



Town of Taos **NEWS RELEASE**

MEDIA AND EVENT CONTACT: Jonah Reynolds, 575-218-5583, jonahr@mac.com

**DENNIS HOPPER DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014 WITH FESTIVITIES INCLUDING
CELEBRATION AT THE HISTORIC TAOS PLAZA, 1st ANNUAL EASY RIDER RIDE,
SCREENING OF "EASY RIDER" AND MORE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9th 2014

Dennis Hopper Day presented by **Eagle Thunder Enterprises** and hosted by Taos, New Mexico will be celebrated on Saturday, May 17, 2014 with events throughout the day at locations from Ranchos de Taos to the Gorge Bridge and the Taos Pueblo, concluding at the Historic Taos Plaza. Taos Mayor Dan Barrone, State, local and Taos Pueblo dignitaries, event producer, Robby Romero and Hopper family members, friends and special guests will be in attendance. May 17, 2014 would have been the award-winning actor film-maker, artist's 78th birthday.

The day's events include the **first Annual Easy Rider Ride** beginning in Rancho de Taos Plaza and concluding at the Historic Taos Plaza for a festive, crowd-pleasing gathering, where special guests will celebrate the memory of this extraordinary artist and commemorate Mr. Hopper's many contributions to the State of New Mexico. The evening will conclude with a motion picture screening of Dennis Hopper's counter-culture iconic hit "**Easy Rider**". All event activities are open to the public; additional information and motorcycle registration information is available at dennishopperday.com.

The Damn Band will be performing with special guests live on the Historic Taos Plaza beginning at 5:00 pm featuring songs from the Easy Rider Sound Track.

The 1969 release of **Easy Rider** was the first time an independent film became an international blockbuster and marked Dennis Hopper's directorial debut. "I never thought of myself as a freak but I love to freak." - Dennis Hopper's character Billy in **Easy Rider**

"Dennis loved the land of enchantment and had a mystical connection to Taos," said Native Rock recording artist, Robby Romero who as a child lived with Mr. Hopper at the Mable Dodge Tony Lujan House in Taos and had a life-long familial connection to Hopper.

“Dennis had great admiration and respect for the Red Willow People and the multi-cultural artistic community that is Taos,” Romero added. Mr. Hopper’s funeral and burial were in Ranchos de Taos, where he owned a residence for decades.

“Taos has a rich history of attracting accomplished artisans of all talents, and Dennis Hopper is one of the most exceptional,” said Mayor Barrone. “Our Town is proud to host this important and timely recognition of such a distinguished award-winning artist, actor, director, writer, philanthropist, and art collector who called Taos ‘home.’”

On May 17 the art of renowned artist and Hopper friend, Larry Bell is featured on public banners. Several area restaurants, in keeping with **Dennis Hopper Day**, will serve New Mexico cuisine that Mr. Hopper is known to have favored when dining out in Taos. Additional activities, special guests and sponsors will be announced.

Activities Outline

Easy Rider Ride

11:00 AM: Bikers meet at Ranchos Plaza, Ranchos de Taos

1:00 PM: Easy Rider Ride begins from Ranchos Plaza and stops at the following locations:

- San Francisco de Assisi Mission Church, Ranchos de Taos
- Gorge Bridge (via Pilar, National Monument)
- Taos Pueblo (gathering with representatives, family and community)
- The Historic Taos Plaza with exclusive parking for motorcycles.

Dennis Hopper Commemoration Reception

5:00 PM: Reception begins at the Historic Taos Plaza

6:00 PM: Commemoration & Presentation

- Reading of State Of New Mexico 2010 Proclamation Signed By Governor Bill Richardson proclaiming May 17 Dennis Hopper Day.
- Town & County of Taos Proclamation: May 17 Dennis Hopper Day
- Announcement: Official Town & County Holiday
- Unveiling of the Dennis Hopper Street designation and sign.
- Robby Romero on behalf of the Hopper Estate & Trust
- In attendance: Taos Pueblo Governor and War Chief reps. and Hopper family reps.

7:00 PM: Screening “Easy Rider” at the Old County Courthouse

-End-

TOWN OF TAOS GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Daniel R. Barrone
Mayor Pro Tem Frederick A. Peralta
Councilmember Andrew T. Gonzales
Councilmember George “Fritz” Hahn
Councilmember Judith Y. Cantu

400 Camino de la Placita
Taos, New Mexico 87571
(575) 751-2002

Town Hall Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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