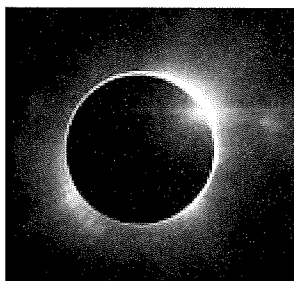
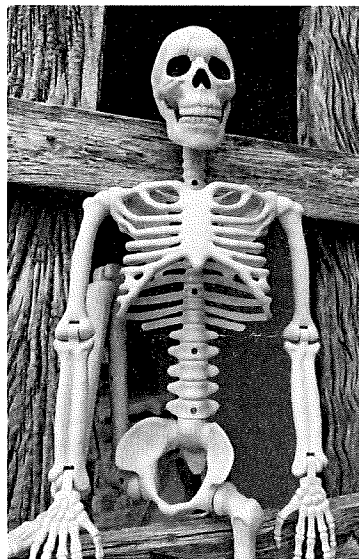
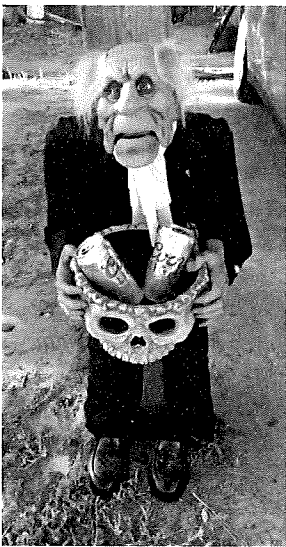




ISSUE #267

OCTOBER 2023

HAPPY HALLOWEEEEEEEN!!



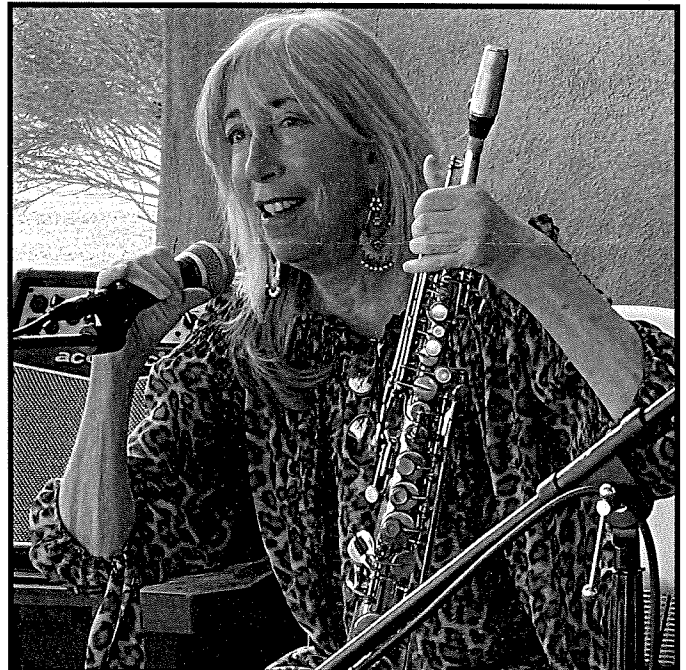
Jerry Anaya's Halloween Extravaganza; Ring of Fire

ANOTHER DELIGHTFUL STUDIO TOUR

According to Lesley Dyer, one of the organizers, the Studio Tour was again a success: "We had lots of attendees, great volunteers, the artists were terrific, the weather was perfect, the cottonwoods golden, and even the sun and the moon put on a show for us!"



Lesley Dyer, Christine Benkert, Julia Cairns.



Lorraine Weiss on the sax at September music event; she was at the Studio Tour with her jewelry but this is such a great picture... (by Lesley Dy)

THE COYOTE THAT ATE THE OWL THAT ATE THE MOUSE

... and it ended badly for all three.

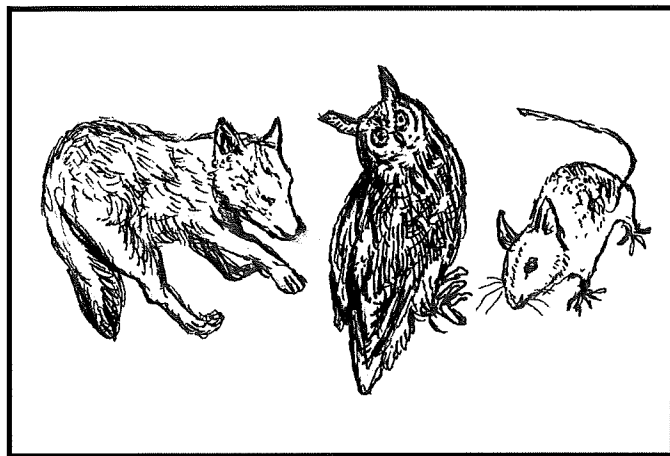
by Jan Saunders, drawing by Catherine Ferguson

At the top of this food chain, a female coyote (did she have pups?), died on the way to the Espanola Wildlife Center. A tragic story of human indifference to wildlife and the misplaced belief that commercial rat poison is the quickest and most efficient method of rodent control. I get it. In our daily rush of busyness, it may make sense to look for a quick-easy-fix. Got a rodent problem? Put out DECON; mouse eats it; scampers outside to die; end of problem. Except it's only the beginning of a deadly problem for wildlife. The poison mouse now enters the food chain killing Nature's primary rodent predators. Owls and coyotes are quick to pounce on the slow-moving dying mouse while a nonvenomous bullsnake waits in the grass for its portion of poison. Clearly the "quick-easy-fix" did not apply to the coyote nor to the owl that ate the poison mouse. For the predators it is a long, slow, painful death that allows rodents to scurry closer to the winner's circle in the race for survival.

No argument here. Mice and rats must be controlled. Rodents are destructive, carry disease, and attract rattlesnakes. But there are methods that have **no secondary kill** of our predator allies that offer us free rodent control. Simple snap traps placed away from birds work great for mice and pack rats. A little research uncovers effective environmentally safe methods of rodent control. Critical thinking and thoughtful purchases protect Nature that protects us.

Since 1972 when lawyer Christopher Stone published his article, "**Should Trees Have Standing? Toward Equal Rights for Natural Objects**", the discussion of whether or not Nature has rights has spurred an entire environmental movement. Voices remind us that to harm Nature's flora and fauna is to harm ourselves. The protection of wildness and diversity is our hope for the planet's future as climate change enters the equation. The question remains: does Nature have rights?

Before you decide I have wandered a bit too far afield, please consider this, my childhood memories from 80 years ago: As small children in 1940s Georgia, my little brother and I thought it great fun to sleep on pallets in my grandmother's living room next to the floor-to-ceiling windows, falling asleep listening to the soft sounds of southern nights. As we nestled in, Ma-ma came to generously spray us with the FLIT gun (DDT) to keep mosquitoes away. As youngsters in the 1950s, we skipped along behind the truck that sprayed mosquito repellent (DDT) on the neighborhood grasses, trees, birds, dogs, and us. As a teenager, I often awoke on summer mornings to the familiar and not unpleasant smell of bowl-weevil poison (DDT) drifting into my upstairs windows from cotton fields far away. DDT helped win WWII by controlling malaria, saved doomed King Cotton, made housewives happy, and decimated the American Bald Eagle population. And so... we learned. Indiscriminate use of pesticide and poison kills indiscriminately.



CENTURY LINK'S ONGOING LOUSY SERVICE: WHAT CAN BE DONE?

A couple of years ago, while I (your editor) was away for six weeks in the summer, my friend Walt Stevens, who was house and dog sitting, had no internet service and my landline was totally out, leaving us with no way to communicate. When I returned and finally got a repair man, he, like others before him, said the company had a monopoly on the cables in the area and they were in bad shape. People like him were only putting band aids on a much bigger problem. Since then, like many of my neighbors, I have had the usual problems, many unsatisfying phone calls to Century Link, temporary improvements. But that was a big one.

Complaints about Century Link (and its parent company Lumen) are common conversation pieces in the village and surrounding areas. Two years ago a group from Galisteo, including Andrew Lustig and Paul Davis, contacted Christopher Hall, Assistant to then PRC Commissioner Joseph M. Maestas. They requested that "Century Link complete an extensive re-wiring and infrastructure revamping of Galisteo's age-old equipment. Not the continual band aids they've attempted." A zoom call included a local customer service/repair manager, a more senior regional guy (his boss) and 2 or 3 people from the PRC. According to Davis, it was "a total waste of time."

But this past summer a much more dangerous situation at the Diggs/Epping home made it necessary to start yet another campaign for improvement. **Peggy Diggs**, who instigated this round of inquiry, wrote in late August: "Last week we needed to call 911 for a family accident, and couldn't even call out; oddly, one of our cell phones worked, and we got the ambulance here. This is unsafe, and CenturyLink is responsible.

"I call CenturyLink every other day; have had tech people come out once every week or two; and nothing improves. Some tell me that CenturyLink won't do anything to improve the infrastructure out here (too few residents), and whatever they do does not help. One neighbor was without internet for 3 months, paying for the connection all the while.

"This is just one tiny story that no doubt exists across the state. It certainly seems that if New Mexico wishes to entice businesses and new families, there needs to be reliable internet. And telephone." (Cont.p.3)

So *El Puente* put out a call for other situations on the community e-mail and here are some of the first responses:

- **From Harmony Hammond:** Sometimes my Century Link service gets soooooo slow that it takes files and email forever to open, I can't open website files in Safari, cannot send or receive image file via WeTransfer, and connection on zoom meetings is irregular -- all of which I need to do. I have to call and complain, then it gets better for a while, but I can never count on a good connection for my professional needs.
- **From Deborah Madison:** As for Century Link, I hate having a phone company you can't talk to!!!
- **From John Willett:** "July 1 through September 9, 2021, one or the other of our two landlines was non-functional more often than not. We called to request repairs a total of four times. The first three service calls were scheduled a full week after our calls. Repairs were done but obviously gave only temporary relief. The fourth service call was scheduled TWO weeks out! If we had had only one line, or if both lines were out simultaneously (highly likely), we would have been unable to contact emergency services. (Our cell phones do not work at this location.) Century Link is failing to provide basic contact to emergency services (not to mention the routine phone service for which we pay them). Surely this is a violation of their obligation under NM utilities regulations!
- "Force Century Link to maintain their equipment so that failures are less frequent. Force them to add skilled telephone workers so that repairs can be performed in a timely manner." In a reply to the unsatisfying response from David Martinez for the PRC. Willett replied: "While the statement that "the necessary repairs were made and the technician completed the ticket as resolved" may be correct as far as it goes, Century Link has not addressed my fundamental complaints, which were/are 1) that they have allowed their equipment to deteriorate to the point that I had 4 failures in 3 months and 2) that it took unacceptably long to make repairs (1-2 weeks) each time. One purpose of your commission may be to help customers resolve individual disputes with utility companies, but I thought its fundamental purpose was to make sure customers who depend on essential services like land-line telephone get what they pay for and require in order reliably to obtain emergency law-enforcement and medical help."
- **From Ken Kuhne:** How many times, Lord, how many times?!? Countless over the years with CL problems. They say it's an old line that they're not going to put the \$\$ up to replace. Closest neighbors just had them out last week to reinstall their wifi. The tech came, worked for 2.5 hours, said he had to go check the main box, and never came back or called! And so it goes....
- **From State Rep Matthew McQueen:** As for CenturyLink customer service (I've also had problems),

the Public Regulation Commission Consumer Relations bureau has a mechanism to file a complaint: <https://www.nm-prc.org/consumer-relations/>. As for better internet in general, there is a lot of federal money floating around right now and a new state broadband office. I think the key to tapping into either of those is someone or a committee to spearhead what needs to be a concerted, sustained effort.

- **And a good one, for a change, from Greg Salustro:** Well, Wayland and I have two accounts with Century Link, one for the house and one for the studio, and the service has been very good, relatively. Better than the service we had in Chicago and in upper Michigan.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

On Oct 15, 1948, the *New Mexican* reported: "Democrats seeking county offices Nov. 3 asked the support of Galisteo voters at a rally last night at Galisteo. There [sic] GOP rivals staged a meeting at Nambe."

*

Janine Stern's "Exit Series" is now being shown at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio.

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One aspect of all the hoopla around the Oppenheimer film was (or is?) a self-guided walking tour around the **Lamy train station**, the first stop fort arriving scientists and workers on their way to Los Alamos.

*

On Sept. 26th, the *New Mexican* printed a letter from **John Watson-Jones** on Black-Footed Ferret Day, honoring "arguably the most endangered animal species in North America, and human-caused extinction is the most tragic of non-human events....Support the Endangered Species Act."

MILES TO GO: THE LONG ROAD AHEAD

The leaders of the ongoing inquiries into the Solar Array, the fuel storage facility, and how to improve the passage of NM 41 through the village have had a busy month with their own work, but the to-do list keeps on growing. Among the remedies for vehicles speeding through Galisteo (aside from the useless medians) include contacting the Catholic Church about historic preservation. Jennifer Martin will network with the community about the possibility of local artists designing cross walks. The DOT Environment Bureau and Cultural Affairs will be contacted; hopefully a meeting will take place with Matthew McQueen, our County Commissioner Camilla Bustamante, and DOT head Rick Serna.

COUNTY URGES EMERGENCY PRIORITIZATION

Santa Fe County has launched an effort to ensure the optimal use of emergency services and inform residents about the appropriate times to make non-emergency calls. From January to July 2023, the Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) handled nearly 224,000 calls, with fewer than half dispatched for service. That means that over 121,000 (Cont.p.4)

calls were *not* related to services needing law enforcement, fire, EMS, or animal control.

Residents should call 911 ONLY: When the condition or situation is life threatening; When there is a crime in progress; When a person is overdosing on drugs; When a person needs skills, medication, or equipment that only a paramedic can provide; Any type of structure, brush, or vehicle fire; A vehicle collision with injury, blocking a roadway or airbag deployment

Residents should call non-emergency contacts for: Noise complaints; Minor property damage; Lost or stolen items; To request a police report or records; Vehicle collision on private property without injury; Other incidents that do not pose an immediate threat to life or property.

Please keep these Santa Fe non-emergency contacts at hand:
NON-EMERGENCY Dispatch (505) 428-3710

Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office (505) 986-2455;
35 Camino Justicia 87508

Santa Fe County Fire Department Administration
(505) 992-3070; 35 Camino Justicia 87508

Animal Control (505) 992-1626; 100 Caja Del Rio 87501
Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office Records (505) 986-2400;
35 Camino Justicia 87508

Temporary Restraining Orders (District Court)
(505) 992-1626; 100 Catron St. 87501

Adult Detention Center – Booking (505) 428-3232
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline - 988.



Jim Sloan and his granddaughter dealt with a Western diamondback at the Moyas. Rattle snakes have triangular heads and vertical pupils. Bull snakes have oval heads and horizontal pupils.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: SKYLAR SKIKOS

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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

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, napkins, and potholders by Deirdre Africa of Rancho Bueno: 505-670-5198, www.buttonboxaprons.com; 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!

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

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, 670-8608 or 660-9715.

Linda Vista Stables: I can take care of your local horses 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, repair coyote fences; haul trash; yard work, odd jobs. Fair prices, local references, Michael 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. 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:** Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. **Changes, comments, suggestions, contributions to: El Puente, 14 Avenida Vieja, or flip14@centurylink.net. NEXT DEADLINE: Nov. 15th. TO SPONSOR:** Check for \$90-\$150 (or more!) made out to the GCA noting "for newsletter," to address above. **MANY THANKS TO THOSE FORMER RESIDENTS WHO HAVE SENT STAMPS ...**