

Loma Theater Ribbon-Cutting/Grand Opening

5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3 – First State Bank

DR. STEPHEN WELLS

[Excerpted from the complete script]

Thank you all for coming today for this momentous occasion.

This day marks the culmination of many months of work on the part of my staff at New Mexico Tech and our partners at the City of Socorro and here at First State Bank. I want to thank the Bursums and Mayor Ravi Bhasker and his staff for their willingness to work with us to add another entertainment option for the City of Socorro, New Mexico Tech students, and visitors to Socorro.

One of my top priorities when I came to New Mexico Tech last year was to improve engagement with the community and develop more options for the community and students. I have talked about creating a “sticky” campus, keeping our students and faculty here in Socorro over the weekends, and the reopening of the Loma Theater was one my key goals in creating such an environment that helps keep our student on campus. In addition, we are setting the university’s goals for 2027, and we believe that increasing meaningful interactions between the city and the university will help create a vibrant community for all us here in Socorro. The reopening of the Loma also fits in perfectly with New Mexico Tech’s vision and plans for the next decade. As a university, our main mission is education, but we, the “Town and Tech” also need to work collectively to create a well-rounded and complete experience for our students. With the reopening of the Loma Theater, I think that we have taken a great step forward in creating a vibrant, rural university community.

I look forward to many more partnerships and creating other opportunities for our students, our employees, and local residents to have a rich and fulfilling life in Socorro.

We would not be here today with this reopening if we did not have willing and proven leader to operate the theater. We are fortunate to have another partner who has the knowledge and experience to run a successful movie theater in rural New Mexico. I’d like to thank and introduce Elmo Baca, the new proprietor of the Loma Theater, as well as the Indigo Theater in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Elmo has become a good friend not only to me, but to all of us here in Socorro.

We have also enjoyed the support of our Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham. She has been following our progress on getting the Loma re-opened and she sent a letter ... Thank you Congresswoman for all you do for New Mexico.

The final part of this collective effort are those individuals who own the Loma, were the first to step up to make the reopening a reality ... Cuatro and Holm Bursum of First State Bank. This Loma Theater and the property upon which it sits have a long history in Socorro.

... Now, let's head outside for the official ribbon cutting.