full arc of the artist's career by presenting ten of her paintings, drawn from the more than forty of her works in all mediums in the Museum's collection. In the early 1970s, Rothenberg resolved "to paint an image of something you could recognize and feel something about"—a bold move at a moment when abstraction dominated New York City's art scene. She settled on the horse, a subject she believed she could use to "negate painting as much as possible,

in terms of illusionism and shadow and composition," moving on to the human body in the 1980s. In 1990, Rothenberg shifted course once again when she moved to New Mexico, where she often painted scenes from multiple vantage points, depicting objects and experiences inspired by her daily life.

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Laura Yeats reports that she met with Tony Armijo of the Santa Fe County Fire Department who helped identify the problem areas around her property in the case of a wildland, grass, or bosque fire. His advice is applicable to most of us. The two major problem areas are the possibility of embers igniting the debris tossed into the gullies as erosion control and the dry grass between our homes and the bosque, and along both sides of coyote fences.

Armijo advised us to 1) Weedwhack all grass (ideally with battery or electric type; mowing with combustion engine/steel blade can occur before 10 AM). 2) Remove brush and compost on the slopes or cover with dirt. 3) Remove dead limbs/ loose leaves, etc. in the bosque (due to lack of snow, leaves didn't get compacted and are a big risk for igniting). Only electric chainsaws should be used in the bosque. This last one will have to be a community effort.

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At a well-attended education and protest rally at the Roundhouse on March 1st, 285ALL co-chairs Cindy Weehler and **Roger Taylor** delivered a petition signed by over 1100 residents opposing the expansion of WIPP and additional transport and storage of NEW radioactive waste (powdered plutonium!) at WIPP. The Governor has written a letter to DOE Cabinet Secretary Jennifer Grantholm apprising her of our petition and concerns, stating that she takes them seriously and requests the Secretary to look into it.

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The public number of **covid cases in our zip code** is up to 133 (as of 5/15) And that is of course a drastic undercount, given home tests that are not reported.

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In the April issue of *New Mexico Magazine*, headlined "A Cut Above": "The rich and fertile Galisteo Basin... south of Santa Fe, makes for beautiful vistas and an ideal setting for former Chicago 'city slicker'/art dealer **Tim Willms** to set up his Talus Wind Ranch and develop his pork and lamb ranching business."

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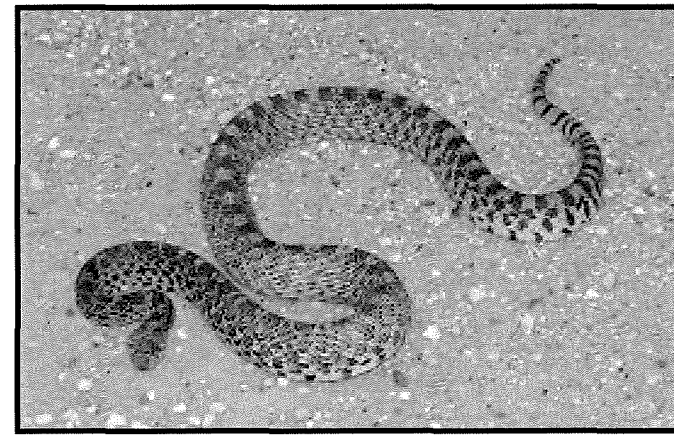
Just out: the third issue of *Santa Fe magazine* (co-edited by Galisteo **John Miller**) includes an interview with **Jim Sloan**—artist, earth mover, and snake advocate. Here are some excerpts:

"I love snakes, some people are terrified of them.... And the fear is good. We have 46 species of snakes in New Mexico, and eight are poisonous. It's good to know who those eight are so you don't unnecessarily kill something that's not dangerous, and so you don't get bit by something that is. But look at them: they're amazing, what they do without arms or legs....

"But are snakes what we should be talking about right now? I just turned 86. This country doesn't feel the same as the one I grew up in. Of course, there are a lot of other things that are equally troublesome. Climate, the viruses. And the birds! Three billion birds gone since 1970. There just aren't many birds around. It's very sad. (Cont. p.3)

"Painting helps. So it's no surprise my painting has become more political.... I took classes with Diego Rivera in Mexico City in 1953. All he wanted to talk about was politics.... He would talk for an hour and maybe the first 15 minutes were about art.... for Diego, politics were impossible to ignore. And sadly, that's where we are today. A year and half ago, when somebody said they thought there might be a 'civil war,' I thought, *That person's crazy! Do you realize what that means? C'mon, civil war? Take a look at Bosnia if you want to see civil war. You know what that looks like? You don't have a roof anymore, for starters.* But now, it's common. I hear people fearing civil war every day.

"It makes the snakes look pretty innocent."



GMDWCA MEETS

On April 13th, the Galisteo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association held its annual meeting at the Community Center. Attending Board members: Steve Moya, Phillip Tuwaletstiwa, John Watson-Jones, Richard Patton, Antonio Chavez, Mike Anaya, bookkeeper Ana Berry. Absent: Lucy Lippard (in quarantine). A quorum was established with proxies received from Lippard and Romona Scholder. President Steve Moya called the meeting to order. Deirdre Africa took the minutes from which the following is excerpted.

Board member **Mike Anaya** retired with thanks from all. **Chan Anaya** was nominated, seconded, and approved as a new Board member. She spoke about her commitment to water conservation (see p.1).

The Water Board is following the lead of the Galisteo Community Association regarding Modern Elder Academy water stewardship. So far, MEA is in full compliance with county permits.

Antonio monitors the well depth on a regular basis and reports that the water height has remained constant over the past five years. The Board has found that water usage has dropped by 30% in the past five years because of the new meters that detect leaks, which are noted on the monthly bill to the property owner and must be repaired.

Four new hookups have been provided to Janice Wall, Liz Rose, Richard Fenker, and Kate Blackwood.

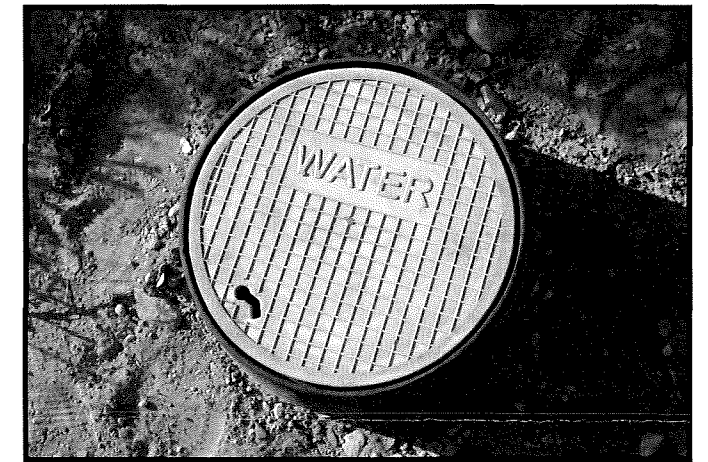
Mike Anaya recommended pay raises to water foreman Antonio Chavez (currently \$40/hr.), water operator Rudy Martinez (currently \$372/month), and bookkeeper Ana Berry (\$876/month). He suggested an 8% raise to start March 2023,

the beginning of the new fiscal year. Steve also suggested that the Board hire an assistant at \$25/hr. to train with Antonio. This motion was seconded and approved. Raising rates for the higher level water users was also suggested; this was opposed by member Freddie Cárdenas as harmful for large families. Mike Anaya suggested that a payment plan be set up so that a water hookup can be paid for over time.

Steve and Antonio presented an update on the Capital Improvement Project. After the initial attempt to pressurize the line, they had to install a pressure reducer as 100 psi was too high. The line will soon be pressurized (after several cancellations) and State engineers will test the system. Balancing pressure for all residents is a challenge; they suggested that pressure reducers can be installed on individual lines by a plumber.

State Rep Matthew McQueen notified the Board that he had acquired \$60,000 from the Junior Appropriation Fund for three fire hydrants to be installed on County Road 42. The funds must be spent within the year.

The Water Association needs another tank and needs to bring the other well on-line for redundancy. This requires an RFP to build another pump house. The original 50,000 gallon tank is from 1996 and now needs a thorough cleaning by a professional diver. The Board will pursue county, state, and federal funds that are available to meet these needs. There have been three additional requests for hookups, but back-up documents have been inconsistent or incorrect. The Board is going to create a membership form so that all information regarding members will be current and uniform.



FROM THE MEA

Skylar Skikos

Dear Galisteo Neighbors,

We are following up with respect to the question about how to access our public filings for the development submittal for the retreat center. While the studies are available through the County via a public records request, we understand that a response can take as long as fifteen days and also that the web page for this feature on the County website is currently down. As an alternative option, we are assembling the complete submittal package on a file-sharing site. If you would like to receive a link to download the files, please email me at skylar@modernelderacademy.com and I will provide the link once it is available.

SPEEDERS BEWARE

Ann Senuta

I've been watching those big, white gravel transport semis go roaring through Galisteo with complete disregard for the speed limit, so I called Patrick Martinez at the NMDOT (505-832-6098) and spoke to Brian Lockridge, vice president of Albuquerque Asphalt, owner of the trucks (505-831-7311).

I told them both that another year and a half of this is going to be a real problem for our fragile adobe walls and for safety in the village. And 35 mph is the law.

Brian was very apologetic. He said that the truck drivers were contracted out, and he would speak to the guy in charge of them. Apparently he got the word out that day because Patrick called the next day to say that the contractor checked the GPS devices of all the trucks and found that some of them were indeed speeding. So all drivers got warned. Patrick said if we still see them speeding (which I have), try to get the individual truck's number (on the cab in black block letters) and to call them both with the number and approximate time and they'll keep on it. Of course this doesn't help with all the *other* speeders; a speed camera would be a good start with them.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: BJARNE SLETTELAND

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. PLEASE email flip14@centurylink.net TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: June 15th

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

Quartermill Gallery, 10 Via La Puente. Open Weekends by appt. 505-466-2255. Estate pieces and Regional collectables.
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

Radio Free Galisteo @ www.radiofreegalisteo.com
Music and Information from the Galisteo Basin. Support the Station: <https://www.patreon.com/radiofreegalisteo>.
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. 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.

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 weekends? 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.

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.

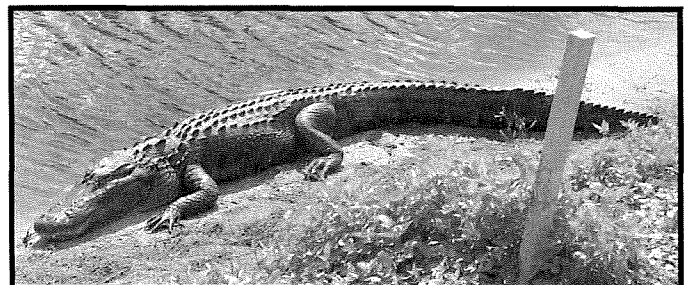
Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors; also electrical work. Ted Montoya, 577-6004.

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

Meditation & Knowings with Chris Griscom via video Sundays, free on YouTube: 466-1975 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, or flip14@centurylink.net. **NEXT DEADLINE: June 15th. TO SPONSOR: Make out check for \$80-\$150 (or more!) to GCA, noting "for newsletter."** and send to *El Puente* at address above. **WHEN DONATING (MUCH APPRECIATED!) PLEASE BE SURE TO MAKE CHECK OUT TO GCA, BUT SEND TO EL PUENTE. MIL GRACIAS.**



Alligator, from the Holloways' 2 months in Florida.