



Waterfall Wonder

Tularosa Falls brings desert oasis to public for first time

Sean Chaffin

The cascading waters of Tularosa Falls is a true oasis in the desert and now available for the first time for area campers, hikers, and those who simply enjoy getting outdoors in a peaceful environment.

The waterfalls has been privately owned and closed to the public for decades, but Daniel and Tina Fairweather changed that after purchasing the 40-acre property. Daniel immediately began transforming the land into a campground where visitors can experience one of southern New Mexico's hidden natural wonders.

The Fairweathers also aimed to protect the property's beauty and ecological integrity – preserving the land while sharing it with others. The highlight is the 25-foot natural waterfall fed by a mountain spring that flows year-round.

Many residents throughout Tularosa, Ruidoso, and Alamogordo may not have even known the falls were there. The watery wonder appears out of place in such a dry, rugged environment. Tularosa Falls RV Resort and Campground officially opened for business in March 2026, allowing visitors to check out the area. The resort has quickly resonated with campers and nature lovers.

“The response has exceeded all expectations,” Daniel says. “The park quickly gained attention on social media and became a popular destination, with waterfall passes often selling out two weeks in advance.”

Tech World to Waterfalls

The Fairweathers took a circuitous route to running the operation. After a career in computer science working for Microsoft and patenting several inventions and building products used by over 1 billion people today, Daniel was laid off in 2024. That led to relocating to his home state of New Mexico to live with his mother while he searched for something new.

Tina was born and raised in Vietnam before moving to the U.S. in 2015 to pursue her doctorate in biology from the University of Mississippi. She moved to New Mexico in 2024 and began working as a scientist at New Mexico State University.

Looking for something different from his previous career, Daniel began searching for land to build a campground and was shocked to discover the property just five miles downstream from his mother's home.

“Despite having lived in the area so long, my family and I had never heard of this waterfall,” he says. “Recognizing its potential as a unique outdoor destination, I bought the property in 2025.”

The couple walked down



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SEAN CHAFFIN
A bird's-eye view of the campground at Tularosa Falls.

the altar that same year and is now teaming up to make the resort a success. Tularosa Falls has since become a family affair with Daniel's father, mother, stepfather, wife, and extended family donating their time and skills to make his dream come true.

A trip to the resort offers plenty beyond gazing at the falls. There are three swimming holes below the cascades with a half-mile of creek frontage where guests can explore, relax, and enjoy the cool canyon environment.

Hammocks and picnic tables are located throughout the property and hikers can explore scenic canyon areas. Day passes are available for \$10 for those simply seeking to explore. Campers will find three different sizes of campsites, each with generous spacing that may not be found at other properties.

“Unlike many crowded campgrounds, Tularosa Falls was designed to provide guests with room to breathe and enjoy nature,” Daniel says. “Guests can expect a peaceful and uncrowded outdoor experience centered around the waterfalls, creek, and canyon. Because visitation is intentionally limited, visitors have plenty of room to swim, relax, explore, and enjoy nature without large crowds.”

Transforming the Land

Getting the property ready to host campers has come with plenty of work. The Fairweathers spent \$200,000 on water and wastewater infrastructure alone. Significant electrical improvement came with another six-figure investment.

Building a campground from the ground up requires significant planning, engineering, time, and financial commitment, Daniel says. Family and friends helped and throughout the process, Daniel documented the journey on the resort's social media channels.

Followers could keep up with the transformation and the efforts also helped market the property in the process. After seeing fires



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SEAN CHAFFIN
Daniel (right) and Tina (left) Fairweather stand in front of a waterfall in Tularosa Falls.

and floods over the last few years, Daniel hopes the campground can be an additional economic driver to bring tourists to the area.

“I believe that the success of Tularosa Falls RV Resort & Campground can help bring more visitors to the area, strengthen the local economy, support small businesses, and create additional opportunities for local residents,” he says. “My goal is not only to build a successful campground, but also to contribute positively to the surrounding community.”

Relaxation in a Safe Environment

The canyon hasn't been immune from flooding issues at times, including from some rains seen over the last month. But all campsites are located well above the canyon and several hundred feet away from the creek, says Daniel. No campsites are situated within the canyon itself and the campground was intentionally designed with guest safety in mind.

“Our goal is simple: we want every guest to enjoy the beauty of nature, create lasting memories, and leave the property safely,” he says. “Safety will always come before business decisions.”

That aspect of the property was critical for Daniel, who serves as a member of the Mesilla Valley Search and Rescue Team and was

deployed to assist with the Ruidoso flood response in 2025.

Because construction is still underway throughout the week, the park is currently open only on weekends. Visitors can reserve waterfall passes during one of three daily time slots and campers can access the falls dusk to dawn.

Along with camping and waterfall passes, the property hosts special events throughout the year including rock painting workshops, stargazing events, acoustic music performances near the waterfall, and more. Reserving space for private events like weddings, retreats, family reunions is also an option.

The Fairweathers hope the falls can provide a unique and memorable setting for visitors for years to come, adding another unmatched outdoors experience in the Tularosa-Ruidoso area.

Daniel adds: “The vision for Tularosa Falls is to become one of New Mexico's premier nature-focused RV destinations while preserving the waterfalls and canyon that make the property so special.”

For more information visit tularosafalls.com or view the resort's page on Facebook

Obituaries

CONALY REED
Feb. 21, 1935 - May 8, 2026

Conaly Reed, 91, passed away peacefully on May 8, 2026, in Boulder, Colorado.

Born in Hulbert, Oklahoma, Conaly spent more than 45 years as an insurance professional in Roswell, New Mexico. He retired in Capitan, NM and lived his later years in Rio Rancho. Conaly was a loving father, grandfather, artist, community volunteer, and friend whose warmth, humor, and remarkable ability to remember everyone's name touched countless lives.

He is survived by his children, Staci Lyn Reed Kosick and Charles Conaly Reed; his extended family; and many friends.

A private celebration of life will be held in Capitan, New Mexico, at a future date.

For Conaly's complete obituary, please visit Murphyfuneraldirectors.com.



BENJAMIN KOELKEBECK | RUIDOSO NEWS
Lynn Crawford, Village of Ruidoso mayor, speaks with a small crowd of people at the Village of Ruidoso Bridge Replacement's first public meeting on Tuesday, June 16 at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

Local News Briefs

Staff reports

Nourishing Nation Relocates to Carrizozo Recreation Center

Nourishing Nation, a not-for-profit organization located in Carrizozo, relocated to the Carrizozo Recreation Center. A ribbon-cutting will be held Saturday, June 20 at 10 a.m. at 106 6th Street.

The organization assists over 500 families through the Roadrunner Food Bank twice each month.

The move is a more spacious facility was made possible through Carrizozo's Local Economic Development Act and the work of volunteers from Nourishing Nation and Carrizozo Works, Inc.

For more information, telephone Sandra Padilla at 575-317-6192.

Lincoln County “Buy-Out” Program Work Continues, First Offers Expected Within Two Weeks

Lincoln County Manager Jason Burns told residents attending a public hearing Monday night that the first offers to purchase private property through the Voluntary Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program could happen within the next two weeks.

Burns and representatives from the Village of Ruidoso, U. S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the New Mexico Home Recovery Program led a one-hour public meeting answering questions from residents Monday evening, July 15 at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

Kenneth Branch, a U.S. Department of Agriculture representative, told residents that 351 property owners have signed-up to participate in the program and that 254 properties have been deemed as eligible for the buy-out program.

County manager Burns said that appraisals have been ordered for 212 properties thus far. He said many properties have already been appraised but are currently going through environmental and cultural impact studies, plus the properties are subject to a title background

check. This must be completed before potential buy-out offers would be made to local homeowners.

The government's buy-out program is intended to clear properties that have current structures in order to create green space around areas that could continuously flood.

Representative Rebecca Dow to Speak Monday

At FRWLC Meeting at K-Bob's Steakhouse State Representative Rebecca Dow (R-District 38) will be the featured speaker at Monday's Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County monthly meeting at K-Bob's Steakhouse, 157 US-70.

The meeting begins at 11 a.m., is open to the public and free to attend. For more information telephone Marci Butchofsky at 575-937-8039.

First Baptist Church of Ruidoso Vacation Bible School Begins Monday, June 22

Children four-years-old through sixth grade in the community are invited to attend the annual Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church of Ruidoso starting at 8:30 a.m. Monday, June 22. The Bible School continues through Friday, June 26 each morning until noon. The event is free to attend and refreshments will be served each day.

First public meetings held for bridge reconstruction project in Ruidoso

Community members attended public meetings to learn more about six bridge locations to be rebuilt and the company, Bohannon Huston, responsible for the project on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 16 and 17, at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

The project will replace bridges on McDaniel Dr., North Loop, Main Rd 2, Sleepy Hollow Rd., River Trail and Robin Rd. that were destroyed during flooding in 2008.

The meetings gave community members the chance to voice any concerns and meet with the team overseeing the project. For more information on the project and its timeline visit ruidosobridges.com or see recent coverage.