

MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

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Hotels see little effect

Initial concerns have faded,
with many saying rentals freed
up space for visitors downtown

By Mike Easterling
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Sam Gerberding remembers the concerns of hotel operators in the early 2000s, when short-term rental properties were beginning to emerge as a popular lodging option for Santa Fe visitors.

“It naturally was met with trepidation it would impact our market share,” said Gerberding, president of the Santa Fe Lodgers Association and general manager of the Inn of the Governors and Del Charro Saloon.

ISSUES IN FOCUS

Short-term rentals

Those concerns weren’t exactly unfounded, he said, but a lot of the worries have dissipated.

“Though that has happened, it has also created an interesting dynamic,” Gerberding said. “It has forced us to be more creative. ... It has perhaps augmented the marketing of Santa Fe.”

The growth of the short-term rental market in the city has not drawn as many

Please see story on Page A-9



GABRIELA CAMPOS/NEW MEXICAN FILE PHOTO

Fernando Nolasco builds a fire at La Fonda on the Plaza in November. La Fonda got into the short-term rental market in Santa Fe with 28 units in the downtown area but ended the project after a couple of years when it didn't take off. La Fonda President Rik Blyth said he views hotels and short-term rentals as almost mutually exclusive markets.

Greene defends owning rentals

Mayoral candidate emphasizes benefit as Garcia attacks his three properties

By Cormac Dodd
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As the municipal races in New Mexico's capital city ramp up ahead of the Nov. 4 election, candidates are sounding off on the local housing market and vacation rentals that dot the streets of Santa Fe.

Mayoral hopeful Justin Greene, a Santa Fe County commissioner, has been at the center of such discussions because he and his wife operate three short-

Please see story on Page A-9



COMMENTARY

Candidate recounted racial slur to tell a bigger story

Maybe Santa Fe mayoral candidate Oscar Rodríguez will lose votes because he quoted an ugly word while discussing an ugly episode in his life. He says he'd be fine with that outcome, should it come to pass. He also says he wouldn't sanitize a story about bigotry and hate that's stuck with him for 50 years, even if he had a second chance.

Rodríguez used the N-word — the full word, not the sanitized abbreviation in this sentence — during a speech last week.

Critics in an unsigned statement ripped him, saying: “The use of this word caused harm, distress and re-traumatization for Black residents of Santa Fe.”

They ignored a hard truth. It was a teacher who pelted Rodríguez with the N-word. This happened when Rodríguez began his senior year of high school in the fall of 1975. He decided to quote the teacher directly instead of softening what happened with a euphemism.

“I do not know to this day how else to convey the shock of that moment,” Rodríguez told me in a wide-ranging 90-minute interview during the weekend.

Context also is important in understanding why Rodríguez discussed a painful episode from so long ago. He and the other seven candidates for mayor took the stage for PechaKucha Night in the Lensic Performing Arts Center. The format called for them to relay their personal stories

Please see story on Page A-9



25 years of building Resolve

Self-defense nonprofit preaches avoiding conflict but provides tools to deal with it



By André Salkin
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It was a scene designed to invite fear.

A hulking figure with an oversized silver helmet and football padding underneath blue overalls plodded toward lone sixth graders in a self-defense role-playing scenario that, to those on the receiving end, felt very real.

The masked terror, erratic in his gait, yelled faux pleas for help and lobbed threats as he inched closer to students at the Santa Fe Girls School who had just been equipped with the vocal tools to confront uncomfortable situations like these — and the physical ones in case easier methods failed.

ABOVE: Santa Fe Girls School sixth graders Elsa Hosenfeld, left, and Iris Noger practice striking moves earlier this month during a self-defense class with Resolve, a Santa Fe-based nonprofit. While the organization prioritizes avoiding conflict by setting boundaries, executive director Alena Schaim said some people “are targeted for violence at higher rates than others, and it's not enough to just wait for a better world. We need tools to navigate the world we live in now.” PHOTOS BY GABRIELA CAMPOS/THE NEW MEXICAN

TOP: Sixth grader Elodie Olson throws her elbow back to practice a strike as instructor Jorge Gonzales plays the role of the bad guy. Resolve uses the overtly evil character as the villain in its classes to avoid any side-taking from participants. “Like David and Goliath type stuff,” one leader with the program said. “Everyone knows who to cheer for.”

“No!” shouted Iris Noger, 12, as self-defense instructor Amber Quintana, 32, stood behind her giving cues to control her space and breath.

With the added guidance, Iris' voice grew thunderous. But with the villain inching closer, she called upon the last-ditch

move Quintana had taught her class a few moments ago — a combo attack. The 12-year-old unleashed a flurry of blows upon the assailant until his cowering whimpers were drowned out by her classmates' cheers.

Please see story on Page A-5

Israelis prepare to celebrate freed hostages ahead of Trump's visit

By Lior Soroka, Sammy Westfall and Siham Shamalakh
The Washington Post

TEL AVIV — Crowds of Israelis — dancing, singing and holding vigil — gathered Sunday in central Tel Aviv as they awaited the expected release of the remaining hostages held by Hamas and allied militants in Gaza, a key step toward ending the war and rebuilding the shattered Palestinian enclave.

Officials said the release would begin early Monday local time, ahead of a planned visit by President Donald Trump, whose administration helped broker a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas last week. “This is an emotional evening, an evening of tears, an evening of joy because tomorrow, children will return to their border,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday in a video statement.

Please see story on Page A-5



Today

Few showers. High 63, low 51.

PAGE B-5

Obituaries

Robert Wheeler, 88, Santa Fe, Sept. 20

PAGE A-9



Homeless college students try to 'survive, survive, survive'

California college institutes area for students to sleep in cars as housing crisis grows.

LEARNING A-7