

A photograph of two cyclists riding away from the camera on a dirt trail through a lush forest of birch trees. The scene is bright and sunny, with sunlight filtering through the green leaves. The cyclist in the foreground is wearing an orange top and black shorts, while the one in the background is wearing a white shirt and a blue backpack. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

RED RIVER

THE MAGAZINE

SUMMER/FALL 2024

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For an eventful summer visit Red River, New Mexico

May 25-27



Mayfest in the Mountains

June 1



Red River Car Show

June 14-16



Vino in the Valley

July 4



Fourth of July Parade

RED RIVER SUMMER/FALL EVENTS 2024

Come join us here in our cool mountain town for some very special Summer and Fall events. That's, of course, when you're not busy fishing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, offroading, 2-stepping... and all the other activities that Red River has to offer.

July 27



Enchanted Forest Trail Races

August 2-4



Dulcimer & Old Time Music Festival

August 10



Enchanted Circle Bike Tour

August 15-17



8750' BBQ & Music Festival

September 26 - 29



Aspencade Music & Arts Festival

October 11-13



Oktoberfest

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For more detailed event information visit redriver.org

A SHOPPING ADVENTURE AWAITS



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, candles, gifts and lots more.

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

Bobcat – Fine sculptured pottery and statues, native American jewelry.

Candy Crate – Nostalgic candy, fresh fudge, regional food items, puzzles, games and sunglasses.

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

Elevation 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, sunglasses, sunscreen, and souvenirs at RRSA.

Frye's Old Town – Western wear, cowboy hats, clothing, home decorating, 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 – Chock-full of gourmet foods, fashion, jewelry, pottery, signs... lots more to see.

Red River Candy Co. - A unique collection of quirky soda pop, retro candy, classic chocolates, ice cream

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.

Snarky Malarkey's - Curated collection of quirky, snarky, downright fabulous finds, sometimes inappropriate but they'll always make you smile.

Spruce - goods for all – Decorative items for the home including textiles, pillows, bags, leather goods, candles, pottery, jewelry and kids' stuff.

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 Outdoor and Hardware – Hardware, RV supplies, fishing and camping supplies, heaters, t-shirts, caps, regional books.

HIGH COUNTRY DINING IN RED RIVER

For a tiny mountain 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, as well as beer and wine. Casual dress is always appropriate in Red River.

Bearly Awake Coffee Co. – 604 E. Main St.
Coffee, Baked Goods, Frozen Yogurt, Sweet Treats, Bubble Teas

The Bistro – 201 W. Main St.
Mexican, Asian, Sushi, Seafood, Trout, Steak, Chicken Fried Steak, Beer & Wine

Bull O' The Woods Saloon – 401 E. Main St.
Burgers, Sandwiches, Wings, Tacos, Loaded Fries, Full Bar, Specials

Capo's Corner – 110 Pioneer Rd.
Appetizers, Pasta, Pizza, Calzones, Sandwiches, Italian Specialties, Kids' Menu, Beer & Wine

Dairy Bar – 417 E. Main St.
Burgers, Sandwiches, Salads, Ice Cream, Milk Shakes

The Grill at the Lift House – 200 Pioneer Rd.
Appetizers, Craft Burgers, Sandwiches, Salads, along with a Full Bar

Li'l Willie's Shenanigans – 410 W. Main St.
Baked Goods, Ice Cream, Sweet Treats and more

Main Street Pizzeria – 320 E. Main St.
Classic and Gourmet Pizzas, Salads and Specialty Breadsticks

Noisy Water Winery – 518 E. Main St.
NM Wines, Cheese Boards, Gourmet Snacks

Old Tymer's Cafe – 210 E. Main St.
Omelets, Pancakes, Mexican Plates, Burgers, Sandwiches, Pizza

The Pit Stop (Summer Only) – 317 W. Main St.
Fair Food, Corn Dogs, Funnel Cakes, Snow Cones

Red River Brewing Co. – 217 W. Main St.
Appetizers, Wings, Salads, Texas BBQ, Burgers, Sandwiches, Craft Beer and Liquor



Sheehan Winery – 417 W. Main St.
New Mexico Wines, Cheese Boards

Shotgun Willie's Cafe – 403 W. Main St.
Breakfast Burritos, Texas BBQ, Sandwiches, Burgers, Kids' Menu

Sundance Restaurant – 401 E. High St.
Burritos, Enchiladas, Tacos, Steaks, Salads, Kids' Menu, Beer and Wine, Agave Margaritas

T-Bucks – 601 W. Main St.
American Breakfast, Donuts, Omelets, Waffle, Brunch

Texas Reds Steakhouse – 400 E. Main St.
Steaks, Prime Rib, Seafood, Burgers, Salads, Kid's Menu, Full Bar

The Tip Restaurant – Top of the Ski Mountain
Burgers, Fries, Wraps, Grab & Go Food Items, Beer & Wine

Yesterday's Diner – 612 W. Main St.
Burritos, Omelets, Burgers, New Mexican, Sandwiches, Malt Shop, Beer & Wine

Yu Garden - Main & Mallette
A wide variety of authentic Asian cuisine that includes spicy choices, seafood and vegetarian dishes, meal combos and appetizers

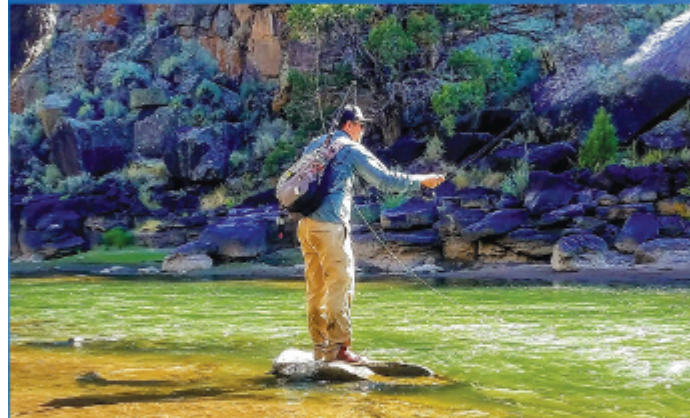
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IT'S WHAT YOU DO FOR NEIGHBORS

This issue of Red River: The Magazine is dedicated to George Florian Woerndle (photo right). He is pictured here attending the 2019 induction of his mother and father, Ilse and Toni Woerndle, into the New Mexico Ski Hall of Fame. —Fritz Davis, Editor

The word “community” seems to be very popular these days, as witnessed by its usage as the 21st century approaches the first-quarter mark.

Community Action. Community Spirit. Community Service. Community Development. Online Community. Virtual Community. Scientific Community. International Community. Local Community. Black Community. White Community. Hispanic Community. LGBTQ Community.

There are more words, and a long list of modifiers for use with community, but I’m beginning to get a headache so... What does community mean in 2024?

I’ve lived in urban areas where politicians are honored by having their names put on a bridge or a Community Center. I prefer, however, to live in small towns and rural areas

According to the 2020 census, the population of Red River is 542. It may be less now as people come and go with the seasons.

I once lived in a community that was half the size of Red River. It was surrounded by milo fields and the pace of life was... well, no one was in a hurry unless the fire siren sounded and then everyone headed quickly for the firehouse, including me. That’s what you do for your neighbors in a community.

George Woerndle became a volunteer firefighter with the Red River Fire Department on May 1, 1980, answering fire calls in sub-zero weather, pouring rain, or days when 40 pounds of structure gear made for hot weather, plus the heat from the fire.

He was elected to the Red River Town Council in 2000 and served on the council until his death in Jan-



uary 2024, bringing a lifetime of experience and quiet continuity that only a lifelong resident could provide.

One beautiful Red River summer day, George spent his time in the Dunk Tank, raising money at a fundraising event for one of the town’s vital non-profit organizations. As for the benefit dance for the Red River Valley Charter School? George and wife Carol attended.

A former member of the UNM ski team, he was early to arrive for the Red River junior ski team auction/ski swap event at the RRSA day lodge, eating a plate of spaghetti and maybe paying too much for a pie or some homemade strudel.

Then there was the time he flew his plane over the ski area, dropping the ashes of a genuine character named Thom Brown on the mountain as Thom’s friends watched from below, a genuine Community Service.

That’s what you do for your neighbors. That’s what you do for your Community.

RED RIVER SUMMER 2024 VACATION MAGAZINE

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OWNED BY KERRY SHEPHERD & FRITZ DAVIS

EDITOR - Fritz Davis PUBLISHER/ART DIRECTOR - Kerry Shepherd PHOTOGRAPHER - Todd Michael

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A special thanks to Michael Calhoun for creating the Hiking section and sharing his info, maps and photos

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| | Yoga | Bingo |
| LINE & SQUARE DANCING | Traditional Church Services | MOVIES ON THE LAWN |

VIEW THE ONLINE CALENDAR AT:
RedRiverCommunityHouse.org

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: @redriverch

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WHERE WORDS FAIL, MUSIC SPEAKS



In addition to providing award-winning craft beers and distilled spirits named after classic figures from Red River's historic mining days, and a menu of great food to delight the palette, the **Red River Brewing Company** at 217 W. Main (Highway 38) is providing great family entertainment with live music throughout the 2024 Summer Season.

The schedule reveals a diverse slate of talented local and regional Southwest singer/songwriters, duos, trios, and full-fledged bands on the stage of the outdoor patio. There is no cover charge. Performance times will vary according to local activities and weather.

- | | |
|---|--|
| May 24-26 – Brian Romero & the Deputies | May 31 – Night Moves |
| May 30 – Dustin Burley | June 8 – Paul Robinson |
| June 7 – Gary Gorence | June 20 – Dustin Burley |
| June 14-16 – Junior Vasquez | June 21-22 – Brian Romero & Earl Baca |
| June 21-22 – Brian Romero & Earl Baca | June 27 – John Hibbard & Kristal Wight |
| June 27 – John Hibbard & Kristal Wight | June 28 – Gary Gorence |
| June 28 – Gary Gorence | June 29 – John Hibbard & Kristal Wight |
| June 29 – John Hibbard & Kristal Wight | July 6 – 4 Letter Word |
| July 6 – 4 Letter Word | July 11 – Gary Gorence |
| July 12-13 – Paul Franco | July 18 – Dustin Burley |
| July 19-20 – Night Moves | July 21 – Gary Gorence |
| July 27 – 4 Letter Word | July 28 – Craig Fasken |
| Aug 2 – Gary Gorence | Aug 3-4 – Dustin Burley |
| Aug 9 – Doc Wesson | Aug 10 – Paul Franco Band |
| Aug 15 – Gary Gorence | Aug 16 – TBA |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aug 17 – Doc Wesson | Aug 23-25 – Junior Vasquez |
| Aug 29 – Gary Gorence | Aug 31 – 4 Letter Word |
| Sept 5 – Dustin Burley | Sept 6 – Paul Franco Band |
| Sept 13 – Gary Gorence | Sept 27 – Gary Gorence |
| Sept 28 – 4 Letter Word | Oct 4 – Gary Gorence |
| Oct 5 – Brian Romero & Earl Baca | |
| Oct 10 – Dustin Burley | Oct 11-13 – Jenni Dale Lord |

Around The Town

The Red River Community House will be hosting the annual **Dulcimer Festival** on August 2-4 with free workshops, concerts, and impromptu jam sessions. Learn to play mountain or hammered dulcimer. Don't forget the **Gospel Sing** on Sunday morning, August 4, at 10:30 am. The popular **Jammin' On The Porch** is open to acoustic musicians every Friday at 4 pm.

Music On Top is a weekend concert series at The Tip Restaurant at the Red River Ski & Summer Area. It features local and regional performers on the outdoor deck in a beautiful setting. Admission is free.

Music will also be a part of the special events in Brandenburg Park. The lineup for **Vino In The Valley** will include *Hwy 38 Houndogs*, *Ry Taylor*, *Chris Arellano*, *Phillip John Brooks*, *Fritz Davis*, and *Michael Smith*. The *Lederhosen Junkies* will be entertaining at **Oktoberfest**. **Aspencade's** lineup of many talented performers is still in the works, TBA later this summer.

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THURSDAY

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| RAY WYLIE HUBBARD | JOHN FULLBRIGHT |
| SETH JAMES | BAILEY BIGGER |

FRIDAY

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| UNCLE LUCIUS | DALE WATSON |
| TEJAS BROTHERS | KELLEY MICKWEE BAND |
| AMANDA KATE FERRIS | MATT KIRK & THE GÜEYFARERS |
| HOOKS & THE HUCKLEBERRIES | MARK EDGAR STUART |
| CALEB WILBOURN | JACK BARKSDALE |

SATURDAY

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| JOSH WEATHERS | JESSE DANIEL |
| MICKY & THE MOTORCARS | ADAM HOOD |
| DALLAS BURROW | TOPO CHICO COWBOYS |
| ERIC DEMMER BAND | JACK BARKSDALE |
| THE BARLOW | |

SUNDAY

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| KELLEY MICKWEE | DREW KENNEDY |
| JOSH GRIDER | MIKE ADDINGTON |

NIGHTLY

LOST LOVE SALOON AT TEXAS REDS STEAKHOUSE

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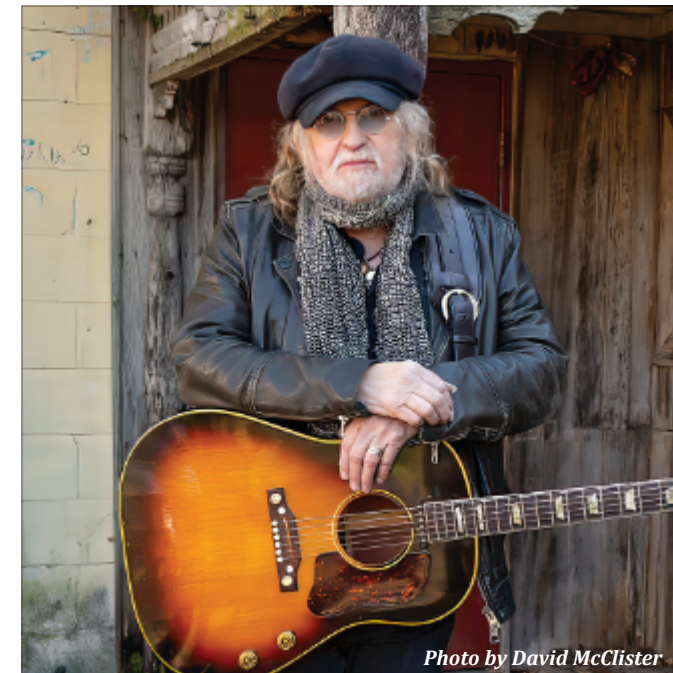


Photo by David McClister

Ray Hubbard (above) first played in Red River in summer of 1965 with friends Rick Fowler and Wayne Kidd, newly graduated from high school. Singer/songwriter Jack Barksdale (right) was 11 years old when he played solo at the Red River Folk Festival in 2018.

Ray and Jack will both be in town in 2024.

Great music is an important part of life in Red River and the grand tradition which began years ago continues at the **8750 BBQ & Music Festival**, August 15-17 in Brandenburg Park. Entertainers set to appear are Ray Wylie Hubbard, Jack Barksdale, Adam Hood, Amanda Kate Ferris, Bailey Bigger, The Barlow, Caleb Wilbourn, Dale Watson, Dallas Burrow, Eric Demmer Band, Hooks and the Huckleberries, Jesse Daniel, John Fullbright, Josh Weathers, Kelly Mickwee, Mark Edgar Stuart, Matt Kirk and the Güeyfarers, Micky and the Motorcars, Mike Addington, Ollie O' Shea, Seth James, Tejas Brothers, Topo Chico Cowboys, Josh Grider, Drew Kennedy, and Uncle Lucius.

The festivities also include the competitions for the Lone Star Society BBQ Cookoff (\$10,000 purse), CASI red chili qualifier for the Terlingua International Chili Championship, and the New Mexico Green Chile Championship. Proceeds benefit the Red River Valley Charter School.

The festival wraps with a Sunday concert at The Tip Bar and Grill, at the Red River Ski & Summer area.



Around The Town This Summer

It's an experience you will never forget: Michael Martin Murphey in concert at the **Rockin 3M Chuckwagon Show** at the beautiful lakeside theater located on Bitter Creek Road. A grand chuckwagon dinner precedes Murph in concert as he performs his signature hit songs as well as the songs of the American West. Tickets are available at Texas Reds at the Lodge on Main Street.

Syd Masters returns this summer as **Bobcat Pass Cowboy Evening** celebrates 33 years of providing a taste of the American West. The 2024 Western Writers of America Spur Award-winner will entertain through August.

Casey James headlines the **3rd Annual River Music Gathering** at 4K River Ranch on July 12-14. Also performing are Amanda Kate Ferris, Michael Smith, and Jenna Lisa Burns. Bring your chairs and sit in the grassy area by the pavilion.

Red River favorite Mike Addington will be playing nightly at the **Lost Love Saloon in Texas Reds**, and across the street the **Bull O' The Woods Saloon** will be presenting Jim Reger, Ry Taylor, and occasional bands.

Oscar Butler and Clark Libby are scheduled to perform at **Noisy Water Winery** throughout the summer.

Check websites for performers and times.

Red River Chamber of Commerce 2024 Events

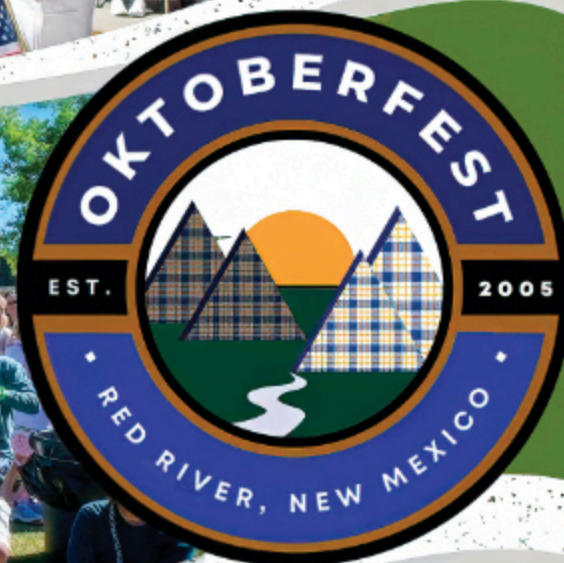


June
14-16



July 4

October 11-13



EXPANSION OF UPCOMING EVENTS

The Red River Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce upcoming festival enhancements and event expansions for 2024 and beyond. Following a 2021 pivot toward member services and away from the plethora of events the Chamber used to host each year (including but not limited to Mardi Gras in the Mountains, the Enchanted Circle Century Bike Tour, Red River Car Show, and Aspencade, to name just a few of their greatest hits), the Chamber has been able to pour additional energy and resources into the events it has retained. With this extra energy, the Chamber is working diligently to ensure that each festival and event it hosts features the best of Red River, the Enchanted Circle, and the state of New Mexico.

Vino in the Valley Festival

The 20th Annual VINO in the Valley Festival, the Red River Valley's Premier Art & Wine Festival, occurs each Father's Day Weekend (June 14-16 in 2024). This beloved festival celebrates Northern New Mexico's art, wine, and culinary scene and will include:

- Enhanced entertainment, including renowned musicians and engaging activities for all ages.
- An art walk taking place across town – make sure to participate to enter for a chance to win valuable prizes!
- A Silent Auction for vacation packages, dining experiences, and the best of Red River
- A "Wine and Dine" educational series exploring the region's wine and viticulture heritage.
- Strategic partnerships with New Mexico Wine and New Mexico Restaurant Association to showcase a greater variety of wine and food offerings.

4th of July Parade and Celebration

Parade

- Celebrity Judges and Media Coverage: Bringing regional media attention to events, showcasing Red River's charm and vibrant atmosphere.
- \$800.00 prize for the best float, \$500.00 for the best antique vehicle, and \$200.00 for the best-decorated bicycle.

Celebration

Red River Passport Program: A program encouraging visitors to explore local businesses with prizes for completing your passport and entering it in the raffle.



Enhanced Park Festivities:

- All-day food vendors hosted in partnership with the Town of River's "Visit Red River"
- All-day cornhole for the whole family
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Live music by the ENMU Brass Quintet
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Old-fashioned games offered in partnership with the Red River Community House
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Trophies and prizes for winning parade categories

Red River Oktoberfest

The 19th Annual Red River Oktoberfest, taking place October 11-13, at the "intersection of lumberjack and lederhosen," blends Bavarian traditions with the unique flavor of the northern New Mexico Sangre de Cristo Mountains. This year's festival will feature:

- Enhanced German-style music offerings to create a lively and immersive atmosphere with Lederhosen Junkies band providing a fresh new take on old-time polka classics and a unique spin on traditional tunes
- A judged beer tasting showcasing the diversity of New Mexico's craft beer scene
- An expanded food court
- Strongman/Strongwoman competition
- Improved accessibility, ensuring a welcoming and inclusive festival experience for all attendees

These events and enhancements aim to solidify Red River's position as a premier tourist destination, offering a unique blend of culture, art, culinary delights, and outdoor adventure.

–Naoma Staley, Red River Chamber of Commerce CEO

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MAYFEST KICKS OFF SUMMER 2024

The Tourism Office in the Conference Center has info on Things To Do. Ask them. They enjoy helping people.

Mayfest in the Mountains, the first special event of the 2024 Summer/Fall season, is set for May 25-27. A New Mexico True event, it's a celebration of Summer in the high country, embracing family-friendly activities while honoring military veterans and families.

At Brandenburg Park, a **Quick-Draw Plein Air** competition sponsored by the Questa Creative Council will be held all day, May 26, with a reception/awards from 4 - 6 pm. Family-friendly games will be ongoing. Bob the Storyteller will be in the Pavilion Saturday at 11 am and 2 pm, and Sunday at 11 am. Social organizations from around the state will have info on programs available to the public. Fritz Davis (3 pm) and Michael Smith (4 pm) will be entertaining on Saturday and Sunday.

Mark Lewis Wagner, who held the Guinness World Record for the world's largest chalk drawing, will bring his **Drawing on Earth** project Saturday for a day filled with creativity, inspiration, and artistic expression.

The **Wall of Honor** will be on display in the Conference Center. Originally called Faces of the Fallen, the Wall of Honor includes service men and women killed in action in Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and Operation Enduring Freedom. (Info courtesy vetshelpingvetshq.com/wall-of-honor)

New Mexico Game & Fish Department will be at the Community Fishing Ponds on Claim Jumper Street with



displays like the Big Game Trophy Trailer and a Trout Exhibit. Fishing demonstrations and casting lessons with Jeff Fagan of Fagan Guided Fly Fishing are free. The U.S. Forest Service Community Outreach Program will be on hand and NM native Smokey Bear will be there.

At Mallette Park, activities will include disc golf demonstrations and lessons with Justin Brandenburg on the disc golf course.

Summer Things To Do

The Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout is the Official Fish of New Mexico, but rainbows and browns are in the water too. The Red River runs through the town, and high country lakes, streams, and in-town ponds are accessible.

There are five public parks in Red River. Brandenburg and Mallette have playgrounds. All have easy access. Ask for directions at the Tourism Office. Have fun.

Guided tours are available for horseback rides or high-country sightseeing Jeep rides. ROVs (ATVs) are available for rent, as are street-legal electric vehicles. Rent a mountain bike or ride a surrey around town. The new Pump Track and Skate Park in Mallette Park are open.

Mark your calendar for the 9th **Questa Art Tour** on August 10-11. The first tour in the northern New Mexico art-tour season will see over 45 artists. Take a short day trip and meet them in their creative studio workshop environments. For more info visit quesatacreative.org.



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CHAIRLIFT & SUMMER FUN AT RRSA

The View Is Fabulous

It promises to be the greatest free show this summer in Red River, with exotic helicopters flying precision tasks to install new lift towers.

The Copper Chair, located at the river on Gilt Edge Trail, will be replaced by a new triple chairlift built by Doppelmayr, the internationally renowned manufacturer of people movers for ski areas, urban transport, and amusement parks.

The project is part of a \$6 million investment in the ongoing master plan for the Red River Ski & Summer Area.

The original Copper Chair was installed at Red River Ski Area and began operation for the 1993-94 winter ski season when RRSA owner Drew Judycki (pictured at right) officially cut the ribbon and took the first ride to the top of the mountain.

Named after the Copper King Mine, the 1800s mine located near the site of the lift, the chair has access to the first eastward terrain expansion in the ski area's history, connecting the Town of Red River on each end with walking access to the ski mountain.



Improvements in technology allow the triple chair to replace 38 towers with 20 and provide a quicker and more comfortable ride to the top.

The new chair will be in service for the 24/25 season, offering better efficiency for guests. It will retain the name Copper Chair, keeping its legacy alive.



and offers a unique view of the town and the surrounding mountains. Catch a burger at The Tip or explore the forest trails at the top.

The scenery is amazing in the cool mountain air while playing the disc golf course at 10,350' above sea level at the top of the mountain at the Red River Ski Area. The course offers the original 18-hole layout and a 21-hole tournament challenge. The course is the site of the annual Drew Judycki Memorial Tournament.

The two-seater zipline on Claim Jumper Street is a rush! It pulls you backward 600 feet over the Pioneer Corridor of the Ski Area and The Face. From there gravity takes over, and you whiz at 35 miles per hour back down to the loading deck, soaring over the Willow fishing pond.

You've got to see it! The Hidden Treasure Aerial Park is indeed a treasure. It offers adventures for the whole family promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

Summer mountain tubing provides the thrill of a luge run down the mountain! Slide down the longest summer tubing tracks in the country on Gold Rush Hill, or take it a bit slower on the kid-friendly tracks on Lil' Blue. It's a thrilling family-friendly attraction.

It's in the name: **Red River Ski & Summer Area.** Check out the activities on the mountain.

The Platinum Chair ride to the top of the mountain is a favorite with visitors and locals alike, and it will be operating this summer. The scenery is breathtaking

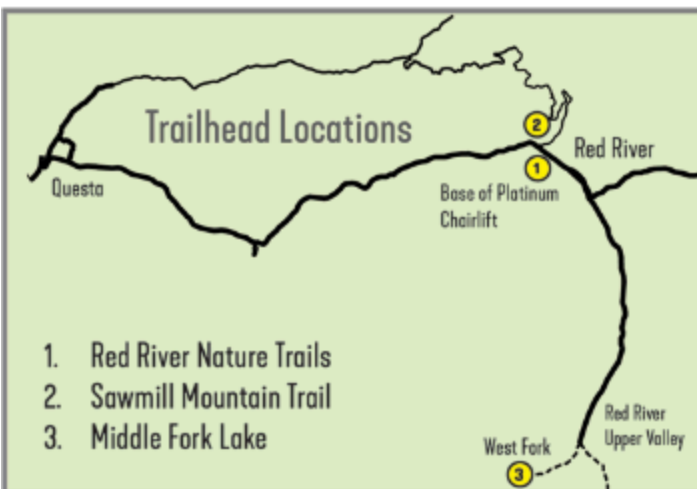
Go Take a Hike!

Three family-friendly hikes in and around Red River

Brought to you by Red River Brewery & Distillery

Grab the whole family, put on your hiking shoes, and get away from the crowds for a hike in the great outdoors! View high alpine lakes and mountain streams, take in grand vistas, see plants and animals that abound in the wilderness, and enjoy the quiet solitude that only the beautiful outdoors can offer. Here are three nearby trails, ranging from easy to moderate, that offer something that's right for everyone. Take a hike and have fun!

By Michael Calhoun



1. Red River Nature Trails
2. Sawmill Mountain Trail
3. Middle Fork Lake

- Leave only footprints and take only photos
- Respect the wildlife
- Go prepared
- Don't overdo it
- Hike with a buddy
- Don't cut switchbacks



What to Take

What to take is entirely up to you and depends on how long of a hike you're planning, the time of year, and your own needs and preferences. Check the weather forecast. It's always a good idea to plan for bad weather and to be prepared. Remember that it always gets colder as you gain elevation. Here are some items to consider in order to stay warm, safe, and comfortable.

- Hiking shoes / boots
- Good warm socks
- Comfortable daypack
- Clothing in layers
- Hat and sunglasses
- Rain jacket / poncho
- Plenty of water and snacks. Extra is good.
- Trekking poles
- A hiking buddy
- Camera / phone
- Map
- Basic first aid kit
- Knife or multitool
- Flashlight
- Sunscreen
- Matches or lighter
- Toilet paper & trowel

The map excerpts used in this article were taken from the **Recreational Map of Red River, Taos Ski Valley, and Vicinity**. Copies of the full-size map are available in shops around town.



1 Nature Trail



Distance: As short or as long as you like
Elevation Change: 137 m / 450 ft maximum



Photo: Red River Ski & Summer Area

Trailheads: The main trailhead is at the base of the Platinum chairlift at Pioneer Road and River Street. Alternative trailheads include the footbridge behind the Conference Center and the footbridge on Jayhawk Trail near the Red River Library.

Hike: The popular Red River Nature Trail is a simple-to-access and easy-to-hike collection of interconnecting trails just outside town on the south side of the Red River. To enjoy the full length of the trail, start at the base of the Platinum Chairlift and follow the trail upstream along the river. The trail climbs gradually to its terminus at Goose Lake Road. The Double Draw Loop segment and the Fenceline Trail segment offer alternatives to the simple "out and back" hike. Turn around whenever you want or combine the segments to make this hike as long or as short as you like. There are signs along the trail that make navigating easy.

The Trail offers a quick way to get into nature that is good for the whole family. See local wildlife and experience great views of the town of Red River.

Bonus Points: For a longer hike [and better views], do the Summit Trail at Red River Ski Area instead. This trail starts at the base of the Platinum Chairlift, climbs [462m/1515 ft. to the top, and is 11.2 km (7.0 miles) roundtrip. Optionally, take the chairlift to the top [for a small fee] and enjoy the walk down [or vice versa]. Note: If you hike to the top your ride down is free.

2 Sawmill Mountain

Distance: 4.8 km (3 miles) round trip
Elevation Change: 306 m (1004 ft)



  Sawmill Mountain
10962

Trailhead: The trailhead is located at the base of Sawmill Mountain behind and just west of Terrace Towers Lodge at 712 W. Main Street. Drive behind the lodge and look for a locked gate there to prevent motorized vehicles from accessing the trail. Park near the gate but don't block it.

Hike: This nearby but often overlooked trail is all about the views! Starting at the locked gate (there to prevent access by motorized vehicles), hike up the trail 2.4 km (1.5 miles) to a lookout point about halfway to the top of Sawmill Mountain. Be sure to take your camera as this spot affords the best panoramic views of Red River and the ski area to be found anywhere. Hikers can enjoy walking side-by-side on this trail because it doubles as a seldom-used road used to access the electronics site on top of the mountain.

Bonus Points: From the lookout point continue up the trail to the top of Sawmill Mountain where even more expansive views await you. You'll be able to see majestic Wheeler Peak and Gold Hill to the south, and Latir Peak to the northwest. This option adds 4.1 km (2.5 miles) round trip and 382 m (1253 ft) elevation gain to the hike.

 Lookout Point



Trailhead: From Red River, travel 10.5 km (6.5 miles) to the end of the pavement, turn right on West Fork Forest Road #58 and travel 2.1 km (1.3 miles) to the trailhead. Forest Road #58 requires a 4-wheel drive or high clearance vehicle.

3 Middle Fork Lake

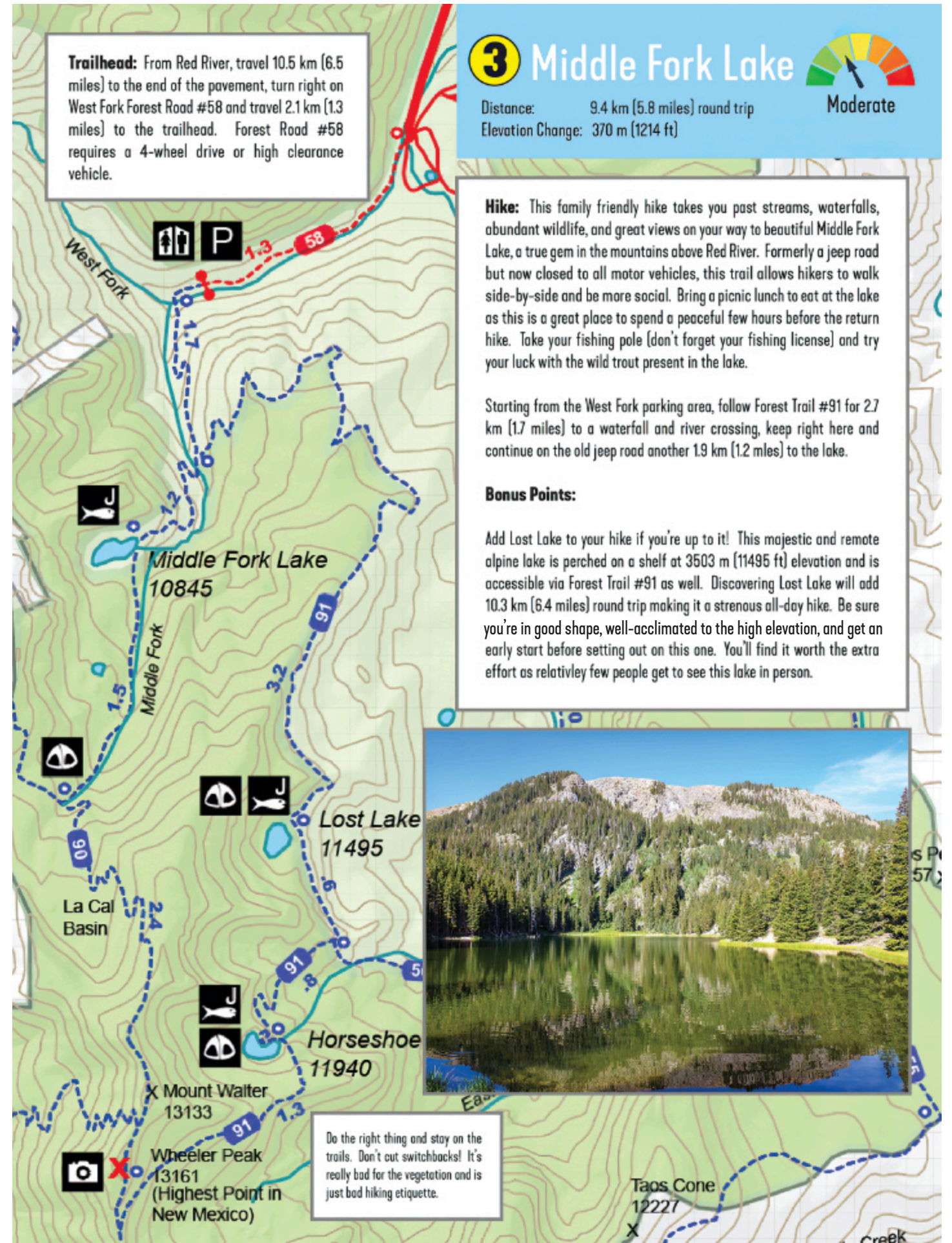
Distance: 9.4 km (5.8 miles) round trip
Elevation Change: 370 m (1214 ft)

Hike: This family friendly hike takes you past streams, waterfalls, abundant wildlife, and great views on your way to beautiful Middle Fork Lake, a true gem in the mountains above Red River. Formerly a jeep road but now closed to all motor vehicles, this trail allows hikers to walk side-by-side and be more social. Bring a picnic lunch to eat at the lake as this is a great place to spend a peaceful few hours before the return hike. Take your fishing pole (don't forget your fishing license) and try your luck with the wild trout present in the lake.

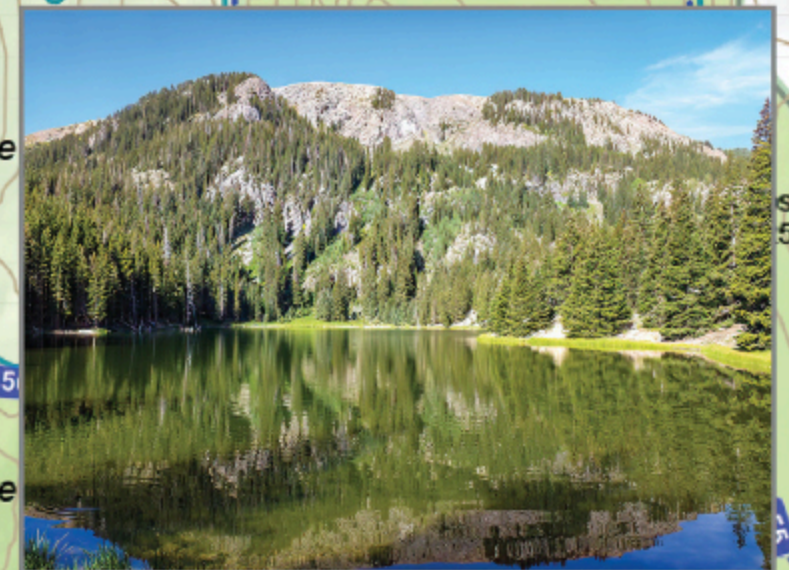
Starting from the West Fork parking area, follow Forest Trail #91 for 2.7 km (1.7 miles) to a waterfall and river crossing, keep right here and continue on the old jeep road another 1.9 km (1.2 miles) to the lake.

Bonus Points:

Add Lost Lake to your hike if you're up to it! This majestic and remote alpine lake is perched on a shelf at 3503 m (11495 ft) elevation and is accessible via Forest Trail #91 as well. Discovering Lost Lake will add 10.3 km (6.4 miles) round trip making it a strenuous all-day hike. Be sure you're in good shape, well-acclimated to the high elevation, and get an early start before setting out on this one. You'll find it worth the extra effort as relatively few people get to see this lake in person.



Do the right thing and stay on the trails. Don't cut switchbacks! It's really bad for the vegetation and is just bad hiking etiquette.



Questa ART TOUR

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RIVER RAFTING ON THE RIO GRANDE



Red River is the perfect home base for all your day trips, sightseeing, and recreational pursuits. Northern New Mexico offers a lifetime of memories ranging from the alpine beauty of our own mountain forest to the ancient home of the Red Willow people of the Taos Pueblo. You can experience the grandeur of high desert rock formations, or take in breathtaking views from the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge down into the majestic depths of the gorge and river below. New Mexico truly is the Land of Enchantment.

For those seeking high adventure as well as beauty, river rafting is an ideal choice. The Rio Grande, New Mexico's "mother river," is world-renowned for river rafting adventure, which can be traced to the 1950s. This summer the **New Wave Rafting Company** began its 44th year of whitewater rafting adventure in April and will continue to provide family fun until Labor Day.

Founded in the summer of 1980, the company was based in Santa Fe for 30 years before moving to Embudo on the river, their current headquarters.

In addition to challenging whitewater trips through the 700-foot deep Rio Grande Gorge, with the premier offering of a spectacular daylong adventure (not for the timid) in the famous Taos Box, New Wave also offers float trips downstream for those seeking more leisurely sightseeing rides. The trips include a buffet lunch for the rafters.

In addition, New Wave Rafting offers trips on the Rio Chama, a major tributary of the Rio Grande which, according to their website, "flows sedately through a canyon of multi-hued sandstone cliffs."

Britt Runyon is the "owner, photographer, and videographer" of New Wave Rafting Company. He joined the company in 1983 and after 40 years, still loves his work. He grew up canoeing – "you know before rafting took off in the 60s and early 70s." He also is an experienced kayaker and snowboarder, as well as a scuba diver and rock climber.

He is not shy about his love of the great outdoors and he enjoys sharing that love.

"People need to come down and bring their families and have fun. We expect to have really good water this year because of the snowpack that's in the mountains. It's over 100% of the average!

"That's always great because we are in the southwest and we need the moisture.

"We do a lot of families," Britt says, with enthusiasm, "and we do a lot of older folks who aren't as physically mobile. I guess the baby boomer population that's older still wants to get out and do things but they don't want the rapids, so they end up doing the floats. We have something for somebody from four years old to 104!"

Booking can be done online at newwaverafting.com with a 10% discount offered there. It is an excellent website with everything you need to know to prepare – what to bring (or not bring), what to wear, what to expect on the trip, what's in the buffet lunch provided, how to get photos of the trip... You can contact New Wave by email at newwaverafting@gmail.com or by phone at 800-984-1444 for more information.

Photo by Britt Runyon

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CARSON FOCUSES ON FAWN LAKES



what kinds of soil we have. Those dams are made of dirt and I bet we didn't test the dirt in the 50s when the gravel pits filled with water. We need to figure out what kind of soils are there and if they can hold a lake, or if that is the reason that the area blew out.

"It took a year to find an engineer that wanted to do a set of studies. The Forest Service does not have those lake engineers so they approached the Bureau of Reclamation which does this professionally as a government agency. It will cost a pretty penny.

"For the next two years, they'll do a full set of surveys. This year they're going to survey what it looks like when the hydro-thermal scars flood and what it looks like in high flow (what they're estimating the high flows will be for a 100-year flood)."

The BOR will provide three alternatives. They're going to look at the cost to restore it to its former condition - dams are expensive. Another alternative could see the river altered to create better fishing opportunities. The third alternative could see the area become a wetland. (Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil throughout the year.)

Partners in the project are the Carson National Forest, the Town of Red River, the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, Trout Unlimited, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The Forest Service, with its partners, hopes to begin construction on one of the three alternatives by the fall of 2025 or summer of 2026.

Fawn Lakes Campground has been a popular recreational site for over 70 years, with its two beautiful lakes a favorite place for avid anglers.

The area was actually a gravel pit that supplied roadbed material for Highway 38 when the road was built/paved between Red River and Questa in the 1950s.

In 2018-2019, heavy spring runoff took out the dam and broke everything: sidewalks, every pullout and pier. It was a lot more water than was ever anticipated.

"From historical records I have read, Fawn Lakes were first gravel pits at a lower elevation of the river that at some point accidentally filled during a spring runoff," says Alyssa Radcliff, Wildlife Biologist for the East zone of the Carson Forest. She grew up in Red River and has worked for the Forest Service for 22 years.

"The campground was built shortly after the lakes were created. Everybody thought it was a great idea and so we kept with it and, probably in the 1970s, the Forest Service put in and built up the dams a little bit more, put overflow in it, and put the head gate in the river.

"In 2020, the Forest Service made the decision to find an engineer to figure out the best course of action for the future. They'll survey that whole area and see



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IT'S NO SECRET THAT IT'S THE WATER

The Red River Distillery and Tasting Room opened in the winter of 2023 and is located at 619 E. Main (at the "Y"). Daily guided tours of Red River's first purpose-built distillery, including a look at the largest still in New Mexico, are available to the public daily from 4:30-5 pm.

Spirits produced onsite include the award-winning Silver King Vodka, Mallette Brothers Gin, Purkapile Rum, Bourbon, Rye Whiskey, Cabresto Cañón Agave Spirit, and Sotol.

The Red River Brewing Company opened its doors in 2018. The distillery facility shared space in the building but did not commence production until the summer of 2019.

"The distillery had always been part of the idea," says Michael Calhoun, founder and co-owner with wife Sharon, "but we chose not to do it initially because it would have been more than we could have handled at the time. When we did start production less than a year later we knew almost immediately that we couldn't keep up with demand. We started looking around and bought and renovated this facility on the east side of Red River. This place," Michael says, "is giving us about 20 times the production capacity for distilled spirits."

The brewery building on W. Main is now used only for production of beer and as a popular restaurant/bar.

The distillery Tasting Room is located at the main entrance of the building. Samples of the products are available along with swag, souvenirs, and gift items.

"My philosophy of the tasting room is that a distillery isn't doing everything it should if it doesn't have a tasting room right next to it," Michael says, "right where people can come in and look at where we make the spirits, see how we make them and talk to the people producing those spirits. In the tasting room they should be able to taste what we make and try them in the cocktail, maybe buy a bottle so it's part of the experience. It is also a really valuable way for us to get real-time feedback from people."

It Starts With The Water

"We start with fabulous water in our spirits as well, and everything we do, down to the iced tea that we make with water, is better because our water is the best. We're not downstream from anybody. When we

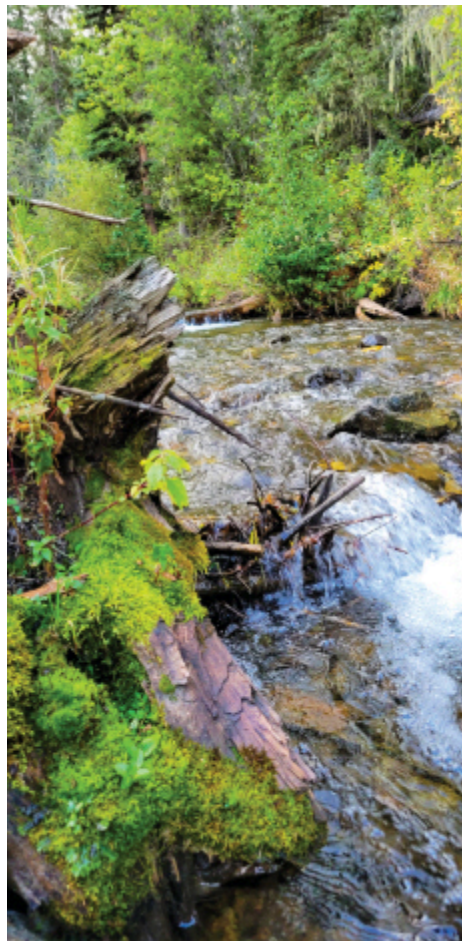


started exploring the ideas of running a brewery and distillery, we took water samples and sent them off to laboratories to have it analyzed – just part of doing a thorough job. We were wondering what we needed to do to our water to make it good for beer and spirits. The laboratory sent the analysis back to us and said 'Don't do a thing, don't change anything, it's perfect! You don't have to filter it, you don't have to do reverse osmosis that goes on with the pH and hardness of that water, it's absolutely ideal the way it is.' I think our product benefits from the fact that our water is perfect."

He notes that there is some space in the new building for expansion and the new facility has increased production of spirits, as well as increasing beer output at the brewery. That allows for increased distribution. Currently, products are available "all throughout New Mexico" and a recent agreement with a large Texas distributor may require the utilization of that space.

When Michael retired from Los Alamos Labs, he wanted to return to Red River. The brewery and distillery have made that possible.

"We're very optimistic about this town. Its future is strong. I love this town. I was born and raised here. Sharon and I don't live here because we have to – we want to live here!"



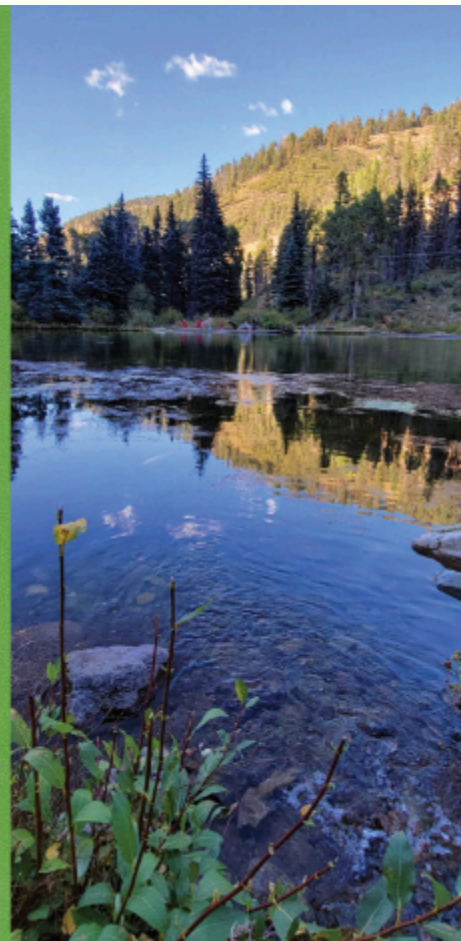
TALL PINE RESORT

Come Make A Memory

Tall Pine Resort is nestled on the edge of the Kit Carson National Forest just over a mile toward the Upper Valley from Red River, NM. Situated on almost 30 acres riverfront and mountainside are 23 rustic cabins (think camping... with a bathroom and kitchen) varying in size from single to 3 bedrooms.

In the center of Tall Pine is the private lake which is stocked weekly with Rainbow trout during the season. Tall Pine opens on May 15 and closes on September 30. Your time at Tall Pine can be spent lake or river fishing, hiking a forest trail or walking or sitting by the riverside in peace and quiet. It's the perfect spot for a peaceful getaway or a family retreat or reunion.

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HISTORIC PLACES ALIVE AND WELL



Terry and Lance Loudder had not been to Red River for over thirty years when they brought a youth group to the high country. They had never stayed in the **Tall Pine Lodge** before 2021.

As of 2022, they became owners of the historic lodge. They're former residents of the Texas Panhandle - "42 years on the farm" - and graduates from Texas Tech. Lance says his great grandparents settled on sectional land in Sunnyside Texas in 1928. The family succeeded despite the Dust Bowl Days and the Great Depression.

Lance ran the family farm and Terry was a school secretary and edited the Castro County newspaper.

During the 2021 visit, Lance saw a sign advertising Tall Pine Resort for sale. He wasn't in the market to buy property, especially a lodge in a resort town.

"Everybody always says 'You know, have you ever had a sign from God?'" Lance says with a smile, "And I say 'Yeah, mine was right there!'"

After visiting the property and staying there three times during the summer, Lance and Terry were struck by the magic of Tall Pine Resort and found themselves owning the historic lodge that was built by the Oldham Brothers in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

"I'm surprised how so many local people don't know what is here. They've never been here. There are 23 rustic cabins and a great lake with an abundance of wildlife, plus the river runs through it. It's magic."



Michael Hayes has been coming to Red River since 1974 with his parents "you know for a Ski-Doo ski vacation like every Thanksgiving or Christmas."

Since November 2016 Michael and his wife Ann have owned the Arrowhead Lodge next to the Red River Ski Area.

"We were actually looking at buying another property, but my mom and stepdad, Loretta and John West, had retired and they were actually staying up there for a while so I looked at it. Loretta and John said they would run it so..."

Michael wasn't really in the market to buy the **Bull O' The Woods Saloon** but "several years ago, probably before we bought the lodge, I was pretty good friends with Tim and Dondi Koon, and when they were having some hard times they offered the Bull to us."

He didn't buy it then, but when it came up for sale three years later, a deal was done.

"It's like the next thing, the next adventure, so we decided to buy it. I've always loved the history of the Bull. I just enjoy going there. I've met some tremendous people there over the years!"

Summer '24 will see Red River favorites Jim Reger, along with Ry Taylor entertaining in the Beer Garden and great food will be available from the kitchen. Also, keep an eye out for the Bull's float in the annual Fourth of July Parade on Main Street.

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"AMAZING EXPERIENCE!"
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NEW BUSINESSES ON MAIN STREET



Lindsey Casali is operating **Casali Real Estate** and **Mountain Peak Properties** vacation rentals, offering real estate and property management services.

Her office is located in Lifts West, right next to the brewery "where the old tea shop used to be" at 201 W. Main Street, Unit 4.

Lindsay began her real estate career in 2013, working at Red River Real Estate. She has been at Calhoun Realty for the past five years before establishing her own real estate and property management company in November of 2023.

A native of Northern New Mexico and the Enchanted Circle, she has lived in Red River since 1999.

"I like to sell real estate. I enjoy people interacting with people, and meeting new people.

Casali Real Estate offers a wide range of real estate services, including buying, selling, long-term rentals, short-term rentals, and property management/care. She has a variety of properties for sale and nightly rentals available – from townhouses and condos to cabins and large homes.

Check out the website at casali-realestate.com, and on Facebook and Instagram.

Snarky Malarkey (Gifts Gone Amiss), Red River's newest gift shop, opened its door in December 2023. The shop is located at 300 W. Main, Suite B, at the east



end of the Candy Crate building, directly across from Der Markt grocery store.

"We are a typical gift shop but with a bit of a twist," Jodee says. "Pretty much everything in here has snarky things that make people laugh," Jodee says.

"People should see it as a true gift shop, a place where they're going to come in and buy things for other people. So it's the types of things that we have in here like socks, clothes, patched shirts, hoodies, jigsaw puzzles, kitchen towels, and a lot of coffee cups and drinks. She adds, "Yes, we do have 'Inappropriate Trucker Hats.'" The shop is open seven days a week, 11 am–6 pm. Some items may not be PG rated. P.S. Jodee is also a real estate broker if you are interested.

Red River now has a place for fitness and workout fans. **Gold Hill Gym** is located at 500 W. Main. A former bodybuilder, manager Michael Nail has been around gyms and workout equipment most of his life.

"The facility will have dumbbells and machines to work out every part of the body. We'll have a Cardio room which is going to be Peloton so you can take on-line classes. We'll have a commercial membership to Peloton and we'll have a box treadmill and probably a couple of rowers. We may do 24/7 with a keypad lock so when you're a member you'll have your own code to get in and out."



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RESTAURANTS AND SPECIAL PLACES



No, it is not a new restaurant. In fact, it is the longest-established eatery in town.

The summer of 2024 is a special time for **Sundance Restaurant**, located at the corner of Copper King Trail and High Street. Red River's favorite place for Mexican food celebrates its 50th anniversary of operation in the same location. Opened in 1974 by the Hoags, it is still a family operation with John and daughter Sara. A special celebration is set for June 23.

Sundance also has an art gallery that features the work of the late Linda Hoag who was known for her local and regional subject matter and for her love and use of vibrant colors.

For the past 15+ years, **Yu Garden** has been well-known for great Asian Cuisine, first in Angel Fire and then a successful run in Taos before closing in summer 2023. After a brief "retirement," marked by boredom, it was time to get back to work. According to Amanda, her husband likes to cook!

Amanda and Jack Yu have opened **Yu Garden** at the corner of Main and Mallette Road in Red River. The space was formerly Lonesome Pine Pub and is adjacent to **Studio 23/Hair by Lacy Lyles**.

Open daily during the summer season, they will offer Asian cuisine and, according to Amanda, they have added fresh sushi to the menu.

Indoor seating is available as well as take-out.

Located in Lifts West, **The Bistro** is a new restaurant in Red River, although the menu will be familiar to fans of Madam's Restaurant which operated through this past winter. Fans of Chef Bila from his days at

Madam's Restaurant (in the Alpine Lodge) will be pleased to see that many of his delicious and exotic items will be available. His Asian/Mexican offerings and the always delicious sushi menu will be joined by chicken fried steaks, trout, and other local favorites.

"We will also have beer and wine and we're doing the same type of liquor license that was at Madam's," says Chad Mantz, owner of The Bistro and founder of Madam's.

"We will be open Wednesday through Saturday and then we will be open for a Sunday brunch from 11:00 to 3:00." The Lifts West site was occupied by Brett's Bistro for nearly 15 years.

Although not a restaurant, another iconic Red River favorite is also celebrating 50 years on Main Street. **The Starr Trading Post** at 300 E. Main was purchased by Don and Loveta Buchanan in 1974 and has been an established favorite for clothing, gifts, and souvenirs, with a wide array of fishing lures and equipment.

The shop is still in the Buchanan family with daughter Heather and husband Chris Larson operating daily during the summer season.

The Jewelry Lady has relocated from its longtime location in **Frye's Old Town** to downtown Eagle Nest. The new address is 170 E. Therma.

Owner Paulette Kiker will maintain the excellent quality of jewelry and clothing lines that have been the Jewelry Lady trademark in Red River for nearly 30 years.

The store was founded in the 1990s by Meri Love and was originally located on E. Main.



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WINTER: A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD

Summer season is a grand time in the mountains, with plenty of outdoor opportunities for recreation or relaxation. For some folks who come to town every summer, it's a long-standing family tradition to spend some time in the Red River Valley. Family cabins are a special treat and are frequently passed down from generation to generation.

Summer People, as the locals sometimes refer to the seasonal visitors, have special fishing holes, certain trails they enjoy hiking, and special things to do that make their visit "official," such as going to a certain restaurant or buying something special at their favorite shop, sights to see and people to see again.

Fact: There are people who only come to town during summer. For a number of reasons, they have never come to the high country during winter. Perhaps activities don't appeal to them, school kids have to attend classes or... they don't like the cold.

Fact: There are people who only come during winter. They have never seen the town in summer and wonder what exactly goes on in the months of June, July, and August.

What makes winter in the high country so appealing to those folks who welcome the challenge of traveling to a Winter Wonderland? Do they like roads that can be tricky with snow, ice, and other flatlanders who don't know how to drive in those conditions?

Maybe They Just Love Winter

Red River in winter has frequently – and accurately – been described as "a picture postcard" or "a giant snow globe!"

For some, the town is a Christmas movie and they love being a part of the romance of winter in the high country.

When a storm has moved on and the branches of the tall pine trees are draped in fresh white powder, the beauty and serenity of nature in all its glory is a tonic for the body, mind, and soul!

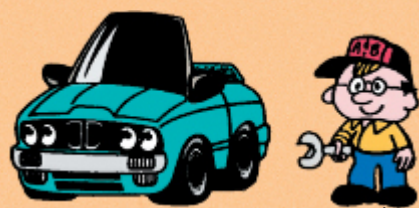
A casual walk by the river, especially in the falling snow, can serve as a quiet reminder that simple things in life can be healing. Warming your hands before a friendly blaze in the cozy cabin fireplace and drinking hot cider or cocoa with marshmallows on top...

Did I mention there are two ski areas and snowmobiles for adventurers and the young at heart?

Fritz Davis, Editor



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