

## THE BATTLE FOR THE GALISTEO BASIN

### Part 4

**THE SANTA FE BOARD** of County Commissioners recently enacted a twelve month moratorium, a sudden move that surprised stalwart community activists who have been working tirelessly for months to save the Galisteo Basin. The County has hired Robert Freilich, a land use specialist and an experienced defender of local authority, to assist the staff in formulating a new land use ordinance.

During the short January legislative session, the massive lobbying efforts of the oil and gas industry pushed for several bills that would have weakened the paltry state protections and enforcement funds. Legislation was introduced to gut the authority and funding of the Oil Conservation Division in retaliation for efforts to institute some protections for

authority's ability to zone polluting industries away from resources and neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, residents of the Galisteo Basin are monitoring the land use planning now underway at the County. Most activists demand that any ordinance strengthens the protections and planning already present in the 1993 Mining Ordinance. However, some landowners have resigned themselves to the possibility of huge industrial sacrifice zones with directional drilling back toward the target areas in the watershed.

For many of us who live near Black-Ferrill #1, this battle began a year ago. Swift action last spring stopped the issuance of any more County permits to reenter the old plugged wells. Months of educating, calling, writing, and urging elected officials to slow down the process has saved the watershed - for now - and for the next year our rural residential areas and our aquifers will not be sacrificed to empty promises from an industry cloaked in secrecy and accustomed to exercising its political clout without the interference of surface owners and environmentalists.

### WHAT NEXT?

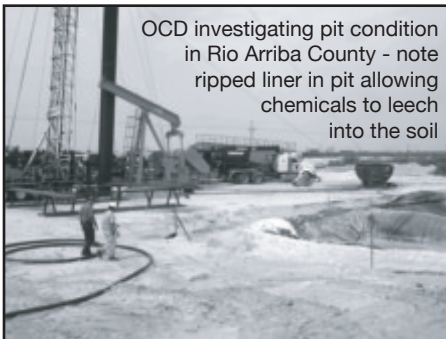
Get involved in the local elections. Get out and vote! Santa Fe County desperately needs Commissioners and State Representatives who are courageous enough to stand up for local zoning authority and a well-funded Oil Conservation Division that is dedicated to protecting New Mexico. OCD has asked for public comments on the proposed drilling in the Galisteo Basin and the deadline is April 15th. You can link to the information from [www.drillingsantafe.com](http://www.drillingsantafe.com).

*by NANCY SEEWALD*

*Please see page 2 for Commissioners' and Rep. Rhonda King's addresses*

A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country.

TEXAS GUINAN 1884-1933  
saloon keeper, actress, and entrepreneur



ground and surface water. Another bill would have restricted County authority to protect resources. The powerful oil and gas industry was unsuccessful as an unprecedented number of citizens fought back. However, industry has assured the citizen activists of Santa Fe County that they will increase their lobbying efforts to restrict local authority.

Citizen groups are already bracing for the next legislative session and are preparing to fight for increased State protections and funds. They will work against any bills that would dilute local

## SAVE LA BAJADA MESA!

new application to strip mine  
historic La Bajada Mesa

Strip mining applicant  
ROCKOLOGY LLC

will hold a

PUBLIC MEETING:

Turquoise Trail Elementary School  
Monday April 7th at 6:00 pm

*Confirm date at [www.savelabajadamesa.org](http://www.savelabajadamesa.org)*

**WAS THE RAILRUNNER** being used as an excuse to re-zone and start strip-mining the historic and scenic La Bajada Mesa? Since it was recently



revealed by the NMDOT that they already have all the materials

they need, it seems that the answer is YES. This may affect the public meeting and whether this even goes to hearing. The application (dated Jan. 30, 2008) discloses that the operation would not be limited to the Railrunner (which is expected to be built by the end of 2008) but specifies continuation for commercial projects for at least the next 11 years, to 2020.

The Rockology LLC application has much in common with an earlier Buildology Inc. 2005 application to strip the mesa of its basalt. That application was withdrawn before going to hearing. Now Buildology has become Rockology, the same applicant, Steven Hooper of Albuquerque. The land owners are again Peter Naumburg and Hugh Graham of Buena Vista LLC. This application, submitted by agent James Siebert, is for 50 acres!

Please see STRIP-MINING, page 2  
page 1

# STRIP-MINING:

## One of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places"

Continued from Page 1

ANY REZONING FOR MINING BY the County would devalue the visual and cultural resources of La Bajada Mesa, setting up a model for continued decline into further strip-mining. The whole mesa is capped in basalt, thus preserved throughout the eons. In 2002, before citizen opposition curtailed it, JR Hale Contracting proposed a 500 acre strip-mine of the mesa, even after the community turned them away from mining Buffalo Mountain!

Also in common with the Buildology application is the County staff's response. Back in 2005, the County staff was in the process of recommending denial when the Buildology applicants withdrew. The staff's draft "recommendation" stated, "This location is not compatible or suitable for mining." They noted that the Mesa had been listed as one of New Mexico's "Most Endangered Places" and that "this demonstrates the cultural significance and importance of protecting this area."

So here we are again in 2008, and the County staff's recommendation is again to deny the application for the same reasons, as well as wanting to avoid creating new mining districts.

by ROSS LOCKRIDGE AND ANN MURRAY  
More info? Ross 471-9182

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**Write a letter to Santa Fe County  
for the legal record.**

**You need send only one letter before Wednesday April 9th** and it will be copied for all 7 members of the CDRC for the April hearing.

**Support the County Staff recommendation** to deny the Rockology application. Express your desire to permanently preserve La Baja Mesa.

**Send to:**  
**Santa Fe County**  
**PO Box 276, 102 Grant Ave.**  
**Santa Fe, NM 87504-0276**  
**ATT: Jose Larranaga, Case Planner**  
**Re: Rockology**

Tell him you support the recommendation to deny the application. Letters will be included in the packet that goes to the members of the CDRC.

#### THE DEADLINE IS APRIL 9TH.

Contact the Governor, Rep. Rhonda King, and County Commissioners. Direct links are on the new Rural Conservation Alliance blog: [www.savelabajadamesa.org](http://www.savelabajadamesa.org).

***With your help, La Bajada Mesa will continue  
to be the magnificent gateway to Santa Fe  
and the Galisteo Basin Parklands.***



#### REPRESENTATIVE RHONDA KING:

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Capitol Office Phone: 986-4438

Office Phone: 832-5050

Home Phone: 832-4603

#### SANTA FE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

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102 Grant Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

505-986-6200  
[hmontoya@co.santa-fe.nm.us](mailto:hmontoya@co.santa-fe.nm.us)

Paul Campos  
District 4 Commissioner  
PO Box 23318  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-3318  
505-986-6060  
[pcampos@co.santa-fe.nm.us](mailto:pcampos@co.santa-fe.nm.us)

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Santa Fe, NM 87501  
505-995-2755  
[vvigil@co.santa-fe.nm.us](mailto:vvigil@co.santa-fe.nm.us)

Jack Sullivan  
District 5 Commissioner  
PO Box 283  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
505-982-4481 ext. 3  
[jsullivan@co.santa-fe.nm.us](mailto:jsullivan@co.santa-fe.nm.us)

Mike D. Anaya  
District 3 Commissioner  
715 C B-Anaya Road  
Stanley, NM 87056  
505-490-3337  
[manaya@co.santa-fe.nm.us](mailto:manaya@co.santa-fe.nm.us)

The BCC holds meetings  
on the second and last  
Tuesday of every month, at  
102 Grant Ave. in Santa Fe.  
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more information.

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"In a democracy dissent is an act of faith.  
Like medicine, the test of its value is not in its taste,  
but in its effects."

J. WILLIAM FULLBRIGHT  
American Senator

# SAN MARCOS DISTRICT PLAN UPDATE

**SANTA FE COUNTY SENIOR PLANNER**  
Arnold Valdez, Land Use Administrator Jack Kolkmeier, and Planning Director Judy McGowan conducted a question and answer meeting on the evening of February 13, 2008 at the Turquoise Trail Elementary School. The intended purpose was to help strengthen District Plan connections with residents from neighborhoods that are included in the San Marcos District Plan. Details outlined and presented in the Plan needed reviewing and clarification for the attendees for final changes and comments.

While many members of the community participated in the 3-year planning process, some residents attending the meeting took the opportunity to voice their concerns and wishes directly to the County representatives. Some residents felt they were not in the loop during the planning process and were not properly contacted by the County.

The communication problem surfaced in numerous statements targeting mailing list errors. The County accesses a mailing data base list through tax addresses, etc., and that could be a source of old mailing data that needs serious updating. It appeared that some members of the Silverado community were most affected by this lack of communication, along with a few attendees from various ranches.

The County stated that meetings were also posted in the newspapers, however, many still did not get the meeting notifications. A survey of hands indicated that only half of the audience had received The San Marcos Association High Desert News, which also contained relevant information, in spite of the fact that it is mailed to 1831 residents in the San Marcos District.

Various concerns were expressed and the County representatives vowed to clarify the translation of the current District

Plan to anyone interested. Several specific members of the audience were invited by Mr. Kolkmeier to meet with him personally in order to help bridge the communication gap and to get their ideas, suggestions, and statements in writing and on record.

The County representatives' efforts were greatly appreciated. Upon adjournment of the meeting, it appeared to successfully provided sufficient information so that many attendees left feeling that a lot of their concerns were clarified and that they knew who to contact for further information.

Silverado residents Jennifer Jaramillo and Mark Martinez offered their support as communication liaisons in the future.

It is up to all of us to take the initiative and get involved. The main purpose of the San Marcos District Plan is to preserve our rural residential way of life, for *all* our neighborhoods. This is another good reason to join The San Marcos Association!

For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting and would like to talk to a County official about how the ordinance will effect you, please contact:

Arnold Valdez, Senior Planner  
Santa Fe County Growth Management Dept.  
Planning and Development Division  
PO Box 276  
102 Grant Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0276  
phone: 505-995-2774 fax: 505-986-6389  
avaldez@co.santa-fe.nm.us

by RAQUEL CASILLAS HUGHES



SIGNS  
BY SCOTT  
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## OIL AND SANTA FE COUNTY DON'T MIX!



For more information, please go to  
[www.drillingsantafe.com](http://www.drillingsantafe.com)



Mark J.  
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# INTRODUCING:

**CLYDE CAMPBELL**

*Intrepid Mailman*

## NO MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER OFFERS:

blazing heat, frigid winds, dust storms, or blizzards, he's always there, resolutely braving it all in order to deliver our mail. It's Clyde Campbell, the guy in the mail truck with the great smile.

His truck has logged over 150,000 miles and leaves a lot to be desired when it comes to being comfortable. "It's not the weather outside that bothers me," says Clyde, "it's the weather inside. The snow fogs up my eyeglasses somehow. I have no idea where it gets into the truck, but it does."

His truck has flats and mechanical problems that, for some reason, always seem to occur when he's delivering in the Rancho Alegre area. He bought a cell phone in case of truck emergencies but it turns out that it doesn't work in Rancho Alegre, his own personal Bermuda Triangle. Despite occasional mechanical troubles, movie productions, and inclement weather, only once, in 14 years, has he ever been unable

to deliver the mail, and that was due to unusually heavy and impassable snow.

Clyde has always been a man on the move. He was born in Las Cruces and, after college, traveled to Washington with New Mexico Congressman Ed Foreman. He was eventually drafted, but a change in orders after basic training in El Paso, Texas sent him to Germany instead of Vietnam. After his tour of duty, he went to college on the G.I. Bill and became a property

manager for a large company in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. After that, he worked in Colorado for a company that marketed units for storing sensitive equipment for exploration. He has also been a permit agent for oil exploration as well as a field crew supervisor for geophysical exploration that took him to Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, and Iowa until 1986, when the oil and gas market bellied up.

In 1987, while living in Greeley, Colorado, he decided to come back home to New Mexico because he missed the red and green. He married Gwen Walton 5 years ago and has known her for 15. "I thought she was Sam Walton's daughter!" (There's that smile again.)

Clyde has been a skier and a river rafter but now prefers to go camping and trout fishing with Gwen when he's not on the route. "I love this job," he says, "because of the fresh air, the scenery, and all the great people I meet who live out here."

So the next time you pass Clyde on the road, give him a toot or a wave. He'll always wave back and you'll most likely get to see that famous smile of his.

by ARCHIE TEW



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# ~ POLITICAL POWER BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE ~



## IF YOU FEEL THAT:

the welfare of the people should come before  
the profits of corporations, and that

the people should decide upon their common good

## YOU ARE RIGHT.

### According to the New Mexico State Constitution:

*"All political power is vested in and derived from the people, all government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will and is instituted solely for their good." Article II, Sec. 2*

### According to the Declaration of Independence:

*"(T)o secure their rights governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. (I)t is the Right of the People to ... institute new Government ... in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."*

## BUT IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO.

At City Council or County Commission meetings,  
when we--the people--seek protection against an  
activity that endangers our land, culture, environment, or  
our community, all too often, the government's lawyer  
tells our public officials

## THEY DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO BAR THAT ACTIVITY.

Shouldn't our elected officials, who derive their power  
from us --the people--act according to our wishes  
for our common good?

Our right to govern our local affairs through our locally  
elected public officials was stripped from us by  
a decision of the Supreme Court in 1815 that declared  
local governments to be the administrators of State  
Sovereign Governments within their jurisdiction

## "OUR LAND, OUR WATER, OUR COMMUNITY"



### LET US RE-ASSERT OUR RIGHT TO LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE



Let us come together as a community to assert our  
sovereignty in the face of corporate challenges.

## SETTING REGULATORY HURDLES IS NOT ENOUGH.

Large corporations will violate them and pay the small  
fines, declaring them tax deductible expenses.

**We deserve the right to pass laws and limit  
commercial activities to those that are appropriate  
to our local community and environment.**

**We can win only by standing together to elect local  
officials who will represent our common interests  
and will refuse to bow to courts that enforce  
the rights of corporations over our own.**

*These principals are taught by the Daniel Pennock  
Democracy School, presented by the Community  
Environmental Legal Defense Fund, based in  
Chambersburg, PA. A 3-day Democracy School was  
recently held in Santa Fe, which inspired many of the  
students to begin organizing for greater democratic  
representation for the people of Santa Fe County.*

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Meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.  
Please call for information 473-1572. [www.sanmarcosassociation.org](http://www.sanmarcosassociation.org)

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## THANKS SO MUCH!

to those of you who continue to place ads, renew memberships, and send generous donations for the continued publication of *The San Marcos Association High Desert News*. Without support from residents of the San Marcos District, it would not be possible to keep our community informed about all that is occurring here.

### The San Marcos Association Relies On Your Support!

Please fill out in block letters and mail this form with your payment.

**MEMBERSHIP** in the SMA is open to any resident or property owner in the San Marcos area. Association funds come from your annual dues, which are \$20 per person and \$30 per household. We need your dues and any donations! Thanks for your involvement.

Please mail your check to:  
The San Marcos Association  
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