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Taos Kicks off “Festival Season” With Host of Events Throughout May

(Taos, NM) Visitors to Taos, New Mexico during the month of May will have a variety of weekend festival options to choose from this year. Events throughout the month include three days of free Mother’s Day music and a special Dennis Hopper Day weekend celebration to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Hopper’s prolific “Easy Rider.” Many of the events are free and family friendly.

Mother’s Day Weekend

Mother’s Day Weekend, May 10 – 12, will include LMNOC Broadcasting’s free, three-day Mother’s Day Music Festival at Filemon Sanchez Park, where 20 artists will perform a mix of classic and contemporary rock, traditional New Mexican and Tejano music and more. The 62nd Annual Mother’s Day Whitewater Races will also take place May 10 – 12, and will include two nights of camping, a full day of organized races for all skill levels on Saturday and a Sunday raft clinic. The races will be held on the 4.5-mile, Class III section of the Rio Grande known as the “Racecourse”, which begins just south of Taos, in Pilar. This year’s races comes after a winter season that resulted in a heavy snowpack and runoff that lead to water levels local rafting guides say they haven’t seen in nearly 25 years. For more information and to register, visit www.mothersdaywhitewater.com.

Dennis Hopper Day

This year’s Dennis Hopper Day events will extend from May 17 – 19, and will honor the life of the late actor, filmmaker, artist and former Taos resident, Dennis Hopper. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of Hopper’s most recognized work, “Easy Rider,” which was filmed in Taos. The lineup of events includes the Rebel Film Festival, Easy Rider Motorcycle Rally & Ride, a buffalo barbeque, post-party music celebration and Sunday brunch. For more information, visit <https://dennishopperday.com/>

Taos in Bloom

The Taos Lilac Festival will return this year, May 17 – 19 to celebrate the peak season for lilac blooms with live entertainment, food and crafts vendors, walking tours, a pet pageant and more. The festival will take place at Kit Carson Park and will feature a daily Taos Lilac Garden Center, where garden supplies, lilacs for sale and lilac seminars will be available, as well as an arts and crafts fair and beer, wine and food garden. The pet pageant will take place on Saturday, May 18 at 1 p.m. and pets are encouraged to dress in spring or superhero-inspired costumes. For more information and a full list of events and times, visit <http://www.taoslilacfestival.com/>.

For a full list of events happening in May in Taos, visit <https://taos.org/events/calendar/>.

More about the Town of Taos...

Located just 135 miles from Albuquerque’s International Sunport and a short, 90-minute drive from Santa Fe, Taos is home to the country’s oldest continuously inhabited community (Taos Pueblo), the

state's newest national monument (Río Grande del Norte), and the highest peak in New Mexico (Wheeler Peak). World-class skiing, hiking, camping, whitewater rafting, kayaking, fishing, and mountain biking can all be found nearby. Motorists enjoy the region's celebrated scenic drives, including the Enchanted Circle and the High Road from Santa Fe to Taos. The area also boasts ample four-wheeling and off-road trails that crisscross the backcountry. *Golf Digest's* four-star-rated Taos Country Club championship golf course offers players spectacular scenery and panoramic mountain views. Other hidden Taos travel gems include cultural sites like the San Francisco de Asís Church, the downtown plaza, "El Corazon de Taos," as well as museums and galleries, weekend music and art festivals, and even llama trekking adventures. Finally, most Taos travelers find that their getaways are not complete without indulging in the local New Mexico cuisine and its famous red and green chile options that infiltrate everything from breakfast burritos to pizza. To learn more, go to www.taos.org.

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