



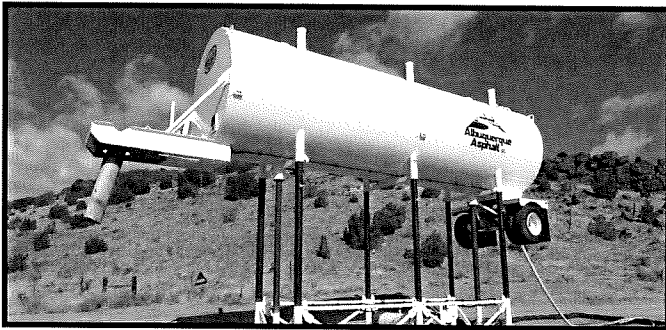
EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #265

SUMMER 2023

CONSTRUCTION?/DESTRUCTION?

For a while now there have been Sarcon signs on NM 41 announcing construction at Saddleback Ranch. The new road was required by the County as a second entrance for fire and safety. It will become the primary entrance for the Modern Elder Academy. The existing entrance will continue to serve the ranch. Spring 2024 is the anticipated completion date. Skylar Skikos of MEA tells *El Puente* that they are expanding one extant home and adding another to end up with forty retreat rooms and supporting spaces (dining, lounges, class space, and movement space. This is part of the development of MEA's first U.S. Midlife Wisdom School campus, where they will "host immersive weeklong workshops to help people navigate midlife and reframe their mindset on aging."



As we suffer through the endless NM41 construction with constant lane changing, traffic lights, and idiotically placed medians (for traffic calming too far away from the village to help), *El Puente* has been reminded about another pending threat that may explain some of the endlessness: the huge fuel storage and transfer construction site on King Ranch land near Moriarty (in Torrance County). We wonder if the NM41 construction is more complicated in order to facilitate increased tanker traffic, which will of course also come right through the village.

Getting heavy traffic to go further down I-40 and take US 285 (the WIPP route) instead of NM41 is a very long shot. As Matthew McQueen, our State Rep, notes: "NMDOT has been steadfast that they won't/can't limit tanker traffic, while at the same time building a super-highway through our community. It makes the long-promised speed and traffic calming measures all the more important." We contacted an NM DOT official who responded with the following:

COME ONE, COME ALL, TO THE GVFR BREAKFAST:

Sept. 9, 9AM at the Fire Station, where you can expect yummy foods, fire and medical info, and the best of company.

*

Graduation from the Fire Academy for our two latest firefighters -- **Ken Frumin** and **Kevin Smith**-- will take place on July 15. Congratulations! And gratitude from the whole community.

"The construction currently in progress on NM 41 between Galisteo and US 285 is the third of three phases originally planned for the NM 41 corridor in this vicinity. The first phase was the reconstruction of the bridges over the San Cristobal and Galisteo streams; the second was the highway reconstruction between the bridges and Clark Hill. Originally, the third phase was intended to include the reach of NM 41 through Galisteo -- approximate 1-1/2 miles in length - however it was isolated from the third phase when conflicting community public concerns were voiced regarding the details of its plan, particularly regarding pedestrians and bicycles, through the community. At this time, we do not have a design in progress and funding for construction of the reach of NM 41 through Galisteo, but we have repeatedly assured the community that as a plan is being developed, it will be presented to the community."

McQueen calls this new threat "ominous and disappointing." He suggests "two things that I think would be helpful is (1) lowering the speed from Clark Hill to the interstate to 55 (instead of 65) and (2) speed cameras in town. The first might make using 41 a less appealing alternative. The second would at least slow down traffic through the community."

Any further information is welcome. Keep your eyes out when driving south. *El Puente* will follow up in the September issue.



PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Seth Griego, son of Micki Griego, grandson of Teresa Vasquez, graduated from Santa Fe High this year and is headed to UNM where he will major in music; he plays three instruments.

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Essays on **Woody Gwyn**, **Deborah Madison**, and **Patrick McFarlin** are included in Christopher Benson's new book, *Art in the Making: Essays by Artists About What They Do*, Santa Fe: The Fisher Press, 2023.

*

The catalogue for **Woody Gwyn's** *Dominions* show of new work at the LewAllen Galleries in the Railyard, with a text by Michael Abatemarco, includes a handsome painting of our southern *creston* (aka Comanche Gap).

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Photographs of **Deborah Madison's** library was featured in *The New Mexican's* supplement on the Santa Fe Literary Festival, in which **your editor** participated on a panel with Stan Crawford and Don Usner on writing about villages!

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Emily Fisher Landau, former owner of Saddleback Ranch, died recently at age 102.

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An extensive obituary in the *New Mexican* in April reported the death of Patricia Ellen Marshall Sanchez, married for sixty-six years to Leveo V. Sanchez, son of accomplished Galisteo **Victoria Davis de Sanchez** of Galisteo's Ortiz family.

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The only state beyond the Southeast to be listed in the **national ten lowest life expectancies** was New Mexico. (Couldn't prove it by geriatric Galisteo!)

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The GVFR now has its own link on **Galisteo Free Radio**.

*

Corey McGillicuddy explains that "Ward 3D of the Santa Fe County Democratic party currently consists of Galisteo, Cerrillos, Madrid, and a small section of lower Stanley that is mostly cows (an underserved constituency). There are plans in the works to merge with the rural parts of Ward 3B (La Cienega), still in the discussion stage. DPSFC Chair Bernadette Vadurro is stepping down to be replaced by Henry Roybal. The two vice chairs are Mary Jane Parks and David Thompson."

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Judy Tuwaletsiwa's solo show at Pie Projects opens July 15.

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The Galisteo Studio Tour (Oct 14 and 15, 10-5) has a handsome new website with an image from each participating artist. The tour is dedicated to a longtime participant -- the late weaver Donna Mitchell. Jim Sloan's studio will be open in her honor.

*

Jean Anaya Moya was one of the "partner nominated artists" (by the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art) for the International Folk Art Market and is quoted: "At a time when everyone is so caught up in technology, I try to capture my audience with images that touch their hearts and souls."

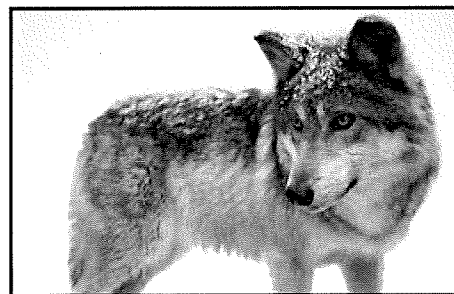
GLAMOROUS CAMPING IN THE GALISTEO BASIN

The Summer Guide in *The New Mexican's* seasonal *Bienvenidos* includes "Weekend Getaway" by Ashley Biggers about the white tents that are visible looking west from NM41. We had been wondering about them and it turns out that they are a "glamping" site called KitFox, consisting of "eleven canvas lodging tents, lounge tent, communal pavilion and, yes, bathrooms" adjacent to the Galisteo Basin Preserve (125 Thornton Ranch Rd., Lamy). It has been there for three years. Owner and New Mexico native Jennifer Kolker found it "surprising that there wasn't a place where you could pack an overnight bag and wake up in a beautiful landscape" without the bother of the gear and planning involved in actual back country camping. Apparently it's like a luxury summer camp with craft cocktails, fine dining, and night sky viewing. The lodgings are off the grid on solar power and water is hauled in. (Check out staykitfox.com, if you need a nearby getaway.)

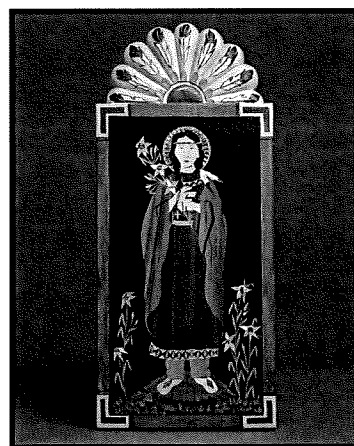
NEVER CRY WOLF: FOLLOWUP

Jan Saunders

The female Mexican Gray Wolf (F2745) who traveled 500 miles from her pack in Arizona only to be captured in our Northern New Mexico mountains back in December 2022 has now been released in the wildlands of the Apache National Forest in Arizona. Her job will be to mate and strengthen the gene pool of her threatened species. Her carefully monitored but dangerous travels crossing I-40 and I-25 caught the interest of school children, who named her Asha. (This follows Saunders' original article in the March-April issue of *El Puente*.)



Mexican Gray Wolf by Joel Santore



Jean Anaya Moya, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (aka Lily of the Mohawk)

GREEN GALISTEO

Interview with Deirdre Africa of Rancho Bueno

When did you move to Galisteo and begin transforming your yard?

I moved here April 23, 2018. I wanted to plant fruit trees for the first time and fourteen of them have brought shade, raised the water table, and welcomed different creatures, changing this little corner of the world for the better. All the flowers and plants are pollinators for bees and butterflies. Last year caterpillars ate the fennel but we got to watch them come out of the chrysalis and become black swallowtail butterflies -- like *National Geographic!*

Did you do this in the past?

I'm totally self taught, not a master gardener, no schooling. I just like to put things in ground and watch them grow.

What's your sign?

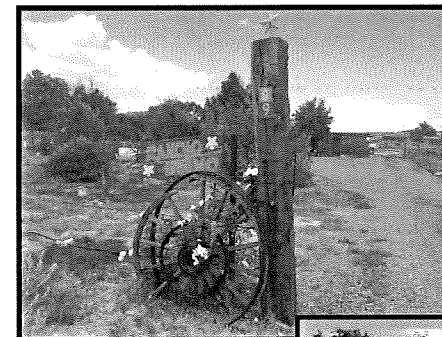
I'm a Taurus, an earth sign, of the land. I like to grow food: I planted fruit trees for their looks but now I'm getting fruit. Heidi and Craig and I eat off this land -- asparagus, onions, garlic, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes carrots, beets strawberries, pumpkins, cucumbers, and beans. We froze enough food to eat for the winter. I'm happy about that. That's the goal.

You have some kind of creditation?

Yes, the National Wildlife Federation designates that you have water for birds, pollinators, etc.

Do cats help?

Of course they do. I have three cats- Lulu, Bee, and Sunshine. They're very busy all day; they catch a mouse a day; they keep an eye on stuff, kill grasshoppers. They caught a vole.



GRASS ROOTS

Jan Saunders

Drawing by Catherine Ferguson

"...every day I see or hear something that more or less kills me with delight...the ocean's shine, the prayers that are made of grass." -- Mary Oliver

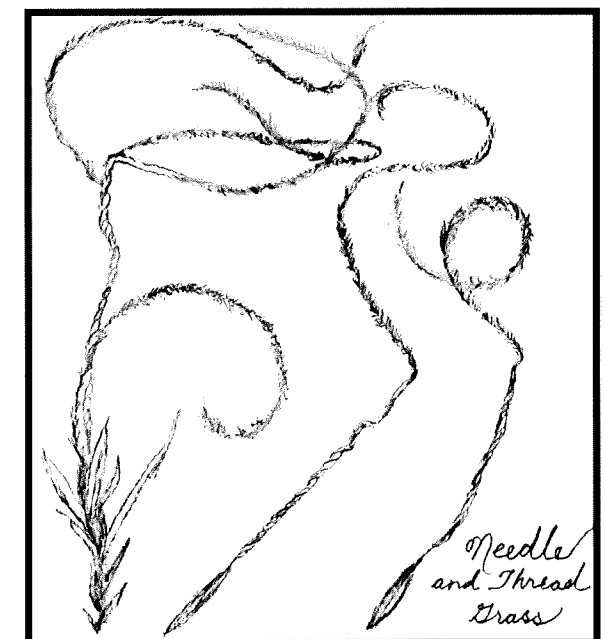
Bamboo, Bermuda, buffalo, horsetail, foxtail, pony tail, pampas, crab, corn, rice, carrizo cane, sugar cane, and Kentucky blue—all are classified botanically as grasses. Of course, this list includes some exotics not native to New Mexico, but most are found in our state.

I can always find something that "more or less kills me with delight" just beyond my own back door, off the portal, and in the shadow of Cerro Pelon. Right now, this very summer, our Galisteo Basin offers a riot of weird and wonderful grasses. If you want to be amazed, just stop and take a closer look. If you hike along the basin paths, Needle and Thread grass (my favorite) will surely find you as it sews new seams in your jeans and threads its way through your socks.

One of first plants to establish itself on sandy soil, Needle and Thread grass is effective in preventing wind erosion. (Works for the Galisteo Basin!) Lewis and Clark recorded the first botanical description in July, 1806. Blackfoot Indians noted the appearance of this grass as the time to begin the buffalo hunt. Deer and elk find it good forage in spring and early summer.

Once the seeds appear, the three-foot tall silky-smooth grasses that undulate in waves under the morning sun take on a new personality. The needle-like seeds become airborne and in strong winds can cause eye injuries. The main shaft of the sharp 3-inch seed grows an equally long feathery fiber attached to one end that catches the wind to disperse the seed. The long fiber twirls in graceful circles as it twists and turns the seed shaft to auger it deep into the ground. This delicate design is as beautiful as it is efficient.

There are as many amazing grasses to discover as there are days left in the summer.



WHITHER THE FORMER CERRO PELON RANCH?

Since Tom Ford sold his Cerro Pelon Ranch adjacent to Galisteo, *El Puente* has been trying to find out more about the current owner as the ranch is a close neighbor to the village. Last year your editor spoke briefly with the new ranch manager -- Clint Mortenson, showman, horse trainer, rancher, and silversmith of Lone Butte Ranch and Silver and Saddles on Turquoise Trail. I had the name of the buyer -- Stewart Butterfield, co-founder of the online photo site Flickr, and co-founder of Slack. But Mortenson was reluctant to give me any information. So I went on line.

Butterfield and his wife Jen Rubio (she is co-founder of the travel site Away) married in 2020. In 2021 and 2022 they acquired five homes in three states, among them Cerro Pelon, though the name of the presiding mesa has been abandoned. The couple are art collectors specializing in Latinx work. Rubio is currently the youngest board member of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and the couple has endowed an associate curator position there focused on global Latinx art. They have a foundation in New Mexico and are working with artist Alicja Kwade. A villager who has had some contact with them reports that Butterfield hates dust. Welcome to New Mexico?



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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 for aprons, napkins, and potholders: 505-670-5198, www.buttonboxaprons.comorafricadeirdre@gmail.com.

SERVICES

Responsible, caring **house-sitter available for the warmer months.** Has been in Galisteo for many summers. Excellent local references. Priscilla: 520-896-3315.

Yard work, pet care, moving help and other jobs. \$15 per hour. Call or text Lanz Mackenzie (16 yrs old) 720-755-6674.

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!

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

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

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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.

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Meditation & Knowings with Chris Griscom via video Sundays, free on YouTube:466-1975 thelight@lightinstitute.com

+++EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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