

JULY 2019

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A MAGAZINE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GREATER ELDORADO



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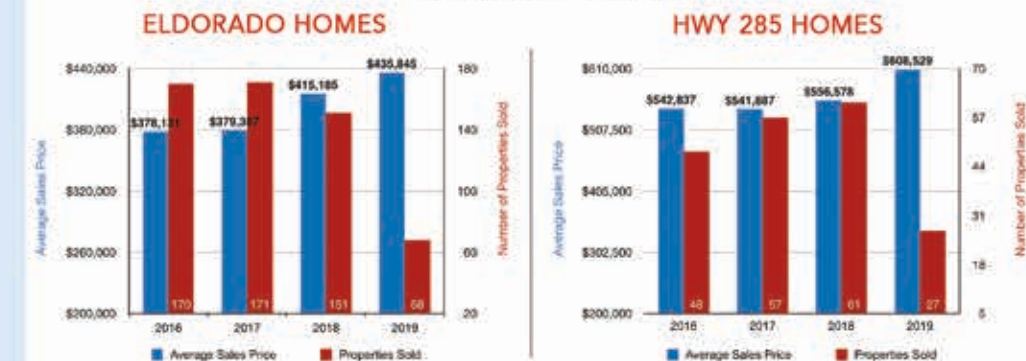
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# Pleasing All the People All the Time? **publisher's note** Not in Eldorado!

When we decided to create our magazine three years ago, we had already been living here for about six months. We were well aware, therefore, of Eldorado's reputation for having more than a few independent thinkers---people who not only marched to the beat of their own drums but were eager proselytizers for their strongly held opinions.

Leaving aside the infamous imbroglios over chickens, reclaimed asphalt pavement, and ground-based solar panels, it's a time-tested truism that in Eldorado almost anything can create controversy. A couple of stories illustrate the point. An Eldorado business owner sets out a plate of home-baked cookies for his customers but is then confronted by an angry patron who has detected sugar as an ingredient: "What are you trying to do, kill us all?". Wildlife advocates place tasteful, non-obtrusive signs around the neighborhood to remind people to be careful not to run over snakes. Some residents immediately lodge complaints that the signs are "visual pollution." In Eldorado, it sometimes seems, no good deed goes unpunished.

So when *Eldorado Living* was launched, we knew there would be pushback. But surprisingly, virtually all of the commentary has been supportive, and even the critical input has generally been thoughtful and helpful. But we did get one scourging email that is so *Eldorado* that it practically cries out to be in print:

*"I never asked to receive Eldorado Living. It is not what we read, it is not what it means to be, it is not what we want because it does not promote community but instead provides self-promoting spaces for the very few which need self-promotion. It is 37 pages of advertising and, within these pages there are two pages of self-promotion..."*

*...I was looking into the website of N2 Publishing and did not find anything there supporting, or related to, northern New Mexico history or values. Their self-advertising only tells the story of people engaged in money making, the culture of the Neoliberal Economic Model that has been devastating community, undermining American Values and most of all, sickening and killing life in our planet. The website does not mention what their carbon footprint is, which I believe is huge. Especially with a magazine that serves to destroy forests and poison our lives with the inks it uses and which needs to be transported to mailboxes of people who did not ask for it..."*

*...Your magazine is an insult to our intelligence and to Eldorado's history and community. So, please, take me off your bloody mailing list."*

We did.



For the record, *Eldorado Living* is fully recyclable and, if you prefer, you may receive a digital version. We love our sponsors because without them this magazine couldn't come to residents for free.

We, too, march to the beat of our own drum. And we thank our loyal readers for following along.

**Bryan Tagas**  
*Publisher*

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# Victoria de Almeida-Jones

F O L K A R T I S T  
*Inspired by Queen*

## Tell us about your family:

Our family includes me, Victoria de Almeida-Jones, my husband Doug Jones Sr., and our son Douglas Jones Jr. We have lived in Eldorado for 13 years.

We have a 16-year-old Bichon Poo that our lives revolve around. She's diabetic so we have to cook her food and give her injections of insulin

every day. She's almost completely blind and she's deaf as well. She's been my angel for a very long time and so now we are just trying to make her life comfortable and happy.

My husband is the Chief Technical Officer at Prescient Models. He is the smartest person I've ever known! He has a degree in Computer Science, Math and Physics. He's my high school sweetheart; I have been with my man

since I was 16 years old, and we have been married for 26 years.

I am the artist owner of the Victoria de Almeida Studio on the Historic Santa Fe Plaza. I also do occasional graphic art and business consulting for several businesses on the Plaza. My heart, however, will always place me smack dab in the middle of a palette of paint in front of a canvas.

## What are your family's favorite activities?

My husband loves mountain biking and hiking in

the Eldorado preserves. We love traveling. I love anything creative: painting, sewing, jewelry making, etc. I've always loved writing since I was a teenager. I have recently started writing again on an online writers site called Wattpad. My book has over 8,000 reads and counting! I have recently started taking Flamenco lessons which I love as my family's roots are from Spain originally. My genealogy goes back 400 years in Northern New Mexico.

## Favorite restaurants?

Because my roots go so far back in Northern New Mexico and I was raised around some of the best cooks on the planet, I am extremely picky about where I eat NM food. I hate when a restaurant here tinkers with New Mexican food by trying to give it continental flair. I DON'T want to see my tamales wrapped in a plantain leaf, thank you! Our abuelas cooked with simple, fresh local ingredients and I hate when people screw around with our food.

I think Maria's has the best overall New Mexican food in the state and I think The Shed's red chile is FLAWLESS. I also like the Plaza Cafe because their menu is diverse and service is excellent. I send tourists there a lot when I'm asked for recommendations. For breakfast and lunch I love chef Greg Menke's two restaurants: Cafe Atalaya and The Beestro. You can find me almost every morning



sketching in Cafe Atalaya because it's got amazing Northern light. It's got the best view of the entire plaza as far as I'm concerned.

## Favorite vacation spots?

My husband and I loved Italy. The food and the people are incredible. I love Venice and the Tuscan region. I loved Paris for the art, but thought the people were insufferably rude. Doug and I love to fly off to Las Vegas on a whim. We never gamble but we love the restaurants and the nightlife. I also adore New York City. I did an art show there in 2015 and I so loved the non-stop energy of Manhattan.

## Do you have unique family traditions?

In the Hispanic culture, holidays are a BIG DEAL. Christmas and Easter are always special times. Family, to me, was never just my mom, dad and sister. My grandparents, Manuel and Reynalda Almeida had a little casita near Canyon Rd. I grew up surrounded by abuelos, tias, tios and I had 20 first cousins to play with. Nothing meant more to my grandparents than having their six children and their 22 grandchildren around them. The traditions I am most proud of are those that evolved from my Spanish culture. There's nothing like a Spanish wedding. The food, the music, the dancing (La Marcha!). I feel so incredibly blessed to have Northern New Mexican roots. Those roots are unique, beautiful and precious to me.



## Spanish Market Celebration July 27-28

This is the 5th year anniversary for my business on the plaza. I am very grateful and proud to have a presence there. It greatly saddens me to see so few native New Mexican business owners on the plaza.

This month during Spanish Market weekend (July 27th-28th) I will have my 3rd annual art show called "Colores del Corazon". I have had the privilege of partnering with award-winning artist Pamela Enriquez-Courts in the Plaza Galleria where my studio is located. I nicknamed Pamela, "La Reina de los Muertos" because I've never seen any Day of The Dead artist produce the caliber of work that she does.

This year another award-winning artist, Amy Cordova, will join us. Amy's work is known globally and she is recognized for being Rudolpho Anaya's children's book illustrator. On the Friday before Spanish Market Weekend (July 26th), we will have an amazing preview night including live music, food and an advanced opportunity to snatch up the best of our collective works. Our preview nights are always free to the public and are very well attended, for which we are very proud. I'd love to see some of Eldorado Living's readers there!

Victoria de Almeida-Jones  
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## The Power of Art

The painting behind me in the cover photo is of the rock band Queen. I've created an Alice and Wonderland-themed tea party with Queen in attendance. Freddie Mercury is on the left holding up his glass of Moet & Chandon giving a toast or blessing

...



...

to Adam Lambert who is coming through the garden arch. Adam represents the younger generation that is getting exposed to the timeless music of Queen. There are over 18 references or “Easter Eggs” hidden in the painting to represent Queen songs. The original painting is going to the 2019 Queen Convention in England in October.

This painting is truly the masterpiece of my career. It means more to me



than all of the other paintings I've done combined. Queen has saved me during hard times in my life.

I will be exhibiting the painting at the 34th Annual Queen Convention in Great Britain in October and donating the proceeds of the copies sold to The Mercury Phoenix Trust for AIDS Research. Queen members Roger Taylor and Brian May established after Freddie Mercury died for AIDS research. I'll also be presenting copies to the remaining members of Queen: Brian May, Roger Taylor and Adam Lambert.

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precious pets

Lot's of rain means lots of weeds in Eldorado! The beautiful chartreuse grasses along Avenida Eldorado that we coveted last summer are now waving in the wind on our very own property. But pet owners need to beware of the ferocious Foxtail plant. This is serious stuff people, so listen up.

At the Farmers Market we picked the brains of a few Master Gardeners who gave us the skinny on Foxtail Grass. The barbed seed heads of the plant can get into animals skin, nose, toes, ears or wherever it can latch on. Between the toes is a prime spot. These hard to find seeds also are hard to break down and can cause serious infection or even death in your pet. Dogs who roam the grassy greenbelts with noses down are especially prone to seed attacks.

Eldorado resident Dr. Julie Breer, of Smith Veterinary Hospital says, "We are seeing a bumper crop of foxtails this year due to all the moisture and now warming temperatures. Prevention is always the best course of action.

First, familiarize yourself with the appearance of these pesky grass seeds. Next, avoid exposing your pets to them by not walking in areas where they grow. If you have a yard full of them it will end up being less painful to have a landscaper remove them, than all the visits to the vet.

Foxtails are designed to imbed in the ground, but are even happier to become stuck in our pets. The most common places we remove them from, are in the ears and eyes, up the nose and between the toes.

Removing foxtails can sometimes require multiple sedations, as they tend to migrate in the tissues.

If you see your pet repeatedly shaking their head, sneezing, licking their feet, have them checked out by your vet."

PHOTOS: Gail Marie Odom

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By Margo Spellman, Editor



# Food & Art News

## news bites

By Margo Spellman, Editor



Mai Ting, Paradox Farms, at the Farmers' Market  
INSET: Nam and Joe

### News for Foodies

**Thai Bistro:** At press time the Thai Bistro at La Tienda, operated by Nam and Joe Lovato, is readying to open in July. The new place will primarily focus on take-out, but there will be seven interior tables and some outside seating. The cooking will all take place in the front of the house, and they will be growing organic ingredients on site. The menu is available, so stop by and pick up a copy. Offerings include noodles, curry, and rice dishes as well as salads, stir-frys and soups. Hours will be 10 am to 7 pm. Oh, and there will be ice cream!

**Legal Tender:** While waiting for a liquor license, restaurateur Murphy O'Brien (of Cafe Fina fame) has been spiffing up the place...repainting the dining room, cleaning carpets, refurbishing bathrooms and rehanging artwork in preparation for the new restaurant which he hopes to open in August.

**Lamy Junction:** Just across the road, Harvey's, a new spot at the railroad station in Lamy opened in the spring, with food served daily from noon to 6pm, and a daily Happy Hour at the Chili Line Brewing Tap Room from 4-6pm. In the works: guest chefs, Dachshund Races, Chihuahua races, and live entertainment. More to come in an upcoming issue!

**Bobcat Bite:** We hear it's still in the works for fall, but drive-bys aren't giving away any clues!

**Eldorado Farmers' Market:** Open every Friday from 3:30-6:30 pm this summer at LaTienda, we're excited to see a number of new vendors including Dr. Mai Ting of her fully certified organic Paradox Farms. Her beautiful greens, tinctures and Sun Umbrella all natural balm wowed us on opening day!

**Arable:** Parking lot photos at The Agora confirm that famed tv personality Guy Fieri was at Arable earlier this summer. Now we don't consider Arable a diner, drive-in or dive, but we hear that Guy now focuses on family-owned that believe in farm-to-table ingredients and make their food on site. We have it on good authority that Triple D will be featuring this favorite local spot.

### Ceramicist Shows at Library

Vista Grande Public Library is hosting the work of John Segell through July 30th in their new lobby glass case. **Beyond New Mexico** features eight to ten new ceramic pieces.

Segell crafts decorative and functional high-temperature stoneware. Recently retired from the hospitality industry, he is now focused on renewing his love of clay, working full time in his studio and firing his own hand-built sprung arch kiln. John is a member of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association and a longtime supporter of the Library.

Library hours are 10am - 6pm Tuesday-Friday and 10am - 4pm on Saturday. Exhibition art is on sale during the month, and available to the purchaser after the close of the show. The library receives a sales commission benefiting operations and library programming.

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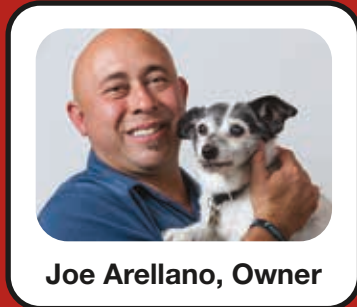


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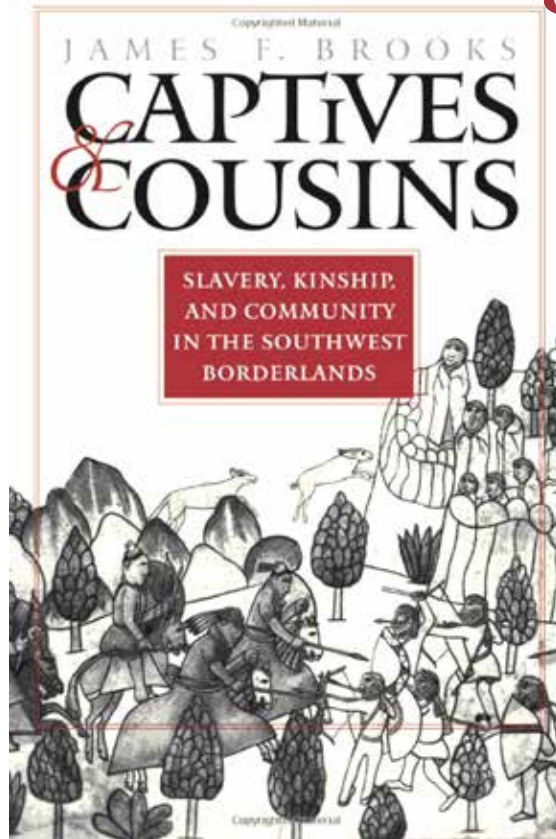
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Sotheby's International Realty 2018 residential sales in the Eldorado/285 corridor. Stats obtained from the Santa Fe Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service. Sotheby's International Realty and the Sotheby's International Realty logo are registered (or unregistered) service marks used with permission. Operated by Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. Real estate agents affiliated with Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. Equal Housing Opportunity.



# Pecos Ranger Book Pick



## Captive and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship and Community in the Southwest Borderlands

We just love the team at Pecos National Historic Park, as well as their well-curated gift shop featuring a great selection of fiction and non-fiction books about New Mexico. Ranger Eric Sainio's top pick is:

*Captive and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands* by James F. Brooks illustrates the complex and nuanced history of New Mexico through historical documentation of slave-taking, indentured servitude and economic raids. Through the lens of slavery, Brooks looks at the economic, martial and religious facets of life in the desert Southwest. By doing so, Brooks illustrates the lives, trials, growth and change various peoples experienced across the plains, the mountains and into Mexico.

As Brooks progresses through the historical record, he demonstrates how much of the economic position and prosperity of the peoples of New Mexico relied on trade and theft not only of material possessions, but also of people. In this recounting, slaves represented a repayment of debt, an indication of prosperity and a tradable good to return to one's people back home. Raids and counter-raids led to personal wealth and contributed to the number of people kept in captivity.

Brooks consistently points out that slavery in the Southwest Borderlands demonstrated many differences from that of other areas, such as the American South. Instances of repatriation, inclusion, or outright repayment of debt allowed slaves within many of these societies to become free citizens. These captives were often granted protections that did not exist elsewhere, yet remained in a status of servitude. Examples abound of Spanish censuses where captives were hidden, baptized, or included into communities without reference to their origin or parenthood.

In a series of chapters, Brooks speaks to the specific circumstances on the Plains, within the Pueblos, around Spanish settlements and across the Borderlands where economic success, personal status and imperial rules dictated how they raided, profited, enslaved others and included former slaves into their communities. *Captives and Cousins* thereby paints the expansion, growth, and changes of New Mexico from the Spanish period up to its inclusion into the United States as a creation of multifaceted societies through violence, slavery, adaptation, and ultimately, kinship with one another.



**What's your favorite non-fiction book about New Mexico?** Please email [Margo.Spellman@Comcast.net](mailto:Margo.Spellman@Comcast.net) with your choice and a few hundred words about the book.

## The Portal Wines

# Of Summer

July is open season for "Portal Wines" — the chilled, crisp, thirst-quenching wines of summer; enjoyed on a patio or portal. Whether standalone or paired with summer fare, there are many wines to satiate a dry palate, including pink wines, Sauvignon Blancs, unoaked Chardonnays and lightly-chilled crisp reds. But on this occasion, let's look at a varietal currently experiencing a renaissance: Chenin Blanc.

Chenin Blanc is planted across the globe but is considered the "calling card" for the Loire Valley, France and South Africa. While France is still considered the viticultural mecca of Chenin Blanc, the grape is widely planted, especially in South Africa. Both regions produce critically-acclaimed, world-class wines exhibiting powerful structure, intense minerality and crisp acidity — tops the list of coveted "Portal Wines!"

High level of natural acidity and accurate expression of terroir make Chenin Blanc one of the most versatile and coveted grape varieties. It is produced in many styles, including dry, off-dry, sparkling and sweet dessert wines. It is often touted as the universal pairing wine; there is a style appropriate for all foods and occasions. Since the turn of the century, changing mindsets and implementation of biodynamic farming have yielded even more powerful and expressive wines. The days of bland Chenin Blancs are gone!

Following is a suggested flight of Portal Wines for your summer enjoyment. Drink them alone or pair with any meat and fish, paté, spicy southeast Asian cuisine, creamy cheeses and vegetarian fare.

**Breton Vouvray Brut La Diletante**, a non-vintage Loire Valley sparkling wine produced from 100% Chenin Blanc, biodynamically farmed and vinified in the traditional Champagne method. This easy-drinking sparkler is crisp, dry, with flavors of apple and a savory ginger finish.

**2016 Vouvray La Craie**, a Loire Valley production released by Lionel Gauthier and Jon-David Headrick. Vouvray La Craie is 100% Chenin Blanc, farmed sustainably on limey, clay soils and vinified as a light demi-sec wine (8-12 g residual sugar), with no exposure to wood. Intended to be consumed young, it is patently crisp with a hint of sweetness; an excellent introduction to Chenin Blanc!

**Quinta Essentia 2016 Chenin Blanc**, is a South African wine produced from old vine Chenin Blanc planted on mountain slopes surrounding Stellenbosch. This Chenin Blanc presents aromas of apple, caramel and nuts, followed by a richly textured palate of lush tropical fruit tied together by taut minerality and balanced acidity.

**2017 L'Ecole No. 41 Chenin Blanc Old Vines**, Columbia Valley, WA, a Vouvray-style 100% Chenin Blanc, fermented to dryness. The wine is aromatic and vibrant with notes of citrus and passion fruit, flavors of yellow apple and a strong mineral finish.

**2017 Amaro Winery Chenin Blanc Dry** and **2017 Amaro Winery Chenin Blanc**, two

New Mexico True Chenin Blanc varietal wines. The 2017 Chenin Blanc Dry presents strong Chamomile, pear and green apple flavors, while the 2017 Chenin Blanc is fruity and slightly sweeter on the palate. Try both and compare!

*Eva Moldovanyi is a wine buyer for Susan's Fine Wine and Spirits, where she looks forward to helping customers learn more about wine and selecting just the right wine for their meals.*



## eldorado drinks

By Eva Moldovanyi

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## ELDORADO ANIMAL CLINIC

sponsor spotlight



**By Dr. Murt Byrne**  
*Founder & Partner*

### A Rich History

I opened this hospital back in 1993. I practiced in town for a couple of years, and I quickly found out that this neighborhood was really a good place to be. I had great clients, so we came out here and started a small clinic that has grown to what it is now, so it's been a good, fun run for me. I've got great clients.

I've been very involved in organized veterinary medicine all my life. I was the president of my class in vet school. I was two-time president of the New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association, and I now serve on the legislative board. I'm in my final year of being the delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association from New Mexico. I also serve as the New Mexico representative to the Southwest Veterinary Symposium, which is the big symposium that is hosted by Texas.

### Back To Basics

I was medical director at Eldorado Animal Clinic for quite a while. That recently changed with Dr. Diaz coming in. So right now, I'm simply an employee, and I love it! I come in and see my patients and I go home when I'm done. It's been very, very rewarding, and much more relaxing.

I had gotten tired, and a little burnt out about running a business. It's a lot of pressure. I honestly wanted to get back to just being able to treat dogs and cats like I've always wanted to do. So when I was approached by VitalPet to become part of that family, it seemed like a good thing for me. And it's been great; I sleep a lot better at night! I don't have to worry about all the issues that running a business involves, and Dr. Diaz has been great. We get along very well. She's a great veterinarian, and we work well together, so I've been very, very happy with the transition.

I plan on being here for quite a while. I've kind of committed to another three and a half years or so. I may stay for 10, I don't know. I'm very comfortable now. I'm working three days a week, and I will admit, I work hard. I work maybe harder than when I owned the place because I don't get back to my office much. I may cut back my hours somewhat, but I'm going to be here for a while.



I think anytime there's a big change like what's occurred here, I think people are going to want to know what's different, and some things aren't different. I think the client care here is the same. I think the attitude towards my clients and towards my patients is the same. In general, it's all like how it was when I was running it. It's probably just managed a bit better now.



**By Dr. Deb Diaz**  
*Medical Director*

### Continued Growth

I came on as Medical Director so that Dr. Byrne can continue with his phasing out into retirement. The great thing is that he and I get along very, very well. We practice differently, but we still have mutual respect for each other in that regard, so it's worked out very well. There's still a lot of change and everybody getting on board with that, but it's all part of the plan that Dr. Byrne set out on when he sold to VitalPet. It's a very exciting time for Eldorado Animal Clinic, with our growth, change, and just moving towards the future.

Murt has been practicing for many years longer than I have, but I've also been practicing for 21 years. I just practice a little bit differently. Murt's been here in Eldorado for a very long time, and I've done a lot of emergency practice. We consult with each other on a daily basis with our cases, and I think the unique experience that he has combined with my unique experience, we can help gain information from each other.

I've been here at Eldorado since September of 2018, but I have actually worked with VitalPet in Texas since 2012. I graduated from Mississippi State University in 1998. I started out then in Texas as an equine practitioner, and moved into small animal

medicine, which I've been doing for the better part of the last 18 years.

I had started out as a young kid wanting to be around animals, wanting to be around horses, dogs, cats, and so forth. But also, I think it's a very important misconception of veterinary medicine that you only have to love animals. I love people, too. I really enjoy the interactions with the animals and the people, so that's what makes it really enjoyable to me that I get to do both.

I like this hospital because it's a small hospital. It's in a smaller community. We, for the most part, know our clients, we know the pets, and we have a relationship with the people who choose to use us for their pet's veterinary needs. It's very important to have that relationship with the clients as well as the pets.

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**When and how did you acquire it?** It was acquired in Yorba Linda, California in 1999. I made an offer to a friend and neighbor.

**What was its condition when you acquired it?** The truck was in excellent condition, including paint, on which thousands of dollars were spent. It had both power steering and power brakes, as well as a turbo transmission.

**What changes or modifications have you made since then?** I added white-wheel tires, wood to the sides and chrome to the rear area.

**Does it have any quirks (maddening or otherwise)?** I have been driving it for 16 years. The only thing that's ever gone wrong is that it lost power steering once.

**Where and why do you ride?** I am a member of the Santa Fe Vintage Car Club and am in many of their shows, including the "Cruise Night on The Plaza" event.

**What is special to you about your ride?** It has a V8 engine that is not very old, so it runs like a clock. Its power steering



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# GENE BUSHE

## A REAL WORLD PHOTOGRAPHER



Gene was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He received a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration and served as a military policeman in the U.S. Army from 1965-1967. He worked in law enforcement until 1997 and has worked on a contractual basis in national security since then. Fine art photography has been a passion for the past 50 years.

**How long have you lived in Eldorado?**  
I have lived here for 21 years.

**What do you enjoy most about living here?**  
I enjoy the peace and quiet, beautiful views.

**How has your art changed since living in Eldorado?**  
I have had more time and energy to refine my skills and style.

**Describe your art:**  
My photography captures the real world with all its wonder and surprise.

**What is your process?**  
Initially, I used analog equipment and darkroom processing. Since 2007, I have used Digital equipment and Photoshop processing on a Mac desktop.

**How are you involved in the community?**  
Through volunteering with the Food Depot, working in national security matters and periodic art shows.

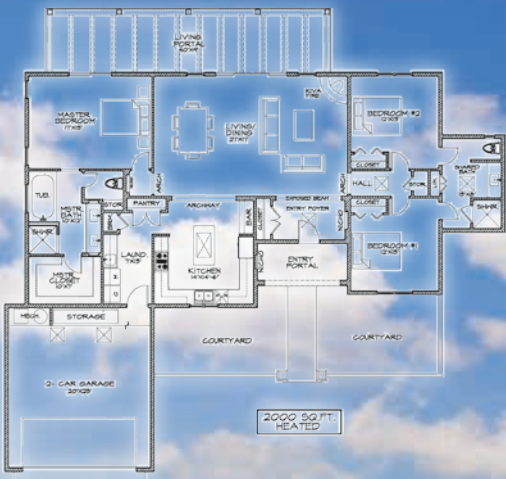
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**eldorado life**  
By Chris Harrell, Resident

# WHO YOU GONNA CALL? COMPOSTERS!

Way out here in the dry, brown southwest, composting is much more challenging than just tossing and turning some green and brown waste in a big pile out back. But there is hope! The Eldorado 285 Recycles non-profit group, (E285R), has been promoting “**straw bale vermi-composting**” since 2012 and has had great success. They have installed 175 compost systems for Hwy 285 corridor residents so far and are hoping to make 200 by 2020!!

Using the help of some energetic little red wiggler worms (*Eisenia Fetida*, to be exact), a few bales of straw and lots of yummy kitchen veggie waste, you can turn your kitchen waste into a rich compost within a few months. This diverts hundreds of pounds of waste from the landfill and septic waste streams, annually.

There is no need for fancy rotating drums or layered lasagna composting methods, nor a need to worry about a perfect brown-to-green ratio. Worms do all the work. They eat, they poo, they eat, they poo, okay, they “cast” to be scientific! They multiply like rabbits, which speeds up the composting process even more. Don’t even think of buying commercial worm castings again! You can grow your own little worm nursery. All you have to do is keep feeding these little wigglers your veggie waste and occasionally moisten the bin.

Imagine... 6 bales of straw arranged on the ground to form a rectangular border surrounding your “worm bin.” This bin is the empty cavity inside, which is filled with loose moistened straw from a 7th bale. Add one heaping, hearty, helping of your kitchen waste under the loose straw, top it with a fresh batch of starter worms, cover with loose straw, and “forget about it”...until the next time you have collected enough waste to add to the bin, say, a couple weeks later.

Harvest time! After a few months, dig back down to where you originally started and you will discover...Voila! Your food waste is gone, and only rich black dirt remains. One tried and true method of harvesting this fresh soil is using a screen method. Excavate the soil and shovel it over a ¼ inch grid screen into a wheelbarrow. Any worms and un-processed organics will remain on top and only the soil will drop through the screen. Then dump any unscreened material and worms back into your compost. Yes, some worms will sneak through and that is fine to have some juicy worms in your garden. You might consider adding a second layer of screen, a 1/8 inch grid, and that will then catch most of your baby worms. You can use your new compost directly in your garden, or create a concoction with horse/goat manure, native soil, and/or other organic fertilizers.

The E285R compost crew offers free installation of these straw bale vermi-compost systems. The only costs are for the straw bales and a modest delivery charge. The starter worms, like a good sourdough starter, have been passed down from compost to compost, acclimated to our climate, and they are provided for free. Their ancient ancestors were bred from Sam’s Organic Soil Yard in Santa Fe.

Even if you do not garden, compost anyway! Just for the sake of recycling your organic waste. Spread the harvested soil around trees or bushes like you would do with fertilizer.

Learn more about the science of composting and some handy tips by visiting the Eldorado 285 Recycles website at [www.eldorado285recycles.org/composting.html](http://www.eldorado285recycles.org/composting.html). Get the kids and grands involved, sing along with the composting songs featured on the site. Happy Composting!



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# Vista Grande Public Library

By Katrina Wolff, Resident

Julia Kelso is the Library Director at the Vista Grande Public Library. She is originally from Wyoming and ran a six-and-a-half branch library in Big Horn County before coming to the Vista Grande Public Library. She studied history at the University of New Mexico, where her love of New Mexico began. Julia has an M.A. in Folklore from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador and an MLIS from the University of Washington.

The Vista Grande Public Library is conveniently located within the Eldorado community on Avenida Torreon, part of the county campus between the El Dorado Community School and the Adam Senior Center. Celebrating 20 years in the neighborhood,

the library continues to be a vision of forward-looking people. The library serves Eldorado, the 285 corridor, Lamy, Galisteo, Glorieta, Pecos and Rowe. It is capably run by a paid staff of just three, two of whom are part-time. Julia, Library Assistant Tracey and Library Aide Mary who oversee the many volunteers without whom the library couldn't function.

The Vista Grande Public Library catalog has 35,000 items for adults, teens and children, with new fiction, non-fiction and large print books coming in every month. The library rounds out its offerings with graphic novels, audiobooks, DVDs, newspapers, magazines, puzzles, games, telescopes and baking pans! During regular business hours, the library has computers available for public use and free wifi.

Included in the library space are various locations where local artists display their 2-D and 3-D works, a children's activity area that hosts a weekly Story Time, a youth room which hosts the Wags and Words program which encourages reluctant readers to read out loud to the Reading Education Assistance Dogs, computer stations, quiet cubbies for study and a community room. The Community Room a hub of activity most days of the week. After school programs, the Chess Club, monthly Family Movie Night, occasional Grown-Up Movie Night, book club groups, the Eldorado Genealogy group, the Santa Fe Stargazers and many lectures and forums keep the Community Room active and interesting. Among the regular presentations are a monthly Medicare information forum and park presenters who bring special program through the cooperative relationship with Pecos National Historic Site.

Vista Grande Public Library is supported by grants and donations, with about 55% of the yearly operating budget sourced through donations and fundraisers. The Board of Directors and other Friends of the Library organize outreach activities and events. The first Saturday morning of every month is Book Donation Day, which seeds the bi-annual (May and November) Book Sales, as well as providing additional titles to the library's circulating collection.



## 20th Anniversary of Library & Summer Social

This year marks the library's 20th anniversary and their annual Summer Social fund-raiser is scheduled for **Sunday, August 11**. Beginning at 1 pm at the ECIA Community Center, the Summer Social will offer all-you-can-eat ice cream, music and auctions, both silent and live. The Summer Social supports the library through entry ticket purchases and bidding on a wide variety of auction items and services. Join us to support our library, visit the silent auction and stay for the second annual live auction! As the library continues to provide opportunities for learning and partnering with local educational organizations, Maketime will be offering activities for children of all ages!

To learn more about the happenings at the Vista Grande Public Library, visit the website [www.vglibrary.org](http://www.vglibrary.org). Or better yet, visit the library!

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**eldorado real estate beat**

By Lisa Smith, Resident Realtor



**Feng Shui FOR A SUCCESSFUL SALE**

*We used the services of Carol Olmstead, owner of Feng Shui for Real Life on our home and offices, and it made a noticeable difference. Carol provides residential and business consulting as well as workshops and training nationwide.*

**Carol, tell us how important is Feng Shui when selling a house?**

Feng Shui is the art and science of arranging your surroundings in balance and harmony with the natural world. We all know how it feels to walk into a space that feels wonderful, in contrast to walking into a space where you can't wait to leave. Feng Shui staging helps sell a house because people immediately feel like this is a space they want to make their own.

**What can be done to the front of the house for maximum curb appeal?**

The front door is the "mouth of chi" in Feng Shui because that's where all good energy and wealth enters your home. If you have a wood door that's fine because it represents growth. But check your door frequently, and repair or replace it if it's cracked, chipped, or faded. Also, replace your doormat on a regular basis because it will also fade and look worn. Trim back bushes and clear away dead lives, pull weeds, and prune overgrown plants.

**What sector of the house should sellers focus on?**

Standing at your front door and looking in to the house, the Helpful People sector is located in the lower right area, which is activated by metal objects. This is a good spot for a small, decorative metal box with an affirmation inside that speaks to attracting the perfect buyer. For example, it could say: "I now attract the perfect buyer at the perfect price."

**Is there a Feng Shui application for getting a good deal or to help cultivate a smooth transaction?**

To attract a smooth transaction, clear the way for buyers to find the house. That means no obstructions on the path to your front door. Also, the most abundant path is one that gently curves, rather than a straight line (called a "poison arrow") to your door. If you have a straight path, plant or place colorful flowers or bushy plants along the sides of the path to symbolically curve it.

**Tell us about the use of mirrors in Feng Shui?**

A mirror can attract or repel energy. I'll use a mirror when we want to bring in a great view, or symbolically "move out" a wall

to correct the shape of a home. My most important tip is to avoid hanging a mirror directly across from the front door because it will send the positive energy (and buyers) back out the door instead of drawing it into the home.

**What about the decluttering and depersonalizing process?**

Buyers want to visualize their possessions fitting into your home. That's why it's important to clear clutter and make your home feel spacious. You also don't want them forming opinions about you to use to lower their offer. So remove family photos, as well as items that tell buyers too much about your history and lifestyle. Move these into temporary storage.

*For more about Carol Olmstead visit [www.fengshuiforrealife.com](http://www.fengshuiforrealife.com).*

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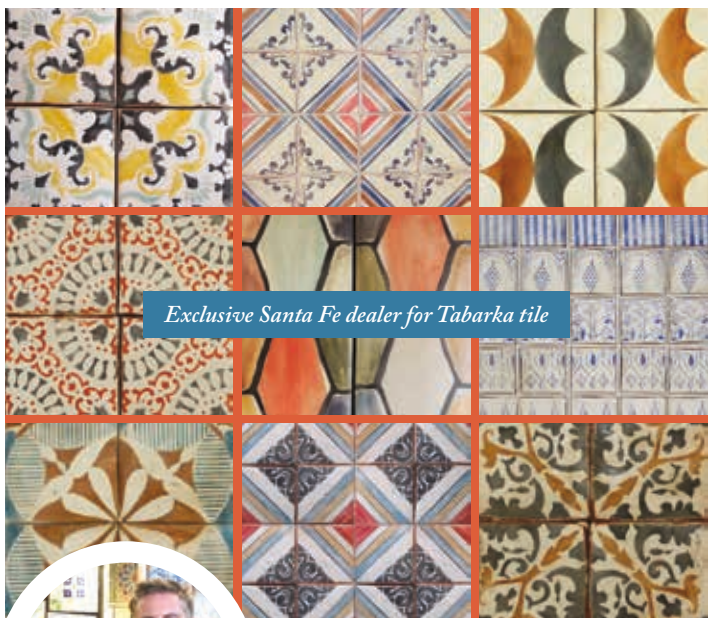
By Margo Spellman, Editor

*The annual propagation class and cuttings giveaway hosted by the all-volunteer Cactus Rescue Project is always a popular event. Starting at 9am at La Tienda's Cactus Garden, Eldorado's Cactus Guru, John "Obie" Oberhausen, will teach folks how to propagate the cuttings and grow their own cactus garden.*

Then at around 9:30 the rumpus begins. With over 100 folks in attendance, good manners are important: wait until Obie is finished speaking and then no cactus hogging! There will be plenty to go around.

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**PHOTOS:** Joseph Newman



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