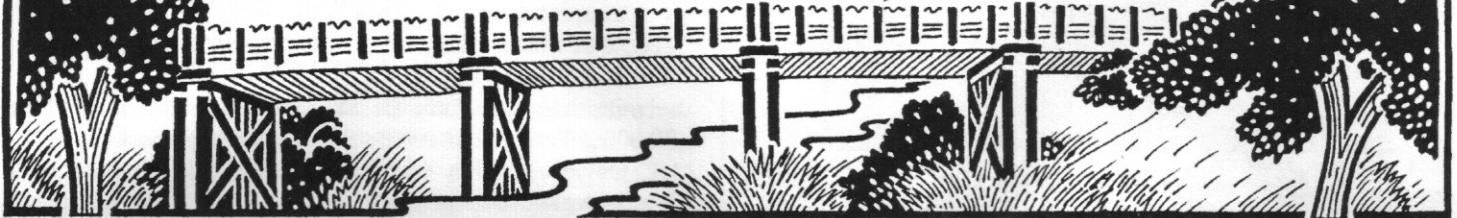


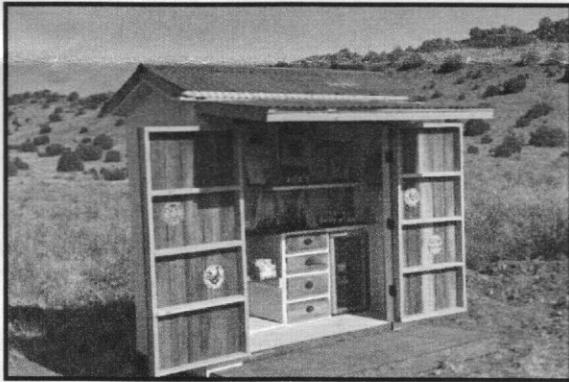
EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO



ISSUE #283

SUMMER 2025

EL CORTIJO FARMSTAND UP AND RUNNING



Can't miss it, (on the right entering the village). El Cortijo farmstand, thanks to Michelle and Ken Frumin, will be open Friday through Sunday, 8AM to sunset, until the end of November, opening again around May. It's on the honor system and we can pay by cash, check, Venmo, or credit card, according to written instructions inside the stand. They hope to offer some baked goods and other goodies in the near future: "We've been open for three weeks and are very pleased with the community's enthusiasm for our little project."

The Frumins also offered Farm Day on June 14th, giving the community a chance to cuddle with animals, among other joys.

LOVE YOUR LOCAL SNAKES AND SNAKEMEN

Two comforting facts about snakes: no one has died of snakebite in New Mexico for the last hundred years, and Galisteo has a merry band of snake enthusiasts who will identify, explain, and carry away your unwanted visitors.

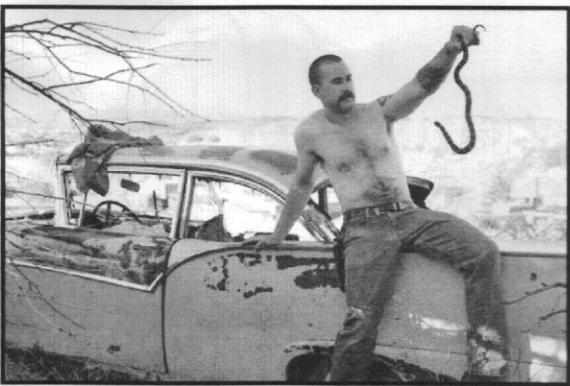
"Snakes are cute," Ezra Sage says, as he cradles a young Western Hog-Nosed snake curling through his fingers. But he also admits the fear of snakes is probably hard-wired into our DNA. Ezra grew up with his dad's pet Boa Constrictor, and today he keeps a King Snake named Irwin, a roadside rescue too injured to be set free. Ezra's interest extends to the spiritual and cultural reverence of snakes especially among ancient and Native peoples. The logo he designed for his jewelry business is an *Ouroboros*, a serpent eating its own tail -- an ancient symbol of eternity and rebirth.

As a boy Jim Sloan collected snakes in Japan (Cont, p.2)

Correction: The correct title of Joanna Keane Lopez's work in the SITE International is *Batter my Heart, three person'd God.*

The 2nd Annual Rudy Sena Memorial and 43rd Rodeo de Galisteo comes to town July 19th-20th at the Galisteo rodeo grounds. New this year is a dance on Saturday night.





Ezra and friend (Photo:Tasnim Clarke)

and studied art in Mexico with Diego Rivera. Today he is Galisteo's official snake wrangler. For the last twelve years his El Puente classified ad has read "JVS will remove (live) rattlesnakes." Jim used to handle snake removals with his bare hands; now age necessitates the use of a specialty clamp. "I kind of feel like it's cheating," he says. "Really I'm doing it [the removals] for myself, because it widens my scope of snake sightings." Last week he resettled four rattlesnakes and sold two large oil paintings... which happened to portray snakes.



One of Jim Sloan's snake paintings.

Frank Bernardino is our resident herpetologist and one of the top authorities on the snakes of the Florida Everglades, a subject he has researched and published on for twenty years. When he bought a home here, Frank immediately took his dog, Oliver, to rattlesnake-avoidance school. It's important to remember snakes only strike out of fear or for food, Frank says. "They don't move for fun. Every minute is survival." Even as an expert he is "healthily tense" when Oliver noses a bush on their hikes in the Basin, and he keeps snakes out of his yard by rodent-proofing his home, since snakes are drawn to the "trail scents" of rodents.

If you see someone shooing a snake off 41, it's probably **John Watson-Jones**. John is a retired zookeeper who specialized in mammals but has a soft spot for snakes and their "alien way of being so different from us." He's counted six species on his Avenida Vieja property, including a little dark Texas Night Snake who frequents the garden pool. It was nine years before he saw the first resident rattler (Western Diamond Back), although he has seen plenty on his hikes with the dogs. Any near misses with

snakes, John blames on himself. After all, they were here first. We're the ones just passing through.

All four men are happy to swap snake stories. They've got some doozies. For free snake relocation call Jim Sloan 505-466-2339 or text Ezra Sage 505-629-6666.

GVFR NEWS

Congratulations to **Kobe Jane**, who now has her EMT license as well as being a firefighter 2. And to **Lindsay Fuller**, who is now a wildland firefighter..

On the water front: the **Modern Elders Academy** has a 30,000 gallon tank reserved solely for fire suppression.

On or before July 4th, check with the GVFR to see if there is a **fireworks ban**.

Corey McGillicuddy suggests that we keep an eye on our reflective address signs, cutting back vegetation that can obscure them, to make it as easy as possible for emergency services to find us.

On Saturday, August 23rd, another **bike race** will dash thru Galisteo.

GREGORY HART: NEW PRESIDENT OF GMDWCA

with Alex Finlayson

The interview starts with a big glass of cold sparkling Galisteo water — out of the tap and straight through Gregory Hart's *Sodastream* machine. He is absolutely passionate about the quality of local water.

Hart is the new President of the Galisteo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association while concurrently serving out an elected term on Eldorado's water and sanitation board. After moving to Galisteo with wife Katheryne in late 2024, he attended his first GMDWCA meeting and was pleased to find the same sense of commitment among board members and staff he'd found in Eldorado. When asked if he would consider taking over the presidency from retiring Steve Moya, Hart said yes and was elected. His Eldorado experience will come in handy, he believes, because what happens upstream is critical to those downstream.

Hart wants to manage a water system that is "robust and reliable for those of us here now, as well as those that come after." Top of his list is better communication with consumers, online or in inserts with the monthly billing, with more maintenance updates and water testing reports. Hart hopes to secure state funding to incorporate the existing unused well south of El Tanque Viejo into our water system as backup, which is required by state law. He plans to digitize all documents and manuals and create a central repository for all hard-copy materials.

A long-term goal, supported by the Eldorado water board, is to encourage elected officials to put pressure on the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) to require usage reporting from private well users. "Without data from private wells, we don't know how much total water is being pulled" from common resources, Hart says. "All these straws are dipping into the same water source." He has started meeting with President Mike Dyer of Ranchitos de Galisteo Water Users Association, with whom GMDWCA more than likely shares an aquifer.

"The Native peoples who first lived in Galisteo faced climate change and moved away when there was (Cont. p.3)

no water," says Hart. "We aren't going to do that, so we have to find solutions and conserve what we have." He notes that Galisteans on the MDWCA system use less water per household than Eldorado residents do and believes this means the village is aware of how precious their water supply is.

GMDWCA Board meets quarterly at the Community Center. All are welcome to attend. Updates on galisteocommunity.org calendar.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

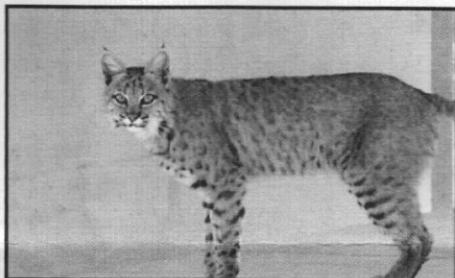
At 4 pm on June 9th, Galisteo was hit by **35-50 mph winds and quarter-sized hail** that felled tree limbs, shredded leaves, and destroyed some gardens. Rainfall forced a closing on CR42 at the La Jara Arroyo crossing. The town of Stanley just to our south reported a tornado and hail the size of ping pong balls.

Susie Shanklin found an "ornate box turtle" in her yard; s/he seems happy under a butterfly weed bush and its orange flowers.

An article in the *New Mexican* (5/21) reported County planning for "upgrades at Galisteo Creek," noting that during rain the creek is hazardous to cross in Cañoncito. Over the years several vehicles have been lost trying to cross it. The County approved \$400,000 to provide an all-weather crossing for Ojo de la Vaca road. **What about the crossing at CR 42? Any plans for us?**

"Wonder maker" Judy Tuwaletstiwa, working with the Nomadic School of Wonder, invites participants to her studio where they can "put their hands in clay." (Lit Fest magazine, 2025). She is also one of seven artists in "Momentum" at Pie Projects (924 shoofly, Santa Fe) until July 19, and one of ten artists in the *Abstracting Nature* show at the Albuquerque Museum until Oct. 12. (Two others are also Galisteo related: Agnes Martin and Joanna Keane Lopez.)

Caroline Hinkley and Angie Beauchamp spotted several **baby bobcats** crossing Marcellina Lane on a recent night. (Photo of another one from Tanya Young).



Alexa Maros, Chair of Ward 5A, Country Democratic Party, who collaborated on our ice cream social, has co-started a new **Indivisible** group meeting in Eldorado: GET (Greater Eldorado Together) will be a great way to meet with like-minded folks in the area. **NEXT MEETING:** Sun. July 13th, 3-4:30, Railroad Room, Eldorado Community Center (1 La Hacienda Loop). RSVP <https://mobilize.us/s/h9Tirk>

A "My View" in the *New Mexican* (5/24) from Artem Kolisnichenko, an environmental journalist in Las Cruces, warned that the **"Southwest is too dry for fracking...** On average a single [fracking well] uses as much water as a small city does in two days." In Texas groundwater levels have fallen 3-5' and in Utah "surface water in rivers has dropped 25% over five years." Reduced farm output and rising water prices will result." Nothing on New Mexico...

Alex Finlayson asked for advice on getting rid of **invasive kochia weeds** on *Next Door*. Two people in Eldorado offered this: mow before it goes to seed, pick up and dump clippings so it doesn't mulch the soil. This should take 2-3 years because Kochia is an annual. If it doesn't go to seed, it won't reproduce. By mowing, the plants are left intact to die (without seeds) so the soil is not bare and exposed to new seeds as much. Kochia roots keep soil from eroding so grasses can spread.

The **Galisteo Grass Group** hosted a summer walk on June 1st with educator Lesley Janis, who teaches classes on native plants at SFCC extension school. Local grasses were admired and some were even identified. For future grass events, contact Alex 830-456-0305
Photo: John Watson-Jones. **I to r:** Sue Auderer, Gregory Hart, Alex Finlayson, Katheryne Gatehousehart, Catherine Ferguson, Lesley Janis.



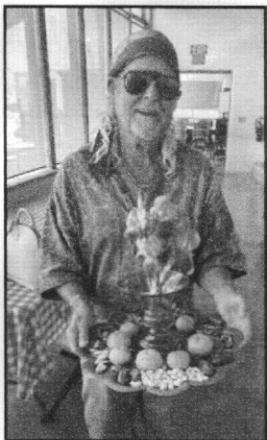
From Simon Boses (on *Next Door*): **I'm looking for old electronics** like printers, scanners and computer parts. I run an activity for kids called a "Hack-Lab." We take apart old electronics and identify the parts and what they do. Then we use the functioning parts to make projects like robots and moving art. The kids get to learn about electronics (and circuitry) and we keep good electronics parts from ending up in the garbage. It can be difficult to get rid of old electronics and this is a great way to make sure they get recycled into something useful. If you have some to get rid of, please let me know. I'm happy to meet you at the Agora to pick them up. I can be reached by email at: simon@maketimeeldorado.com.

Does anyone know anything about the **Galisteo Foundation**? A friend back east sent this: "kinda mysterious. One secret wealthy donor living outside of Santa Fe, supports art and museums. Budget of \$10 million. No more details."

PICTURES FROM THE RECENT PAST (omitted in the last few crowded issues)



Susie Shanklin and Waylond Wong at Spring Cleanup.



LEFT: Scott Diffrient and his elegant contribution to a community breakfast. RIGHT: Raye Rabbit Jonason at the Galisteo writers event.



Vintage Rodeo de Galisteo sticker.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: KIM GILBREATH

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED: ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Next deadline, Sept. 10. PLEASE email flip14@centurylink.net TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR AD IN A TIMELY FASHION.

FOR SALE

From Corey: I have new soups changing with the seasons, plus the old favorites. Let me know if you would like to receive email updates on my menus. mcgillicuddycorey3@gmail.com

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.buttonboxaprongs.com; africadeirdre@gmail.com

SERVICES

Mare Tomaski, master bodyworker, biodynamic cranial sacral, KMI structural bodywork, trigger point work, Functional Medicine Certified Coach: profundus@aol.com. 508-788-0906.

Native Land Reparation Pledge Project: give back 1% of the sale of your home to indigenous people. Contact Mare at marenlrp@gmail.com

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.

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.

Yoga Zoom classes with Julia: Every Mon., Wed., and Fri. Gentle Yin, Vinyasa Flow and Yin Yang. Contact 505-670-5478 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, etc. 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, the second Sunday of each month, free on YouTube; for info contact thelight@lightinstitute.com

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Stringer:** Alex Finlayson. **Logo:** Cara Lee.

Printer: Allegra. **Changes, comments, suggestions, contributions to:** El Puente, 14 Avenida Vieja, or flip14@centurylink.net. **NEXT DEADLINE:** Sept. 10. **TO SPONSOR:** Check for \$100-\$150 (or more!) TO GCA, noting "for newsletter," to above.