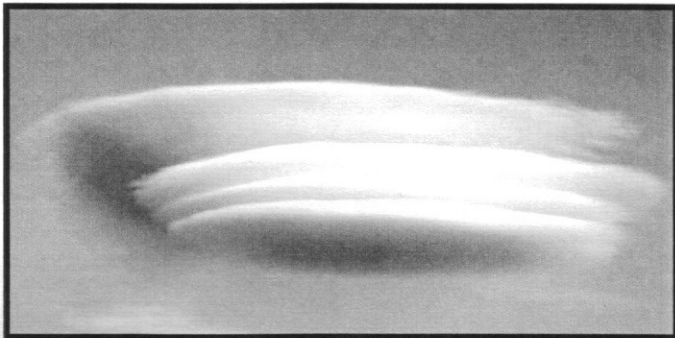




HAPPY EARTH DAY?

As we celebrate the earth and bemoan what's happening to it, three bits of local news – the first probably good, the others probably bad: the Santa Fe County Planning Commission has okayed the massive Globemallow solar project north of Stanley. And the data center Project Jupiter in southern New Mexico will require a million gallons of water a day. As this is more than its local utility can provide, additional water will have to be bought and reallocated from the Santa Teresa LLC, which acquired an annual 2,600 acre feet in 2017. In addition the Trump administration has stripped mining protections from the Upper Pecos, threatening a beloved recreational area. Happy Earth Day?



A rare Lenticular Cloud in early Feb. by Ann Senuta.



Raccoons raiding bird feeders (from Tanya and John Young).

APRIL 17: El Cortijo Farmstand reopens for the season. Bigger and better!

APRIL 18: Galisteo Spring Cleanup Day at the mailboxes in the morning plus Candidates Forum at GCC in the afternoon (to be covered in May issue).

38th ANNUAL GALISTEO STUDIO TOUR, 10/10-11

If you would like to participate in the tour, the only requirement is having lived in Galisteo for three months and being willing to open your home studio to the public (or have a neighbor who can offer you a space). Our first artists' meeting is on **Thursday, May 7 at 10:30 at the GCC**. If you have been previously involved in the tour, you will be contacted by email.

We are looking for volunteers to help out at the Community Center over the tour weekend-- a great way to meet neighbors, greet visitors and be a part of a Galisteo tradition. We are also looking for a graphic designer for our ads, brochure, flyers, and website revisions.

The studio tour is non-profit and all contributions are tax deductible. If you would like to participate in this year's studio tour, please contact Lesley Dyer (lesleycrewsdyer@gmail.com) or reach out to any of our Galisteo Arts board members; Christine Benkert, Shaun Gilmore, Ann Nye, Greg Salustro, Blair Stocker, Jenny Stocker, and Wayland Wong.

GVFR: EVERY DAY'S A RED FLAG DAY

Prohibited: Smoking, Fireworks, Campfires, Prescribed open, agricultural and/or debris burning, Flaring gas in oil/gas production.

The Santa Fe County Volunteer Chief's Association Awards Ceremony was held March 21 and GVFR's Jean Moya, Ken Frumin, and Jess Spring were nominated, an honor even though they didn't win.

GUNSHOTS

Around 11:30 PM on March 30th, and again the next morning, Galisteans were treated to the unmistakable sound of intermittent gunshots. The sheriff was alerted. According to a witness, two ambulances, six sheriff's deputies, a sniper, a crisis person, and the GVFR convened and "did an amazing job of handling it all." No one was hurt. The shooter was taken away in an ambulance to get the psychiatric help he needs. Two village residents were subpoenaed to testify at a hearing on April 21.

WATER BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

On March 26th the annual meeting of the Galisteo MDWCA took place at the GCC. Thanks to proxies, a quorum was reached though only five Community members attended. Treasurer John Watson-Jones deserves our gratitude for the vast amount of work involved after the major leak that cratered the Association's funds. Nevertheless a 2.8% cost-of-living raise for our contractors was unanimously approved.

Notice of Violation: The NM Environment Department identified the broken tank gauge last year but it was not repaired. Even though there is an electronic gauge in use, NMED wants an external gauge. Rudy Martinez is scheduling tank divers who could possibly fix the gauge inside the tank.

President Gregory Hart moved to reelect the four Board members whose terms expired in March 2026. All agreed to remain for another term: Paul Davis, Vice President; John Watson-Jones, Treasurer; Deirdre Africa, Secretary; Antonio Chavez, Board Member. Freddie Cárdenas nominated Anna Cárdenas to the Board, but due to a procedural glitch her election will have to be revisited at the June Board meeting.

Hart has been diligently scanning decades of Water Board documents which will eventually be organized and stored on the cloud. He is also discussing with the Eldorado Water District the decommissioned water tank they have offered us.

A member has requested a leak adjustment; Ana Berry worked it out and it was approved by the Board. Discussion of the draft leak adjustment policy by Paul Davis will be finalized at the next meeting. We can also decide whether the proposed Leak Adjustment Policy should be added to the Rules and Regulations. Responding to a query from community member Janice Wall, Davis agreed to write a brief basic set of instructions on what to do if you get a water leak, and submit it to *El Puente*. It will appear in the May issue.

The deadline for Capital Outlay applications is July 1, 2026. Galisteo's MDWCA wish list includes hooking up the second well, getting a replacement tank, and acquiring a generator for the pump house.

County Commissioner Camilla Bustamante spoke about a possible Water Authority to comprise the County and the City of Santa Fe which other public water utilities might also join or benefit from. Apparently our Association would have options as to our level of involvement, should we decide to participate.

(Thanks to Board Secretary Deirdre Africa for access to the minutes on which this coverage is based.)

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Corey McGillicuddy wrote on 4/4: "Yesterday I had one of my least favorite experiences -- coming over Lamy Hill and seeing smoke in the Basin. [The fire was south of the village on San Cristobal Ranch before Clark Hill, on the east side of NM 41.] Next was Eldorado Fire rushing past me... I want to thank all of you who may have turned out for that call. The wind was crazy and it looked like a challenging situation." Luckily, it was resolved relatively quickly with no casualties or major damage.

According to the *New Mexican* (4/15), **Matthew McQueen** has raised \$130,000 in his race for Land Commissioner. (His Republican opponent, Michael Perry, unopposed in the primaries, is just behind him.) McQueen has been active in the struggle to deal with the state's many "orphan wells" abandoned by the

mining industry. His 2025 proposal, which didn't pass, asked the industry to police itself: "All these things would be easier if just the responsible parties stepped up and did the right thing," he said. "And of course they're not going to do that out of the goodness of their heart. They're going to do that if that's our statutory framework."

The **vultures** have returned, right on time. Several were spotted on March 27th.

Liz Rose reports that "on March 30 I had a full cord of wood stacked in my covered walkway. On Wednesday, I discovered that at least one third was missing. So watch out for a mean-spirited thief on the prowl."

Chip Conley of MEA was written up in *The New York Times* (3/30).

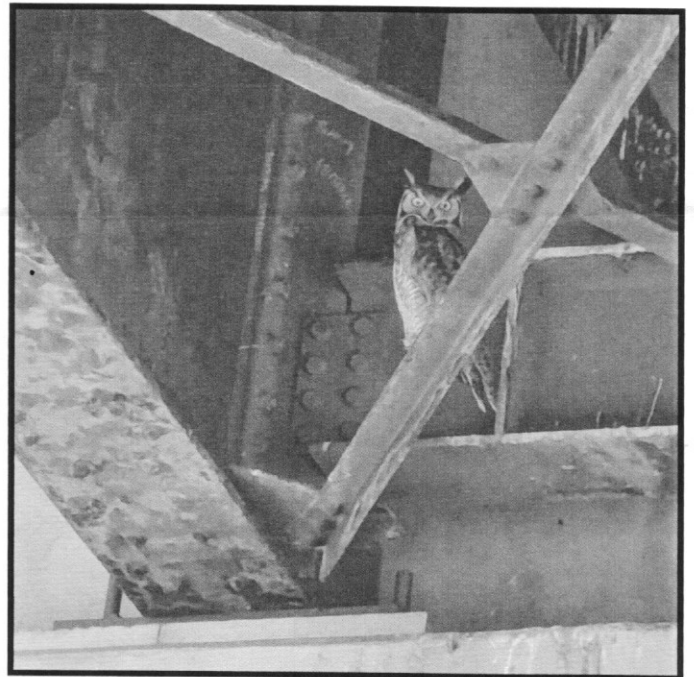
Judy Tuwaletstiwa's *Incantations* will be shown at Pie Projects in Santa Fe, 6/13-7/18, (Her book Chaco Series was featured in *New Mexico Magazine* (4/2025).

The Galisteo Arts Committee's **video interviews with Galisteo artists** can be seen on our website and on Youtube. The latest is architect/designer Leslie Gallery Dilworth in conversation with Dennison Smith (<https://youtu.be/b0xQn6cGCMg>). Galisteo Arts is grateful to New Mexico Arts for their generous grant.

The *GCC trees* are clearly happy with their new irrigation system. They have histories too. **Freddie Cárdenas** reveals that he planted the peach tree in the 1980s, with a peach pit from his mother's tree; and the piñons along the fence line were planted by a summer camp of Galisteo kids he led, including **Teresa Montoya**.

Galisteo **Noah Massey**, a senior at the New Mexico School for the Arts whose poem was featured in the last issue of *El Puente*, was pictured and interviewed in *Pasatiempo* (4/17) in a feature about candidates for Santa Fe's Youth Poet Laureate.

Old but good news: **Aiden Moya**, following in the footsteps of his father **Craig** and grandmother **Jean**, was pictured in the Traditional Spanish Market Guide for 2025.



Great Horned Owl near the railroad tracks There is also a possible owl nest/burrow in our bosque. (Photo: Larry Romero)

AIR QUALITY TESTING

John Benjamin

Last year, having just read newly published 20-year old studies on the dangers of environmental micro-particles, I am more concerned than ever about the health hazards of our Galisteo roads. I contacted the Santa Fe County Health Department and County Commissioner Camilla Bustamante, who put me in contact with County Public Works. Road samples were taken and tested. The results were released March 2026 in a report along with air quality test results, which *El Puente* reported last month.

The “good to excellent” rating of our roads from the County is misleading. It stems from just one of fourteen categories of the road samples and pertains only to the Sub-Grade material — the native soil under the road or Sub-Base material meant to be used under a finishing seal— and has NO relationship to the current surface material we drive and walk on every day.

The only things that do affect us are the Base-Course (road surface) samples. Of the seven tested only two are within NMDOT and County standards. Five of the seven samples exceed the allowed amount of fines by over twice as much. (Fines are defined as the percentage of material which will pass through a #200 screen.) The standard for fines is 8% - 12%. We have 27% - 39% fines on these five roads.

Most importantly, a base-course should have little or no silt, whereas five of our base-course samples are 23% - 29% silt. This is the dust we are seeing and breathing from our roads, which has been proven by EPA, WHO and NIH research to cause head, lung, and heart issues over time.

These samples prove that the gravel we drive on is not qualified as surface material, especially as it continues to degrade. I believe we need to formally request Public Works to bring our roads up to standard by chip-sealing, which involves a liquid binder and new top of crushed gravel. The County is willing and able to do this. The base-course we have is perfect to support a chip-seal coat, which requires almost no maintenance and should last at least 20 years. Examples of chip-seal roads can be seen on Demora Road in Eldorado and on Camino de los Cabrerros in Ranchitos. Using a brown-colored aggregate will match the aesthetic of Galisteo— and greatly improve the quality of our lives.

I will share my analysis of the road samples at the April 22 GCA board meeting and with anyone else who’s interested. My hope is that residents affected by Via La Puente will lead the way, make this change for one street, and show the rest of the village that we don’t have to live with dangerously dusty roads.

Stringer’s note: John has been researching and advocating to solve this problem for almost 30 years. See El Puente 12/2001, 3/2002, Summer 2002, 9/2002, 2 2003, 9/2005, 10/ 2005, Summer 2006, 11/ 2025. See below for new El Puente Index.

EL PUENTE INDEXED!

Alex Finlayson

Most of us take *El Puente* for granted, and why not after almost thirty years? But others out in the world see something special about our newsletter. Last year, journalist Lucy Schiller wrote an article on *El Puente* for the *Columbia Journalism Review* in which she calls it “an extraordinary (mostly solo) work of journalism, a map of history in progress, revealing a shifting

landscape.” And this year, *El Puente* received a unique tribute from journalist, data geek, and Galisteo resident Ted Alcorn.

Using Claude.ai, Ted has created an *El Puente* searchable index. What good is that? Well, imagine you think there’s a scarlet tanager at your bird feeder and want to make sure. The index pulls up nine *El Puente* articles relating to scarlet tanagers. Or you want to know who was Studio Tour President before Lesley Dyer or why the bosque bridge is named for George Michael Anaya? Is highway traffic a new issue? Has there ever been a murder in Galisteo?

There’s now an index for that, with a box for word or name searches; an alphabetical list of all the 3205 people ever mentioned; and a section of topics covered over the years. Ted, who recently built a similar index for the *New York Times* that has drawn tens of thousands of visitors, says, “My intention was only to make the archive of all *El Puente*’s work more accessible and live and useful.” The Index is online at <https://tedalcorn.github.io/el-puente-archive/> or find it at galisteocommunity.org/el-puente. Ted asks that you use the index’s feedback button for suggestions or errors. Lucy Schiller’s piece on *El Puente*, “Monumental Tiny News,” is also online.

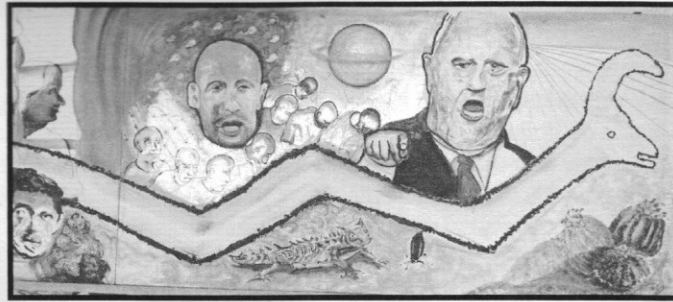
NO KINGS... SO FAR

More than fifty Galisteans turned out for a local No Kings rally on March 28th in front of the church to inform passing traffic, Rochelle Becker organized the demonstration and registered it in the national count, helping this year’s campaign to be possibly the largest in the nation’s history. Other Galisteans (below, with friends) went to Santa Fe for the big event.



On March 27-29, at the Community Center, **Janice Wall** and **Jim Sloan** mounted a brief show of their individual work in support of the No Kings campaign. Wall’s ethereal hanging pieces from 2018-19 are handwritten amendments to the Constitution. She sees their fragility as “warnings of the betrayals (*Cont. p.4*)

to come.” Sloan describes his 40’ panorama, titled *Incarceration*, the paint barely dry, as “a knife-thin slice through the past and present which might give an insight, whether looking backward or forward.”



EL PUENTE SPONSORS

We have a small backlog of donations but no more names to list. Prices for printing and soon for stamps are rising fast. YOU CAN HELP?

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED: ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Next deadline, May 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

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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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Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving: scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, handwoven of luxurious chenille. 466-2118.

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