Food for thought: if you earn $100 and pay $33 in income tax you’re left with $67. You then buy $67 worth of fuel and in doing so pay a 48% fuel tax (fuel tax = $32.16 + $6.70 GST).

You rescue the wisdom from the damn family, you don’t run off. You take care of your intimate partner. You take care of your community. You rescue the wisdom from the past. You stand up straight and you be courageous despite the fact that life is tragic and tainted by malevolence. Ancient wisdom, that’s what that is.” - Jordan Peterson

Jemez Springs Construction Projects for 2020

Due to delays caused by stubborn bedrock while digging pylons, Structures Inc., after the big concrete pouring that occurred on Saturday December 7th, will be shutting down construction on the bridge until spring of 2020. Once the new bridge is complete, the old bridge will be torn out and the land, owned by the state, will be left as is. In addition, the land in front of the ranger station, which is a flood zone, will also be left as is in order to preserve the giant cottonwoods there, leaving that land as a riparian zone.

Construction of the bridge includes a ten foot wide walkway that will extend to the marked outcropping some 70 yards northward, on the western wall of the canyon. In addition to the bridge construction the Forest Service has finally been approved after many years of applying, to replace the old building which has suffered numerous structural problems.

The road to the ranger station, because of the new bridge’s placement farther south, will be extended to the intersection of the new bridge and Hwy 4, giving the ranger station a much longer driveway. Construction will begin in March of 2020, and take a total of 12 to 24 months to complete. The new office building will occupy the present site. The offices of the Valle Caldera have offered to share space with the Forest Service, those offices will take up residence in February across the bridge on the west side of the river just north of the church, in the offices of the old Science Center, until the construction of the new Forest Service building is completed sometime in 2020 or 2021.

Jemez Springs Community Garden Project

The village of Jemez Springs has received a Capital Outlay Grant, thanks to Rep. Christine Chandler, to plan and design improvements to our community park. The first step proposed has been to plant fruit trees along the side of the park on the strip of land between Luciano and the walking path. Our Mayor Domo, currently Roger Sweet, with Chad and Michael are working on the design necessary to help the trees succeed. Jeff Bold is helping find proper trees able to thrive in our climate, and Dr. Juliet Sweet is exploring other ideas such as planting medicinal plants along the same irrigation line, between the trees.

Interest in a community garden has been rekindled recently after falling away some years ago. The grant money is to be used to make our park more “park-like”; ultimately the goal is to stabilize the loose soil, which blows away in red dust devils during our powerful wind storms and washes away during the monsoon season and snow run-off. Proposals include community garden plots, although currently the space being considered for the gardens has been used for parking for large village events, such as the upcoming “Lights among the Ruins” on November 30th and December 14th, and the staging of the annual 4th of July parade.

Suggestions for the park from the public are welcome, and volunteers interested in up keep of the park are welcome. To submit suggestions, please speak to a village trustee or attend a council meeting where the project is being discussed (every 3rd Wednesday of the month) or submit suggestions in writing at the Village Office, to Yvonne Dickie, our village secretary.

The walking path around the park is a vital part of many resident’s daily routine year round, with more walkers and joggers enjoying the views and smooth surface. The village has been good about clearing snow build up and scraping ice during the winter months to allow walkers to continue their routine. The walking path is 1/3 of a mile around, with poop bags and drop boxes for dog walkers to help keep the park clean for everyone. Public toilets were installed when the stage was built, a feature many visitors to the Jemez take advantage of, and though it is little used there is still a baseball diamond in the center, where occasionally kids come out to hit a ball or have a game with the family.

Presently the contractors working on the new bridge have fenced off the eastern parking lot and also park large equipment just to the west of the fence, but the “lower” parking area on the west of the park is open to the public. Once the bridge is finished the contractors will level the central area, adding soil for elevation and filling in the dips. Again, anyone with ideas or suggestions to help make our community park a place for all to enjoy please do not hesitate to share! It’s your park after all!

Community Park Vandals:

During the Christmas and New Year’s holiday break, vandals chained the bench that belonged in the southwest corner of the park to their truck and dragged it around on the asphalt until it was destroyed. That particular bench was often used by those walking for medical reasons as a resting place, or as the quietest corner of the park to stop and enjoy the view and do a bit of quiet thinking. If you know anything about this please contact the village office at 575-829-3540.

“...and the staging of the annual 4th of July parade.”

Food for thought: if you earn $100 and pay $33 in income tax you’re left with $67. You then buy $67 worth of fuel and in doing so pay a 48% fuel tax (fuel tax = $32.16 + $6.70 GST).

This means that the government just got $71.86 tax from your hard earned $100.
I’m Nobody! Who are you?

Emily Dickenson

I’m Nobody! Who are you? Are you - Nobody - too? Then there’s a pair of us! Don’t tell! They’d advertise - you know!

Good News for a Small Planet (for Amanda)

It has become unfashionable and certainly politically incorrect to cite good news about Earth, humanity, or capitalism. But the truth is that there is a lot of good news out there, and it all relates to the success of the United States and her allies as world leaders in the pursuit of making life more enjoyable, healthy and safe not just for our own citizens, but for all people everywhere as we export excellence in improvements for human life. Now there is a lot of data available that proves that capitalism, free speech and the liberty to invent the means to improve life are a rolling global success. The future is looking brighter for a lot of people. Here are a few facts to lift your spirits.

The US EPA chart for emissions of air pollutants in the United States shows a drastic fall in pollution. SO2, PM10, NOx and VOCs have fallen to half the levels of 1970. Climate related deaths have fallen from 500,000 per year in 1920 to under 25,000 per year in 2019 (OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database). In 1800 nearly 90% of the world was illiterate. In 1900 just under 80% were illiterate. Today illiterate world populations are lower 17% (OECD and UNESCO). The World Bank’s chart on global poverty shows that in 1990 37.1% of the world lived in poverty, while today that number has dropped to 9.6%. The number of people without access to clean drinking water was more than 1.2 billion in 1990, while today it is less than 700 million (World Bank, World Development Indicators, OurWorldInData.org). Child mortality rates have fallen by nearly half (WashingtonPost.com/ wonkblog). Last but not least, the average life expectancy for women in 1840 was 45 years. Today life expectancy has steadily risen one year for each four years, so that today a woman’s lifespan is expected to exceed 80 years, and if she lives in Japan, she is expected to live to 92.5! (Published under CC-BY-SA, OurWorldInData.org).

Those are only a few hard indicators that life has improved for Earth’s population. There are many more. Even better, ambitious reforestation programs by India and China have greened their part of the world significantly, proving that deforestation can be reversed. CO2, the stuff that plants breathe and we conveniently exhale in symbiotic codependency, is good, and a 5% increase in green stuff the world over proves it. Rama Nemani, a scientist at NASA’s Ames Research Center said this: “Once people realize there’s a problem they tend to fix it. In the 70s and 80s in India and China, the situation around vegetation loss wasn’t good; in the 90s people realized it; and today things have improved. Humans are incredibly resilient. That’s what we see in the satellite data.” Our little green marble is getting greener. That means more oxygen for all living things, and the more CO2 we produce the greener we make the planet. That is truly good news.

Data published by The Federalist, with graphs and all source materials, printed on September 25, 2019 by David Harsanyi@dthefederalist.com.
U.S. Taxpayers vs WildEarth Guardians
An Editorial by Bettyann Legans

Back in September, right about the time we started making plans to get out there and gather in our winter’s supply of firewood, we found out that we couldn’t. A federal judge from Arkansas named Raner C. Collins, appointed by Bill Clinton serving in Arizona, issued an injunction against the U.S. Forest Service “halting all timber management actions” in all five New Mexico national forests and Tonto National Forest in Arizona. The injunction is the result of a lawsuit against the Forest Service filed by WildEarth Guardians. At this date the injunction still stands though due to public outcry, and the intervention of the New Mexico legislature on the public’s behalf, WildEarth Guardians modified their lawsuit to allow firewood gathering. The lawsuit is still pending.

In 2013 WildEarth Guardians, led by John Horning of Santa Fe filed the lawsuit against the Forest Service for failing to comply with directives in the Endangered Species Act to collect population data on the Mexican Spotted Owl. The Forest Service defended itself by presenting studies of protected old growth habitat for the owls, submitting studies that did not include population data.

John Horning, executive director for WildEarth Guardians, stated, “This decision [by the judge] is about agency accountability to the public and to the recovery of the Mexican Spotted Owl. With this decision, the agencies will finally be held accountable for ensuring that all forest management practices help, not hinder, owl recovery.” Judge Collins ordered the five New Mexico forests and one Arizona forest to fulfill the responsibility under the Endangered Species Act “to undertake new biological considerations.” It should be noted that five of Arizona’s national forests were excluded from the injunction for having incorporated new biological opinions. However, Collins stated, “You can’t paper over this problem,” further stating that he doubted the forest service forests had made “adequate” biological opinions.

A biological opinion is, “the document that states the opinion of the (Forest) Service as to whether or not the Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.” Emboldened word from the source (@fws.gov Endangered Species Program) at the site, not for inaccuracy and overreach, accepting the validity of the defenses the (Forest) Service as to whether or not the Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.” Emboldened word from the source (@fws.gov Endangered Species Program) at the site, not

The New Mexico legislature stated that the injunction had created a public emergency (which indeed it did) and that it was “destabilizing to rural New Mexicans who rely on wood for heat and income”. John Horning admitted after the public outcry that the “injunctions had broad implications”. John Horning has made a public statement defending the Guardian’s actions in filing the lawsuit, as well as placing the blame for prohibiting firewood gathering by rural people squarely on the shoulders of the Forest Service, claiming they did so as a political ploy to garner public sympathy against the lawsuit and the WildEarth Guardians. His essay can be read at counterpunch.org, “Spotted Owls and the National Christmas Tree”.

The truth is that the injunction was specific and curt; “all timber management actions” must halt. That includes trail maintenance, firewood gathering for personal use as well as small businesses who cut and sell wood such as our own Walatowa Woodland Initiative, where many local people buy firewood. The injunction has negatively impacted the job market in New Mexico from the Gila to Carson National Forest. John Horning’s article at Counter Punch fails to empathize with the symbiosis lived by rural New Mexicans and Arizonians with our forests. In email exchanges, John Horning states that the intent of the Guardians is to protect the spotted owl. He says, “I get that people are angry. And I understand how disruptive the effect of some of our actions are...even as I think it’s a necessary part of the change we are seeking.” I asked him what the ultimate goal was for his organization, and how those goals would affect generations of New Mexican and Arizona’s children, and his response was “I believe all species have...a right to exist—even if it means humans have to exercise considerable restraint.”

The Mexican Spotted Owl is one of three subspecies generally simply called the spotted owl. Both Wikipedia and the National Audubon Society do not differentiate; it is the spotted owl. It’s habitat in the US is New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and California—the California Northern spotted owl is another subspecies, and the others are “threatened”. In 2004 8.6 million acres were designated critical habitat for the spotted owl. The greater percentage of the population of Mexican Spotted Owl in the U.S. is in the Gila national Forest. In 1990 the population of the Mexican Spotted Owl estimated at 2,074 from 758 sites by Fletcher, K.W. U.S. Forest Service, Southwest Region, Albuquerque, 55 pgs. The spotted owl enjoys cool shandy counties from 6,500 feet to 9,000 feet. Depopulation has been blamed on human timber actions specifically. Forest Service actions to protect the owl have included leaving old growth timber stands, and clearing around those areas to protect them from burning in wildfires.

California has had its own issues with the owl. Protecting the owl has not stopped its decline (National Geographic, July 2014 referring to the Northern Spotted Owl). The barred owl has been encroaching on the Northern Spotted Owl in California from the eastern states for decades—many have blamed the majority of the loss of the spotted owl on the barred owl, which is a much bigger predator and which looks abnormally healthy in areas with lower numbers of spotted owls. The barred owl is also a very diverse species, and has the ability to migrate from one habitat type to another, making it very adaptable. The barred owl’s population is on the rise in California due to the loss of spotted owl habitat, which has been caused by human activity, such as logging, urbanization, and agricultural practices. Barred owls have been known to kill spotted owls, and to kill other bird species as well.

The article can be read at birdconservancy.org, “Revealing Population Trends of the Mexican Spotted Owl.”

U.S. Fish and Wildlife, as well as the U.S. forest Service, were demanded in September this year by Judge Collins to produce the paper work demanded by the judge. He states, “I believe the Forest Service as to whether or not the Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.” Emboldened word from the source (@fws.gov Endangered Species Program) at the site, not for inaccuracy and overreach, accepting the validity of the defenses the (Forest) Service as to whether or not the Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.” Emboldened word from the source (@fws.gov Endangered Species Program) at the site, not for inaccuracy and overreach, accepting the validity of the defenses the (Forest) Service as to whether or not the Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.” Emboldened word from the source (@fws.gov Endangered Species Program) at the site, not

On the other hand, we have the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, also who is responsible for the land set out by the Endangered Species Act—now with moving goal posts. What happens when the owl is delisted? From reading the injunction, in a round-about way, the plaintiff seems determined that delisting means strict control of the forest, no controlled burning to allow habitat to increase, all on those 8.6 million acres. Caught in the middle are rural communities who depend on the forest for fuel, jobs, recreation, and continuance of a traditional life style they have chosen above others, as free people. On examination from the many angles, the scope of tyranny being attempted by the WildEarth Guardians is breath taking. While they do succeed in their goal of environmentalism, they are attempting to control through the courts, who put a halt to all timber management actions. Environmentalist organizations, like WildEarth Guardians both use (cause the order for the killing the barred owls) and abuse (bring harassing lawsuits against) the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, manipulating a system to their own ends, using tax payer dollars to do so.

We must make our will on this subject known. Christine Chandler, our district rep, is both receptive and engaged in this issue. She is available by phone and email, answering promptly: 505-986-4226 or christine.chandler@nmlegis.gov.

January 1, 2020
Entertainment Review

"The Expanse"

Hard core sci-fi fans who loved the space opera, "The Expanse", will be thrilled to know that Amazon has picked up the series and will continue with season 4. "The Expanse", based on the novels by James S. Corey, was cancelled by the Sy/Fy channel and widely protested for it by an increasing base of fans. The cancellation and move to Amazon however is said by Steven Straight, who plays the inimitable James Holden in the series, to have been the best move ultimately, as Amazon offers a much better platform for the show. Amazon released season 4 on December 14th, dropping all ten episodes at once. Anyone who remembers Firefly, the standard for space operas and will continue with season 4. “The Expanse”, based on the novels and accompanied by a much greater story to tell based on the novels, will continue to the end of the books, of which there are 8. Thanks Amazon.

90.7 FM KLOVE RADIO

Positive, encouraging!

Care Net Pregnancy Center of Albuquerque

Some of the best things in life are unplanned

PregnancyHelpHotline.com

Albuquerque Location:

505-880-0882

Entertainment Review (if you are an entertainment buff and would like to become an Alley contributor, please submit a review to thejva@outlook.com).

The Jemez Springs Public Library

One of the best features of our local community is our beautiful library, situated in the historic Fitzgerald Park. Inside the library and its cheerful assistants are able to help with any needs, answer questions and also procure books unavailable on the shelves through the inter-library loan system. However, numerous resources are available beyond borrowing a book, including free wifi, computers to access the internet, superior printing of documents or papers $0.10 cents per sheet, and a sprawling children’s area. One of those is the increasing collection of DVDs, now numbering more than 1,500. Many of the movies and documentaries have been donated but the library also purchases movies from Amazon. Listed by title, every genre is represented. Patrons may borrow a movie for one week up to three weeks, depending on if someone else reserves that particular movie. If you do not have streaming service at your home, visit the library and check out the movie section!

Tamaya Horse Rehab

At one time the horse, with the dog, were man’s valued companions. In a symbiotic relationship horse and dog and man built civilizations together all across the globe. The horse represented freedom and strength, even power to prior generations—until we invented the iron horse; railroads and trucks and cars replaced the horse almost completely in one generation! We live in a time of the decline of the horse and as a result, our valued companion has become both a nuisance and a grave concern. A nuisance when herds roam in populated areas, and a grave concern when the facts are examined; there are too many horses and not enough free range for them to survive in. Many people who own them are unable to feed them and care for them properly. This noble and beautiful animal that has inspired poets and painters, adventurers and conquerors now needs human help, and there are special people out there doing just that.

One of them is our own Connie Collins, from the CWW Feed Store in San Ysidro. The Tamaya Horse Rehab and Rescue is a 501c3 established in 2012. At this time there are 57 horses total in Connie’s rehab program, a few of which may be seen at the CWW store. The “kids” at the CWW are special horses in need of extra training, horses that are injured, ones just needing extra spoiling. You can be introduced to them when you stop by depending on the available staff.

One such horse is Hoss. Hoss came to rehab because his owner was unable to feed and keep him any longer. Says Michelle of him, “We were able to take Hoss in and with a little bit of love and grub, he has turned into a precious little horse. He does this ‘happy dance’ for breakfast and supper and is so happy to get meals twice a day. He is at the Feed Store so that we can keep working with him. His transformation has been magical to watch.”

Connie has succinctly expressed the mission of the Tamaya Horse Rehab, “We take a horse that no one wants and turn it into a horse that no one would get rid of.” Training is the goal for each horse rehabilitated or rescued. A trained horse is usable and earns his keep, as you can experience for yourself by arranging a trail ride at the Tamaya for individuals or for groups — see tamayahorserahab.org for details, pricing and reservations. Money raised for the horses goes to pay for clinics, maintenance and care. At this time there is a jar at the CWW for donations, but even more fun is the perpetual yard sale at the store where I personally have found quite a few treasures, knowing also that my dollars go toward helping the lives of the horses in Connie’s care. Also, at the website you can fall in love with one horse and become a sponsor of that particular horse! During Christmas time as well, giving trees are set up where you can choose a horse with a certain need, and fulfill their need—hay, medicines, gear.

Ultimately It would be wonderful to see horses roaming wild. There are few more pleasurable sights than watching horse play in an open field. When I first moved here 20 years ago there were horses in many of the fields, but today those who own the fields are unwilling to allow horses, though the grass grows high and green—probably because of the very horses who once grazed there. It was one of the pleasures of driving through this valley to see a once white horse rolling in the dirt now turned pink, or to see them romping on a snowy day, tails high. Something about the horse makes us want to join him, to run free with the wind and never look back. Like the dog, man’s heart is knit to the heart of the horse; we spent thousands of years together after all, bonded companions, and such a bond is not easily broken.

More than one hundred thousand horses yearly are sent to Mexico and Canada to slaughter houses, because there aren’t enough resources to care for them properly. The American public roundly objects to the slaughter of companion animals (human society.org). From the same site, “The USDA documented that 92.3 percent of horses sent to slaughter are in good condition and are able to live out a productive life. These horses would be sold, donated or otherwise rehomed; however, kill buyers outbid legitimate horse owners and rescues at auctions, robbing horses of ever having a second chance at life.” There is a war of sorts by horse lovers and rescuers to save these healthy animals from the lucrative business of horse slaughter. Sometimes the horse wins and is rescued, like Hoss and the other horses in Connie’s care. Caring for those horses creates the need for us to help out, and the more we help, the more horses Connie is able to rescue.

Stop by the CWW or Tamaya and make a new friend. Take a trail ride. Be informed about the problems the American horse is facing across the nation. We wouldn’t be here without them.

Cut a piece from the horse and pet it to yourself.
Meet the Neighbor, MacGuffie

By Bettynn Legans

Mac is a Goffin’s Cockatoo, or a Tanimbar corella. Goffins are known for their tool making ability, amazing rhythm, intelligence and companion-ability. Strollers and runners or construction workers and neighbors who live around or use the Jemez Springs Community Park may have met him already. Until mid-December during the warm hours of the day, he was still hanging around outside. He cries to go out now, but it's just too cold, and will be for another four months.

Mac was hatched in 1983 in the Tanimbar Islands and brought to the United States as a chicklet. Placed in a pet store, he easily escaped—he is an escape artist—to fly around in the rafters where no one could catch him. One day in 1984 Scott Snell came in the store, and Mac, to everyone's astonishment, flew down to land on him. Smitten by Mac’s charming demeanor and excellent taste, he took Mac home with him, where he lived with Scott until Scott’s passing in Sweetwater in April of 2017.

That was a low point in Mac’s life. He screamed a lot, sort of like a bull horn in the ears, and bit hard enough to draw blood, and screamed some more, convincing everyone that he should go live somewhere else. In June Jim McCombs offered him to me, and having just lost my mother, and having a soft spot for captive birds, I took him in and gave him a new home. The first year was hard for both of us. Parrots bond for life, and Mac is no exception. His “mate” of thirty five years had passed away. Who was this strange woman trying to make him dance and eat almonds and apples? He screamed and he bit me, ate the blinds and the curtains, the windowsills, house plants and my 100 year old woolen blanket. He beat up the dog, the cat and me. I put him on my shoulder and walked around the park, encouraging him to fly away and never ever come back, but he clung to me because for better or for worse, we were a family. Finally in April of 2019 I just let him go outside. I set him on the plant bed, and he turned his back on me. He always came back to roost on the porch, where I waited for him with food and music. Mac understands nearly everything that is said. He joins in a way that is astonishing. He repeats things to me that he heard in his wanderings, things people said, strange sounds, a whistle or a dog barking, a truck backing up, a bird song. His freedom changed him into a better companion, the destructive behavior stopped, and we get along famously now. If you see him, say hello. He will usually wave back or nod and dance.

If you would like to be in this column, please don’t be shy! Email me at thejva@outlook.com. You can talk about your artwork, your business, your family history, just introduce yourself to the community. We (Mac and I) look forward to hearing from you.

Mac has been a curiosity because he doesn’t fly away. People wonder why and I say that I don’t know. But the truth is that he is loyal—it was a rough first year and a half but Mac accepted me as his new mate. When I let him go outside, I let him choose freely, and he chose me. He doesn’t fly away because he is talking to me from wherever he is in the trees, I talk to him back, he watches me come and go, and at night he always came back to roost on the porch, where I waited for him with food and music. Mac understands nearly everything that is said. He rejoins in a way that is astonishing. He repeats things to me that he heard in his wanderings, things people said, strange sounds, a whistle or a dog barking, a truck backing up, a bird song. His freedom changed him into a better companion, the destructive behavior stopped, and we get along famously now. If you see him, say hello. He will usually wave back or nod and dance.

If you would like to be in this column, please don’t be shy! Email me at thejva@outlook.com. You can talk about your artwork, your business, your family history, just introduce yourself to the community. We (Mac and I) look forward to hearing from you.

Mama T's Recipes

Cream of Green chili Chicken Soup

Season’s Greetings to all. This is a holiday tradition recipe. Our family enjoyed it on Christmas mornings. My Mom would also serve this in a crock pot (warm setting) at our many holiday parties. It’s an easy one pot recipe, easy to double or reduce according to your needs.

1/4 cup of onion, minced
1/2 cup of butter or margarine
1 cup of chopped green chili
1/2 cup of flour
1 qt. chicken stock
Salt and pepper to taste

In a large saucepan sauté the onion in butter. Add green chili, sauté one minute longer. Add flour and stir constantly three additional minutes. Add warm chicken stock. Whisk until mixture comes to a boil. Stir in half and half. Stir occasionally until hot. Season to taste, makes six cups. I like to serve it in coffee cups with goldfish or oyster crackers. It's more of a sipping than spooning soup. Enjoy! I haven’t decided on next issue's recipe. Grandma Muriel’s roasted raccoon perhaps.

Mama T

Revere the local. Reject the global.

NM Ratifies 19th Amendment - 1920

One hundred years ago adoption of the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. Adelina Otero-Warren, the niece of the popular head of the state’s Republican Party at the time, helped lead Mexican American women into the political mainstream. Bilingual flyers and speeches in Spanish at public rallies brought support for suffrage among both men and women. New Mexico women won full suffrage at last with the final ratification by the state of the amendment in 1920.

From the New Mexico State Record Center and Archives
Delivering Enchantment - New Mexico True 4th Grade Essay Contest
By Elora J. McLarty

New Mexico is an enchanting place to be because of all of the places to go! For example, Jemez Springs has unique red rocks and lots of animals including cows, elk, deer and mountain lions. Jemez Springs also has families and lots of wildlife to be explored. My cousin and I go exploring down by the Rio Guadalupe. Once we cross the river we go and see if we can find any snakes and other amazing animals. Another fantastic wildlife sight in New Mexico is the Kasha-katuwe Tent rocks. The tent rocks are large cliffs that got carved out by water over time. The tent rocks are also a national monument. You can climb under some of the tree’s roots. Jemez Mountains and Kasha-katuwe are just two examples of national forests for the American public to enjoy.

In Santa Fe NM there are lots of mountains including Atalaya Mountain. The mountain is 9,121 feet high. There are lots of hiking trails Atalaya is a word meaning “watchtower”. It was used to watch for fires. The trail is mostly uphill and shaded. The forest also goes from pinon-juniper to ponderosa and Douglas fir. Atalaya also contains a variety of different species of animals like bears, wolves, and lizards. The forests of the mountains are a great place to be when the clouds are just in the right spot and the temperature is perfect. You could definitely call it enchanting.

Another thing that you normally see on mountains and forests are different kinds of plants. For example, here in New Mexico’s mountains we have succulents, redwood trees, and cactus. New Mexico does not get a lot of rain. The plants that live here in the high desert have to be very adaptable. Even though it is dry, we still have flowers. Some of the flowers are hollyhocks, columbines, roses and morning glories. Some plants that are native to New Mexico are the desert marigold and the Saskatoon berry. This might give a vision of what New Mexico is but you can always find out more by coming and visiting anytime.

To submit an essay about your home and what you love about it, send 500 - 600 words to JVA, PO Box 181 Jemez Springs New Mexico 87025, or send it via email to: thejva@outlook.com

Listen to the Mustn’ts
By Shel Silverstein
Listen to the MUSTN’TS child
Listen to the DON’TS
Listen to the SHOULDN’TTS
The IMPOSSIBLES, the WON’TS
Listen to the NEVER HAVES
Then listen close to me—
Anything can happen child, ANYTHING can be.

Snowball
by Shel Silverstein
I made myself a snowball
As perfect as could be.
I thought I’d keep it as a pet
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas
And a pillow for its head.
Then last night it ran away,
But first it wet the bed.


I wonder what my dog named me.

Every Kid Outdoors!
Every Fourth Grader and their family is invited to free passes to visit national parks, lands and waters. Educators are encouraged to download the passes and pass them out to their fourth grade students! Please visit everykidoutdoors.gov to download and print passes for your family or students!
John Hawk’s Rock Shoppe

John Hawk, our local mineral guy, will be heading down to Tucson once more for the world’s largest mineral show at the Tucson Expo Center, Tucson Arizona. John treks to AZ every winter for the show to resupply his wares and stock up for his busy summer season here in Jemez, where he parks his office outside Weekend's and dazzles his customers with beautiful natural gems, crystals and unique formations, fossils and gem work. When you see him please say hi, especially with the little ones, as John is always willing to share his knowledge of rocks and minerals with visitors.

Meet Kosmik Kitteh
Dispensing Kat Sense Since 4,000 b.c.

“In ancient times cats were worshipped as gods; they have not forgotten this.”

Terry Pratchett

Write to Kosmic Kitty! thejva@outlook.com

In 2019 the most asked “why” question on Google was, “Why were Corn Flakes invented?”

In 2019 the most asked “why” question on Google was, “Why were Corn Flakes invented?”

Put your ad here!
1/8 page ad - $20
1/4 page ad - $40
1/2 page ad - $80
Whole page ad - $160

Positive Encouraging KLOVE Radio 90.7 FM
Important Phone Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village Office</td>
<td>829-3540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Chief</td>
<td>829-3345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandoval County Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>505-867-4581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>829-9155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger Station</td>
<td>829-3535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgent Care</td>
<td>505-462-8888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans's Hospital</td>
<td>505-265-1711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Suicide Lifeline</td>
<td>800-273-8255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer Hotlines</td>
<td>866-987-7729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>800-329-0029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Chandler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NM Dist. 43 Rep</td>
<td>505-986-4226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NM Capitol</td>
<td>505-986-4589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White House</td>
<td>202-456-1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny</td>
<td>867-5309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“The world is not dangerous because of those who do harm, but because of those who look at it without doing anything.”

Albert Einstein