



ISSUE #285

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2025 GALISTEO STUDIO TOUR

Lesley Dyer

For 37 years, the annual Galisteo Studio Tour—the oldest in Santa Fe County-- has attracted visitors to our village to capture the ways we experience our natural world. Roughly one thousand people were drawn to the doors of the Community Center where volunteers warmly greeted them, handing out brochures and a studio passport to help them plan their day. Whether it was the new passports or the cancellation of the balloon launch in Albuquerque, young families were prevalent this year.

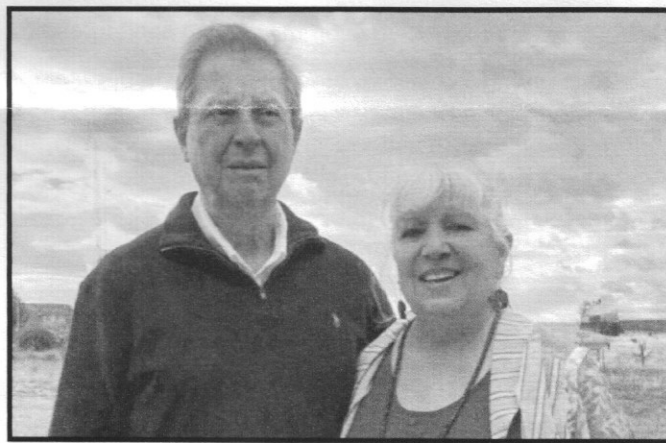
While pausing their tour for a bite of lunch from the Andale food truck, staffed by three hardworking generations, guests relaxed in the shade and were treated to songs by our local musicians. Children raced to our playground and enjoyed fruit smoothies and delicious homemade treats by Geri. Curious visitors strolled through the village and cars rolled into Ranchitos on both rainy Saturday and sunny Sunday.

To the outside world, this is an artists' event and an epic nod to creativity and openness to their process: treating people with kindness, transparency and explanation; spreading joy in a myriad of ways.

It is with a full heart, that I can report that Studio Tour is still evolving, built on history, and moving into a promising future. This is all made possible through the gifts of time and skills by the selfless members of our community, and generous local sponsors. It is a testament of our power here in our tiny village to impact the outside world through teamwork and communication, through creative expression. Many thanks to all involved in this magical event.



Mela Montoya and Anna Cárdenas, 1993 Cocina de Mela providing Studio Tour's food (Photo: Nick Trofimuk)



Freddie and Anna Cárdenas at Studio Tour

FREDDIE CÁRDENAS RETIRES... AGAIN

In July Freddie Cárdenas retired after fifty-two years as a New Mexico educator and administrator. He has taught every grade from 1-12, working his way up to administration in the public school system. He was a teacher in Santa Fe and El Dorado Elementary Schools. He was Elementary and High School Principal for Moriarty Public Schools, as well as Assistant Superintendent. In 1998 Freddie was named Superintendent of Springer NM Public Schools.

Just after he retired in 2002, a call came. The Bureau of Indian Affairs needed a principal for Jemez Day School at Jemez Pueblo. Freddie stepped up, and his career took a new turn. He was now a federal employee of the Department of the Interior. One of only a few non-native employees at the school, Freddie speaks with pride of his twenty-two year tenure at Jemez and of the school's staff and students, its academic success, and emphasis on Pueblo traditions, culture, and Towa language studies. Under his tenure, Jemez Day School students rose to the top of New Mexico's state competency exam in English Language Arts and Mathematics, and the school was recognized nationally for academic achievement. The BIA also asked Freddie to lead other programs outside of school, requiring trips to Washington DC, and forging alliances with major organizations like Nike, Girls and Boys Clubs, and NASA. The hard work and Jemez Day School's success did not go unnoticed: Freddie was chosen to represent the (Cont.p 2)

BIA's highest ranking schools from around the United States in a zoom meeting with Deb Haaland when she became Secretary of the Interior. High accomplishments for the University of New Mexico scholarship student and Western Athletic Conference Pommel Horse Champion.

"I looked forward to every day. Happily. If it was up to me, I'd keep working," says Freddie, but he knows how much Anna worried about his year-round commute, 160 miles a day to and from Jemez. For now, the suits are in the closet. The hallway is lined with commendations and awards. And a new painting is underway on Freddie's work table.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Harmony Hammond recently returned from Brazil where she opened a show in August in Sao Paulo with Ivens Machado, up till late December. She also has an exhibition of recent prints, that opened Oct. 16 at the Tamarind Institute Gallery in Albuquerque; on Oct. 23 she has a conversation there with Nancy Zastudil.

Galisteans are not shy about writing letters to the editor of the New Mexican. A recent issue included a letter from **Barbara Holloway** wondering if anti-vaccers got shots for their pets, and an astute political comment from **Annie Widmark**.

Correction from **Suzi Shanklin** on the grasshopper/cricket remedy mentioned in a previous El Puente: "Nolo Bait is not a "insecticide" which suggests poison. It is very important to know this is a biopesticide, made from wheat bran coated with *Nosema locustae* spores. Effective only on grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, it is safe for the environment and wildlife. I used it for years until the factory burned down. I am hoping that Nolo Bait will be up and running by 2026. It will really help with our grasshopper population. In the meantime, consider alternative methods like garlic barrier or neem oil." She also recommends lemon and eucalyptus essential oil for mosquito repellent.

Air quality monitors from the New Mexico Air Quality Bureau will soon be installed in the community for a month, one at the Fire Station – the first in our area. More on this issue in later El Puentes.

A lovely three-turkey image by **Julia Cairns** from the Studio Tour was featured in *Pasatiempo* (10/10).

New Mexico Magazine (October) featured Galisteo in a section on small towns. (They give our population at 141; not sure where that came from; the last census was c. 250). Quoted are **Judy Tuwalwetstiwa, Michelle Frumin, Rob King and Jamie Heller, and Mingtong Gu** of the Chi Center.

And less timely, a couple of things we missed: On Dec. 24, 2024, the *New Mexican* printed a long article on **Craig and Heather Moya's new Time Travelers Gastropub** in the Solana Center, featuring British pub food. And an obituary of artist Bill Shepherd noted that he moved to Galisteo in the late 1970s before settling in Nambé.

The 2025 Santa Fe Real Estate Guide noted that "places like the **Galisteo Basin and Lamy**" have become extremely desirable because they face no fire insurance restrictions.

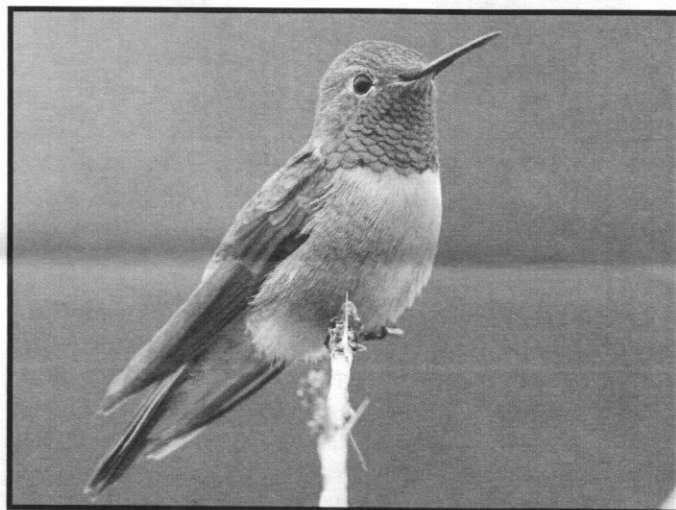
Liz Rose got some expert advice on the **artifacts** she found on her property (see Sept. El Puente). The scraper was most likely used for cleaning hides. The ammonite fossil is 20 million years old!

Matthew McQueen has announced a run for State Land

Commissioner in 2026. **Sarah Boses**, another Galisteoan, will run for his current seat. More on this when we get past Nov. 4.

The late **Bernard Pomerance's** Tony-winning play *The Elephant Man* is now being adapted for film by his son Moby Pomerance. The lead role of Joseph Merrick is played by Adam Pearson, the first disabled actor to play the part on screen. Filming will begin this spring.

Notes from the Radical Whirlwind, an exhibition at the Vladem Contemporary, opening Oct. 24th, curated by Alexandra Terry, is organized around your editor's gifts to the New Mexico Museum of Art.



Broad-tailed Hummingbird, seen in Galisteo.

FLYOVER

For those of us who love the Bosque, what we see and feel of it is personal. What we may not know is its global significance to two groups of regular visitors, winged and otherwise. According to *eBird.org*, the Galisteo Bosque is the most important birding hotspot in Santa Fe County, with the highest number of recorded species. *eBird* is a free, data-driven site gathering information from birders — a particularly accurate and focused group of people — and is sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. According to *eBird*, 233 bird species have been sighted in our bosque, including a Bald Eagle and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Water, thick leaf cover, and lack of loud noise are attractions, as the Bosque serves the major Rio Grande migration flyway between North and South America. Something to ponder on your next walk along our modest little creek. Thanks to Chris Chappell, a Santa Fe birder who leads birdwatching field trips into the bosque, for bringing this to our attention.

QUARTERMILL FARM: FOR THE DOGS?

Sean Sohn planned "to build a very high-quality dog boarding & training facility, a pet resort if you will" at his family's Quatermill Farm on Via La Puente. It was opposed by some community members who feared all-night barking, air pollution, and wildlife disruption. However, when Sohn applied for a business permit he discovered that the 2016 County Overlay for Galisteo had banned most businesses in the community. "You cannot even sell sand here," he notes. "Therefore my kennel idea or any other reasonable idea for a business here in this community is off the table....I am more than happy to address (*Cont.p 2*)

further concerns and answer questions and you can reach out to me: 505-670-7191; seanrsohn@gmail.com.” He has the support of some community members, while others plan to organize against the project if he succeeds in an appeal.

Sohn will meet with Dominic Sisneros, Building & Development Services Supervisor at Santa Fe County Land Use, who tells *El Puente* that there are only two avenues to proceed: Change the business plan to train dogs inside a structure and forget the boarding, or go for a “text amendment” to the Galisteo Overlay -- an uphill battle involving a very long process. Stay tuned....



A DOME RISES IN GALISTEO

For a village of eclectic architecture, it's about time we finally got our first geodesic dome. (Or second; there is one at the Light Institute just north of the village.) You can see this one off NM41, mushrooming out of a hillside just south of the hogback. The new landmark is owned by May Yen, who also helped build it.

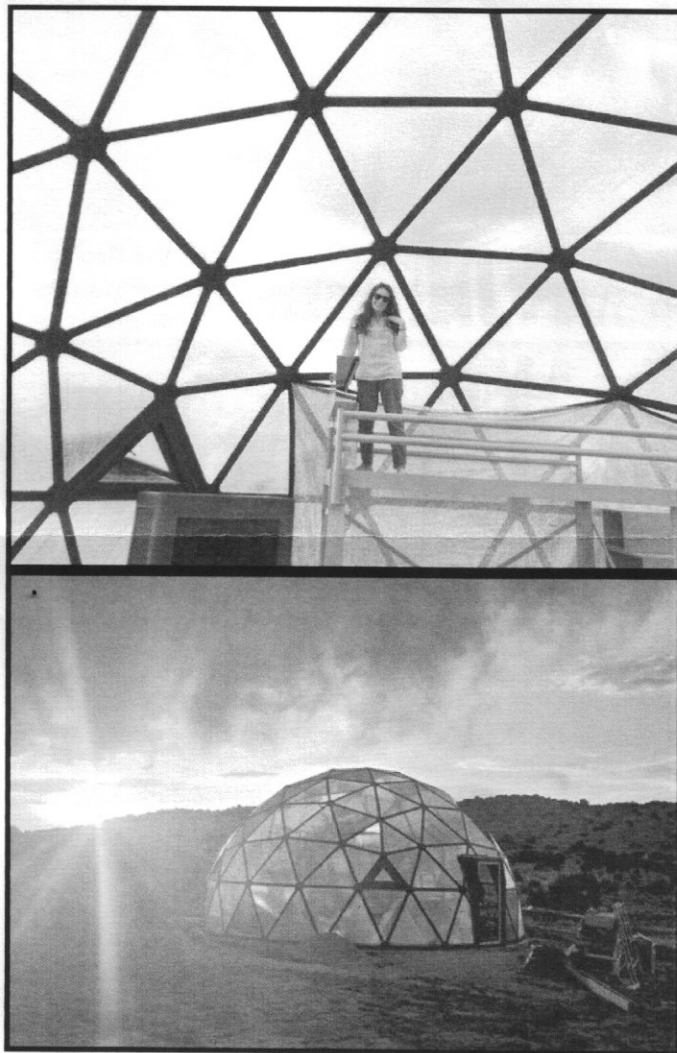
A geodesic dome is all about physics. A bunch of polyhedrons fit together to form a curved structure held together by tension and gravity. Futurist and inventor Buckminster Fuller popularized the geodesic dome in the mid-twentieth century as an economical, ecological, more durable, and easier to build alternative to traditional construction. The rounded shape allows interior air to circulate naturally, and exterior winds up to 250 mph simply sweep up and over, perfect for New Mexico.

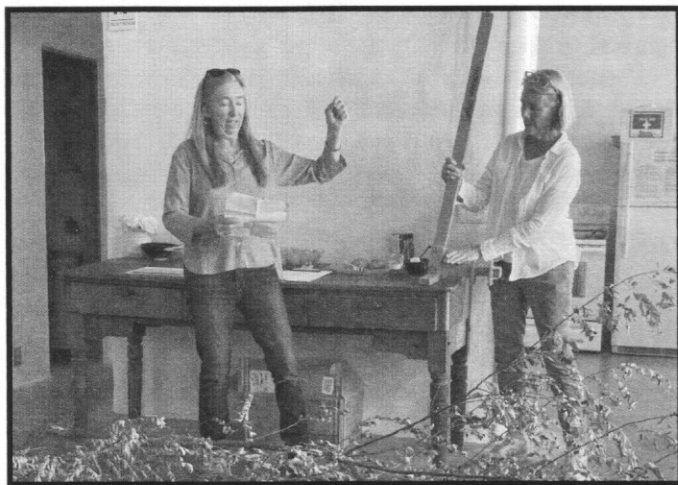
May's kit arrived in two giant crates with a giant instruction manual. A curious contractor agreed to build it, but May started the process herself, sorting the pieces (aluminum struts and hubs; polycarbonate panels) and arranging them in order. Once a cement perimeter was poured and gravel floor laid, it went fast. The dome took only five days and six builders. One of the builders was Scott Diffrient, who also loves geodesic domes and as a boy once met Buckminster Fuller, who was a friend of his father's.

An avid gardener all her life, May believes a dome will make the perfect greenhouse, but she is quick to explain it's an experiment in process. Now the dome is up, she must fine-tune how it works. Inside, there is a 1300 gallon, five-foot deep, open tank stocked with goldfish and aquatic plants. The pond helps manage how the dome absorbs, stores, and manages heat and eventually will be used to grow lettuces. There are raised beds for future vegetables, herbs, and flowers, a loft bed for 180 degree star-gazing, and a shower/tub set-up, just because. There are plans for a small wood-burning stove in winter and fans in summer to help the pond regulate temperature.

May hopes the dome will be a working landmark just like its neighbor, El Cortijo farmstand. Currently, she is pursuing Master Gardener certification through the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, a program that emphasizes community service as much as horticulture. May imagines the dome's future as part of her own larger plan in Galisteo. She'd like to provide others with home-grown food and also maybe teach them how to grow their own and cook what they grow. She imagines the dome helping her and others learn to be more self-sufficient.

But in the end, no matter what, the dome is just plain cool. “It feels good being inside it, like being wrapped up in a cocoon and also feeling completely part of all the nature outside,” says May. “I can't wait until it's full of plants.”





Margaret Wrinkle and Ann Nye of the Green Team demonstrate Russian Olive extraction in the bosque at a community meeting.



A few Studio Tour Volunteers: Max Ray, Ann Nye, Rochelle Becker, Blair Stocker, Wayland Wong, Suzi Shanklin, Lesley Dyer, Carol McClain, Jessica Spring.

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: LIZ ROSE

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

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Amanecer Gallery offers oil paintings by Freddie Cárdenas and micaceous pottery by Anna Cárdenas, 505-466-8967.

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SERVICES

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Radio Free Galisteo @ www.radiofreegalisteo.com Music and Information from the Galisteo Basin. Support the Station: <https://www.patreon.com/radiofreegalisteo>.

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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+++

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