

# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #275

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

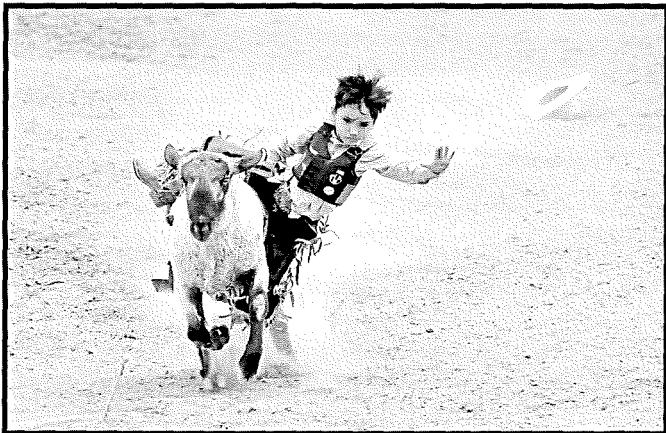
## RETURN OF THE GALISTEO RODEO

It felt like old times. After eleven years, Rodeo de Galisteo was back in town, and the village was itself again.

Restoring tradition, the Rodeo Parade kicked things off on Saturday morning. Antonio Chavez, on his white horse Chivo, was Grand Marshall, a role he inherited from his cousin, the late Rudy Sena, founder of the rodeo. Following him were vintage cars, cowboys and rodeo princesses on horseback, dogwalkers, a mysteriously decorated convertible, and two stray goats. The GVFR rolled out the big engines.

David and Veronica Montoya drove their cars, a 1938 Pontiac and 1928 Studebaker, with grandkids Jason, Lily, and Carter riding shotgun. Being in the Parade brought back so many memories, Veronica said. David loved seeing the grandkids experience their first Parade and Rodeo and was hopeful it won't be their last.

For over forty years, Rudy Sena gave fans one of the most authentic amateur rodeos in the West. This year, the fans brought it back to honor him. Charlie Holloway had nothing but praise. "The family picked it up and ran with it. They didn't miss a beat." Charlie's been riding the Rodeo sidelines since 1971, running a beer concession stand, manning the GVFR ambulance, and sponsoring first prize belt buckles. This year he sponsored Junior Barrel Racing, fittingly won by Galisteo Rodeo Queen Kenzie Enriquez, a poised eleven-year-old blazing her way through the New Mexico rodeo circuit. (Cont. p.2)



Mutton Buster (Photo: Gene Peach)

**ENJOY THE GALISTEO STUDIO TOUR:  
OCTOBER 12-13, 10-5. LOCAL TALENT,  
GOOD FOOD, GOOD COMPANY. BE THERE  
OR BE SQUARE!**

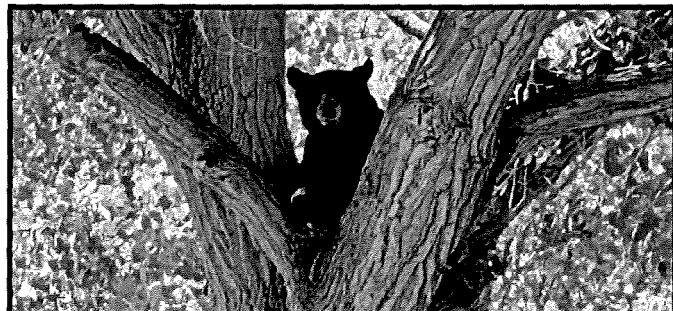
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**SAME GOES FOR THE CHILE &  
MARGARITA FEST, OCT 26, 5-8, AT THE  
GCC. Details about competition on  
community email.**

## THIS YEAR'S GALISTEO BEAR

Black bear activity in the Village reached fever pitch in September. It seemed like everyone had a bear story to tell with more than a few encounters happening at close range, even at mid-day. The bear was thought to be male and possibly a two-year-old adolescent, according to observant admirers.

In early summer Ann Nye smelled bear from her screened-in porch on McKee Drive. "Worst stink imaginable," she says, and the same smell she encountered on a Minnesota trail ride where bears were spotted. Up on The Hill, a bear came to the open window of Helen Young's bedroom at midnight. The sounds of heavy breathing and the screen being shaken woke Helen to the silhouette of a large dark head peering in. The bear then frolicked "like a puppy" on all fours before heading down the road. One Sunday afternoon El Oso napped all day in a tree on Via La Puente, with cyclists and cars passing underneath (see photo). (Cont p.2)



Bear in tree on Via La Puente (Photo Judy Tuwaletstiwa)

**RODEO** Grand Marshall Chavez saw friends and family he hadn't seen in over a decade. His favorite rodeo event is Saddled Bronc Riding, because, he says, there's nothing like the art displayed in the form and movement of the riders' skills. He especially appreciates riders who may not be accredited and are sometimes participating in their first rodeo with a lot to prove. For him, the Rodeo is Galisteo's definitive festival.

First-time attendee John Watson-Jones came away impressed. He saw no cruelty to the animals, which he'd feared, and got to see horses, bulls, and people doing things he'd only read about. In the stands, he said, friendly rodeo-goers kept him informed about what was happening and what to watch for, and on a cloudless July afternoon, he felt the thrill of "an unexpected connection with the old West."

This year's Rodeo exceeded all expectations, said Shelby Baca, Rudy's granddaughter and member of the Acting Committee with her sisters, cousin, mother, and aunt. Shelby went from "mutton busting" (a little kids' event in which sheep pass as broncs) to producing the entire show. It was surreal, she said, after such a long time, to experience the Rodeo "with adult eyes and heart. It was emotional too, being there without Rudy." Busy as she was running things, Shelby still made time to race barrels on her horse Little Fergie.

Rudy's family hopes to return next year. "Up at the rodeo grounds, they left the sign up, saying every third week in July," said Dave Montoya. "I hope that means the Rodeo is back for good."

For photos, videos, event winners, and comments, check out "Rodeo de Galisteo" on Facebook. More photos at [@tetsuro76](#) on Instagram.com and by Paul Springer Photography at [paulspringer.smugmug.com](#).

## GVFR NEWS

The Annual GVFR Breakfast on September 7<sup>th</sup>, annual catchup as summer gives way, was the usual success with good food, full house, and important info.



GVFR members Steve Riemer, Stella Maestas, and Jess Spring. (Photo: Alice Kruse)

Steve Riemer completed the Fire Academy as a Firefighter I-II. He has completed Hazmat Awareness and Wildland Firefighter. Ezra Sage has completed Hazmat Awareness and Wildland Firefighter. He and Kobe Jane will be attending the Fire Academy for Firefighter I-II in October. She has completed Hazmat Awareness. All three are also working on driver certification.

**BEAR** Bird feeders were raided, and a compost bin with a bucketful of melon rinds was upended. For a few weeks in August, bear hopscotched down Marcelina Lane, scaling walls and fences. Garbage cans and garbage were strewn around. An outdoor freezer was ransacked and damaged, as was a microwave oven. The bear favored canned iced tea and feasted on an apple tree in Deborah Madison's walled garden. Gordon Beauchamp-Hinkley, the largest dog in the village and maybe the smartest, hid in the bathroom.

Greg Salustro was on his portal drinking his morning coffee and reading the paper when he heard loud rustling in the Bosque. He investigated and came face-to-face with a six-foot black bear on its haunches. To protect his dog Mijo, who was curious, Greg yelled and waved it away. The sight, he said, was "majestic and spectacular," but a bit close for comfort.

Antonio Chavez has watched bears come and go his whole life. He says bears are territorial, so there likely was only one this season. He advises keeping an air horn, because loud noise will scare a bear away, often permanently. (You can also clang two pans together or even speak forcefully to the bear from a safe distance, or carry Alaska Bear Bells.) There's been a Galisteo bear every year Mare Tomaski has lived here, always before hibernation when the fruit trees are full. It's our responsibility, she believes, to keep bears focused on natural resources, so they can pass through our community safely. Relocated bears rarely survive, and NM Game and Fish resort to euthanasia when too many bear calls come in, which is apparently usual.

For more information, our resident New Mexico Game and Fish Biologist John Bulger recommends a no-nonsense guide online at USDA.gov, "Keeping Bears Alive and You Safe!" It has tips for bear-proofing your home and sobering facts about the difficulties of bear and human coexistence: "Your behavior in bear country could affect your safety, the safety of others, and could even save the life of a bear. Most conflict between people and bears arise around human foods, human garbage, and even pet foods. Eliminating access to foods can reduce conflicts, prevent an injury and the need to destroy a bear. Remember, 'a fed bear is a dead bear.'"

Some more of the relevant advice: When visiting or living in black bear country, it is always important to be aware of the potential of encountering a bear and to take every precaution to reduce conflicts. Be aware of the presence of cubs and never come between a bear and its cubs. Although injury to humans is rare, it is always a possibility. Every encounter can be different, but bears should always be considered unpredictable and dangerous. More often than not, a wild bear will detect you first and flee from the area. However, black bears that have become accustomed to humans and their foods may not run away. In these cases, do not run. Remain calm, continue facing the bear and slowly back away. Keep children and pets close at hand. Make lots of noise. Yell, rattle pots and pans, whistle and break sticks. Stand upright. Do not kneel or bend over. Wave arms, jackets or other materials. Fight back aggressively if a bear attacks you.

**\*\*HELP! It's costing a lot more to print *El Puente* than it did 28 years ago when the price was c. \$80. The last issue cost \$125.69. If you can do it, please up your sponsorships accordingly, but we're grateful for every penny.**

## MEETING WITH REP MCQUEEN

On Sept. 23rd, Peggy Diggs and Ed Epping (with Democratic Ward Chair Corey McGillicuddy, who also provided elegant refreshments) hosted a meeting with our State Representative, Matthew McQueen, who is up for reelection. His opponent is the Republican mayor of Edgewood. Ed introduced Matthew as honest and hardworking, someone who knows how to listen, respond, and recognize differences. (And on August 24, at the Democratic Party Kick-Off Rally for Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, McQueen gave a rousing anti-fascism speech at the Roundhouse.)

McQueen informed us that our District 50 has been "redistricted." It used to cover portions of four counties. Three of them (Bernalillo, Torrance, and Valencia) were removed and one (Sandoval) was added, resulting in a 60% turnover in McQueen's constituents. The district now includes most of southern Santa Fe County (including Galisteo, Eldorado, and Edgewood) and the Placitas area of Sandoval County.

Asked about his major issues, McQueen talked about reforming the Department of Game and Fish to turn it into a full-fledged wildlife agency -- not just hunting and fishing. He's been at this for a while and had one bill passed but vetoed by the Governor. He was skeptical about the proposed "Strategic Water Supply" -- putting "produced water" from oil and gas operations into other uses -- but is still waiting for details on the Governor's plan. He is also working to raise the oil and gas royalty rate on State Trust Lands to a fair market rate. Asked about the San Marcos solar field, he said that it was a County land use issue.

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

**Bonnie Bufkin and Dawn Carter** were married at their Galisteo home August 18 with Judy Tuwaletstiwa officiating. Bonnie's mother, Kim Gilbreath, is also a Galisteo resident and a GCA Board member.

About fifty Galisteo residents accepted a brunch invitation from CEO (and Galisteo resident) **Chip Conley** at the **Modern Elder Academy**. Travel writer Pico Iyer was the guest speaker. Chip offered a short Q & A and shared information on the Saddleback Ranch's regenerative features.

In July, **Judy Tuwaletstiwa** traveled to Marijampole, Lithuania and Lviv, Ukraine. Kris Bartkus, who lived in Galisteo for two years, and local art students helped her paint murals inspired by the "Storyteller," a character from the book *Frog Dreaming*, written and illustrated by Judy and her grandson, Caleb Sohigian. Judy and Caleb spoke about their collaboration on September 22nd at the Chi Center.

"Bollywood by the Bosque," organized by **Julia Cairns** at the Community Center on July 20th, raised over \$5000 for Bethesda Life Centre, an organization serving the poor and at-risk of Goa, India. The money raised will help students go on to higher education. Julia taught art and yoga at the BLC girl's school this spring. The Community Center was transformed into a colorful Indian Festival with dinner prepared by guests of honor and directors of BLC and a performance by Natyakalanjali, an Indian dance company from Albuquerque.

**Angie Beauchamp** was featured on C-Span August 4<sup>th</sup>. The talk on her book, *Eleanor Roosevelt on Screen* was taped at the FDR Library Roosevelt Reading Festival in June and is available online.

In early August the **King family** announced that they are putting over 5,000 acres of "highly productive irrigated farmland and native pasture" between Stanley and Moriarty up for auction. Does this mean new industrial uses in the area, impacting traffic on NM41 through the village?

The **DOT Committee** of the GCA is tackling the design of entrance signs to the village, north and south. Community input will be requested when plans are complete.

**Woody Gwyn**'s summer show at LewAllen offered the expected stunning land and seascapes. Cerro Pelon is always a major player.

**Jim Sloan** was featured in *Santa Fe Magazine* as "Snake Eyes," though he preferred to talk painting and politics.

## THE CREEK DON'T RISE?

A wise relative of an *El Puente* friend says of climate chaos: "Don't trust what you read, trust what you see." Those of us who walk the bosque are shocked to see the Rio Galisteo bone-dry (the first time in your editor's 32 years in Galisteo). Jan Willem-Jansens of Ecotone, who has worked in the area for decades, says there are several possible causes for this "puzzling and upsetting" news. He has seen a few creeks in the hills around Dixon go dry that are spring-fed and usually have a permanent flow like ours.

"The upstream reaches of these streams were in fact wet and the springs were still flowing, but the dry landscape downstream readily absorbed all that water. So, this may be a regional phenomenon....Furthermore, August and early September were relatively dry and warm, so the land may have dried out and the recent precipitation is still infiltrating into a dry landscape and not feeding the streams.

"Another possibility is that the relatively dry summer has people irrigating with a greater than usual drawdown of the aquifer upstream that feeds the Galisteo Creek in the village. Finally, it could be a 'threshold' issue: creek water is dependent on groundwater further north around the Chi Center. If it has declined so much during the droughts of the last few decades that there is not enough pressure to get it to flow over the low, buried part of the hogback where the highway enters the village, there will be no surface flow. But this could potentially happen suddenly if the water level in the river's aquifer has been declining.

"I expect that when the temperatures drop and the leaves start turning, water 'losses' due to evaporation and transpiration will go down rapidly, which might lead to a little more surface flow if the surrounding landscape is wet enough to release that water to the stream."

Another possibility: *High Country News* recently reported that Russian Olives gulp down 75 gallons per day, and the bosque is overrun by them despite the successful clearing a few years ago.

And another quote, from Southwestern writer J.Frank Dobie: "I want not only to know about my homeland, I want to live intelligently on it."



## BURNING QUESTIONS

A new occasional series for Galisteans. You can be next!

Contact *El Puente* if you want to play.

GREG SALUSTRO

**1. Where were you born?** Detroit, The Motor City, home of Motown.

**2. Who influenced you most growing up?** George Chakiris, because when I saw him as Bernardo in West Side Story in 1961, knew I must be gay.

**3. Where do you find happiness?** It's inside me, an innate characteristic. I'm lucky.

**4. What is something few people know about you?** In spite of all I do to be conscientious about the environment and to conserve energy, I REALLY want a 1963 Lincoln Continental convertible with suicide doors and a 430 cubic inch engine that gets 6 miles per gallon.

**5. What is your most treasured possession?** I guess Mijo is technically a possession, because we're dog "owners" but it's hard to think of him like that.

**6. When did you arrive in Galisteo?** Wayland invited me here in 2012, and I hated it (brown, hot, dry, snakes!) But slowly the desert worked its magic and now there's nowhere else I'd rather live.

**7. Red, Green, or Christmas?** Christmas is for tourists needing Everything Always All at Once. Green Forever!



Rodeo Parade (Photo: Alex Finlayson)

## EL PUENTE SPONSOR: TERI RUEB

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED:

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Next deadline, Nov.5. PLEASE email [flip14@centurylink.net](mailto:flip14@centurylink.net) TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR AD.

#### 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,** napkins, and potholders by Deirdre Africa of Rancho Bueno: 505-670-5198, [www.buttonboxaprongs.com](http://www.buttonboxaprongs.com); [africadeirdre@gmail.com](mailto:africadeirdre@gmail.com).

**Wild Focus Expeditions:** Join us on exciting wildlife and/or cultural adventures around the world. Contact us: Visit [www.wildfocusexpeditions.com](http://www.wildfocusexpeditions.com), email: [jami@wildfocusexpeditions.com](mailto:jami@wildfocusexpeditions.com) or call 466.3640.

### SERVICES

**Radio Free Galisteo** @ [www.radiofreegalisteo.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:mcgillicuddycorey3@gmail.com).

**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 Paypal 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.

**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, 505-470-0562; "text and I will call you back."

**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](mailto:thelight@lightinstitute.com)

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

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