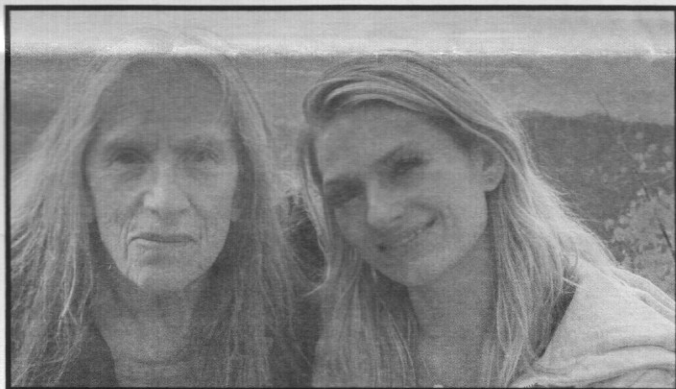




ISSUE #284

SEPTEMBER 2025

## JUDITH MASIN, 10/14/48 - 8/8/25



**Judith and daughter Mercedes Van Norman  
(who contributed this tribute)**

Judith Masin, a free-spirited artist and dancer from New Jersey, nurtured her creativity from a young age which eventually led her to the beautiful community of Galisteo. As a young adult, she embarked on a road trip across the country, making a stop in New Mexico where she fell in love with the desert and the art and culture of the Southwest. This love for the region ultimately prompted her to stay and pursue her artistic dreams. She enrolled in the University of New Mexico but quickly made the move to Santa Fe, where she began her career in art, initially working in jewelry and fashion. In 1985 she found her true calling in Galisteo, where she cultivated lifelong friendships, a family, and a thriving business.

In Galisteo, Judith met Lester Van Norman at a friend's wedding, by coincidence in the home she would eventually purchase and grow her own family. They quickly fell in love and were married aside the Galisteo River, surrounded by family and village friends. Shortly afterwards, Judith purchased the house on the hill where they had met, which became her home and sanctuary for over forty years.

Judith's passion for art led her to metal work and she created Galisteo Design, renowned for its exquisite copper and silver switch plates, frames, tissue boxes, and other decorative items. She actively participated in art shows across the country, but her heart truly belonged to the Galisteo Studio Tour.

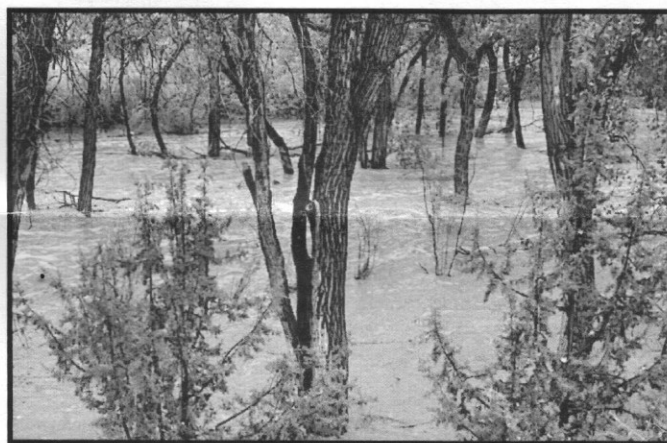
On 10/11/1991, Judith welcomed her daughter, Mercedes Van Norman into the world. She was raised in the Galisteo

## GALISTEO STUDIO TOUR: OCT. 11-12

sun on their property on the hill, surrounded by their close-knit community. Tragically, about five years later, Judith was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. She battled its relentless onslaught for over twenty eight years and managed to live happily and independently in her beloved Galisteo home. Her remarkable resilience and determination are a testament to the human spirit's ability to overcome adversity.

Judith lost her longtime fight with Parkinson's on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Her memory is cherished by her daughter and grandson. In her final days, she wished to return to her house on the hill, the place that brought her true peace and happiness. May we all be fortunate enough to find a place we love as deeply as she loved Galisteo. Judith's family and friends know she is dancing in the sky above us and smiling down with her wild spirit.

## SUMMER PLAGUES



**Mississippi in the Bosque (photo: Annie Widmark)**

It's not summer in Galisteo without a plague or two. No major bear acts this year, but mosquitoes arrived in biblical proportions around mid-June, ruining outdoor life and forcing long sleeves, face nets, and insect repellent. In July it was a Jobian swarm of locusts (technical term for too damn many grasshoppers). Christopher Bernschein's ash trees were totally denuded and his vegetable garden was nearly wiped out. Charlie Holloway declared it one of the worst invasions of his (*Cont. p.2*)

fifty years' residence. According to Suzi Shanklin, the only insecticide that works is no longer available, since the manufacturers' factory burned down. Grasshoppers are said to be a cyclical occurrence, so let's hope we have a few years' reprieve and the insecticide factory gets back on its feet.

The morning of August 27, Antonio Chavez stepped outside and heard something that swept him back to childhood — the unmistakable roar of flooding in the Bosque. Standing on El Puente, he saw the creek at one of its highest levels in memory: "We had more rain when I was a kid, and the creek flooded more. But we also didn't have so many trees down there to hold the water up. It ran through faster."

The deluge began in the Apache Ridge and Eldorado areas with five inches of rain in just a few hours. The south-bound water hit the Galisteo Basin Preserve hard, wiping out roads, trails and vegetation. Culverts and arroyo crossings plugged with sand. In Galisteo the creek-bed surged bank to bank in chocolate-brown rapids. The GVFR was called in to halt traffic at La Jara crossing.

Over on McKee Road, water engulfed the arroyo. Ann Nye drove down to watch: "I sat on the hood of my car, mesmerized. Huge branches floating by with their arms bobbing in the air like a drowning person." Neighbor Phyllis Tonika's video of it went viral on local social media. The road was impassible for three days until Jim Sloan got in to clear the mud and debris. He was less impressed than most: "It's been worse," he said. "I remember when the creek was up over the highway bridge, and we all went down to look at it."

## VILLAGE IN FLUX

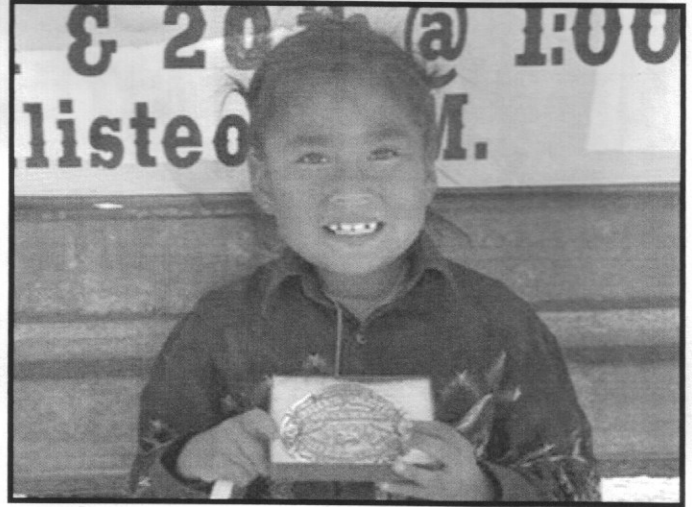
It seems there were more than usual comings and goings this summer. *Outgoing:* Dr. Angie Beauchamp is now the Department Manager for Film and Digital Media at the University of California Santa Cruz, and will be commuting to Galisteo. Corey McGillicuddy has relocated to Goose Downs. Dennison Smith has moved to Portugal. Denise Lynch and John Shannon are decamping for Italy, although they'll keep their Galisteo "vacation home." Craig Fulmer and Heidi Johnson moved to Santa Fe. Julia Cairns and John Bulger have a new home in El Dorado after 15 years in assorted Galisteo rentals. Chip Conley's house on Magdalen is for sale.

*Incoming:* Christopher Bernschein and Larry Romero have been in the Diggs/Epping home for months now. Firefighter Chris Lawrence is at El Tanque Viejo with Kobe Jane. Floral designer Chloe Harrison is now at Scott Diffrient's and Florence Sohn's compound with Ezra Sage. Holly Hopper is Denice Pruett's new tenant.

## TOO CLOSE TO HOME: PUBLIC LANDS ATTACKED

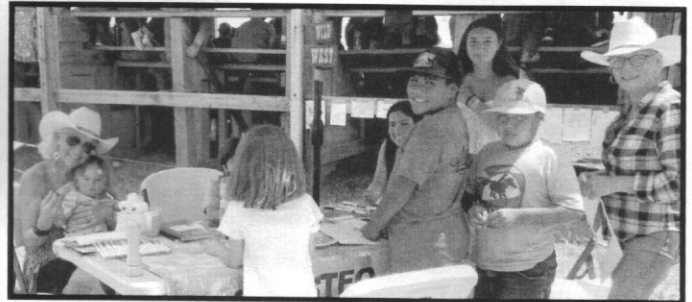
The Public Lands Rule is under attack by the Trump administration, to implement a return to the BLM's earlier multi-use terms. New Mexico Wild warns us that without this regulation there is no protection for the many popular open lands and hiking trails that make our area and state what they are. All too close to home is the BLM land and trail adjacent to the CR42 transfer station. (*Public comments are accepted until Nov. 10.*) Also under fire is the Roadless Rule on public lands, which blocks oil/gas, logging etc. interests.

## 43rd RODEO DE GALISTEO



**Muttonbuster Champ Happy Tiger Morgan**

The Rudy Sena Memorial Rodeo came off with no hitches (except the functional ones). The intricate buckle awarded to Rodeo Queen Esmeralda Miramontes was donated by Charlie Holloway and Mare Tomaski donated Happy's buckle. Galisteo Arts sponsored the KIDSKREATE Art Tent, staffed by Jessica Spring and Julie Deery with her infant grandchild on her lap.



## GCA/GVFR NEWS

The GCA has installed two Dog Waste Stations at the GCC playground and the mailboxes park.

The annual GVFR Breakfast was a success as usual, with good food, good company, and good vibes. On Sunday 9/21, GVFR reps Kobe Jane and Lindsay Fuller ran the whole 13.1 miles of the Heroes Race (aka Santa Fe International Half Marathon) from the Agora to the Santa Fe Railyard. Their time was an impressive 2 hours, 7 minutes. Ezra Sage ran with his cadet class 40 Relay Team and they took 3<sup>rd</sup> place.





## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

**Judy Tuwaletsiwa** is on a roll. Her show at Pie Projects in Santa Fe is open now and she gave a talk there 9/12. A detail of her glass fragments painting *Garden of Dreams* is on the cover of the current *Southwest Contemporary*, and on 9/25, at Tamarind Workshop in Albuquerque, she signs and reads from her new book *Chaco Series*, published by Tia Collection and featuring poetry by the artist as well as an essay by Phillip Tuwaletsiwa.

The Commonweal Conservancy estimates a cost of \$40,000 to repair and restore the flood damage to the **Galisteo Basin Preserve**. Donations welcomed.

In late July, **Axle Contemporary's** white truck appeared outside La Sala with *Radio Tomada*. Villagers, including former residents Ethan and Van Smith, showed up for free-form broadcasts streamed live on FM87.9, moderated by Axle co-founder Matthew Chase-Daniel. **Jim Sloan** and faithful pup **Osita** riffed on life, snakes, and summer camp with a playlist of Marvin Gaye and the White Stripes; **Liz Rose** told tales of India and read from her poetry; artists **Janice Wall** and **Robert King** discussed individuality, community, and service. The event was organized by Duende Gallery and Axle as part of *Once Within a Time*, the SITE Santa Fe International. Sessions are archived and can be heard online at [axleart.com/radio-tomada](http://axleart.com/radio-tomada).

Memories and treasures were found at the **Priscilla Hoback three-day Estate Sale** at Quatermill Farm. Checkout lines were painfully long up to the last hour of the last day. **Corey McGillicuddy** catered.

"An overlay of asphalt over the existing roadway" was paved in the village center to protect NM41 from potholes for a few more years, according to **Suzi Shanklin's** secret DOT source.

The Community Center sign, carved in mahogany by **Antonio Chavez** in the 1980s, has been restored by volunteers who removed the orange and blue paint.

**MUD BONE BLOOD ICE** -- the stunning current show at Duende Gallery, curated by **Jaime Herrell and Rob King** (partners in life and art), features sculpture, sound, and photography from or about Alaska, including indigenous artist Erin Ggaadimits Ivalu Gingrich (Koyukon Dené and Iñupiaq), along with Rob, who is Choctaw. For the month of September he is at the Denver Art Museum on a Native Arts Residence. The show was enthusiastically reviewed in *Pasatiempo* (9/5-11).

Many in Galisteo were without their Century Link landlines for six weeks or more this summer. Calls and emails were fruitless until neighbor and State Rep **Matthew McQueen** stepped in with a little clout. "He moved a mountain," says Romona Scholder. He'll have a whole range to move if he wins his run for State Land Commissioner in 2026.

**Liz Rose's** most recent book, *The Long. The Short and the Tall. Tales of a New American* has been honored with a New Mexico/Arizona Book Award for Biography and an Independent Publisher Book Award (IPPY) silver medal for Anthology.

**Paul Davis** solo hiked the Plaza-to-Plaza -- 132 miles of interlocking trails from Santa Fe to Taos blazed by writer and outdoorswoman Pam Neely. Although it is suggested as a two-week adventure, Paul completed the hike in less than a week.

**Greg Salustro** headed up a canning and a pickling workshop this summer at the Community Center. Greg and **Teresa Montoya** both brought family recipes and experience to share.

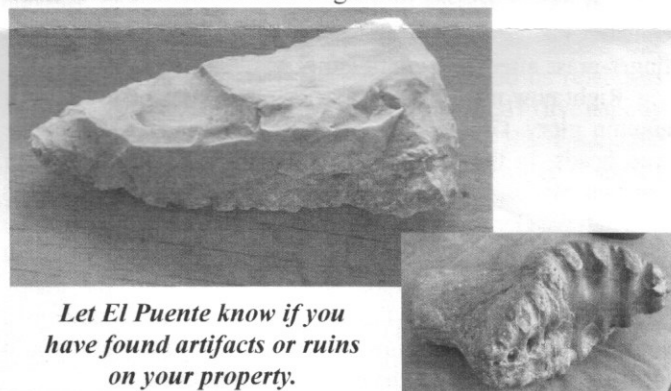
The summer 2025 issue of *Table Magazine* featured

delightful coverage of a "multigenerational" dinner at **Jean and Steve Moya's** with fellow artists: son **Craig Moya** and grandkids and santero Arthur Lopez, wife Bernadette, and family to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spanish Colonial Art Society.

The New Mexico State Library offers **The New York Times free and online (for one day at a time)**. Go to <https://nmstatelibrary.org/nytimes/> for a special code that will allow you to create a personal log-in.

Former Galisteo **Ed Epping** showed his *Correction Project*, exploring incarceration and injustices in criminal punishment systems, at the Puddle Dock Village Festival in the former village school in Alna, Maine in July.

The latest reminder that we are very late inhabitants on this land are these two **artifacts found by Liz Rose** on her property. Archaeologist Eric Blinman tells us the first could be a "bull nosed scraper, which is timeless in terms of function, but this style can be associated with Paleoindian artifact scatters." The other is an ammonite fossil fragment.



*Let El Puente know if you have found artifacts or ruins on your property.*

## THE GALISTEO FOUNDATION: MYSTERY SOLVED

Ted Alcorn tracked down the answer to our query about the Galisteo Foundation. Based in New York City and Aspen, CO., Director/President is Jennifer Rubio Butterfield and Director/Secretary is Daniel Stewart Butterfield -- owners of Cerro Pelon Ranch since 2021 and generous supporters of the Galisteo Rodeo. Stewart Butterfield is the founder of Slack and Flickr; Jennifer Butterfield (aka Jen Rubio) founded Away and is on the Board of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. She has endowed a curatorial position there focused on Latinx art and the Butterfields funded the Free Fridays, which opened up the museum to much younger and more diverse visitors. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* (2/9/23) listed their many luxurious properties.

There seem to be two versions of the foundation's mission: *To support and engage in charitable and educational nonprofit activities including in support of the arts. And: To promote the appreciation of and public participation in the arts through operating activities such as museums events, lending artwork.* In an interview in *Frieze* (7/22/24) about plans for the ranch, Rubio said, "The idea is to invite artists to make works there.... it's somewhere with fewer boundaries in terms of time and space. We are interested in putting works on there that really couldn't exist anywhere else. The goal eventually is to make it open to the public."

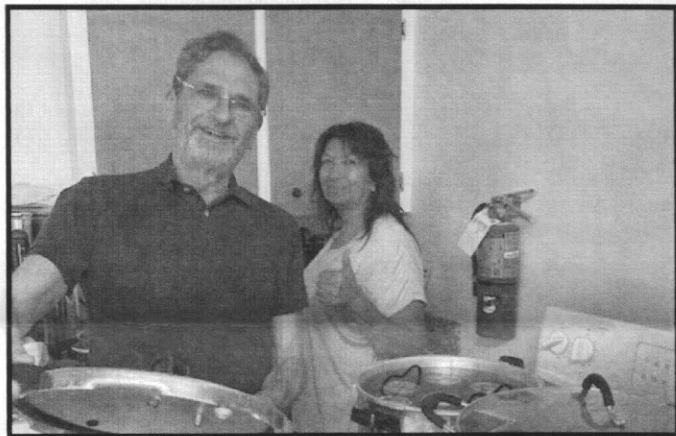
**\*\*THANKS TO STRINGER ALEX FINLAYSON FOR  
KEEPING HER EAR TO THE GROUND THIS SUMMER!**

## **MOWING NATIVE GRASSES**

The mini meadow next to the Community Center — once mowed and now left as native habitat — is shaping up to be a healthy little savannah. Most undesirables have been crowded out by a hardy collection of diverse grasses (seven different species) and wildflowers, each filling its own ecological niche.

Mowing native grassland is a tricky subject, and you can find dozens of opinions on when and why to mow. For now, caretakers of the Community Center grounds are opting for a no-mow policy. Grasses left alone will provide winter shelter and food for birds, amphibians, insects, and small mammals. They will also help hold moisture from rain or snowfall. In the spring surviving seeds will revive. Mowing at the wrong time or too short (weed-whacking is hard to gauge) stresses and kills perennial grasses and encourages extra-flammable weeds and non-native grasses to thrive in disturbed ground. Beyond Galisteo, CR 42 is now lined with invasive, biologically-useless finger-grass after the County mowed this summer.

Right now unmown roadsides and prairie land are in their autumn glory. Grasses are at full height, sporting distinctive seed heads. In the wildflower rotation, it's a banner year for Cowpen daisies, sunflowers, and snakeweed, to name a few. As horticulturist Gertrude Jekyll teaches: roadside vegetation offers a perfect study of landscape design because it's always the correct assemblage of color, texture, height, and variety (and happy biological compatibility). Fall is also a good time to download one of the free plant ID apps such as Seek or PlantNet if you'd like to know more about the diversity around you.



**Greg and Teresa canning**

## **EL PUENTE SPONSOR: ANNIE WIDMARK**

**GALISTEO CLASSIFIED: ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR  
GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Next deadline, Oct. 10.  
PLEASE email [flip14@centurylink.net](mailto: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](mailto:mcgillicuddycorey3@gmail.com)  
**Amanecer Gallery** offers oil paintings by Freddie Cárdenas and micaceous pottery by Anna Cárdenas, 505-466-8967.  
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**Button Box Aprons**, napkins, and potholders by Deirdre Africa of Rancho Bueno: 505-670-5198, [www.buttonboxaprons.com](http://www.buttonboxaprons.com); [africadeirdre@gmail.com](mailto:africadeirdre@gmail.com).

## **SERVICES**

**Mare Tomaski, master bodyworker**, biodynamic cranial sacral, KMI structural bodywork, trigger point work, Functional Medicine Certified Coach: [profundus@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:marenlrp@gmail.com)

**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!

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

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

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