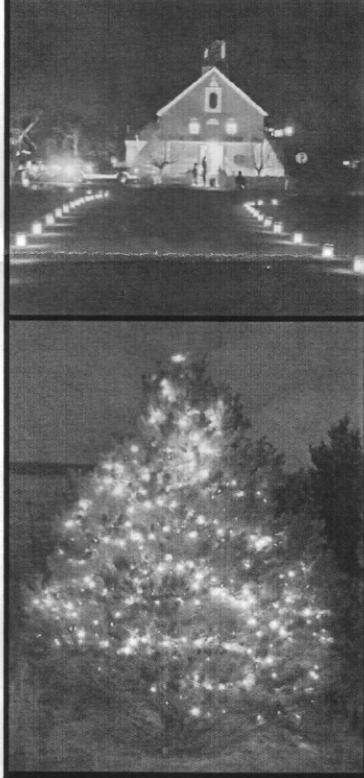
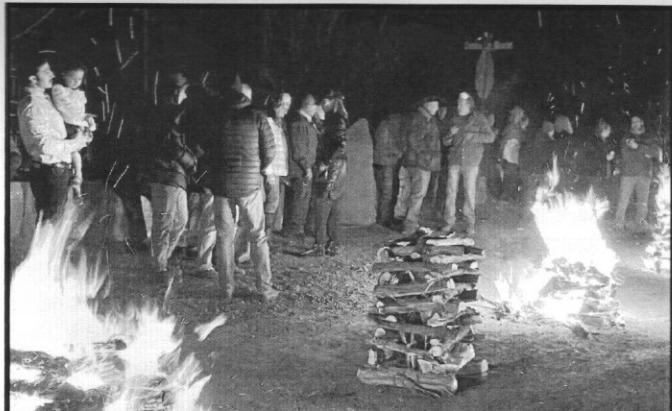


EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO



ISSUE #287

El Puente would welcome more input from the community: story ideas, personal memories, letters to the editor (comments and criticisms, no holds barred!) anything Galisteo based. Think about it....



DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026

*** HAPPY NEW YEAR *** FELIZ NUEVO AÑO

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, and kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.”

— Howard Zinn



John Watson-Jones
ribboning his raven
(Photo: Alex Finlayson)

Above: Galisteo Music
Collective Singalong, Dec. 15:
Jessica Spring, Helen
Young, David Robinson,
Julie Deery

Teresa Montoya & Sadie
Sandoval
(Photo: Jessica Spring)

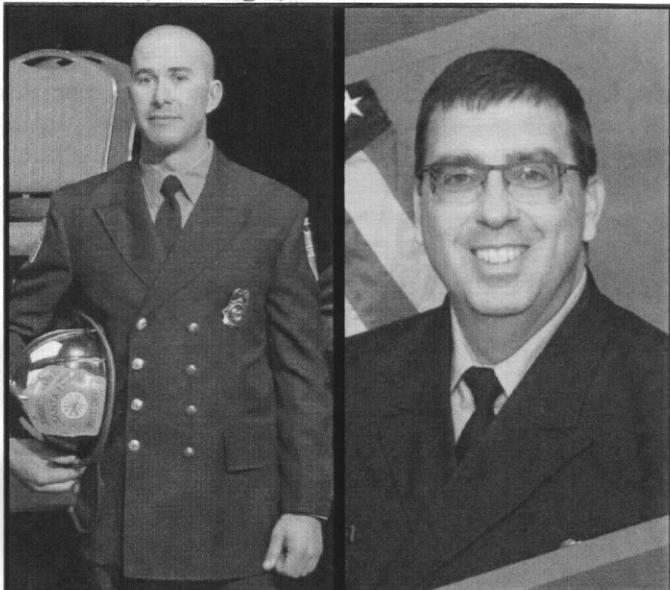


GVFR NEWS

Brian Moya, Santa Fe Fire Chief and oldest son of Jean and Steve, has been appointed by incoming Mayor Michael Garcia as interim City Manager, replacing the pugnacious Mark Scott. Moya has been with the fire department for almost 25 years and welcomes the new challenge.

May Yen has been confirmed as Secretary for the Friends of GVFR 501(c)(3).

The GVFR's Ezra Sage (below left, Photo: Alice Kruse) graduated with the City of Santa Fe Fire Department's 40th Cadet Academy on December 19. Four days later he started on Shift A as a Firefighter I and II and an EMT-Basic. Ezra plans to take the EMT Advanced course in the spring. Many volunteer firefighters have graduated to EMT, nursing, paid firefighting, and other positions in the County Fire Department. Ezra is not the first GVFR member to move up to greater things. Another former member and former Galisteo is Craig Fulmer, Santa Fe's Fire Protection Specialist who was just voted New Mexico Fire Code Official of the Year at the annual New Mexico Fire and EMS EXPO (below right).



GVFR firefighters keep on studying and graduating. Completing a semester's work, Kobe Jane and Ezra Sage are now certified at the second highest level of emergency medical training. They join elite veteran EMT-B responders Alice Kruse and Jean Moya. Ken Frumin and Steve Riemer have completed the first level course and are now certified as EMRs. Every new certification increases the fire department's skill set on emergency calls and also affects County funding and budgeting. Any villager who has had an emergency visit knows how much comfort these highly-trained friends and neighbors can bring to a difficult situation.

This year's Food Drive saw double the donations, according to team leader Corey McGillicuddy. She and assistant Kim Gilbreath sorted the food items for distribution within the Village, as well as through Nuestra Señora de los Remedios which also serves Madrid and Cerrillos. The remainder will go to Melissa Moya, Mobile Integrated Health Specialist at the Santa Fe County Fire Department. This is an unprecedented time of need for more people than ever, Corey says, and the GVFR may also sponsor a summer food drive.



Corey McGillicuddy and Kim Gilbreath face the abundance.

ANAYA FAMILY PARADE

On December 20th the Anaya Family and Friends led the Galisteo Christmas Parade of Lights through the village. The decorated cars left from El Tanque Viejo and made a loop through the village, starting the holidays off with a flash. This year's bigger and better parade was organized by Mike Anaya's children, Art and Miranda (thanks to them for the photo). They call it the "Mary Christmas Parade" because it was begun a few years ago as a family event to entertain their late grandmother Mary Ann Anaya near the end of her life.

Mike's son Art and Stephanie Tapia lead the parade.
(Photo: Kevan Saunders)





The holiday market was a great success.... again.
(Photo: Jennifer Martin)

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

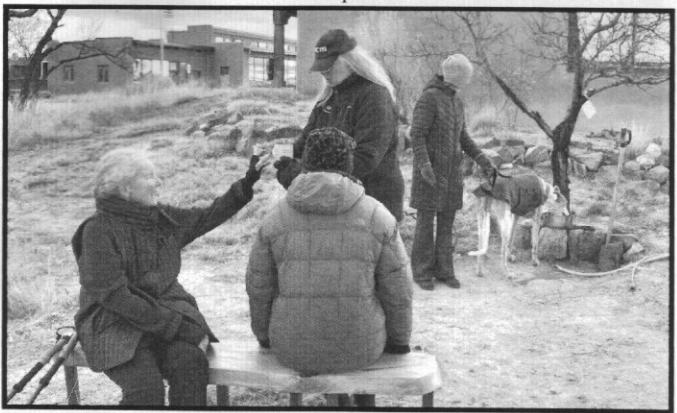
An eloquent "My View" in the *New Mexican* (11/1) opposing the potential closing of the Dixon Elementary School was written by former Galisteans **Alex Amend and Annika Kaplan**.

Another former Galisteans, the celebrated musician **Nacha Mendez (aka Marghreta Cordero)**, was the cover girl and interviewed in *Pasatiempo* (9/26). She also received a Governor's Award this year. Raised in La Union, near the Mexican border, she started on a plastic guitar and was influenced by the Beatles as well as by avant garde artists like Meredith Monk and John Cage.

Jaime Herrell was quoted in the Fall/Winter issue of *Southwest Contemporary*: "In a tech-obsessed age, I'm drawn to work rooted in material – objects that carry weight and speak to memory, place, and lineage." The "Indigenization" show at Duende Gallery, curated by Herrell and **Rob King**, was featured in the summer issue of *First American Art Magazine*.

In June (oops, it got buried in the editorial mess), journalist **Ted Alcorn** was interviewed on Inez Russell Gomez's podcast "Conversations Different."

Two community holiday gifts for the Morning Walkers (aka Woofers and Hoofers or Walkie Talkies): Santa left a shiny new water bowl at the Community Center faucet for the four-leggeds. Cooper, Billy G, Sage, Gordon, Jackie, Prue, and Cookie can't wait to have a slurp, and all promise to be good dogs next year. (Tana promises nothing.) For the two-leggeds, there's a new bench, handmade and installed by **Rochelle Becker and Ann Nye** at **Phil Tuwaletstiwa's** workshop. They call it "Wendy's Bench," a resting place for **Wendy Lynn** (and other tired walkers) while **Romona Scholder** gets her mug of water every morning. The Community Center is now a four-star rest stop for all travelers.

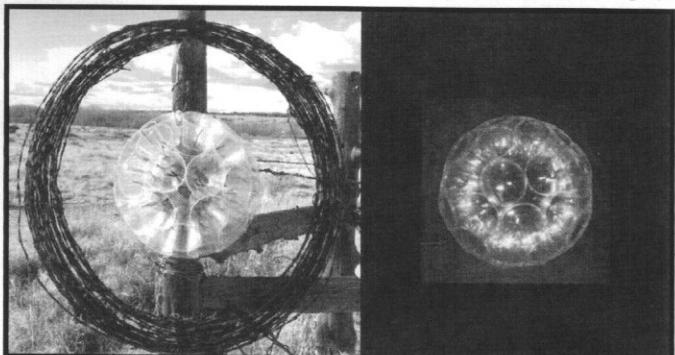


SPARKLING SPARKLEBALLS

Alex Finlayson

The only magic trick I know is how to make a sparkleball -- an original American craft: fifty plastic cups, a stapler, and a string of lights. Nobody knows who invented it. I bought my first one on a dark Texas two-lane in 1988. A dozen sparkleballs danced on a clothesline, and a man was selling them for \$10 each. I became obsessed. Eventually a sparkleball maker in Brooklyn shared instructions with me, but it took years to really get it right. I made a website devoted to sparkleballs, where people all over the world shared tips and photos. (This was before Pinterest, youtube, DIY demos, and Instagram.) Sparkleballs were being made in Africa, Italy, Mexico, Kansas... I had sparkleball email pals and wrote a sparkleball entry for Wikipedia. You can still see hundreds of sparkleball iterations on my now retired Instagram account, @sparkleballlady. I even tried to market a sparkleball kit. But like the true outsider craft it is, sparkleball defied me. I make them now only for fun. Happy to share. Happy to pass along what I know.

Ed note: Avenida Vieja was a light show around Christmas, with extensive farolitos and those sparkleballs. Equally lovely was Via La Puente leading to the luminarias at the church, plus lighted trees along both ways. A pretty spectacular Galisteo celebration all around (see p. 1).



LIFE? LIBERTY? WAIT A MINUTE

On Dec. 6th, Ezra Sage noticed a sign attached to the stop sign by the church. It featured a stylized eagle head over a red white and blue background with text that read: "LIFE, LIBERTY, VICTORY - PATRIOT FRONT U.S."

"Patriot Front," he informs us, "is a militant white nationalist extremist organization with the stated goals of creating a new American society based on 'white European values' and stopping the 'replacement of whites by immigrants and minorities.' It aims to achieve this goal through the creation of a fascist authoritarian state."

"Patriot Front is well known for their public appearances across the country, where members have packed into U haul trucks to counter-protest LGBTQ rights, abortion rights, and immigration rights. Its members wear masks, often carry shields, and attempt to intimidate, disrupt or agitate at otherwise peaceful demonstrations. During a hate rally in Boston in 2022, members of Patriot Front attacked and beat a black man and were later ordered to pay \$2.7 million in damages.

"It goes without saying that this kind of ideology has absolutely no place in America, let alone Galisteo," warns Ezra. "For the safety of our community, I ask you all to keep a vigilant eye out for these type posters and the individuals who are distributing this racist propaganda. It is our responsibility (Cont. p 4)

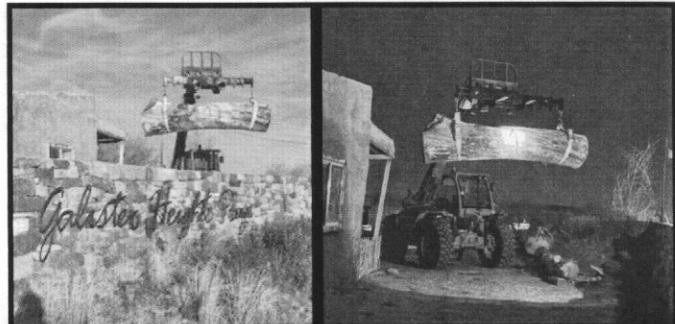
and duty to confront this type of bigotry head on and make it clear that Galisteo will not tolerate the expressions of hate groups here. Please alert the community if you see something like this again, and take whatever action to remove it that you feel is appropriate."

For more on the group, visit any of these links:

<https://extremism.gwu.edu/patriot-front>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriot_Front

<https://www.splcenter.org/resources/extremist-files/patriot-front/>



Above: Jim Sloan's gigantic yule log, day and night.

(Photos: Rochelle Becker)

Jim's 90th birthday was celebrated January 3rd at the GCC with an astounding array of cakes plus friends, admirers, and music. Here he is with his constant companion Osito and about to pirouette in a black tutu, courtesy of Julie Deery.

(Photo: Jessica Spring)



EL PUENTE SPONSORS: DOROTHY VICTOR & SAM SLOAN

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

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.

SERVICES

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!

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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.

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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+++

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: Feb. 10. TO SPONSOR:** Check to GCA for \$100-\$150 (or more!) noting "for newsletter"; send to above address.