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MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRAEVALEBIT

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

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Vasquez, Cunningham trade debate jabs

Candidates make case to represent divided 2nd Congressional District

By Daniel J. Chacón
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The two candidates who have been battling it out on social media to represent New Mexico’s fiercely competitive 2nd Congressional District squared off face to face Friday in a spirited and sometimes confrontational televised debate.

Democratic incumbent U.S. Rep. Gabe

Vasquez and his Republican opponent, Marine veteran and retired police detective Greg Cunningham, clashed over various topics, from immigration reform and the war in Iran to President Donald Trump’s policies.

“The disastrous economic policies of the Trump administration have hurt families far too deep, and we have got to put an end to the war in Iran,” Vasquez, who is seeking a third term in Congress, said in his closing remarks.

“It’s unfortunate that my opponent has said his No. 1 priority is going to be supporting the president’s agenda,” he added. “If that were to become true, we’re going to continue to see higher prices and an endless war with Iran.”

Cunningham capped off the debate, hosted by KRQE-TV, by attacking Vasquez’s record and describing him as two-faced.

“We can stand up here and say whatever we want to say, but ultimately, what we vote and how we vote is who we are,” he said.

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Democrats criticize Reeb after resignation

Former lawmaker works as a prosecutor; she quit House seat after judge’s ruling as critics say she buried conflict of interest

By Clara Bates
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New Mexico House Democrats on Friday called for “answers and overdue apologies” after a Republican legislator’s abrupt resignation Thursday evening.

State Rep. Andrea Reeb, a Clovis Republican, announced she was stepping down from the Legislature after a federal judge ruled her simultaneous service as a prosecutor and state legislator violated the separation of powers provision of the state constitution.

Her announcement comes on the heels of a controversy surrounding state Rep. Andrea Romero’s employment, which House Republicans widely criticized at the time.

Romero, a Santa Fe Democrat, came under fire for holding a part-time job at the First Judicial District Attorney’s Office while serving as a legislator. After New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torres said Aug. 31 she was not permitted to hold both roles, Romero resigned her position with the District Attorney’s Office on Sept. 1.

Reeb has been a contracted prosecutor with five district attorneys’ offices in recent years, according to a House Democrats’ news release.

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Andrea Reeb

Ethics panel’s extension for Romero case called improper

By Phaedra Haywood
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The General counsel for the New Mexico State Ethics Commission improperly extended the deadline for state Rep. Andrea Romero to respond to a complaint after engaging in unofficial communication with her attorney, according to documents *The New Mexican* obtained Friday.

“This is what political corruption looks like: state institution after state institution bending [its] rules around Andrea Romero,” complainant Pablo Lujan wrote in a statement Friday.

“Regular New Mexicans do not receive backchannel favors sealed with a ‘no problem,’” Lujan added, referencing a text exchange between State Ethics Commission attorney Zach Goodrich and Romero’s attorney, Rodney Gabaldon, in which Goodrich had OK’d the

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Andrea Romero

Pueblo housing victory

San Ildefonso members can now buy with conventional mortgages, an option long denied



PHOTOS BY GABRIELA CAMPOS/THE NEW MEXICAN

Than Povi Martinez, Miss Indian New Mexico, stands in front of a new home Thursday in the new Deer Tail II subdivision during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at San Ildefonso Pueblo. A new process is helping Natives own homes on tribal land.

By Carina Julig
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SAN ILDEFONSO PUEBLO he people about to move into a new subdivision on San Ildefonso Pueblo might have some of the best views in New Mexico.

The prefabricated homes at Deer Tail II are surrounded by open space, with Black Mesa rising out of the rolling high desert landscape just across State Road 30.

“We pride ourselves on our territory and our land,” San Ildefonso Gov. Christopher Moquino said. “If you look at how beautiful the views are that they get to come out to on a daily basis, it’s spectacular.”

Moquino spoke Thursday at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the first 10 homes in the 27-home development the pueblo created in partnership with the San



Beverly Brown, 22, a new resident of Deer Tail II subdivision on San Ildefonso Pueblo, stands in front of her home Thursday.

Ildefonso Housing Authority, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, affordable housing nonprofit Homewise Inc. and the Federal National Mortgage Association, known as

Fannie Mae.

The development is a milestone for San Ildefonso: It’s the first housing to be built on the pueblo in the 12 years since it separated from the now-defunct

Northern Pueblos Housing Authority and created its own housing agency.

Deer Tail II is also making history as one of the first times homebuyers on tribal land are purchasing homes with conventional mortgages. That type of financing, available to other Americans for decades, has typically been off-limits for Indigenous people living on reservation land because the land is owned collectively by the tribal government and not by individual property owners.

“That gap was never about the readiness of tribal members,” said Elena Gonzales, chief growth officer at Homewise Inc., which is serving as the lender. “It was about the system that hadn’t been built to work for them.”

According to information from the nonprofit, the land at Deer Tail II remains in trust

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IT outage gives IAIA unexpected fall break

President hoping fix is imminent for school

By André Salkin
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The Institute of American Indian Arts campus in Santa Fe has been closed since Oct. 8 due to a major network disruption that made most campus technology unusable.

IAIA President Shelly Lowe said she was uncertain if the school had been targeted in a cyberattack.

School staff were still trying Friday to diagnose and fix the problem, which left students and teachers unable to access Wi-Fi, printers, documents and the school’s learning management system, Canvas.

When network problems arose Oct. 2, staff weren’t aware of

the extent of the problem, Lowe said in an interview Friday. With midterm exams approaching, school leaders tried to make do with pen and paper before sending the emergency closure notice to students Oct. 8.

Students were encouraged to return home in the interim. Those who stayed on campus have enjoyed an “impromptu fall break that we weren’t prepared for,”

Lowe said — time spent reading, venturing outdoors and taking studio classes that require no electronics.

“It literally knocked us out of our network,” she said. Rather than simply reconnect, IT staff have had to restore a network backup from late September — before problems surfaced

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Pasapick

pasatiempomagazine.com

‘Harp in Hand: Poems of Ireland’

Hecho a Mano, 129 W. Palace Ave.; hechoamano.org. Book launch for Kate O’Neill with poetry readings followed by music. 5:30-6:30 p.m.

More events Fridays in Pasatiempo

Press secretary gone

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Today

Mostly sunny. High 62, low 34.

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Angela Ortiz Evans, Santa Fe, Sept. 23

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