



ISSUE #90

DECEMBER 2005

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



Galisteo c.1884 (Photo: J.R. Riddle, Museum of NM Photo Archive neg. no. 7064.) Note absence of buttresses and Santa Lucia on the brand new church's façade, and the undefined plaza, bordered by the hacienda at left and a few broad low buildings at the right. The village center was broken by State Highway 41 some fifty years later.

### SOUTH BRIDGE TO BE WIDENED

The New Mexico Department of Transportation is planning to widen and strengthen the bridge over the Galisteo Creek at the southern end of the village in the summer of 2006. It was built in 1936, and is designed for only 15 tons. Now much larger trucks are crossing it daily. The concrete is cracking and Noland LeBlanc of the State DOT, who is in charge of the geotechnical preliminary testing, says its time has come.

The first step is making a ramp under the NW corner of the bridge for drilling equipment to determine the depth and kind of

rock underlying the supports. The DOT can't touch native trees and plants; only a few invasive Russian Olives will go down.

Within five years Route 41 itself will be widened to accommodate increased truck traffic and provide shoulders for bicycle riders. According to a highway worker, the Right of Way is 100' (which could put the highway in your editor's backyard; the current fences measure around 50'). Next step: the designer and Right of Way people take over. The bridge needs fixing, but hopefully the community will have some input into its expansion.

**NOTICE: If you have not been getting El Puente or know someone who hasn't, it means the Post Office is returning your issues to us because of an unacceptable address. Please call Lucy at 466-1276 to straighten this out. We want to reach all of you, but can't waste money on returns. Thanks.**

## CHARTER SCHOOL ON TRACK

If you have children heading for high school in the next few years, you're in luck. Public Charter School 37 – a unique experiment in bilingual and expeditionary education – is scheduled to open for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 grades in August 2006, in an as-yet undetermined temporary location in Santa Fe. In 2007, 11<sup>th</sup> grade is added, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade arrives in 2008, when the school comes to rest in its permanent home as the centerpiece of the "Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve" (aka Thornton Ranch Project) – very convenient to Galisteo.

CS 37 is a local endeavor that will have a far broader impact. The brainchild of the dynamic Jody Drew from Lamy, with a Governing Council presided over by San Marcos publisher Bill Baxter, the school will be free, with initial enrollment on a first-come, first-served basis and later by lottery. About 65 people, including potential staff, are already involved in the planning.

Drew is a high school English teacher with over 20 years of experience, including a stint at a newly founded charter school, which taught her just how complex this process would be: "You have to house a school, but there's no funding; you're free from some of the School District's difficulties but not free of State and Federal requirements. We're making something new that has to fit into an established box."

Emphasizing that CS 37 augments rather than competes with existing public schools, Drew says it will provide a model for the School District to draw upon – important because dropouts are disproportionately Spanish-speaking kids not served well by the current system. There are only ten other dual language schools in the country; this will be the eleventh.

There is also a national network of expeditionary schools dedicated to applying Outward Bound principles to the classroom – "lots of instructor support but the students learn by doing" (dispelling the misconception that "they just take you into the woods for two weeks and if you get back they take your check"). Despite its innovative baseline, CS 37 is a regular school with regular classes and a college prep curriculum.

The founding partners of the school are the Commonweal Conservancy, developer of The Village at Galisteo Basin (land donation and development grant), Raza Development Fund (loan underwriting, technical assistance), Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound (professional development), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (a small-school initiative grant).

The environmental component of the curriculum will be enhanced by collaboration with Earth Works Institute, which plans to move its headquarters and experimental projects to the Village as well. The school, conservation village, and environmental center will be a powerful nexus of good vibes here in the Basin.

CS 37 needs money, of course, like every other good idea. Drew suggests that we donate a symbolic \$37, but of course larger checks are even more welcome. Make them out to "Friends of

**JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS,  
BIRD NOTES FROM THE GALISTEO BASIN  
an illustrated collection of her columns over the  
last 5 years. It's a great gift at only \$6! Get one  
hot off the press through the GVFR or call 466-6620.**

37" (a 501 C-3) and send to J.Drew, 73 Los Hornos Rd., Lamy 87540. More information? Check out [jdrew@cs37.org](mailto:jdrew@cs37.org) and [wbaxter@cs37.org](mailto:wbaxter@cs37.org).

## RANCHITOS BREAKINS; MAILBOX VANDALISM

Galisteo is going through some mean times. If anyone knows who is responsible for the rash of recent vandalism, tell them to STOP IT! Suspicion and fear can tear a community apart.

Three homes in Ranchitos were broken into before Thanksgiving. They all belonged to people who do not live here full time or were away for an extended period. Very little was taken but a good deal of damage was done. The Ranchitos de Galisteo Association is installing equipment that will provide 24-hour surveillance.

And the new mailboxes continue to be a target. Someone is throwing eggs at them and putting lit firecrackers in the outgoing mail slots. This has damaged mail and is a real hardship for those who can't get to another post office box, not to mention anyone who has tried to pay their bills and will be penalized if they are not received. Plus, the Post Office is threatening to remove the outgoing mail slots, which would be a hardship for all of us. Post Office officials warn that tampering with U.S. mail and damaging federal property is a *felony*. If the attacks continue, inspectors will be sent out and, as the PO spokeswoman told the GCA president, "You *don't* want the Postal Inspectors out there." They are the equivalent of the FBI.

## GCA REPORT

Linda Braun, Secretary

At the Nov. 21 meeting Frank Jaramillo, County Operations Division Director, came to the Open Forum to finalize plans to upgrade disability access to the Community Center. Commissioner Anaya has agreed to pay for the improvements out of the discretionary fund. The County will do all the work required, including the creation of a disability access between parking lot and building, upgrading the main door's threshold and door handles, and placing a culvert under the walkway for optimal rainwater diversion. Our thanks to Commissioner Anaya!

The total cost of repairing the vandalized Community Center windows was \$1378 – much higher than originally expected.

Unfortunately the GCA was misinformed regarding access to capital outlay funds from the State to improve the park/playground at the Community Center. There was some talk of trying to generate community support (\$3,000-5,000 per year) to slowly make improvements.

The Mobile Health van will make visits to Eldorado, where Galisteo residents can take advantage of it. The next GCA Board meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>.



## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

The **Galisteo Fire Department** was on the scene when historic Seton Castle in Seton Village burned down in mid November. Frank Croft (who just got his Firefighter One certification and received a baptism of fire), Miguel and Esteban Padilla, and Jean and Steve Moya were there for a good five hours. Shira Schwiller then spent two nights alone in her truck at the ruins of the castle to guard the site for investigators. "It was a lot of hard work," says Chief Jean, "and it is really sad to see it burn down. We still don't know what started it."

The **old Galisteo cemetery** was featured in the Eldorado section of the *New Mexican* Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. **Maria Ortiz y Pino**, who has been instrumental in its maintenance since 1998, was quoted on its history and upkeep. Babies here were buried in a certain section of the cemetery, while suicides are exiled outside holy ground. The cemetery was built on a hill to facilitate drainage. **Mela Montoya** asked for respect, such as not photographing and filming the cemetery, because it is "a private thing" for those whose relatives are interred there: "It's sacred."

Check out the new **website on Galisteo Basin Archeology** (but be aware that the history section is still being corrected) at [www.miaclab.org](http://www.miaclab.org). An associated newsletter is produced by the Galisteo Partnership, sponsored by several State, County and Federal agencies that are protecting 24 archaeological sites in and outside of the Galisteo Basin. You can get on the Galisteo Basin Partnership mailing list by writing to the GBA at BLM, POB 27115, Santa Fe, NM, 87502; or calling 438-7454. or e-mailing [Sarah.Schlanger@blm.gov](mailto:Sarah.Schlanger@blm.gov).

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has designated over 120,000 acres in five western states, including New Mexico, as critical habitat for the **endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher**. The Galisteo Creek, according to our bird expert, is ideal habitat but the bird has not been seen here. It's hard to identify except by its song.

**Warning** to those who have cats and small dogs: a **large coyote** has been seen several times prowling in broad daylight on the east side of the Creek.

In a *New Mexican* article on the closing of Carlos' Gospel Café in Santa Fe the **Galisteo Studio Tour poster** was prominently displayed in the foreground of the illustration.

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## LIGHT DOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance, which several years ago declared New Mexico's night skies to be an officially endangered historical site, is still working on the issue.

"All living things benefit from natural darkness," they write in their winter newsletter. "The night sky is everyone's heritage and cultural resource, but light pollution is rapidly eroding the unspoiled view of the stars." It is, however, an "easy problem to fix." Their recommendations:

1) **Enjoy the Night**. Ultimately we will protect only what we love and cherish. 2) **Shield your lights** with easily available full cut-off light fixtures or adjust existing lights to point down or retrofit them with simple metal shrouds. 3) **Use light only when** you need it. Use motion sensors, which cost less, improve security and reduce light pollution. Use timer needed only in the

dark. 4) **Use less light**. Even a 25-40-watt bulb or 9-watt compact fluorescent is enough to light a porch or driveway. 5) **Talk to your neighbors** and encourage them to make the night a better place for their communities.

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## PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETS AGAIN

The November 7<sup>th</sup> planning committee meeting was attended by sixteen Galisteños and concentrated at first on housekeeping (how to send minutes out, etc). Participants put colored pins in the map to show where they lived; we seem to have a pretty good geographical distribution.

Lot sizes range from ¾ acre in traditional village to 40 acres in "Basin" areas. We can tailor the village lots to our needs. State subdivision laws were gone over. It was reported that the Fishers at Saddleback Ranch (which is for sale) had little interest in conservation easements.

The discussion about village boundaries continued. Three alternatives were proposed, all of which depend on how far out from the village -- especially to west and north—we would or could go, how much participation we could garner from the bigger ranches and developers, whether we would go north of the Hogback. We cannot plan for areas that are not represented.

The question of trust was raised -- concern about the justice of relative newcomers, who may or may not stay here, planning for lifelong residents. County representative Beth Mills said the County set up the traditional villages precisely to protect the rights of older residents; different neighborhoods can be treated differently depending on different needs, desires, or uses. A lot more lot splits are possible within the present village boundaries. Current County designations include residential, commercial and agricultural. It was noted that *real* outsiders, not residents at all -- i.e. the County and other bureaucrats-- could come in and affect us, and that is why we are planning for ourselves.

The December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be covered in January.

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## BLUEBIRDS OF HAPPINESS

Jan Saunders

Galisteo, a very happy place, is blessed with three species of Bluebirds: Eastern, Western and Mountain. All three are truly birds of happiness. The flash of bright blue catches our eye and engages our heart. The brilliant turquoise blue of the Mountain Bluebird seen against a winter landscape is a startling confirmation of the beauty of nature.

To the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico, Bluebirds are a symbol of transition and represent snow, ice, rain, and winter weather. The Hopi have a Bluebird Clan and, along with the Zuni, use Bluebird feathers in puberty rites for young girls as they make the transition from child to woman. In the Hopi Winter Solstice Ceremony, bright yellow prayer sticks representing the sun are decorated with clusters of Bluebird feathers representing winter.

All three species of Bluebirds eat mostly insects supplemented with various fruits and berries. They will come to your feeder for raisins, sunflower seed meats and meal worms. You can also attract them just by providing water. A dripper placed over your bird bath is a bird magnet. Bluebird boxes correctly placed on the edge of a grassland and facing away from the (cont.p.4)

prevailing wind will be a welcome sight to males looking for nesting sites in February. Since many of their favorite nesting sites, like old hollow trees, have disappeared, Bluebirds are relying more and more on human-made cavities like nesting boxes. The most likely tenant for your box will be the Western Bluebird. For more information on how to build and place Bluebird boxes, visit <http://birds.cornell.edu>.

## EL PUENTE SPONSOR: JOHN YOUNG

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Contact: Box 77 (Rte. 41 at Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by Jan. 5th for next issue. PLEASE CALL TO CONTINUE ADS.

#### FREE

**Horse manure** from Linda Vista Stables. Call Maria, 466-8930.

#### WANTED

**Cell phones** for the Santa Fe Rotary Club. They'll be put to valuable use and kept out of the Landfill. Call Kevan Saunders, 466-6620, for info or to donate.

#### FOR RENT

**Beautiful furnished space** in Galisteo, 2200 sq ft, 2BR,3B, 3 fireplaces, available Jan.1 Rebecca Fitzgerald 466-4957.

#### FOR SALE

**Anatolians: Turkish livestock guardian dogs.** Born & raised with sheep, goats, horses, poultry. \$1000 + up, depending on level of livestock training. Buy the best to guard your valuable animals! Tim, 982-7782 or 577-6162; Wendy, 610-8326.

#### SERVICES

A quart of **delicious home-made soup** (vegan and not) w. **warm garlic bread.** Bring your pot and take home dinner, Tues.+ Sun. nights: \$13.50 for two. Rebecca, 466-4957.

**Last Minute Gifts? Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving** scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, handwoven of luxurious chenille. 466-2118.

It's a good time of year to organize, decorate, and re-gift those "treasures." **Creative solutions and artistic enhancement with what you already own.** Call Pamela Markoya, 466-9191.

Like things done right? **Welding, flagstone, moss rock, fountains, plumbing, sprinkler, and drip systems plus Gopher Control.** Have references. Call David Maestas, cell 670-8608 or 660-9715.

**Photo & Design.** [www.richardshuff.com](http://www.richardshuff.com); 466-7723.

**Fresh Eggs,** \$2.50 a dozen. Kathleen Murphy, 466-2659.

For your **welding** needs: call Richard Molina, 466-9696.

**Tree Cutting & Trimming Service, Fence Building, Odd Jobs; E-Bay too!** Call Mark, 466-1267.

Call Beth for **housesitting/petcare/vet runs/odd jobs/studio assistance/party help/you name it...** in Galisteo, 470-7606.

**Galisteo Caretaking Services.** Richard, 466-7723.

For **baby-sitting, petsitting and animal care,** call Mercedes, 466-7285.

**Need a permit?** Computer Aided Drafting Support: for architects., Engineers, Contractors and Homeowners. 4 yrs. experience/local references. Call Adan Cárdenas, 466-8967.

**Dave's Auto Repair:** tune-ups, oil change, restoring, minor repairs, restoring, painting. Local refs. Free estimates: David Montoya, 466-2097.

**SB Lejo/Sina Brush** is taking special orders for antique Mexican furniture. Call 577-4045.

**Galisteo Woodworks:** for your custom woodworking needs. Furniture and furniture repair. Antonio Chavez, 466-3601.

**Electrical Concepts:** Residential/Commercial/Industrial. Hansi Mohn and Michael Anaya, 988-8853.

**I will take care of your pets or watch children,** Simone Montoya, 466-1518

**Native Bloom,** Landscape design/maintenance. Linda, 466-4658.

**Restore your old photo:** We copy, repair, and reprint your favorite damaged or fading photos. Richard/Cara, 466-7723.

**Linda Vista Stables:** Beginner western riding for children and adults; 1-2 hr. trail rides; short-term boarding. 466-8930.

**Carpentry:** Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors, 35 yrs. experience, local refs. Onesimo, 466-1430.

**Common sense, gentle dog-training:** house manners, management problem-solving at your home; also limited boarding. Twenty years experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

**Acupuncture, herbal medicine, feng shui, nutritional counseling, massage.** Dr. Connie Fisher, 470-9314.

**Passive Solar Builders:** Locally owned general contractor since 1980. Quality home construction, renovations: 466-2118.

**Private Exercise Training and Power Circuit Classes** with Ron Helman. Call 466-1919.

"First Saturday" monthly all-day **workshop at Light Institute;** lunch at Inn. 466-1975 or 466-1458.

**Nick's Landscaping, Brush Removal, and Garbage Collection.** Call 466-0530 or 470-5973.

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

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