

Courtesy photo Local area firefighters, San Miguel County Fire Chief Andrew Duran, Steven Blamer and his wife, Linda Blamer, pose for a photo at Blame Her Ranch on Saturday.

Firefighters

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a party."

Saturday's event was the culmination of years of planning and waiting, Blamer said, given recent circumstances.

"It's been a long time in the making," Blamer said of the event. "We wanted to do it before the pandemic." The event was further postponed when, in April

2022, the area experienced the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, the worst wildfire in New Mexico state history. Once that tragedy passed, Blamer said, he got in touch with San Miguel County Fire Chief Andrew Duran about organizing the appreciation event.

Blamer said that the 2,000-acre Blame Her Ranch is his home and a place where he raises cattle. The ranch is named after his childhood nickname; a play on Blamer's last name. The ranch

is also an AirBnB as well as a film set. Some of the television series Longmire was filmed there, Blamer said.

Still, Blame Her Ranch has never seen an event like Saturday's, Blamer said.

"We've never had a party quite like this," he said. The appreciation event was the first of its kind that Blamer has put together. He's unsure if it will become an annual event.

"I kind of like to think so," Blamer said of having the event become an

annual festivity. "We certainly would like to do something like this. ... I think it was a great success."

Blamer admitted that the area's firefighters do so much for the community, and the event is but a "small sliver of appreciation."

"I know the community appreciates these people very much," Blamer said. "We should all say a prayer for them."

Officer

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WTP TracVac ;

Did You Know?

Patrick Maes is charged with felony distribution of a controlled substance, and three misdemeanor counts of possession of anabolic steroids.

During an arraignment hearing Thursday, Judge Christian Montaño set an unsecured \$5,000 bond for Patrick Maes and ordered that he cannot possess firearms.

Chief of Police Antonio Salazar

confirmed Thursday that Patrick Maes has been placed on paid administrative leave while the case proceeds through the courts.

"We are cooperating with the agencies in regard to this matter," he said. "The Las Vegas Police Depart-

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ment takes these situations seriously."

Both Judge Montaño and Judge Philip Leger have recused themselves from the case. No further court hearings had been scheduled as of this writing.



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