

**Adam Lujan**, age 32, a resident of Española, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, August 7, 2016. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Tony and Louise DeVargas; paternal grandparents, Ruben and Josephina Lujan; aunt, Amelia Bustos; uncles Delfino Lujan and Alfredo DeVargas; and beloved cousin, Antonio DeVargas. Adam was currently employed by Jemez Mountain Electric Co-op. as a meter reader. He previously worked for the Los Alamos County Police Department in Los Alamos, New

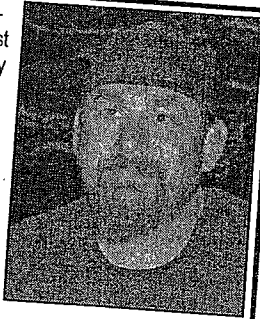


Mexico. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served overseas in Korea. Most of his time in service was in El Paso, Texas. Mr. Lujan is survived by his parents, Eugenio and Shirley Lujan; brothers, Gene Lujan (Valerie) and their children, Shayleen Lujan and her children, Jaden and Adah, and Anthony Lujan, Roger Lujan (Joan) and their children, Nicole (Rudy) and their children, Rudy and Jude, and Lucas Archuleta and his children, JohnPaul and Job; sisters, Louise Campos (Tito) and their children, Alyssa and Joseph Campos, and Theresa Lopez and her children, Joe, Joshua and Angelica; padrinos, Rosendo and MaryLou Lujan, as well as many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. Public visitation will be held on Sunday, August 14, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of the DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory with a rosary to be recited at 6:00 p.m. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Monday, August 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Pojoaque. Interment will follow at Santa Fe National Cemetery at 11:15 a.m. with the following serving as pallbearers: Gene, Roger and Anthony Lujan, Tito Campos, Jason DeVargas, and Javier Quihuis. Serving as honorary pallbearers are his nephews and nieces. The family of Adam Lujan has entrusted the care of their loved one to the DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the Española Valley. [www.devargasfuneral.com/505-747-7477](http://www.devargasfuneral.com/505-747-7477).

*Rio Grande Sun*  
*Aug. 11, 2016*

**Christopher (Chris) Luke Gonzalez, 47**, a resident of Llano, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, August 12, 2016. It is with a deep and heavy sadness that the family announces his passing. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Leandro and Bertha Gonzalez of Hebbronville, Texas; maternal grandfather, Clovis Medina and uncle, Jerry Medina both of Vadito. Chris will be remembered for the way he touched everyone he met for he had a big heart and an unforgettable smile. He touched the lives of so many people and made many friendships everywhere he went. Chris was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union 611. He believed in brotherhood! He loved riding his Harley and was President of the Hogs & Heifers Motorcycle Club; the club was created for those who love riding and to help people in need in his community and the surrounding communities. The club donated thousands of dollars to multiple community members in Peñasco and surrounding areas. Chris enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, riding with his motorcycle club, cooking, eating, sleeping, and talking on the phone. All who knew him would say he was a fun, loving, kind and generous person. He will be greatly missed!

Mr. Gonzalez is survived by the love of his life, Matilda Gonzalez; son, Felix and Ariana Gurule; daughter, Estrella Gonzalez; granddaughter, Serenity Gurule; mother, Nancy Gonzalez of Peñasco; grandmother, Trinidad Medina; father and step-mother, Rudy and Debbie Gonzalez of Pojoaque; sister and brother-in-law, Christy and Josh Dominguez of Albuquerque; brother, Ryan and Jessica Gonzalez of Pojoaque; sister, Kyra Gonzalez of Pojoaque; step-brother, Jason and Jennifer Vigil of Pojoaque; father and mother-in-law, Felix and Lillian Duran of Peñasco; brothers-in-law, Steve and Irene Duran of Albuquerque, Raul Duran and Marcy Eppler of Santa Fe, Leroy and Henrietta Duran of Tijeras, Gabaldon of Santa Fe, and numerous aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins from New Mexico and Texas. All who loved him dearly. Public visitation was held on Sunday, August 14, 2016, at the San Antonio de Padua Church in Peñasco a rosary was recited afterward. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Monday, August 15, 2016 also at the San Antonio de Padua Church in Peñasco. Burial followed at the Presbyterian Cemetery of Llano de San Juan, the following served as pallbearers, Felix Gurule, Ryan Gonzalez, Brian Medina, Carlos Lopez, Orlando Gurule, Clarence Gabaldon, Dustin Smith and John Alvarez. Serving as honorary pallbearers were the following, Jason Vigil, Jason Medina, Chris Duran, Leroy Duran, Steve Duran, Raul Duran, Joshua Dominguez, Hogs & Heifers Motorcycle Club, Kenneth Vigil, Alfonso Rodriguez, Ralph Gallegos, Paul Owen, Pablo Martinez, Billy Joe Rodarte, Wilfred Griego, Ralph Roybal, Melvin Roybal and Shawn Fernandez. The family of Christopher (Chris) Luke Gonzalez has entrusted the care of their loved one to the DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the Española Valley. [www.devargasfuneral.com](http://www.devargasfuneral.com) or 505.747.7477



Rio Grande Sun

June 6, 2016

Alcohol

---

## Alejandro A. Manzanares

Alejandro A. Manzanares, 37, Los Alamos, died Monday, Aug. 1, 2016.

He was preceded in death by his father Daniel Lee Manzanares, mother Linda Ray Manzanares and brother Manuel Manzanares.

Mr. Manzanares is survived by his wife Angela Manzanares, children Audrey, Patricia and Gabriel Manzanares; brothers Elias Manzanares, Albuquerque and Tranquelin Manzanares, Santa Fe, maternal grandparents and many other relatives and friends.

A rosary was recited Aug. 6 in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of the DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory. His brothers, niece and nephews served as honorary pallbearers.



*Rio Grande Sun*  
*Aug. 17, 2016*

Aug. 17, 2016

Rio Grande Sun

# Woman Dies of Apparent Overdose

By Wheeler Cowperthwaite  
SUN Staff Writer

A 22-year-old Chimayó woman died Aug. 7, from a possible heroin overdose.

State Police officers received the initial call at 4:35 a.m., that Brandi Ortiz-Merrifield was unconscious and not breathing, according to E911 Dispatch Center logs.

The unnamed person who called 911 told dispatchers that her daughter's friend was not waking up, was not breathing and that they were sure she was dead.

State Police officers, once they arrived, started performing CPR on her.

At 6:19 a.m., dispatchers called the Española Hospital to get a status on her and hospital employees told them she was in critical condition, but they did not know her name.

Dispatchers then called the State Police dispatchers and asked if they had confirmed her identity, and the State Police dispatcher said no one had checked her information.

Ortiz-Merrifield's mother, Paula Ortiz, said Monday in a phone interview, that she received a call that her daughter was in the hospital.

"I went to see her at the hospital and they didn't know who she was," Ortiz said. "She had been brain dead because she was without oxygen for a while."

A few hours after Ortiz arrived, her daughter died.

Heroin, a depressant, slows down the entire central nervous system and stops one's natural breathing, causing suffocation, which, in turn, can cause coma, permanent brain damage and death, according to the National Institutes of Health.

"I just know she was in with the wrong crowd and unfortunately, it took her, the heroin took



Ortiz-Merrifield

her," Ortiz said.

State Police Public Information Officer Sgt. Elizabeth Armijo wrote in an email, that it was a drug overdose that claimed Ortiz-Merrifield's life and officers are investigating it.

"The reports are not yet approved, but you may IPRA them," she wrote, referencing the filing of a public records request.

IPRA stands for the Inspection of Public Records Act.

Ortiz said she found an 18-month in-patient treatment center for her daughter in Texas, but, because she had criminal cases pending against her, District Judge T. Glenn Ellington would not let her leave the state.

Ortiz-Merrifield was facing a potential maximum sentence of 11 years on various charges, a long time for a young woman, her mother said.

"(Instead), he sent her to a treatment center in Albuquerque," she said.

Ortiz-Merrifield had been implicated and indicted on charges

relating to burglary in Los Alamos in 2014.

Ortiz picked up her daughter from the Los Alamos Detention Center on June 29 and took her to the six-month Albuquerque program. On July 4, Ortiz-Merrifield left the program.

Ortiz said her daughter was beautiful, outgoing and was not fearful.

"She was very strong-minded and a go-getter," she said.

She described her daughter as being affectionate and having a beautiful laugh.

Ortiz-Merrifield is survived by her mother and father Billy Merrifield, as well as her three children, ages 1, 2 and 5.

Ortiz's advice for other parents out there is to support their children.

"You never know when you're going to see your kid again, when they're living that kind of lifestyle," she said. "If it's a possibility, you should push for (out-of-state treatment) and listen to your kids when you're talking to them."

**Brandi Monique Ortiz Merrifield, age 22**, a resident of Chimayó, passed away on Sunday, August 7, 2016. She was preceded in death by her aunt and uncle, Benjie and Devonna Sena; grandparents, Willie and Celina Trujillo; grandparents, Louise Ortiz and Lourdes Ortega; cousins, Guero Danny Martinez, Steven and Debbi Padilla, and Jacyana Gallegos. Brandi was a courageous, adventurous, and free spirited individual. She loved makeup, hairstyling, and was very photogenic. Brandi was a loving, caring, and compassionate friend, daughter and mother. She loved her children dearly. Brandi is survived by her children, Isaiah Christian Ortiz, Jayla Alexis Ortiz, and Marcos Vigil; parents, Paula Ortiz and Billy Merrifield; brother, Randy Ortiz-Martinez; aunt and uncle, Lisa and Roland Bustos; aunt, Nada Trujillo; grandparents, Clarence and Laura Ortiz; grandmother, Lana Nadine Merrifield; aunt, Nada Merrifield; uncle, Donovan Merrifield; aunt and uncle, Angie and Charlie Trujillo; aunt and uncle, Mable and Paul Padilla, including many numerous other relatives, family and friends. A wake was held on Friday, August 12, 2016 in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Chimayó. Burial followed at the Holy Family Catholic Cemetery. The family of Brandi Monique Ortiz Merrifield has entrusted the care of their loved one to the DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the Española Valley. 505-747-7477 – www.devargasfuneral.com



Article Attached

Aug. 17, 2016

Rio Grande Sun

# Holiday weekend night prowler shot in face, leaves trail of blood

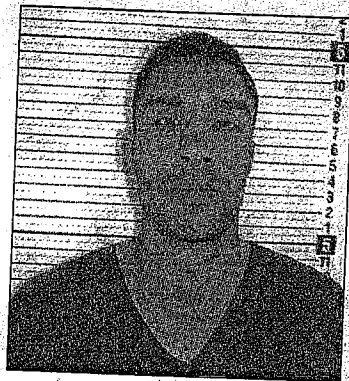
By Laurie Celine  
lceline@taosnews.com  
The Taos News

A man broke into a house in the Weimer neighborhood in the early hours of May 29 and was shot in the face by the homeowner.

At about 4:30 a.m., 30-year-old Yvon Juteau – known to police from previous incidents – allegedly entered a house on Juniper Road while people were sleeping, Interim Police Chief Lt. Dave Maggio of the Taos Police Department said.

The homeowner told police that he and his wife were asleep when he heard a loud crash. He grabbed his .38 special revolver and a flashlight and walked down the hallway to find a man, allegedly Juteau, holding up a crowbar in his right hand, threatening him with it. According to police documents, John Fleetwood Jr. fired three rounds and told police he thought he heard the prowler say, "Oh, God," before running out the same glass door he had just broken through. Fleetwood told police he did not know the suspect.

"I shot him," Fleetwood told police officers who arrived to



File photo

**Yvon Juteau, 30, is pictured here in a 2014 photo after an arrest.**

the scene shortly after the incident. Juteau had left a trail of blood. Police found the crowbar just outside the broken door, then traced him to a field, where there was a struggle. Juteau allegedly kicked, punched and fought an officer who used a Taser on him four times during the struggle. The officer called emergency medical services and had a Taos sheriff's deputy guard the suspect at Holy Cross Hospital after he was taken into custody, the report said.

Juteau was later released by

See **PROWLER**, Page A8

ment at (575) 758-2216 if it is seen. It is believed to be in the area of the two burglaries, according to the criminal complaint.

"At this time, we don't believe there is another suspect involved, but we are not leaving that possibility out," said Maggo.

Meanwhile, minutes before police officers were dispatched to the Juniper Street house, they went to a burglary call that happened on Vegas de Taos Circle. Police found a CD case and several CDs in the same field where the struggle with Juteau took place.

allegedly charged with arson and repeatedly as a habitual offender of multiple batteries against police officers, plus alleged multiple incidents of resisting, evading, or obstructing officers — along with battery of a household member, aggravated assault, false imprisonment and more than one incident of battery upon a school employee.

Related to the May 29 incident, police are on the lookout for a 2015 gray Nissan Frontier truck, which they think Juteau ditched before the alleged burglaries. Maggo is asking the public to contact the depart-

ment that court records showed he was accused of breaking into a girlfriend's residence, which led to a 2014 arrest when police issued a warrant for a probation violation. *The Taos News* also reported that in 2013, court records showed Juteau allegedly left the scene of an accident when he was the driver of a car on tribal lands that crashed in a head-on collision in which four people were severely injured. Police took him into custody for it in May 2014.

In 2010, 2008 and 2004, he went before the Eighth Judicial District Court for alleged multiple felony crimes when he was

Maggo said. "Once he gets released from medical and is able to be on his own, we will get a warrant for arrest."

The warrant will be for residential burglary, burglary, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, possession of a burglary tool, larceny, possession of drug paraphernalia and criminal damage to property, according to the criminal complaint.

Juteau is no stranger to breaking and entering. Public records show he has had a history with the police and courts since he was a juvenile. *The Taos News* previously reported

## PROWLER Weekend prowler From Page A1

police from Holy Cross Hospital so he could be airlifted to Albuquerque because of the extent of his facial injuries, Maggo said. The release was required so that his department wouldn't be strapped without an officer on duty in Taos, he said.

"Had we kept him in custody, we'd have to fly down [to Albuquerque] with him, so after we arrested him, we had to get the judge to release him," Mag-

*Taos News*



# apparent heroin overdose

By Laurie Celine

lceline@taosnews.com

The Taos News

Officials say a Taos County Adult Detention Center detainee apparently overdosed on heroin in jail July 28. The incident took place on the same day that another inmate died in the facility of a "potential overdose."

As previously reported in *The Taos News*, Jonathan Bourg, a 29-year-old Taos man, died of a "potential overdose" within minutes of being found in his cell. The cause of death is still under investigation by several entities, including the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI).

The second detainee, 29-year-old Melesio Martinez, of Questa, admitted to overdosing on heroin that he said he snorted in jail, also on July 28.

Officials have not commented on whether the two incidents are connected.

According to a memorandum from Jail Director Nelson Abeyta to County Manager Leandro Cordova, corrections department staff responded to a "code blue" and Abeyta discovered Martinez "lying on his bunk with his hands over his stomach." Martinez told Abeyta that he had stomach pain and asked for some milk to try to settle it.

Abeyta asked Martinez if he had used any drugs during the night or early that morning. Martinez then admitted to snorting heroin. Martinez also told Abeyta that another inmate, who was not identified in the document, had shared the drug with him.

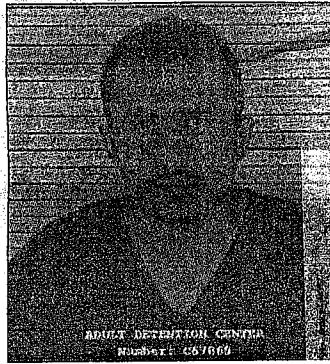
According to the report, Abeyta took Martinez to the jail's medical unit, where he was transported by ambulance to Holy Cross Hospital. He stayed at Holy Cross for three days, according to documents.

After returning to the jail, Martinez was observed in a booking cell and later cleared and moved back to "general population ... with no further incident," Abeyta said in the document.

## Rocky history

Martinez had been booked into jail in July for "failure to pay" a fine charge.

According to jail documents, he has had previous driving while intoxicated (DWI) charges and his driver's license had been suspended for a DWI-related incident. Martinez also has a



Courtesy Taos County Legal Department

## Melesio Martinez

tion resulted in Martinez wearing a GPS ankle monitor with a work release option if an ignition interlock had been installed on his vehicle.

Martinez had been placed on probation for a DWI with the condition that he participate in the Taos County community DWI program. He had agreed to attend the program, but did not, according to records. He did enroll in the Río Grande Alcoholism Treatment Program in January, but soon stopped participating in it, court documents show. Martinez also did not pay fines that he had agreed to pay at Taos County Magistrate Court in October.

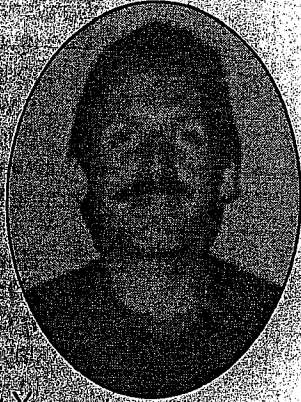
He was scheduled for a probation violation hearing this month before Judge Ernest Ortega in Taos County Magistrate Court.

*Taos News*  
Aug. 2016



**Alonzo Angel L. Gallegos**

**(Indio), age 60** a resident of Espanola formerly of California passed away on June 20, 2016 unexpectedly. Mr. Gallegos was preceded in death by his parents Ralph M. Gallegos Sr. Betty L. Gallegos, brothers Ronald and Lawrence Gallegos, sister Gloria Gallegos, sister-in-law Sofie C. Hayes, niece Nancy Y. Castro, brother-in-law Ruben Salazar, Gilbert S. Venegas. Alonzo enjoyed fishing, hunting, and listening to music. He worked as an auto mechanic and enjoyed working at his father's ranch in Canjilon. Mr. Gallegos is survived by his daughter Rita Lazaro (Rafael) and family of Vasalia, California, sisters Nancy Venegas, Josie Salazar of California, and Sylvia Campas of Chihuahua, brother Ralph L. Gallegos, JR of Espanola, step children, Barbara Martinez and family, James Leyba and family, Shayna Leyba and family, Eloysa Trujillo and family, as well as many other nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends. Services are pending at this time and will be posted as soon as they become available. The family of Alonzo Angel L. Gallegos (Indio) has entrusted the care of their loved one to the DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the Espanola Valley, 505-747-7477 or [www.devargasfuneral.com](http://www.devargasfuneral.com)



June 30, 2016  
Rio Grande  
Sun

### **Samuel Fiore Luchetti**

passed away this past Wednesday, June 15, 2016 surrounded by his siblings. Sam was born on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1985 in Española to Myra Trujillo and Dennis Luchetti, both from Abiquiú. Sam enjoyed his early years on the family farm where he honored local traditions like raising chile in the garden with Myra and rustling cattle on the ranch with Dennis. Sam attended elementary school in Abiquiú until the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and graduated from Pojoaque High School in 2003. After graduating, Sam moved south to Socorro where he enjoyed the slow paced life of the Rio Grande River Valley for several years. He spent his remaining years living in Española with his mother. Throughout his life, Sam developed his skills as an artist and musician. Using his artistic talents, Sam displayed a passion for animals and nature, which brought him recognition in the Abiquiú Studio Tour. Specifically, Sam felt a powerful connection with wolves, which he often portrayed in an anthropomorphic light. Like Dennis, Sam enjoyed playing the guitar, he emulated his favorite 80s rock/metal bands like Black Sabbath and Metallica. Everyone who knew Sam appreciated his unbridled sense of humor and his unparalleled ability to reserve judgment. Whenever tensions ran high, Sam quickly came to the rescue by dispensing humor effortlessly and with masterful timing. Sam's humble nature granted him with a unique perspective that he used to help anyone seeking his guidance. Helping others always came before helping himself. Sam was always willing to make any sacrifice necessary to provide assistance. Sam was preceded in death by his grandfather, Fiore Luchetti, father, Dennis Luchetti, grandmother, Virginia Trujillo, and brother, Anjel Luchetti. He is survived by his grandfather, Floyd Trujillo, mother, Myra Trujillo, sisters, Marisol, Brandy, and Ursula Luchetti, and brother, Giovanni Luchetti. A rosary service will be conducted in the Abiquiú Pueblo at the St. Thomas the Apostle Parish at 7 pm on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. The funeral mass will be held at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish at 10 am on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. In lieu of flowers, Sam requested donations be made to the Abiquiú Public Library.



*Rio Grande Sun  
June 23, 2016*

**Jesse James Romero, 32**, a resident of La Puebla, passed away on Sunday, June 19, 2016. He was preceded in death by his father, Jerry "Peppa Planet" Romero, paternal grandparents, Jose and Derrilla Romero, maternal grandmother, Louise Armijo, beloved cousin, Daniel Romero. Jesse was a painter at heart alongside a jack of all trades, which he mastered them all. He was a strong, hardworking, and giving man. He lived every day like it was his last, making sure his family was taken care of and happy. He loved building things with his kids, riding four wheelers, camping, and anything else that made his mom, wife, and kids happy. He was never a quitter. He believed in himself and in everyone he loved. He loved to be with his brothers who were his best friends. He loved kids and kids loved him. He will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Jesse is survived by his wife, Jill Romero, his three children, Anyana, Grace, and Dylan, mother, Mary Jane Romero, mother and father-in-law, Irma and Joe Fernandez, brothers, Joseph and wife, Gretchen, Michael and wife, Monique, Jerry and wife, Jami, Jason and wife, Ernedra, sisters, Rachael, Michelle and husband, Billy, brothers-in-law, Perry, Joe, Pete and wife, Roseann, God-brother, Jaime and wife, Cristina, God-children, Carlos and Jen Faith, Dorothy and Dave Pineda, who accepted him as their own family, special nieces, Marina and Sabrina, as well as numerous other relatives and friends. A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory. Everyone was invited to join the family for a meal following the memorial service at the Club Lumina in Velarde. Serving the family as pallbearers, Jerry and Jason Romero, Jaime Rascon, Bet Barraza, Joey Sena, Johnny Rascon, and Perry Fernandez, honorary pallbearers will be all his nieces, nephews and God-children. The family of Jesse James Romero has entrusted the care of their loved one to the DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the Espanola Valley, 565-747-7477, [www.devargasfuneral.com](http://www.devargasfuneral.com).



*Lio Grande Sun*

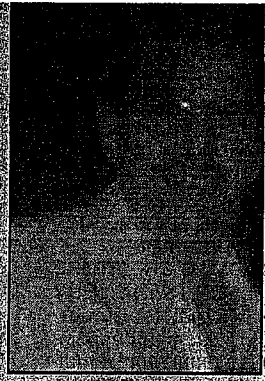
*July 7, 2016*

**Nicholl Martinez, 27**, a resident of Chimayo, along with her precious Angel went to be with our Lord Jesus on Thursday, July 14, 2016. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandmother Emilia Vigil, aunt Sharon Garcia, uncle Max Vigil. Nicholl is survived by her 3 beautiful children, Julius Torres, Angelina Trujillo and Emily Vigil, companion Randy Vigil, parents, Joyce Pacheco and husband Mike, father Joseph (Chero) Martinez, siblings, Joey Martinez, Kathleen Ortiz (Josett Barela), maternal grandfather Tiburcio Vigil, paternal grandparents, Antonio (Galento) and Cecilia Martinez, uncles and aunts, Joel and Lisa Vigil, Dickie Vigil, Annette and Johnny Sanchez, Kevin and Erica Martinez, Michael Martinez, and Yolanda Martinez, favorite cousin Audrey Sanchez and Godfather, Johnny Garcia and wife. Public visitation was on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory, a wake service followed at 7:00 p.m. Funeral service was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at New Beginnings Church in Rio Chiquito, a graveside service followed at Nuestra Señora de Carmel Cemetery in Chimayo. Serving the family as pallbearers were Joey, Johnny, Kathleen, Audrey, Gabriel and Kevin. The family of Nicholl Martinez has entrusted their loved one to DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the Española Valley, 505-747-7477 - [www.devargasfuneral.com](http://www.devargasfuneral.com)



*Rio Grande  
Sun  
July 21, 2016*

**Joey Romero, 49** a lifelong resident of Hernandez, passed away on Wednesday, July 20, 2016. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Adonilia and Victor Romero; maternal grandparents Leandro and Juanita Padilla; uncles Rosendo Padilla, Teddy and Valeriano Pacheco; aunts Mida Pacheco and Lorraine Barela; cousins Robert Padilla and Mark Garcia. Joey comes from a large, loving, and supportive family who will miss him dearly. Joey was a heavy equipment operator and welder by trade. Joey was a free spirit



who enjoyed life. He loved to joke and make people laugh. Joey enjoyed helping people. There were no strangers to Joey as everyone became a friend. He enjoyed being outdoors, especially being on the lake riding his jet ski. The love of his life was riding his motorcycle. Joey was very loving and caring of his mother while recovering from surgeries. He was always saying "I Love You Mom". Joey is survived by his only daughter Laura Ashley and Husband Joseph Segovia; grandson Emmanuel Segovia; parents Joe and Betty Romero; brother Kenneth Romero and companion Flora; sister Andrenette Romero; nieces Carmelita Romero and son Ezreniah, Shantell, Kylee, and Alanni Boylan; uncles Leandro and Evan, Dennis and Rachel, and Ted and Antoinette Padilla, Jake and Armando and Polita Pacheco; aunts Rosanna Padilla, Mary and Armando Garcia, Tonie and Dan Boggs, Lucy and Johnny Garcia, Darlene Martinez, Irene and Andy Medina, Mildred and Louie Aguilar, Pauline and Edwin Garcia, and Ruth Lucero; many cousins, relatives and friends. A public visitation will be held Friday, July 29, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of the DeVargas Funeral Home with a memorial service to follow at 11 a.m. The family of Joey Romero has entrusted the care of their loved one to the DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory of the Espanola Valley, www.devargasfuneral.com/505-747-7477.

**Beverly Pat Trujillo** born May 7,

1973, departed this life July 20, 2016. She was preceded in death by her great-grandparents, Patrocinio and Juanita Maestas and Prescillano and Epimeria Salazar and paternal grandparents, Aurelio and Ruth Trujillo. Beverly is survived by her two daughters Julie Vigil and Jolene Trujillo, one granddaughter Elyana Rivera, father of her children, Mark Vigil; parents Lito and Mary; sister, Sonia; brother, Andres; nephew's Fabian (Cherise), Adnan, Xavier; niece, Bella; grandparents, Manuel, Vitalia Maestas; aunts, Vickie (Archie) Maestas, Helen (Donald) Archuleta; favorite aunt, Cathy (Antonio) Guerrero, Della Trujillo; uncles, Larry (Sandra) Maestas, David (Bonnie) Trujillo, Jordan (Laura) Trujillo, Larry Trujillo and Bernie (Rose) Trujillo; 1st cousins, Yvette, Phyllis, Diane, Stephanie, LuAnn, RoxAnne, Rhonda and Ruth-Ann, as well as many more cousins and relatives. Public visitation was on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory; a rosary was recited at 7:00 p.m. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at San Jose Catholic Church in Hernandez, with a burial to follow at the San Jose Catholic Cemetery. The family of Beverly Pat Trujillo has entrusted the care of their beloved one to the DeVargas Funeral Home and Crematory of the Beautiful Espanola Valley, 1-505-747-7477 or www.devargasfuneral.com



*Drunken walking  
Hit by car*

*July 28, 2016*

**Jeanette Rae Lovato, 22**, a resident of the Alcalde/Los Luceros area, passed away on Wednesday, July 20, 2016, following a brief illness. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Juan and Kate Lovato; paternal great-grandparents, William and Rayitos Ortega; maternal great-grandparents, Epimelio and Margarita Medina and Abelino and Amalia Martinez. Nephew, John Paul Martinez Jr., Cousin, Reina Renee Martinez. Jeanette loved traveling to Dallas and Denver with her dad. She also enjoyed fishing and the outdoors. She loved her nieces and nephews, she helped raise and loved her parents and sisters dearly. She had a special love for her God-son, Domian Gallegos, who gave her the name "Nini". Ms. Lovato is survived by her parents, Tomas and Pauline Lovato; sisters, Sonya Lovato and companion John Paul and Gloria Lovato and companion Carlos Gallegos, all of Los Luceros; God-son and nephew, Domian Gallegos; nephews and nieces, Anthony, Juanito, Annalyah, and RayAnna Martinez; companion, Mario Rascon; maternal grandparents, Joe and Priscilla Martinez of La Mesilla; aunts and uncles, Ray and Gina Martinez, Monica and Isaac Archuleta, Frank and Bridget Martinez, Robert Lovato and Jane Quintana and many loving cousins, relatives and friends. A rosary was recited on Monday, July 25, 2016, in the Sangre de Cristo Chapel of DeVargas Funeral Home & Crematory. Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Tuesday, July 26, 2016, at La Iglesia de Santa Cruz de la Canada. Burial followed at the La Villita Cemetery. The family of Jeanette Rae Lovato has entrusted her care to the DeVargas Funeral Home and Crematory of the Espanola Valley, 505-747-7477, [www.devargasfuneral.com](http://www.devargasfuneral.com).



Rio Grande Sun

July 28, 2016

# Española Man's Death Investigated as Overdose

By Wheeler Cowperthwaite  
SUN Staff Writer

A 39-year-old Española man's July 9 death is being investigated as a possible overdose.

Israel Ballinger was found slumped over behind a dumpster, in the rear of a business on Riverside Drive, by Española Police Officer Cory Atencio. He found the man in a fetal position when he arrived at the scene at 4:23, he wrote in an incident report.

"I cautiously approached this male individual and identified myself as a police officer," Atencio wrote. "As I was identifying myself I then attempted to wake him up. The male subject did not wake up so I then advised the scene was clear for medics."

Firefighters and medics then began to do chest compressions on Ballinger, as well as several other revival techniques, but none worked and at 4:47 p.m., Atencio asked dispatchers to call the Office of the Medical Investigator, which performs all autopsies in the state.

"Officer Greg Esparza indicated that Mr. Ballinger was a new heroin user and the death of Mr. Ballinger is yet to be determined but could be considered a possible overdose," Atencio wrote. "Chris (Griego, medical investigator) located what appeared to be track marks on the lower right leg."

He then tried to notify Ballinger's next of kin of the death, but was unable to locate his mother.

He then spoke to two store employees.

"I spoke to Alyssa Trujillo whom (sic) stated that Mr. Ballinger came into the store at approximately 1550 hours (3:50 p.m.)," Atencio wrote. "Ms. Trujillo stated after he left she checked the back door approximately ten minutes later and saw him and another man in the corner behind the dumpster."

The other man was slapping the passed out Ball-



Ballinger

"Officer Greg Esparza indicated that Mr. Ballinger was a new heroin user and the death of Mr. Ballinger is yet to be determined but could be considered a possible overdose."

Officer Cory Atencio

In his police report on Israel Ballinger's death

inger. Trujillo then called 911.

The other employee, Anisha Montoya, said Ballinger entered the store to ask for a cup of water.

"Approximately five minutes later Ms. Montoya stated she looked outside through the window," Atencio wrote. "Ms. Montoya stated she saw Mr. Ballinger and another male wearing a grey shirt sitting in the corner near the dumpster sharing the water. Ms. Montoya said approximately five minutes later she looked back and he was passed out and the other man was slapping him in attempt to wake him up."

When Montoya went to the window to see how Ballinger was doing, while her co-worker called 911, she saw his head was bobbing but the rest of his body was still.

Atencio then handed over the case to detectives George Martinez and Eric Gallant for further investigation.

## rich Directory

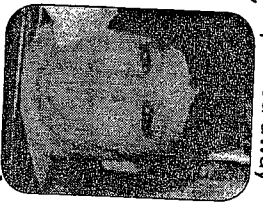
Victory Outreach  
19477 US Hwy 84 • 747.8713  
Victory Faith Church  
823 Angel Duran Dr., Española  
753-5873

Al-Huda Mosque  
Abiquiú • 685.4500



RIVERA FAMILY  
FUNERALS & CREMATIONS

ESPAÑOLA • SANTA FE • TAOS  
800.443.4854 • 505.753.2288



**Christina J. Garcia** A life long resident of Velarde passed away unexpectedly July 27, 2016. Christina "La Tina" was preceded in death by her loving beautiful mother Consuelo Garcia, son Albert Freddie Garcia, her beloved grandson Dion Joe Albert Martinez, beloved brothers, Richie Garcia, Raymond Garcia and Uncle Raymond Garcia, father of her children Freddie Martinez. Christina Garcia was the owner of Christy's Seasonal Fruits in Velarde New Mexico. Christina "La Tina" is survived by her daughter Rose Garcia, special son-in-law Joe S. Martinez, son Delbert Garcia, Father Richard Garcia, special grandchildren Dominic Martinez, Dionna Rose Martinez, Hailey Christine Martinez, Joe Steven Martinez Jr., loving sister Marcella Garcia and husband Mario Amparon, Special Brothers Juanito Garcia and wife Olivia along with their children Jace and Aria, Joseph J. Garcia and wife Andrea along with their children Angel and Martina. Special niece Cruzita and husband Omar Garcia along with their children Jair, and precious Adam Garcia, Nieces Britney, Reina, Sabrina, Brianna Garcia, Nephews Sebastian, Josh, Jaymond, Jaydn, and Lamont, Uncle Jolo and wife Melita and Joey, and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Special friend Urias Valdéz and many other loving friends and lives she touched so deeply. Her loving pets "Pups" and "Meow Meow".

Christina "La Tina" will forever be missed but never forgotten. Thank you lord for lending her to us the best mother, sister aunt, grandmother and friend anyone could have ever had. We Thank you lord for lending her to us for the years. You will forever be missed but never forgotten, "La Tina" till the day God calls us home we will forever love you and miss you Our Beautiful Queen! Thanks to all who showed my mother love and respect! Momma Mi Linda you are free in Paradise in the hands of the most precious man, Our Lord.

A Rosary will be prayed August 2nd, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock pm at the Rivera Family Funeral Home of Espanola. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday morning at 10:30 o'clock at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Velarde, NMI followed by burial at the church cemetery.

To leave condolences for the Garcia Family, Please go to [riverafuneralhome.com](http://riverafuneralhome.com)

Arrangements by Rivera Family Funeral Home (505) 753-2288. 305 Calle Salazar, Espanola, NM 87532 To share a memory, please visit our website at [www.riverafuneralhome.com](http://www.riverafuneralhome.com)

*Rio Grande Sun  
Aug. 4, 2016*