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The Magazine



WINTER 2021-22



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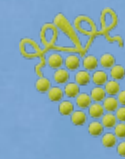


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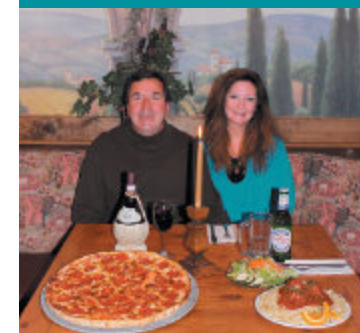
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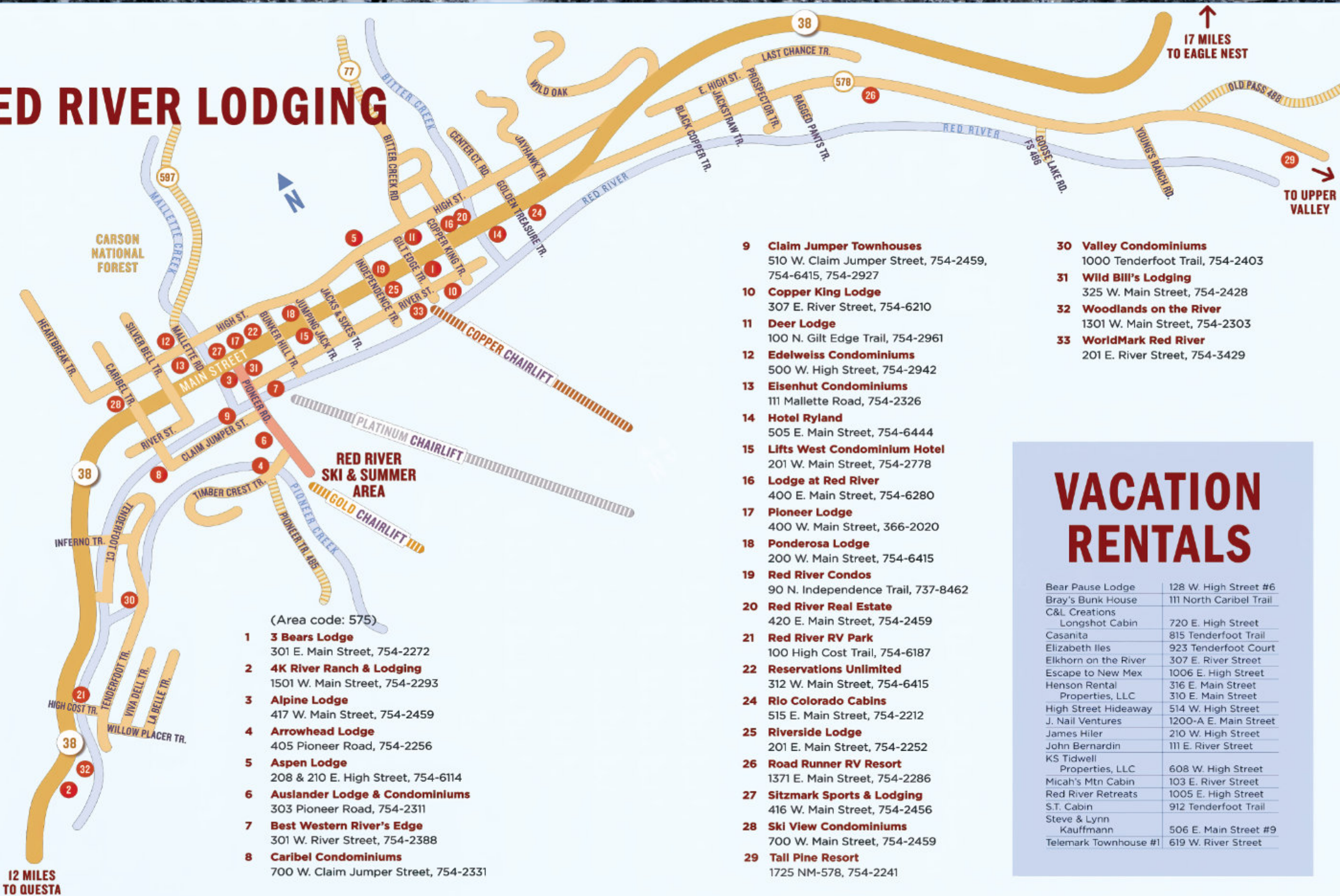
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# RED RIVER LODGING





# SHOPPING RED RIVER STYLE



Red River is the perfect place to shop. You can avoid the hustle and bustle of crowded malls and parking lots - take a leisurely walk down Main Street or call the Miner Transit to pick you up at the door and take you to your favorite store. Red River provides you with an array of fun things to shop for. There's everything from games to fudge, clothing to fine art, skis to Skittles, fishing gear to hardware, and lots of jewelry... you will just have to check it out for yourself.

The list below will get you started. Most stores are open daily, many in the evenings as well, but hours may vary throughout the week.

**All Seasons** - A 2-story boutique full of fine fashions year round, jewelry, gourmet foods, sculptured glass, gifts and candles - the list just goes on...

**Bear Xing** - Sculptured bears and other beings, Western art and novelties, signs.

**Bobcat** - Fine sculptured pottery and statues, native American jewelry.

**Candy Crate** - Lots of retro candy, fresh fudge, other regional food items, novelty hats, sunglasses.

**Climates** - All kinds of fashions, sportswear, footwear, camping gear, gift and pet items.

**Elevations 8750'** - Clothing and more clothing, souvenirs, and gift items.

**The Emporium Gift Shop** - Pottery, home decor, collectibles, T-shirts, jewelry and inspirational gifts.

**Fanny Pack** - Collectible T-shirts and hats, with logos, sunglasses, sunscreen, and souvenirs at RRSA.

**Frye's Old Town/The Jewelry Lady** - Elegant western wear and jewelry, cowboy hats, fun clothing home decorating and gift items, toys, books.

**Gold Nugget** - Red River memorabilia, t-shirts and clothing, candy, knives, pottery, wind chimes, toys and fun stuff.

**Main Street Mercantile** - Chocked full of gourmet foods, fashion, jewelry, pottery, signs... lots more to see.

**The Oxygen Shoppe** - Oxygen bar and holistic boutique, bath and beauty products, handmade gifts.

**Red River Trading Company** - A multitude of gift items and jewelry, T-shirts, sweatshirts, regional food items, something for everyone there - and a Xmas Shop.

**Sitzmark** - Sporting goods, sportswear and accessories, outdoor adventure gear, sporting equipment rentals.

**Southern Exposure** - Photography and printing services, batteries, frames, disposable cameras.

**The Starr Trading Post** - Knives, gifts and clothing, plus an extensive line of fishing and hunting accessories, including licenses.

**Taos Outfitters** - Sportswear, T-Shirts, hats, sunglasses, camping and outdoor gear, and souvenirs.

**The Westend at J. Griffin Co.** - An interior decorator's delight with furniture, framed mirrors, pillows, pottery, wall art, big candles, water features, and gourmet food items.

**Wild Bill's Ski & Snowboard Shop** - Beautifully hand-crafted jewelry, gizmos and gadgets for the wee little adventurer.

**Williams Trading Post** - Hardware, RV supplies, fishing and camping supplies, heaters, t-shirts, caps, regional books.

# DINING OUT IN RED RIVER

**Note:** Public Health Orders currently require that you wear a mask to enter a restaurant until seated, and when not at your table. Please comply with whatever the current orders are so that our restaurants can remain open. Call ahead for more information and to make reservations.

For a tiny mountain resort town, Red River has a great selection of restaurants, diners, cafes, delis and bistros with something to satisfy everyone's taste and budget. Most restaurants offer kids' menus and beer and wine. Remember casual dress is always appropriate in Red River venues.

**Anchovies Pizzeria** - They specialize in thin crust pizzas, including several specialty pizzas with interesting combinations of ingredients and offer take-and-bake pizzas as well.

**Bearly Awake** - A relatively new venue located at 604 E. Main, they offer frozen yogurt, specialty coffees, fruit smoothies, fresh squeezed lemonade, specialty shakes and fresh baked goodies.

**Brett's Bistro** - Casual-elegant, fast and fine cuisine. Steaks, pasta, trout, seafood, lamb... take-out catering offered, as well. Located in the Lifts West building and serving dinner. Daily specials. Beer and wine.

**Bull O' The Woods Saloon** - Food service generally starts at 11am. They offer burgers, sandwiches, wings and appetizers, including their amazing loaded fries. Lots of specials. Full bar.

**Capo's Corner** - Italian dining at its finest. With a view of the ski hill and river rushing by the back deck, you can sit outside and enjoy delicious pizzas and pastas with friends in this family-oriented restaurant. Beer and wine.

**Dairy Bar** - Ice cream, malts and shakes, burgers, fries, wraps, salads, sandwiches and plenty of specials. Casual family dining and a pet-friendly patio. Open daily.

**The Grill at the Lift House** - Overlooking The Face of the ski mountain, the deck offers a spectacular view and casual indoor dining as well. It offers burgers, up-scale bar food, wings, soups and salads. Full bar.

**Old Tymer's Cafe** - A variety of diner fare, including pizza and Mexican as well as American. Open for breakfast - HUGE pancakes - lunch, and dinner, but hours vary.

**Red River Brewing Co.** - Open daily for lunch and dinner. Appetizer menu, sandwiches, salads and burgers, with a special menu during dinner hours: steaks, grilled seafood, pasta dishes. Now offering BBQ as well. Try their craft beer, award-winning vodka and spirits.

**RRSA Main Chalet** - Breakfasts, lunch specials, burgers, fries, pizza, soups, salads.

**Shotgun Willie's** - Close to the main chair lift, known for their breakfasts. Sandwiches, BBQ, burgers, Mexican food, wraps, salads.

**Steam Coffee** - Specialty coffees, frappes, teas, smoothies, protein shakes, soups, salads, muffins, quiche, bagels, pastries...

**Sundance Mexican Restaurant** - Tucked away on High Street, with a cozy atmosphere, they have salads, lots of appetizers, a variety of Mexican fare, steaks, sopaipillas, sangria, killer wine Margaritas and beer.

**T-Bucks** - Serving American breakfast foods and homemade donuts. Open 7 am. Large groups are welcome.

**Texas Reds** - A long-time Red River tradition with tasty steaks and chops and a rustic atmosphere, including peanut shells on the floor. Great acoustic music from the adjacent Lost Love Saloon. Full bar.

**The Tip Restaurant** - At the very tip top of the ski mountain, you will find a little burger shack with snacks and beverages galore, just as you step off the chairlift. Best view in town from the outdoor deck. Enjoy a cold beer and watch the wildlife wander by.

**Yesterday's Diner** - Breakfast, lunch, and dinner items named after TV series. Mexican, burgers, specials and diner food, ice cream and desserts. Beer and wine.





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## COME UP AND SEE US SOME TIME



The Sangre de Cristo Mountains of Northern New Mexico are the perfect place for a little town like Red River.

Located in a narrow valley that is barely a quarter of a mile wide in places, the community of less than 500 people plays host to thousands and thousands of visitors every year – Winter, Summer and Fall.

Spring is still a work in progress as the snow melts and runs down the valley to the Rio Grande, the river of life through the Land of Enchantment.

Red River City, as it was known when it was founded in 1895, was a classic mining camp of the American West, a place where farmers, teachers, shopkeepers and professional scoundrels from “back east” who had nothing to lose, came looking for a pot of gold – and silver – at the end of a beautiful mountain rainbow.

When the gold played out, the would-be miners and rainbow chasers moved on to places with fresh hopes

and unreal expectations. The town of Red River City, however, did not dry up, nor blow away. It became a place to enjoy the bounty of nature in the cool mountain air of summer. Fishing, hiking, camping and just plain relaxing became a lure to good folks from the high plains and desert dwellers looking to escape the summer heat.

Eventually the abundant snows of winter that blessed the peaks and valleys of the high country became another way for the residents of the tiny town to share their good fortune and the daily miracles of the natural world.

The town is located at an elevation of 8750', despite highway signs that say Red River is only 8650' above sea level. With a chilly river running through the town and the trees of the Carson National Forest on all sides, it is a welcoming place.

Come up and see us sometime.

## RED RIVER WINTER 2021-22 VACATION MAGAZINE

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# SKI TOWN OF THE SOUTHWEST

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## SNOW IS A WELCOME FRIEND

*There's just something beautiful about walking in snow that nobody else has walked on. It makes you believe you're special.*

— Carol Rifka Brunt, American novelist

It's midnight in the Red River Valley and the winter storm that was predicted by the TV weather guys is in the process of covering everything in sight. Everything!

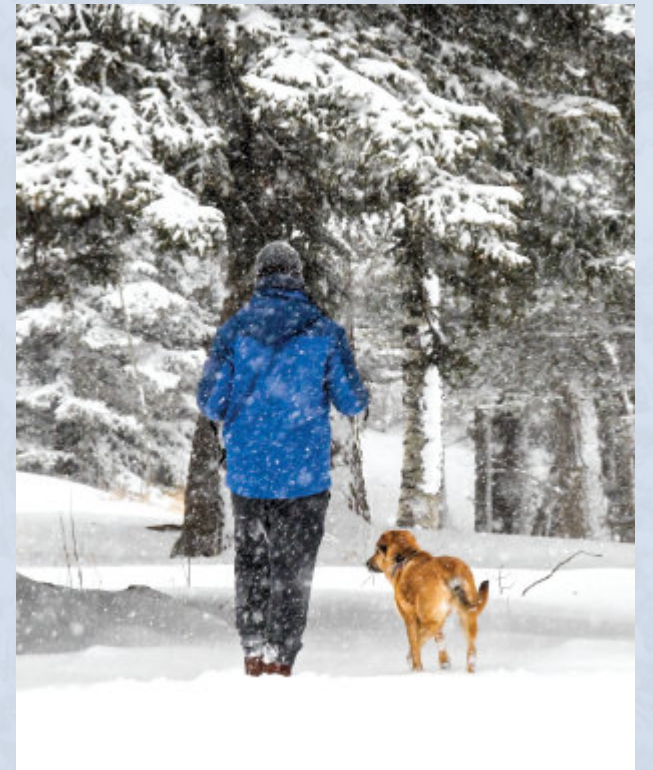
The bare limbs of the aspen trees are already decorated, a sure sign that a wet snow is falling, piling up on even the smallest of limbs.

If it continues through the night – the radar and satellite on the Web indicate that the probability for such a thing is somewhere between “excellent” and “no doubt about it” – the first light of morning will reveal a pure blanket of quiet white throughout the valley.

Chalk one up for the TV weather guys, but it's Mother Nature who should receive our loudest proclamation of thanks!

Technically, it's not a blizzard, but it is a good imitation. Through the noise of the wind, you can hear the sound of the snowmaking crew on the slopes of the Red River Ski & Summer Area adding their contributions to the storm total.

The big grooming machine is also somewhere on the mountain, for its signature song from the powerful engine is unmistakable. As the groomer growls and roars



into the face of the wind, the night takes on a surreal quality, something worthy of a Jack London novel or a cartoon about penguins.

The sight and sound of a good snowstorm with the flakes whirling and swirling from low-hanging clouds always sends a ripple of excitement through the citizens of Red River, all 480 of them. It also can do that to any guests who may be in town, especially if the visitors are enthusiasts of the magic of wintertime in the high country.

The average for snowfall in the entire United States is 28 inches of snow per year.

According to a search on Google, the average in Red River ranges from 123 inches to 188 inches a year. It is unclear if those figures reflect the 20-year average that once served as a standard for the National Weather Service.

There are a few Red River “old timers” who tell the story of February 1989 when a three-day snowstorm left the town under 86 inches of fluffy powdery snow.

The Ski Area was shut down and required able-bodied young men to dig out the chairlift before it could be used.

Unusual? Yes. A magical moment in time? You bet!

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# A BIT OF OLD-FASHIONED FUN



*Snowball fights, a snowman or two.  
My nose will get cold and my toes will too.  
But I love winter, you know.*

The song above was written by a second grade class with co-writing credit to Fritz Davis. When you ask kids about things you can do during a snowy winter day, the answers come quick and simple no matter where they live.

Here are some things that you can do when the snow in Red River New Mexico is deep enough to invite kids of all ages to have some fun.

Clearly in a town with two ski areas, skiing is an obvious choice for spending a day. Snowmobiles are fun, too, but there are some more traditional ways to create memories on a snowy day.

## Walkin' In A Winter Wonderland

A nice slow stroll through new-fallen powder has special magical properties, especially when snowflakes are dancing and drifting slowly all around you. A walk by the river can put a bit of romance into the day.

## Call It "Snow Fort Day"

It requires a simple design and only a bit of thought to structural engineering, but building a snow fort is a great venture for youngsters with warm gloves and boots. A fort can be elaborate or basic, a castle or just a small wall, depending on how they intend to use it and how much snow is available.

## Now You Need Snowballs

Snowballs in flight are a grassroots activity, even though the grass is buried by the snow. Impulsive, and usually spur-of-the-moment events, they are a great way to expend energy. Creating a snowball, as opposed to just tossing a hand full of snow at someone, is as basic as clapping your hands together. A word about safety: it is against the Geneva Convention to use a rock as the center of your snowball. Keep it safe, keep it fun.

## Frosty Or Parson Brown?


Speaking of snowballs... that is the first step in making a snowman and you can still call them snowmen, but they can also be snowwomen if you so desire. If you build them, you claim naming rights.

You can build them nearly anywhere and they may last for days or until some scamp knocks them down.

The term snowpeople hasn't caught on yet, but Snow Art, not to be confused with Ice Sculpture, has been around for a long time. Even the great Michelangelo built snowpeople, with the patronage of the House of Medici, rulers of Florence, Italy.

In the modern world, Morinville in Alberta, Canada, Potsdam in New York, and Kazan in the Republic of Tatarstan in Russia host Snowman Festivals. There are a few in Japan also and snow art is frequently part of the competitive festivities for winter carnivals.






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## RRSA: A QUALITY SKI EXPERIENCE



The Red River Ski & Summer Area strives to provide the best and most enjoyable experience for Alpine skiers.

Red River has been known as the Ski Town of the Southwest since it opened its trails in 1959 because it's located in the heart of the town.

With 80 % of resort lodges located within easy walking distance of the ski lifts and a municipal trolley which is free, the slopes are only minutes from the door.

Skiers of all ages will find seven lifts which provide access to 63 trails for beginners, intermediate and expert black diamond skiers, plus three terrain parks for those snowboarders and skiers who look for a walk on the wild side.

The colorful history of Red River City is commemorated with trail names like Boom Town, Gold Run and Miner's Alley, and the Moon Star Mining Camp gives a fanciful glimpse of the pioneering days of the 1890s!

The Red River Ski & Summer Area Ski School is also well known and widely respected as THE place to learn downhill skiing.

One of the trademarks long associated with the Red River Ski & Summer Area has been the continuous pursuit to enhance customer service, constantly striving to make Alpine skiing a quality experience.

It is no surprise that RRSA has a new ticketing system for Winter 2021-2022 and it ushers in a new era guaranteed to make a trip to the slopes more convenient and enjoyable.

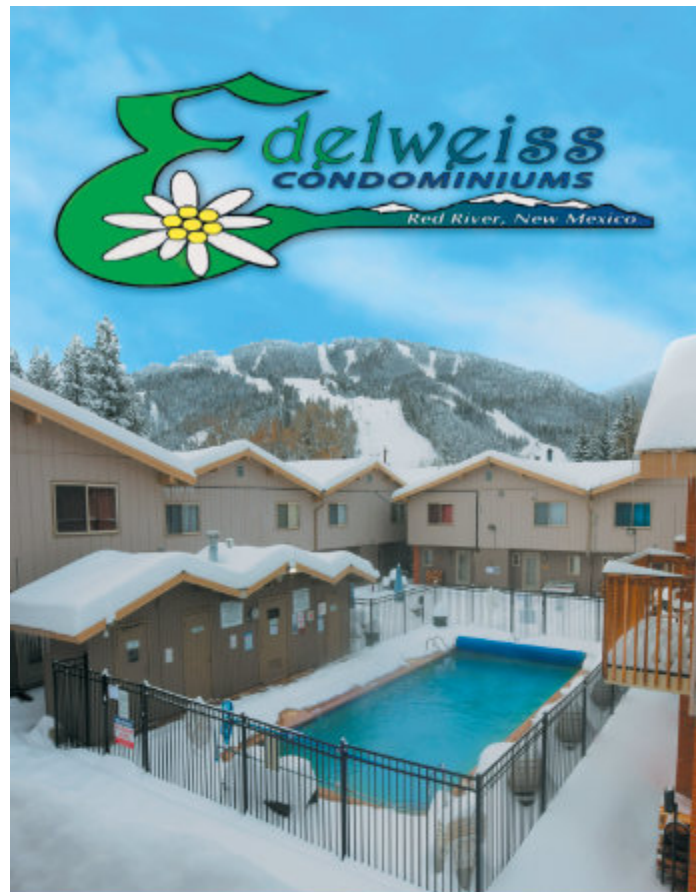
Gone are the days of removing gloves and fumbling with lanyards to present a ticket or pass to load the chairlifts. Tickets, season passes and equipment rental will be loaded on to a card equipped with RFID technology. RFID gates at lifts will be installed and will automatically open with active media making access to the slopes quicker and easier.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology uses radio waves to identify people or objects. There is a device that reads information contained in a wireless device or "tag" from a distance without making any physical contact or requiring a line of sight.

"It's like a credit card," says RRSA General Manager Linton Judycki, "that basically has all your information on it. Keep it in your pocket. Information like day passes, rentals and lessons will be on one ticket rather than having to carry around a bunch of receipts. Everybody in the family will have their own ticket with their name printed on it. It scans everywhere.

"Book your skiing on line. Get a receipt on your phone. Kiosks will be placed around the area. Walk up to a kiosk and it will print out everything you need."





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## IT'S X-COUNTRY EXCITEMENT

### MAGIC IN THE WOODS

The Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Area is located on Highway 38, just 3 miles from town at the top of Bobcat Pass. It has 20.5 miles of groomed ski trails, 9.3 miles of trails for snowshoeing and 3.1 miles of trails where you can ski with your dog!

EFXC provides the finest of the Nordic skiing experience with trails for skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts of all abilities. Lessons are available. Enjoy access to miles and miles of back country trails with some spectacular views of Wheeler Peak and the Northern New Mexico high country.

Open seven days a week, 9 am to 4:30 pm, there's a warming hut with a ski rental/apparel/accessories shop located at the Base Camp, and they also offer yurts for nightly lodging if you are looking for a unique glamping treat.

Special events during winter include the Christmas Night Luminaria tour, the Just Desserts Eat & Ski event and full moon tours.

Before John and Judy Miller opened the Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski & Snowshoe Area for business on Bobcat Pass, Nordic skiing, as it is officially known, had been going on in Red River for several years.

Cross-Country Skiing has been a part of the mountain culture of Northern New Mexico for over 125 years.



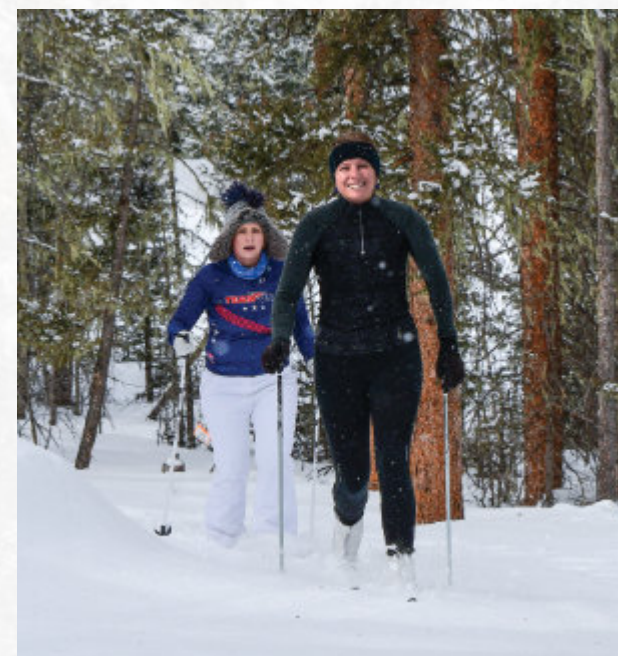
Brave and dedicated men on 10-12 foot long skis delivered mail during snowy winter months from Raton and Trinidad to the booming 1890s gold camps of LaBelle, Anchor and Red River City.

Fast Forward to 1973. Charles Gaylord opened the Claim Jumper Cross Country Ski Shop on Pioneer Road, across from the RRSA Lift House. A young man working with him named John Miller, co-owner of Powder Puff Ski Area on the west side of Red River, was a fan of Nordic skiing. John took cross country ski enthusiasts on guided personal tours to the Upper Valley, cutting trail where the road ended six miles from town.

John and Judy Miller and Gary and Fran Starbuck operated Powder Puff Ski Area on Red River's west side from 1970 until 1979 when it was sold to the Veale family, owners of the Red River Ski Area. Over the years the Millers also owned an art gallery, a bookstore and Millers Crossing clothing store.

In 1985, the Miller family opened trails for the Enchanted Forest Cross Country Ski Area, adding Nordic skiing on groomed trails to the attractions of the Red River area of Northern New Mexico.

In 2008, John and Judy were inducted into the New Mexico Ski Hall of Fame in Albuquerque. Today the area is co-owned and operated by their daughter Ellen Miller Goins.





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## “IT WAS A MOMENT IN TIME”



Lori Starbuck (center), seen here with Rick Lamb (left) and Drew Judycki (right), represented Powder Puff Ski Area and the Red River Ski Area at the sports show in the Astrodome in Houston in the mid-1970s.

“It was a lot of fun,” she says. “We had folks from both ski areas and we took ski ramps that we made. We did demonstrations, but if I remember right, we let people come up and try to ski!”

Loraine Lori (Starbuck) Harris has lived in Oregon for the past three decades, first in Rouge River and then Klamath Falls, her current home. She has worked in the Business Office of Oregon Institute of Technology “for eleven years the first time, and for the past five years – sixteen years total.” She loves her work.

Her parents, Gary and Francis (Fran) Starbuck moved from Vermont to Red River in 1960. Gary became a ski instructor and eventually became ski school director at Red River Ski Area. Fran worked at the Moly Mine.

Lori learned to ski at the Red River Ski Area “when I was two or three” and remembers hanging around with Rudi Woerndle, whose father Toni was the first ski school director at RRSA and operated the Alpine Lodge with his wife Ilse.

In 1970, the Starbucks partnered with John and Judy Miller and purchased land from Lester Lewis on Red River’s west side. Lewis had an amusement attraction called whirlybirds – inner tubes for sliding downhill – and an ice skating rink on part of an area that had been owned originally by Orrin Mallette, one of the founders of Red River City in 1895. Lori was 13 when they bought what would become Powder Puff Ski Area, known as a great place to learn to ski.

“I skied everyday at Powder Puff when I wasn’t in school.” She fondly remembers the Powder Puff Rangers, the ski school for the area. She was probably 15 when she started teaching skiing.

“It was a good job. That and waiting tables. What else do you do in Red River, right? Teach skiing during the day and work at night somewhere!” Lori has fond memories of working for Linda and John Hoag at Sundance Mexican Restaurant because “they were great to work for, very caring people.”

The Starbucks/Millers owned Powder Puff from 1970-1979, when it was sold to the Veale family, owners of RRSA. “Powder Puff was one of those moments in time. It was just ... great!”



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## TRACKING THE HIGH COUNTRY



Before the arrival of tracked vehicles in Red River in the mid-1960s, the beautiful vistas to be seen from the mountaintops and ridge lines of the Sangre de Cristos were only available to summer visitors who took horseback rides, jeep trips, or hiked to the high country.

With the arrival of purpose-built snow machines for law enforcement work and utility company crews in harsh winter climates, the glory of nature was soon available to sightseers as the recreational value of snowmobiles became apparent.

Tour companies with professional guides joined Red River ski shops, clothing and gift stores, restaurants and bars to provide adventure, fun and memories of a lifetime in the snow-covered mountains. This winter the town will boast five tracked vehicle tour companies.

The snowmos also appealed to hunters and trappers who needed to get off the roads and on to trails into the high country meadows and timber of the Carson Forest. Their availability in winter created business opportunities, as well as jobs, for locals and off-season residents.

The Town of Red River helps to maintain some of the most popular snowmobile trails during winter season. Grooming helps ensure more enjoyable rides and contributes to better and safer conditions for amateur tour riders.

It also helps trail conditions for the privateers who haul their own sleds to the high country for some snowy vacation enjoyment.

The Carson National Forest has hundreds of miles of roads which become a snowmobiler's paradise when covered with snow during the winter.

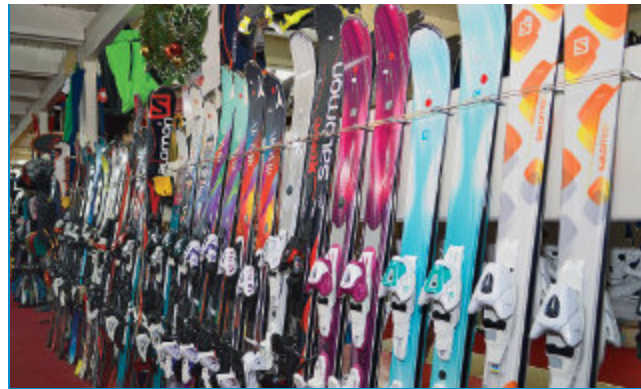
Visitors to New Mexico who bring their own personal sleds to town must obtain a permit to ride on public lands. Travelers should be aware that the state requires snowmobiles to be registered unless they are used only on private land. Non-residents can pay fees and acquire temporary permits through an online registration process. The state's Department of Game and Fish website also includes a list of states with off-highway vehicle registrations that allow riders to bypass purchase of a New Mexico permit.

According to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, riders under age 18 are not allowed to carry passengers and must wear helmets, complete an off-highway motor vehicle course and obtain a safety permit.

The Carson National Forest is the northern-most forest in New Mexico that continues to the border with Colorado. Named for Kit Carson, the 1.39 million acre forest covers significant parts of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, including the Latir Peaks and Valle Vidal.

The Carson also includes Wheeler Peak, which rises to 13,161 feet – making it the highest peak in New Mexico – plus Columbine-Hondo, Cruces Basin and the Pecos Wilderness areas.





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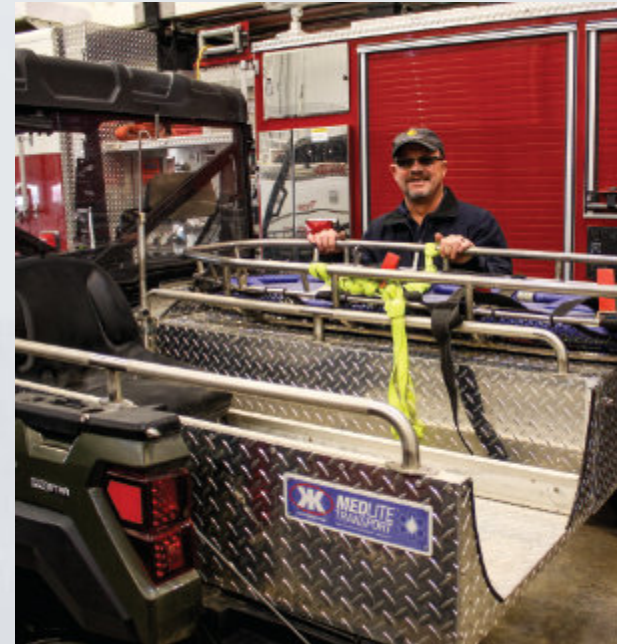
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## ALWAYS READY TO HELP YOU



Red River Search and Rescue has been around as long as the fire department has existed according to Red River Fire Chief Deke Willis.

"It is just another spin-off of what we do in the Department. Especially up here in the tourist-oriented wilderness area, we have to have it."

Willis says summer Search & Rescue calls are overwhelmingly hiking related. During the winter, however, calls involving snowmobiles are predominant. With four snowmo tour companies operating and a great number of private sleds trailored into the Red River area, the number of people raises the odds of high country calls, especially during holiday periods.

Willis says the majority of rescues in winter are not privateers, but they involve less experienced people riding a snowmobile, often for the first time, on a rough trail that causes them to run off the road.

"We have had a snowmobile and rescue sled for a long time. Last year's BBQ fundraiser that didn't happen resulted in the department sending out a donation letter, and we used that money for the snowmobile fund because our snowmobile was getting older.

"We're trying to build up a fleet so that we don't have to rely on using private machines.

"We secured a new sled with independent suspension and it is also designed to cover the patient. When we got the new sled, we needed a new snowmobile to pull it.

Continued Search & Rescue training is a vital part of the department's ability to ensure appropriate responses all year long.

"In Winter we will go out, maybe on a Wednesday or on a Sunday afternoon, and we'll train along the side of the trail."

Chief Willis says winter weather and the elements add difficulty to any rescue.

"The cold is the biggest factor and you know the person has been lying there for an hour or more. It takes time for someone to get down the mountain and make the call, or even if a cellphone is involved, cell phone service in the mountains is spotty – hit and miss.

"It takes time for rescuers to meet here and get bundled up with their gear. Then we have to go up the trail. It always seems to be the farthest away. It just takes time to get there, especially if it's bad weather. You may start out and the weather is nice and clear. By the time you get up there, it's snowing!

"You're dealing with cold, almost hypothermic people. It may be 7-8 miles up to Midnight Meadows, for instance, and those trails are not always smooth like pavement."

Willis added, "Midnight Meadows is where most of the winter rescues take place."

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# THERE'S WINTER FUN TO BE HAD

Red River is celebrating the snow with a variety of exciting activities for winter enthusiasts of all ages. Some special events are scheduled for Winter 2021-22.

## Opening Day – November 24

A longtime tradition at the Red River Ski & Summer Area (RRSA), the day BEFORE Thanksgiving welcomes the start of the season of snowy fun with the beginning of skiing and tubing, or you can ride a frozen turkey down the slope in the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Derby!

## Switch On The Holidays – November 25

The Xmas tree lights come on in downtown Brandenburg Park to kick off the festive month of holiday celebrations. It's also the first Red River appearance of Santa.

## RRSA Race Camp – December 4-5

Expert skiers will be in town to give tips and lessons for all levels of competitive skiers. The Drew Judycki Race Series (4 races) is slated for January and February.

## “Race The Face” Snowmo Hillclimb – Jan. 15

Competitors challenge The Face of the RRSA with high powered snowmobiles to the delight of appreciative fans. Starting at the Lift House, the speedy and noisy trip to the finish line on The Face takes 10 seconds per run and is a genuine crowd-pleaser!

## Red River Songwriters – February 3-5

Professional songwriter/singers chase cabin fever from the door! Performers will include Ray Wylie Hubbard, Jason Eady, Courtney Patton, Drew Kennedy, Susan Gibson, Walt Wilkins, Josh Grider, Kelly Mickwee, and Mike Addington. Concerts will be at The Motherlode and other venues around town.

## RRSA Ski Rodeo – February 4-5

Riding and roping on Alpine skis? That's why it's called a Ski Rodeo and it hits the slopes for two action-packed days. The public is welcome!

## Red River Mardi Gras in the Mountains – February 24-March 1

Laissez les bons temps rouler! Let the good times roll! Six days of fun, food and frivolity are on tap, as the festivities of this Fat Tuesday Carnivale hit the streets of Red River! Cajun cooking and Creole cuisine, costume contests, grand balls and plenty of colorful, gaudy beads make it party-time in the snow!

*All events are subject to cancellation without notice.*





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## OUR RED RIVER DISTILLERS' ART

The Red River Brewing Company opened its doors on Memorial Day 2018 with a selection of craft beers made from award-winning Red River water. By fall of that year, they were an award-winner with the New Mexico Brewers' Guild.

Now, in 2021, the first brewery in Red River has made history with national and world-wide implications by winning a prestigious award for the distilling aspect of their operation.

The 2021 American Distilling Institute's (ADI) Judging of Craft Spirits took place in Louisville, Kentucky, on August 23-25, 2021, with more than 900 of the world's best craft spirits from more than 300 craft distilleries entered to win one of five top awards.

During the competition, 48 expert judges conducted blind taste tests and scored all of the entries. (The ADI is the national association for craft distillers in America.)

Red River Brewing Company & Distillery was notified that their handcrafted Silver King Vodka was judged the best Certified Craft Vodka in America, having been awarded the 2021 Best of Class award for Craft Vodka, the 2021 Double-Gold Medal for Craft Vodka, and the 2021 Best of Category award for Neutral Character Vodka.



"We entered our Silver King Vodka, named after the Silver King mine, in a national competition," says Michael Calhoun, co-owner and founder of Red River Brewing Company, "and we learned that we took top honors in the Vodka category – the Best of Class Award for the best American Craft Vodka."

"It's important to note that we're not talking about the big factory distillers like Smirnoff, Grey Goose and Tito's. We're talking about small, independently owned craft distilleries like us. There are hundreds of us across the country."

"We started distilling our own spirits in fall of 2019, just before COVID happened. We distill our own vodka, rum, gin, tequila and whiskey. It's a relatively new part of our operation. It's something we are proud of and something we always intended to do, but it wasn't something we did from Day One. I'm happy we finally did it!"

"RRBC&D is currently making vodka and gin, as well as two types of rum – a white rum and a spiced rum. We also make our agave distilled spirit, which is tequila, but we can't call it tequila because it's not made in Mexico. It's as good as any white tequila you get out of Mexico."

All brewing and spirits recipes were defined by Chris Calhoun, son of owners Michael and Sharon Calhoun and creator of the Silver King Vodka.





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# NEW & OLD: FACES & PLACES

It is said that Red River never changes, but is always changing. Some new faces will greet you in familiar places, while some familiar faces are in new places as well.

## Candy Mountain – A Delicious Tradition

Angela Howles and Wes Black (Right) are the new owners of **The Candy Crate**, located at 300 West Main in downtown Red River. It is the home of the world-renowned Candy Mountain Fudge. The pair took over operation from company founder Dirk Arnold on August 13.

They intend to maintain the product lines of Candy Mountain Fudge, historic and nostalgic candies and confections, New Mexico food and souvenir products and gift items like puzzles, cups, magnets, etc.

They have moved the New Mexico products to their main display sales area and intend to highlight food products and the work of local and regional artists and craftspersons.

"We plan to expand New Mexico products. While it had a room to itself before, we think it's now actually taking center stage, next to fudge. You might see the New Mexico products expand, taking over more space than it does now, but fudge is going to always be our foundation!"

"Linda Saint is in her 31st year of making fudge and she hopes to stay with us as long as she can before she decides to retire." Tim Gibbons will continue in the production of the trademark fudge.

"One of the things we knew we wanted was something that had a little diversity with it, with different revenue streams. This has twenty apartments, the candy store, fudge manufacturing, regular retail gifts and New Mexico specialty products. It just has a ton of things that were exciting to us!"

## Looking for More Exposure

Carl Brown (Right) came to Red River in 1982 for the purpose of managing a photo concession at the Red River Ski Area. He eventually bought the business in 1985 and changed the name to **Southern Exposure Photography** because "he always liked the name" and wanted to use the Zia to represent his business.

During winter months he and a devoted crew of photographers will be at the chalet of the Red River Ski & Summer Area documenting the fun for families and winter visitors as they have done for 35 years. They also have an office at 316 E Main which they will vacate by February because Carl is currently renovating the former



Timbers Restaurant building at 401 E. Main, which will in the near future, serve as Southern Exposure's home and photo gallery.

Alison Cooper is the new owner of **The Oxygen Shoppe** located on W. Main Street in the Alpine Lodge Complex, next door to Sheehan Winery.

Other businesses under new ownership include the historic **Riverside Lodge and Cabins** at 201 E. Main Street and the **T-Buck's Restaurant** at 601 W. Main.



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## BE CAREFUL, THEY ARE WILD

### Stopping In The The Road: Really?

Recently on a trip down the mountain on NM Highway 38, between Red River and Questa, I encountered a car that flashed its headlights as it approached.

Thanks for the heads-up, I said out loud. Talking to myself has always been my style.

Historically such a signal from an oncoming vehicle meant that a highway patrol car or a Taos County Sheriff's truck was in the immediate vicinity ahead. Since the Sheriff lives near Red River, such a sight is not uncommon.

As I rounded a blind curve not far from the entrance to Columbine Campground, I saw a vehicle stopped in the middle of the road.

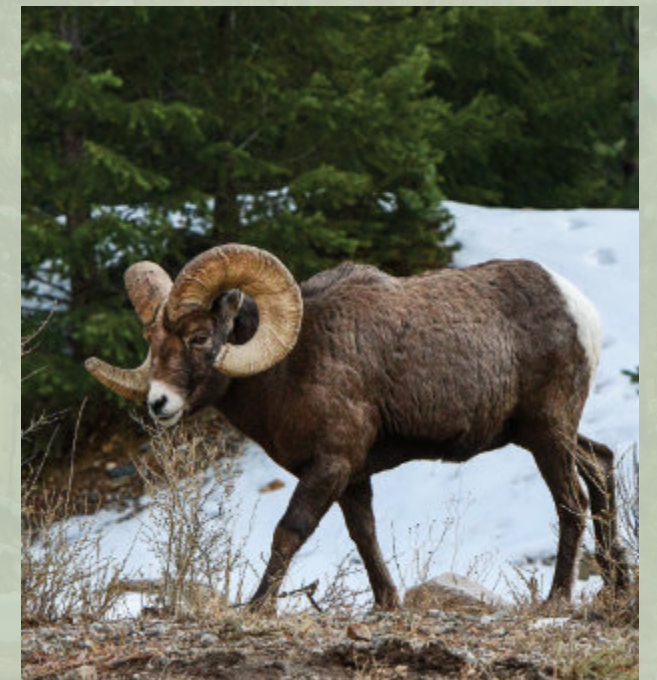
Let me repeat that. Stopped. In the middle of the road.

The driver was standing a foot from the open car door while his passengers were standing in the road on the other side of the vehicle. Standing. In the road.

I've seen it before — many times in fact. A herd of bighorn sheep were grazing on the road while two young rams stood directly on the center line of the highway.

The bighorns are a majestic sight and worthy of a photo. Smart phones are a wonderful tool. BUT...

Parking the car in the middle of the road for a photo op is not the best of ideas. It's a good way to become the



subject of the after-the-crash-photos for the NM State Police and the accident investigators.

The other major factor is that bighorns are wild creatures and, like all wild creatures, they are unpredictable and capable of causing great bodily harm.

If you've ever seen videos of two rams banging heads during an ancient competition for a female companion you can imagine what they can do to your car or to you. Or your kids.

A picture is worth a thousand words. Don't let it be your last words or the words of someone else. Pay attention. Use your head.

### Wapati Is Their Real Name

They are big, strong and majestic, the perfect symbol of the American West, and they live in the mountains around Red River.

Hunted to the point of extinction in the early days of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, elk were reintroduced and have been thriving in the forest and high country meadows of the Carson Forest.

Contrary to popular belief, they are not big deer. Male elk have large antlers which they shed each year. Males also engage in ritualized mating behaviors during the rut.

They do like to warm themselves at night by standing on asphalt highways. Look for them on cold nights.







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## SUMMERTIME MOUNTAIN FUN



Red River became the Winter Playground of the Southwest the day the doors opened on the Red River Ski Area in 1959. Before the ski area, however, the Red River Valley was a summer retreat only, welcoming flatlanders and desert dwellers. Fishing, hiking, camping, sightseeing and just relaxing in the cool, clean mountain air was a treat.

So, what's it like today in the good ol' summer time?

Visitors are drawn to the high country because it's cool, with daytime temps ranging from the 60s to 70s and night temps in the 40s and 50s. How's that for a start?

Shopping and dining are always a treat and summer is a time for outdoor music festivals with gifted performers. Even the Community House has front porch jam sessions, as well as 400+ other activities to entertain visitors.

The Red River Ski & Summer Area has several excellent attractions. The Chair Lift ride to the top of the mountain, the Hidden Treasure Aerial Park and the Pioneer Flyer Seated Zip Line, plus tubing and disc golf make RRSA an adventure and entertainment destination.

The Kit Carson Forest which surrounds Red River – 1.39 million acres – has thousands and thousands of excellent camping opportunities, from developed campgrounds with amenities to dispersed camping throughout the forest.

Another great natural Red River attraction? A river runs through it! The chilly Rio Colorado – Spanish for “colored” or “red” river – runs all year, a welcome place for a quiet stroll by the running water or an inviting lure to trout anglers. Cabin doors are a few steps away from casting a gold-rimmed hare's ear fly in front of a hungry rainbow trout.

If you would rather enjoy angling adventures in a high country lake, Goose Lake, Lost Lake, Horseshoe Lake, Middle Fork and Latir Lakes are not far from downtown Red River. A short drive on the road to Questa will take you to Eagle Rock Lake and a twenty minute drive will take you to Eagle Nest Lake State Park, the largest of the area lakes, which offers the opportunity to tangle with a variety of lake fish, including sockeye salmon and pike!

The #1 inquiry at the Tourism Office in the Conference Center has to do with hiking: Are there any good trails around? The Red River Nature Trail is just across the bridge behind the Conference Center, and Mallette Park has a great trail at the mouth of the canyon. Goose Creek Trail on the Upper Valley Road may be the most scenic.

There are also jeep tours, horseback rides, guided nature hikes, a pump track, disc golf courses and a skate park.

Summer in Red River is a wonderful time in a beautiful place. Come see us!



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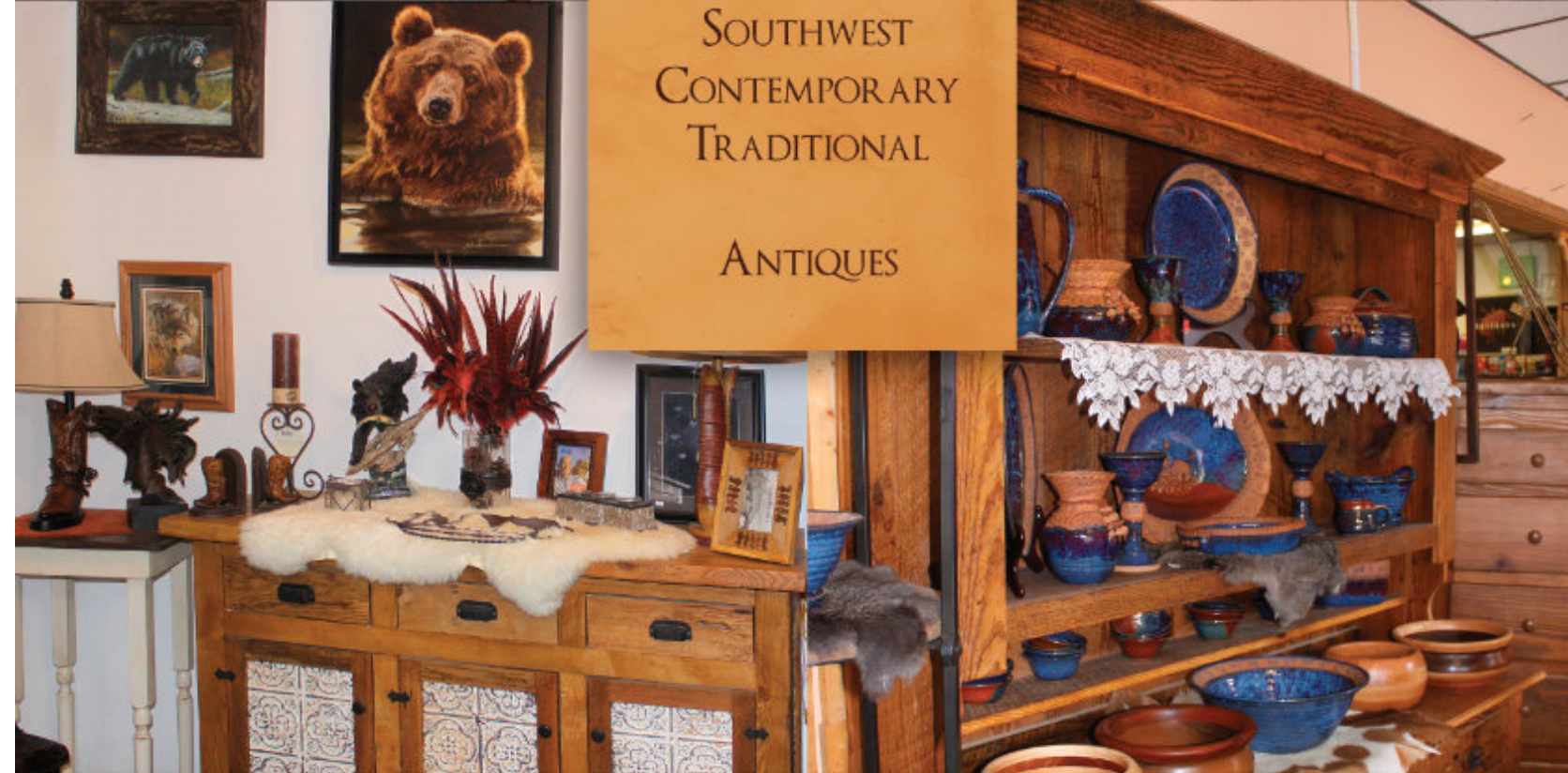
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