

LAS FESTAS DE SANTIAGO Y SANTA ANA

JULY 20-22, 2007



THE TAOS NEWS



Fiestas



Taos Fiestas builds history from the inside out, keeping traditions and families tight.

RICK ROMANCITO

CONTENTS

BIENVENIDOS POR 2007 LA REINA ANA-ALICIA ESTELLA ROMERO	4
FAREWELL FROM 2006 LA REINA MICAYLA CORRAL-JEANTET	4
FIESTA COUNCIL WELCOME	6
TAOS PUEBLO GREETINGS	6
TOWN OF TAOS WELCOME	8
TAOS COUNTY COMMISSION WELCOME	8
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL WELCOME	9
FIESTA DEDICATION AND THEME	9
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS	10

2007 TAOS FIESTAS ROYAL COURT PROFILES

LA REINA ANA-ALICIA ESTELLA ROMERO	12
PRINCESA LEAH MARISSA ABEYTA	14
PRINCESA ALYSIA ANNA MARIA MARTÍNEZ	15
PRINCESA SAMANTHA ANTOINETTE LUCERO	16
PRINCESA FELICITY BRIDGETTE NICOLE GALLEGOS	17

SAINT ANNE AND SAINT JAMES TAOS FIESTAS PATRON SAINTS

TRADITIONS OF FAMILY AND FAITH	20
--------------------------------	-----------

FIESTA FOOD FARE	24
------------------	-----------

TRADICIONES	26
-------------	-----------

SOPAIPILLAS RECIPE	30
--------------------	-----------

COVER PHOTO: 2007 Royal Court of Taos Fiestas by Megan Bowers

Find the entire Fiesta program online at www.taosnews.com

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Fiestas

BIENVENIDOS POR LA REINA DE LAS FIESTAS 2007

Bienvenidos a Taos,

Jam honored to be *la Reina de las fiestas de Taos por dos mil siete*. I could not be happier to represent any other community especially since I can do it in a way that involves our religion, customs and traditions. I have lived in Taos all of my life so I have grown up with the cultures and traditions of the Taoseños. We are so unique and diverse, which is what makes this valley of ours so beautiful. I admire and respect every single culture in this community because they each add to the splendor of this town and they support each other in a positive way.

I am also thrilled to be a positive influence on the youth in Taos. I want to lead by example and be a role model to children and teenagers. I have been involved in many leadership roles and community service projects and I know that one person can make a difference. With all the peer pressure and temptations that are introduced to the youth, it can be difficult to choose the right direction. I want to continue to be involved in the community, especially with children. We as a community can encourage them to make constructive choices, represent the community in a positive way and practice and pass on our traditions.



Finally, as *la Reina*, I will continue to be involved with the church. One of the most important things my parents taught me is about faith and how important it is to have religion in our lives. We celebrate the Fiestas because of Santa Ana and Santiago so it is essential that we represent our religion as well.

I am truly looking forward to this year with my *Princesas* Leah, Felicity, Samantha, and Alyria. This has already been an experience of a lifetime and the year has just begun. These girls are all amazing and I know that we will represent *Taos y ustedes, la gente muy bien*. On behalf of the whole 2007 Fiesta

Court, I express my gratitude to our families because without them we would not be who we are, to the community for all of their support, to everyone that sponsored me and my *princesas*, and finally to the Taos Fiesta Council, especially to Evangeline and Sonya Romero, for their dedication and hard work put into making the fiestas so magnificent.

¡Gracias y que vivan las fiestas!

Sincerely,
Ana-Alicia Romero

LA REINA DE LAS FIESTAS DE
SANTIAGO Y SANTA ANA POR 2007

2006 FIESTAS QUEEN FAREWELL

Buenas tardes familia, amigos y miembros de nuestra comunidad,

Jstarted out this pageant last year with the question: Why did I want to be La Reina?" I had many reasons for wanting to be queen and I know deep within my heart I have fulfilled each and every reason. When I was announced queen I was truly overwhelmed with emotion. I could not have expected all the support and love I received from my family, sponsors and community members. Thank you for making this experience a dream come true. I have met many wonderful and memorable people throughout fiestas and I appreciate every experience. *Princesas* Monica Coca, Mindy Trujillo and I have represented Taos to its fullest and I appreciate my community even more after being *La Reina*, this has truly been an honor.

I personally thank *Princesas* Monica and Mindy for accompanying me throughout our fiesta year. A special thank you to my Dad, Ted "Bear" Jeantete, my Mom, Alicia Corral, and my little sister, Catrina, for being there



to share this experience with me. I also thank the Fiesta Royal Court Sponsors, Evangeline "Vangie" Romero, Elma Vigil and Sonya Romero for making this an experience I will share with my children and future generations of Taoseños. Last but not least, I thank the Taos Fiesta Council for making this all possible.

I encourage all young people to participate in their community and traditions. Carrying on traditions and culture should be very important to all people, because it is such a unique part of Taos that not many other communities can say

they have.

Lastly, I extend my best wishes and luck to the 2007 Royal Court. Remember your year and cherish the unique culture and beauty of Taos. You are not only representing yourself, you are representing all of Taos and its wonderful Taoseños.

Thank you from the bottom of my Heart.

¡Que vivan las fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!

Micayla Corral-Jeantete

LA REINA DE LAS FIESTAS DE TAOS DE 2006



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Fiestas

¡BIENVENIDOS!

Fe llow Taoseños and visitors:
On behalf of the Taos Fiesta Council, welcome to our annual celebration, las fiestas de Taos. We thank God for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us over the past years and ask God's grace in preparing us for yet another year.

Fiestas are a tradition passed from generation to generation, a way of preserving the rich cultures that have developed in Taos over the last four centuries. This festivity is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to unite in fellowship. It is a special time for families, friends, and visitors to come together and enjoy one another's company, as well as taste delicious foods, listen to traditional music and view the many talented people that are performing throughout the weekend.

The theme for 2007 is: Honoring our Elders, with Love, Respect and Admiration / *Honrando a nuestros ancianos, con amor, respeto y admiración.*



Taos' greatest charm lies in its people. Through various cultures, Taoseños have created an extended family welcoming others to the Southwest. We appreciate the participation and support of fellow Taoseños and neighbors from surrounding communities in these efforts to instill in our youth the importance of both community and heritage.

We invite our visitors to tour and visit the many cultural and historic sites throughout Taos and receive with open arms, the *cariño* of our community.

¡Dios los bendiga! ¡Que vivan las fiestas!

Cariñosamente,

Don Francisco Trujillo II
PRESIDENT
TAOS FIESTA COUNCIL, INC.



RICK ROMANCITO
2007 Taos Pueblo War Chief Louis Archuleta

Left, 2007 Taos Pueblo Governor Gilbert Suazo Sr.

WELCOME! FROM THE PUEBLO OF TAOS

The Taos Pueblo Governor and War Chief wish to join the neighboring communities of Taos to welcome visitors and friends to the annual fiestas on July 20-22. This celebration is in honor of the patron saints, Santiago and Santa Ana.

This is the opportunity to celebrate the richness of the cultural diversity that Taos is well known for and also to bring friends, relatives and visitors together to enjoy

the blessings of the patron saints.

It is the hope of Taos Pueblo that the cultural traditions are sustained in honor and respect of the surrounding communities and patron saints.

May we be blessed with peace and happiness during the Feast of Santiago and Santa Ana.

Gilbert Suazo, Sr., Governor

Louis Archuleta, War Chief



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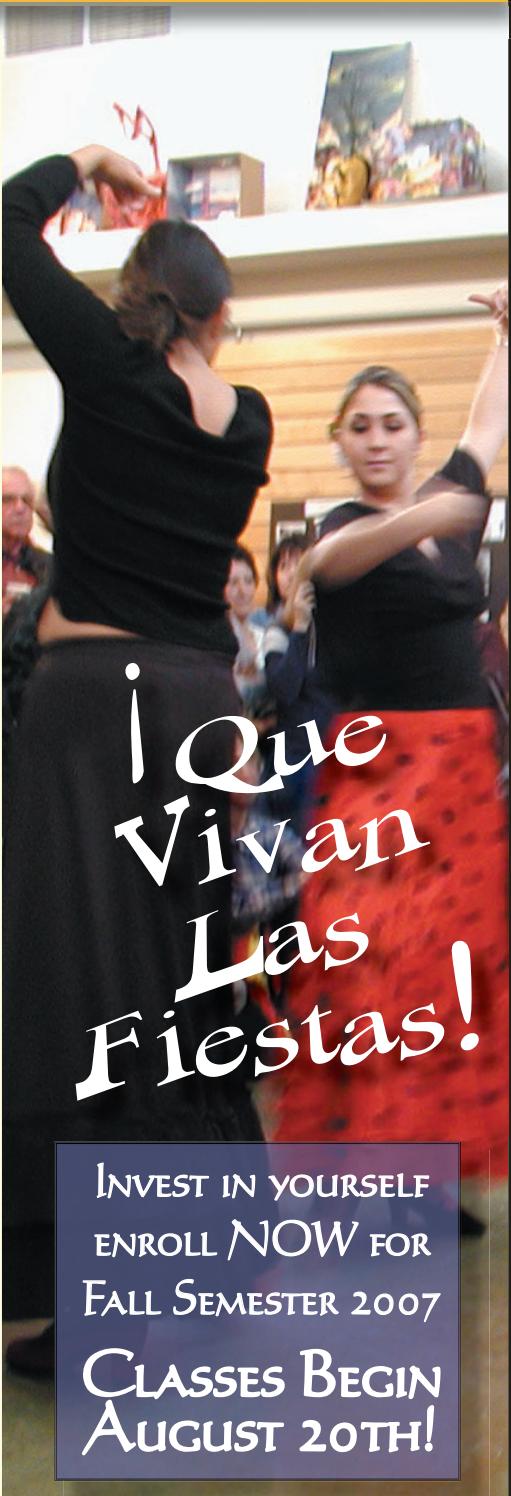
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- Pre-Business Administration
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Fiestas

FIESTAS WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

¡Bienvenidos!

On behalf of the Town Council and the Town of Taos staff, my wife, Cleo, and I would like to welcome everyone to the 2007 *Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana*.

The Taos Fiesta Council has dedicated many working hours throughout the year to make this celebration special for all of us.

Congratulations to our Fiesta Queen and her court. Thank you for your representation of the town of Taos.

This annual celebration is a time for us to visit with old friends, make new ones and enjoy our beautiful plaza. All Taoseños and visi-



tors have an opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of Fiestas on our historic Taos Plaza.

Taos has so much to offer! Please take the time to enjoy the natural beauty of the area and the friendliness of the people. *Las Fiestas de Taos* is a special time for all of us.

Have a great time, keep safe and please visit us often! **ENJOY!!**

Please don't drink and drive during this celebration, have a safe Fiestas weekend.

¡Que viven las fiestas de TAOS!

Bobby F. Durán
MAYOR OF TAOS

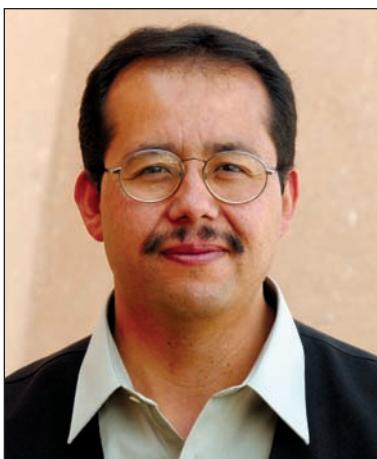
FIESTAS WELCOME FROM THE TAOS COUNTY COMMISSION

¡Bienvenidos!

There's no better time of the year than at Taos Fiestas for Taoseños and visitors alike to get together and rekindle old friendships and family ties. True Taoseños will always share fond memories of Taos Fiestas. From the beautiful señoritas vying for the honored positions of Taos fiesta queen and royal court to the colorful parades, the Tío Vivo carousel and El Vivorón, all these remain beautiful elements of *las fiestas de Taos*.

On behalf of the Taos County Board of Commissioners, other elected officials of our Taos County government, including the Taos County Treasurer, Assessor, Clerk, Sheriff, Probate Judge and our fine members of administration and staff, I welcome you to the annual *fiestas de Santa Ana y Santiago*.

My favorite part of Taos Fiestas has always been to be able to visit with fellow Taoseños who make up the colorful tapestry of our multicultural community and its surrounding areas. Fiestas are also a good time to think about those who have passed on



before us and those Taoseños who have contributed toward the quality of life we enjoy in Taos. Fiestas are also a good time to honor our soldiers who have fought at war to ensure that we will continue to enjoy freedom and peace. On a local level, there's much to be grateful for during fiestas and throughout the year. We must pray for the safe return of those Taoseños and New Mexicans who continue to protect our freedom.

The Taos County Board of Commissioners would thank the fine members of the Taos Fiesta Council for making our

Taos Fiestas such a success. Without their dedication and hard work, this annual gathering would not be possible and a major part of our lives, culture and tradition would not exist.

¡Que viven las fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!

Respectfully,
Gabriel Romero,
CHAIRMAN

TAOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



RICK ROMANCITO

Thanks to past and present Taos elders, Tio Vivo merry-go-round is a perennial crowd favorite at Taos Fiestas and other events.

HONORING ELDERS, PAST AND PRESENT

The Tio Vivo carousel is undoubtably one of the best examples of this year's Taos Fiestas theme, which is: "Honoring our Elders, with Love, Respect and Admiration /Honrando a nuestros ancianos, con amor, respeto y admiración."

The Father of "Tio Vivo," now deceased Ernest José Martinez, received his nickname because he purchased and restored the famous "flying Jenny"-type merry-

go-round that spun youngsters in the early days of the fiestas, but which had been decaying in a long-forgotten Peñasco corral.

Through the years, famous Taos artists have painted the horses, including such luminaries as Victor Higgins, Oscar Berninghaus, Helen Blumenschein and Bert Philips, elders all, who helped shape Taos' reputation as a world-renowned art colony and a treasure of tricultural custom.

WELCOME FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

Welcome Taosenos and visitors on behalf of all the elected and appointed officials and staff of the Intergovernmental Council of the Enchanted Circle to *las fiestas de Taos*.

Las fiestas are a tradition that through the last four centuries has passed from generation to generation as a way to preserve the rich cultures that have developed in Taos. This festivity is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and unity.

We invite our visitors to tour and enjoy the many cultural and historic sites throughout the Enchanted Circle and receive the *cariño* of our citizens and communities.

Thank you from our members: Taos County, Town



of Red River, Town of Taos, Village of Angel Fire, Village of Eagle Nest, Village of Questa, Village of Taos Ski Valley, Picuris Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, Peñasco Independent School District, Questa Independent School District, Taos Municipal School District and the University of New Mexico-Taos.

Our sincere thanks to the Taos Fiesta Council for its tireless efforts in maintaining this time-honored event.

¡Gracias! Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos!
Hee-Ya-Ho!
¡Que vivan las fiestas de Taos!

Barbara L. Wiard
CHAIRPERSON, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
OF THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE
MAYOR PRO-TEM, VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY



Fiestas

2007 LAS FIESTAS DE TAOS ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE



Carlos Medina on accordion and Jason Trujillo on guitar warm up before appearing on the *Centinel* Bank float during the Sunday parade.

FRIDAY (JULY 20)

- 12:30-1:30 p.m. City Child Band
1:30 -2:30 p.m. *Catalina Río Fernández & Flamenco Nuevo México*
2:30-3 p.m. Niños Bailadores
3-4 p.m. Tesoro
4-5 p.m. Steve Encinias Band
5-6 p.m. KOB-TV Channel 7 Live News Broadcast
5:30-6:30 p.m. **Fiesta Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church**
6-7 p.m. KOB-TV Channel 7 Live News Broadcast
7 p.m. **Procession from church to Taos Plaza**
7-9 p.m. **Opening ceremonies, Taos Plaza**
9-10 p.m. Mariachi Buenaventura
10 p.m. Plaza closes

SATURDAY (JULY 21)

- 9-10 a.m. *T.E.A.M. Choir*
10-10:30 a.m. **Children's parade**
10:30-11:30 a.m. Mariachi Buenaventura
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. *Baile Ilusión Dance Company*
12:30-1:00 p.m. Ricky García
1-2 p.m. Maravilla Ballet Folklórico
2-3 p.m. *Baile Español*
3-4 p.m. *Baile Folklórico de Santa Fé*

4-5 p.m. Julián Lucero Band

5-6 p.m. Los Zapateados

6-7 p.m. Jenna Martínez

7-8 p.m. La Juventud

8-9 p.m. *Izcalli In Nanantzin (Danza Azteca)*

9-10 p.m. Tesoro

10 p.m. **Plaza closes**

SUNDAY (JULY 22)

- 9-10 a.m. St. Francis Choir
10-11 a.m. Tesoro
11 a.m. to noon Duo Río Grande
Noon to 1 p.m. Trío Los Gallos
1 p.m. **Historical parade**
1-2 p.m. La Juventud
2-3 p.m. **Historical parade** (no entertainment)
3:30 p.m. **Special community presentation**
3:30-4:30 p.m. Young Guns
4:50-5:30 p.m. Baile Ilusión Dance Company
5:30-6:30 p.m. Darren Córdova y Calor
6:30-7 p.m. Mariachi Calor
7 p.m. **Closing ceremonies**

Note: entertainers/performers in *italics* have donated their time and talents to the people and community of Taos. The others are being paid for their performance.



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Fiestas

COLORES DE TRADICIÓN PROFILES OF THE 2007 FIESTAS ROYAL COURT



MEGAN BOWERS

Keeping the multicultural flame alive this year are five young Taoseñas of the 2007 Fiestas Royal Court. Emblematic of the beautiful soul of Taos, the intelligence of this year's court is only surpassed by the young women's passion for the remarkable richness that is Taos.

ANA-ALICIA ESTELLA ROMERO

La Reina Ana-Alicia Estella Romero, 17, is a 2007 Taos High School graduate. Romero wowed the Fiestas pageant this year with her public speaking, no doubt a talent honed during her four years on Student Council where she also was elected Student Body President. She presided over the State Student Council Conference held in Taos in February, where many of the participating students said it was the best conference they had attended in their four years of student government.

Elected 2006 Homecoming

IN A PASSIONATE
SPANISH AND ENGLISH SPEECH,
SHE EMBRACED THE DIVERSITY
OF TAOS CULTURES AND ASKED
THE COMMUNITY TO DO THE SAME.

Queen, this popular student was also member for four years of the THS Don Fernando Yearbook Committee, where she was editor.

In her poem, "Yo Soy Taoseña," written with her father, Bob Romero, she spoke as a woman of the three dominant cultures: Taos Pueblo, Hispanic and Anglo. In a passionate Spanish and English speech, she embraced the diversity of Taos cultures and asked the community to do the same.

A varsity swimmer and member of the German Club, she graduated with honors, maintaining a 4.0 GPA for four years. Now enrolled in pre-law at the University of New Mexico, she has been interning with Judge Ernie Ortega. While she doesn't care for history much, she adores government. Not surprisingly, her ultimate goal is to be a judge.

The daughter of Alice and Bob Romero of Taos, her maternal grandparents are Leaonor Barela-Romero and Juan Felipe Romero. Her paternal grandparents are Estella Mondragón-Romero and José De La Luz Romero.

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LEAH MARISSA ABEYTA

Criminal justice proponents abound in this year's Royal Court. Eighteen-year-old Princesa Leah Marissa Abeyta is interested in working at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, doing "CSI or CSU stuff. I think that's really cool."

Originally interested in nursing and criminal psychology, and understanding how people work emotionally, she changed her goals after seeing what her step-father, Travis Skinner, a N.M. State Police patrolman, does. "He's the real thing, it's inspiring," she said.

Also a 2007 Taos High School graduate, Abeyta excelled in athletics, playing volleyball and softball for the Lady Tigers. She also was a basketball manager.

Never much of a "girly-girl," she attributes her ruggedness to growing up with lots of male cousins and brothers "who threw me around" and toughened her up. She plans to play rugby as she completes her undergraduate degree at Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM, where she is currently enrolled in governmental studies.

"I hope my being in the court will help other young women want to do this and want to help their community," Abeyta said, adding that she's sure being in the court will make her a stronger person. "It's good to exercise your ability for public speaking."

Abeyta is the daughter of Taos County EMS supervisor Erica Párraz and Eddie Joe Abeyta of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Judge "Beckie" Párraz and the late Frank "Pancho" Párraz. Her paternal grandparents are Anna and Eddie Abeyta.



MEGAN BOWERS

ALYSIA ANNA MARÍA MARTÍNEZ

Princess Alysia Anna María Martínez, 17, will be a 2008 Taos High School graduate, but her excellence is already well recognized by her peers. She prepared a power-point presentation using her own photography for the Fiesta pageant June 24, titled “Taos por mis ojos/Taos through my eyes,” along with which she made a live running commentary.

No stranger to the rigors of royalty, Martínez has been Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Queen for the past three years, a position whose function is primarily to raise funds for the church. Martínez will represent the church at the Fiestas mass and coronation of *La Reina de las fiestas* Friday (July 20) at 5:30 p.m.

An honors student, Martínez takes Advanced Placement Classes. She has participated in Student Council, Honor Society and the Student Senate. On top of that, she is a hardworking office aid and a member of the Taos High School Don Fernando Yearbook Committee.

She told the pageant crowd that Fiestas is when everyone used to come together, to help each other survive, celebrating “the saints, the harvest and giving thanks to the Lord, our God, for these blessings.”

Martínez will attend UNM-Albuquerque and then continue at Baylor College for Dentistry in Dallas, Texas. She is the daughter of Sarah B. Medina-Martínez and Mark J. Martinez of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Juanita and Roberto Medina. Her paternal grandparents are Precilla and Manuel Martínez.



Fiestas



MEGAN BOWERS

SAMANTHA ANTOINETTE LUCERO

Despite being a tomboy most of her life, Princesa Samantha Antoinette Lucero, 18, said ever since she was a little girl and first saw the queen and the royal court, she thought they were amazing.

That is pretty much what the crowd thought about her Taos Pueblo dance at the pageant, a dance she dedicated to the memory of her best friend Antonia Miera, the high school teen who was killed in front of Hacienda Inn earlier this year. A Fancy Dancer was silhouetted onto a backlit white sheet, like a ghostly memory of the young dead woman. The performance ended with a poem about Miera and the crowd paused a moment in

respectful silence as Lucero had requested.

Lucero has her sights on emergency medicine as a registered nurse. She is enrolled in UNM-Albuquerque where she will take her bachelor of science in nursing. A graduate of the 2007 THS class, she graduated with honors. She took Advanced Placement classes throughout high school and lettered in Lady Tiger basketball. She was also in the Student Senate for four years. She wants to set up an annual memorial basketball tournament in Miera's name, to remember her and hopefully help youth re-value their own lives.

Lucero is the daughter of Diana E. García and Sam Lucero Jr. of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Erme-linda García and the late Toby García and Joe Martinez. Her paternal grandparents are Augustina Valerio and Sam Lucero Sr.



MEGAN BOWERS

FELICITY BRIDGETTE NICOLE GALLEGOS

Princess Felicity Bridgette Nicole Gallegos is an intense, gregarious young woman. Dancing with the children of Los Bailladores at the Fiestas pageant, it was clear that her enjoyment of children is mutually reciprocated. Besides Los Niños Bailladores, she danced a pretty medley of traditional Taos dances with her escort, Ángel Martínez.

Though only 17 and a 2008 Taos High School graduate-to-be, this young woman is already a leader in her community. She teaches Sunday School to third-grade students on her own and co-teaches second-year Confirmation studies with her mother. She is also a CORE group leader in the Saint Michael's youth group of Our Lady of Guadalupe church, where she has been an active member since sixth grade.

"There's nothing like teaching your religion," Gallegos said. "I try to be a positive role model, that's why I don't drink, smoke or do drugs. I can't teach the 10

Commandments if I don't follow them myself."

The two groups of people she is most involved with are youth and "viejitos," elders. She finds that so many of her peers are not relating well and people give up on them, but "there's always something good about everyone," she said, "you just have to look for it." She credits her grandparents and other elders for her strong values.

"You could say for me, it took a whole village to raise me. I knew the elders would be looking at me," she said. "But also, I like to keep the traditions. You see so many of them dying, because the kids are giving them up and just don't know about them. I'm very grateful I didn't do that; I chose to be a role model."

Besides teaching at the church, extracurricular activities include the Junior Senate at school and "job shadow" with Little Bug Child Care. She plans to enroll in the University of New Mexico-Taos and later UNM-Albuquerque for an elementary education degree.

Gallegos is the daughter of Priscilla Quintana of Arroyo Seco. Her maternal grandparents are Elvira and Bolivar Quintana.



Fiestas



RICK ROMANCITO

Of the two patron saints of Taos Fiestas, Saint Anne is the patron saint of mothers and grandmothers, a perfect patron for Fiestas' family reunions.

SAINT ANNE AND SAINT JAMES: BELOVED PATRON SAINTS

Every village and town in Northern New Mexico has its patron saints and the patron saints of *las fiestas de Taos* are Saint Anne and Saint James. Held every year the third weekend of July, the Santa Ana y Santiago feast days bless the reunions of families coming together after being separated for up to a year or more by distance and/or duty.

By Taos custom, *Santiago* is considered to be Saint James the Greater, Saint James the Lesser being the first bishop of Jerusalem, but both men were part of the original group of apostles. The feast day of Saint James

the Greater is July 25.

Known locally as *Santiago*, it is said that James the Greater was born of the Virgin Mary's sister, Salome, thus making him a cousin to Jesus. Saint Anne, the mother of the Virgin and James' mother, is James' grandmother. Saint Anne's feast day is celebrated one day after Saint James, on July 26. Because the two calendar feast days are side-by-side in July, they rule the Taos Fiestas.

According to historian Larry Torres of Arroyo Seco, a University of New Mexico-Taos professor, men on horseback during Fiestas are harking back, perhaps unknowingly, to a tradition honoring Saint James as



Fiestas



Caballeros bring to mind the legend of Santiago's crusade against the Moors in Spain.

RICK ROMANCITO

the scourge of the Moors as a legendary apparition: a mounted crusade against the "Infidels" in Spain. Women were commonly known to ride in horse-drawn carriages in honor of Santa Ana, patroness of mothers and grandmothers everywhere.

"This is a time for sharing and celebrating life," says Jerry A. Padilla, editor of El Crepusculo, the Spanish section of *The Taos News*. On this occasion, each culture

tugs at their deepest family ties and the memory of *Santa Ana y Santiago* help to keep these familial relationships intact.

"To be Hispano in Taos is to try to live each day to the fullest; greet everyone you know on a first-name basis; offer polite help to those in need or lost; honor elders, traditions and spiritual faith; and foster pride in community and family identity," Padilla said.

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Fiestas



RICK ROMANCITO

Taos artist Ted Egri accompanied the annual appearance of El Vibarón during the Children's Parade.

TRADITIONS LAS FIESTAS: OUR GIFT TO OUR CHILDREN

By Jerry A. Padilla
THE TAOS NEWS

What gifts can we give to our children that they don't already have? Many of the needs are being provided by parents out of love, just because they are our children.

Others wonder how we can compete in their world that has a plethora of video and computer games, super hero movies and accompanying collector items. Should, or can, anything compete with our children's preference for having fun?

Perhaps the best answer is in doing things with our children rather than competing for their time. Keeping the traditions of the Fiestas of Santiago and Santa Ana alive may be a gift greatly appreciated by our generation of youngsters who eventually will care for children of their own.

The chance to get out as a family to enjoy "becoming children of all ages" opens many avenues of fun and familial bonding worth more than any store-bought toy

or amusement. Children love attention from parents and in a hectic modern lifestyle, grownups don't often make enough time to play and interact with their kids.

Family reunions during fiestas provide an opportunity for kids to meet and get to know other kids; to see their cousins, grandparents, aunts, uncles, *padrinos* and *compadres* in a relaxed setting. Why wait for a wedding or a funeral to get together as an extended family? The good times that evolve from such a gathering of relatives often creates memories that last far longer than those created by the latest popular play thing.

Remembering the excitement and the anticipation of roaming the Plaza in youthful abandon to explore booths, taste special treats, meet friends and hang out to watch processions and pronouncements revives some of the best of memories. Those who had the privilege of growing up here know what this is all about.

It wasn't every day you were allowed to hang out all day or after dark in the town square. It's still fun waiting around with friends and relatives to find out which

TRADITIONS CONTINUES ON PAGE 22

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Fiestas



RICK ROMANCITO

Having the privilege of growing up here creates some of the best memories of a Taos childhood.

TRADITIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

prima, or cousin, will win the honor of queen of the festivities to represent the community during the next year. When the hubbub of vehicular traffic in the Plaza is restricted, hundreds of pedestrians get to enjoy those other wonderful noises of music, performances, food cooking, laughter and vendors hawking novelties. These festive noises replace the sounds of autos and affirm, for a few days, that this Plaza really does belong to the people.

Most kids are familiar with the food on sale during the fiesta as these specialties also are made at home throughout the year. But burritos, hamburgers, chicharrones, fried bread with honey seem to taste better eaten outdoors in a festive atmosphere. This is a time when barbecue is the daily special at home, too.

And how long will the parade be this year? Whose float will win? How many will ride horses this time? Will it rain? What new entries will go by in review? Jockeying for a position to best view the parades is part of the fun of being there. Parents, don't wait too long to let small children experience the fun of involvement in the Children's Parade — they grow up so fast and each year of involvement will bring them their own special memories.

There's more to fiestas as a gift to our children than fun games. This is a great opportunity to help instill a

sense of identity with pride in our community. These are traditions based on centuries of multi-cultural values and identity. It's one thing to grow up in a uniquely different small town, but quite another to understand how and why it came to be that way. These fiestas serve to remind us that traditions and identity as a community need to be passed on to each succeeding generation.

The fiestas represent the community's identity at its best. Keeping the tradition alive for our children to carry on is perhaps one of the best reasons to keep celebrating fiestas. What better way to convey this than to get out and enjoy them together.

The Hispanic tradition of fiestas honors and celebrates life and being alive. Through all the trials and tribulations of daily living, time is set aside to honor those whose exemplary lives gained them sainthood. The lives of these saints also teach our children about cultural values. The strength in spiritual values is addressed as fiestas always begin with a Mass, calling on God to bless these events during high summer.

One need not compete with popular toys and games, fads and trends to get the attention of beloved children. Taking the time to participate in these fiestas together can help ensure the continued existence of fiestas. This is the time to share pride in how much fun our community can be together with those who invariably look up to and learn from us. The gift of las fiestas for our children is a gift of fun, a gift of family bonding and a gift of love.

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Fiestas



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Get ready for the unforgettable smells and tastes of Taos Fiestas. Icy watermelon juice, gratifyingly greasy cheeseburgers, burritos, chiles, fry bread, sopapillas, prune pie and posole are all the mouth-watering foods dished out at the little food booths on Taos Plaza during Fiestas.

Green chile, both the color and the spelling, are one of the most notable of Northern New Mexico foods. We spell chile with an “e” instead of an “i” and say “Christmas” when we can’t decide between red or green chile, opting for both instead.

Typically, flour tortillas rather than corn tortillas are used more often in New Mexican food. This relates to the relative isolation of New Mexico from Old Mexico. Early cultivation of wheat instead of corn also made for the predominance of flour tortillas here.

Some of the typical food you may encounter on the Plaza or throughout New Mexico are listed below:

Adovada, red chile-marinated beef or pork

Anise, a licorish-tasting seed popular in Spain

Arroz, rice

Biscochito, anise-flavored sugar cookie

Burrito, rolled flour tortilla stuffed with a variety of things, like mashed refried beans, chile, meat



and sometimes with sauce

Carne, meat (chile con carné — chile with meat)

Calabacitas, squash

Cervesa, beer, imported and domestic, typically served with lime

Chile con carné, chile with meat

Chile colorado, red chile - often strung on string in ristras and dried, ground and soaked to make red chile

Chile rellenos, green chiles battered, stuffed and fried or grilled

Chile verde, chile pepper picked while still green; processed into sauces or other tasty dishes

Chicharrones, delicious crispy fried squares of pork meat

Chorizo, red chile-flavored sausage

Cilantro, Mexican parsley often used in salsas and pico de gallo

Enchiladas, corn tortillas stuffed and rolled with various fillings and smothered with red or green chile

Frijoles, beans



Fiestas

Frijoles refritos,

refried beans

Flan, Spanish

custard with
caramelized sugar
syrup

Guacamole,

mashed sea-
soned avocado
served as a con-
diment

Honey butter, soft-

ened butter or margarine combine with honey
for sopaipillas

Jalapeño, a small pepper that's usually smokin'
hot

Margarita, tequila mixed with triple sec and lime
juice and ice

Menudo, tripe, hominy and chile soup that help
some hangovers

Mole, Mexican sauce, usually for chicken, made
with chile, chocolate and other ingredients

Picante, hot and spicy, as a jalapeño is spicy



Pico de Gallo,

fresh salsa of
onions, chiles and
cilantro

Piñones, pine nuts

Pollo, chicken

Posole, thick
hominy soup with
meat stock and
chile

Salsa, relish or
dip frequently of

tomatoes or tomatillos

Sopaipillas, fried bread pillows served with honey
butter

Stuffed sopaipillas, meat-stuffed pillows

Tamales, cornmeal and fat wrapped, spiced with
chile-meat

Taco, folded corn or flour tortillas filled with meat
and salad

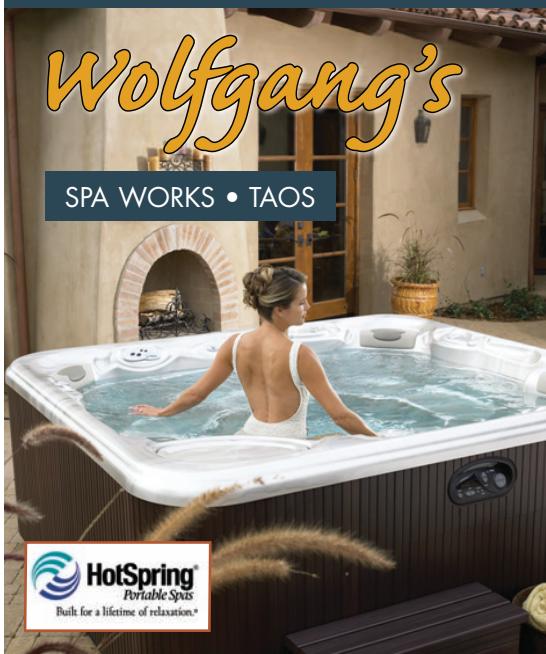
Taquitos, cocktail-sized tacos

Tostadas, corn tortilla fried flat and topped with
refried beans, meat and salad.

¡Que Vivan Las Fiestas!

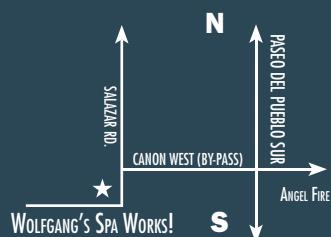
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Fiestas



RICK ROMANCITO

Mariachi Río Grande entertains from the Plaza gazebo Friday night (July 21).

TRADICIONES LAS FIESTAS: NUESTRO REGALO A NUESTROS HIJOS

Por Jerry A. Padilla
EL CREPÚSCULO

¿Qué regalos les podemos dar a nuestros hijos que no tienen ya? Muchas de sus necesidades que les proveemos como padres son por amor, solamente porque son nuestros hijos. Otros piensan como podemos competir en su mundo que tiene un sinfín de juegos video y de computadora, películas de superhéroes y objetos que les corresponden para colecciónar. ¿Debe, o puede, algo competir con las preferencias de nuestros hijos para divertirse?

Tal vez la mejor respuesta es de hacer cosas juntos con nuestros hijos, en vez de competir por su tiempo. Manteniendo las tradiciones de las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana vivas puede ser un regalo muy apreciado por la generación corriente de jóvenes que pronto criarán sus hijos propios.

La oportunidad de salir como una familia para gozar “volverse niños de todas edades” abre avenidas para divertimiento y formando enlaces que valen mucho más que cualquier juguete o diversión comprado en una tienda. A los jóvenes les encanta atención de sus

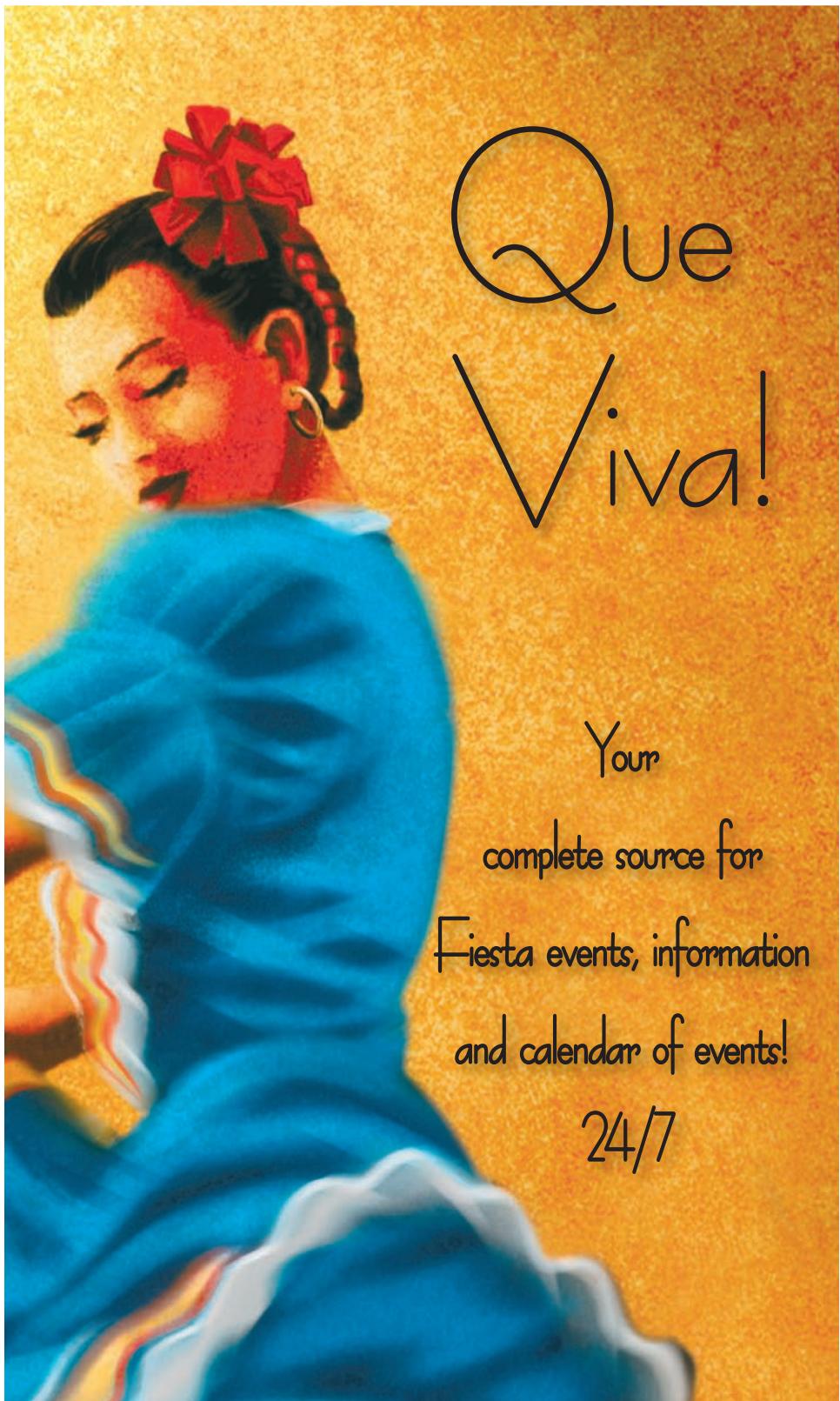
padres y en un estilo de vivir moderno siempre apurado, adultos muchas veces no pueden encontrar el tiempo para jugar y tener interacción con sus hijos.

Reuniones de familia durante las fiestas proveen la oportunidad para chicos de encontrar y conocer otros jóvenes; de ver a sus primos, abuelos, tíos, tíos, padrinos y compadres en un ambiente sin presión. ¿Para qué esperar para una boda o un entierro para juntarse como una familia extendida? Los buenos tiempos que salen de tal reunión de parientes muchas veces crea memorias que duran mucho más tiempo que esos creados por el juguete de la última moda.

Acordándose de la emoción y la anticipación de pasearse por la Plaza en abandono juvenil para explorar quioscos, probar bocados especiales, encontrar amigos, y pasar el tiempo para presenciar procesiones y pronunciamientos revive algunas de las mejores memorias. Esos que tuvieron el privilegio de crecer aquí saben de que se trata esto.

No era todos los días que se les permitía pasar el tiempo todo el día o después que oscurecía en la plaza central. Todavía es divertido esperar con amigos y parentes para saber cuál prima, ganará el honor de ser la

TRADICIONES CONTINUES ON PAGE 28



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THE TAOS NEWS
The official program for the Fiesta

taosnews.com

Find the complete Fiesta program online



Fiestas



RICK ROMANCITO

Fancy costumes and fun in the sun are all part of Taos Fiestas memories that are cherished for a lifetime.

TRADICIONES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

Reina de las festividades para representar la comunidad durante el año venidero. Cuando el bullicio del tránsito de auto en la Plaza es restringido, cíenes de caminantes se preparan para gozar esos otros sonidos magníficos de música, actuaciones, comida preparándose, risas y vendedores publicando sus novedades. Estos sonidos festivos reemplazan los sonidos de autos, y reafirman que, por unos cuantos días, que esta Plaza realmente le pertenece a la gente.

La mayoría de chicos conocen las comidas de venta durante las fiestas porque estas especialidades también se preparan en casa durante todo el año. Pero, burritos, hamburguesas, chicharrones, y buñuelos con miel, parecen saber mejor cuando se comen afuera en un medioambiente festivo. Este es un tiempo cuando la barbacoa es un especial diario en casa también.

¿Cuanto durará el desfile este año? ¿La carroza de quién ganará? ¿Cuántos montarán caballos esta vez? ¿Va a llover? ¿Habrá algo nuevo esta vez? Buscando la mejor ventaja para mejor revisar el desfile es una parte del divertimiento de andar allí. Padres, no esperen demasiado para dejar niños chicos experimentar el gozo de participar en el Desfile de los Niños— porque crecen tan rápido que cada año en que participan les traerá sus propias memorias especiales.

Hay más a estas fiestas como regalo a nuestros hijos que juegos y divertimiento. Esta es buena oportunidad para ayudar a enseñarles un sentido de identidad con

orgullo de nuestra comunidad. Estas son tradiciones basadas en siglos de identidad y valores multiculturales. Es un cosa criarse en un pueblito único y diferente, pero completamente aparte comprender porqué y cómo vino a ser así. Estas fiestas sirven para acordarnos que tradiciones e identidad como comunidad deben ser traspasados a cada generación que sigue.

Manteniendo la tradición viva para nuestro hijos para que ellos tomen la rienda tal vez es una de las mejores razones de seguir celebrando fiestas. ¿Qué medio mejor para enseñarles esto que salir y compartirlos juntos?

La tradición hispana de fiestas honra y celebra la vida y estar vivo. Por todas las tribulaciones y enfado de la vida diaria, tiempo se aparta para honrar a esos cuyas vidas ejemplares les ganaron santidad. Las vidas de estos santos además les enseña a nuestros hijos tocante a valores culturales. La fuerza de valores espirituales se lleva a cabo por siempre comenzar con la Misa, aclamando a Dios que bendiga estos eventos en pleno verano.

Uno no tiene que competir con juguetes y juegos populares, modas y novedades que llaman la atención de los hijos. Tomando tiempo para participar en estas fiestas juntos puede asegurar que las fiestas sigan existiendo. Esto es un tiempo para compartir el orgullo en cual divertido nuestra comunidad puede ser junto con aquellos que siempre sin falta aprenden de nosotros. El regalo de las fiestas para nuestros hijos es un regalo de divertimiento, un regalo de enlace familiar y un regalo de amor.



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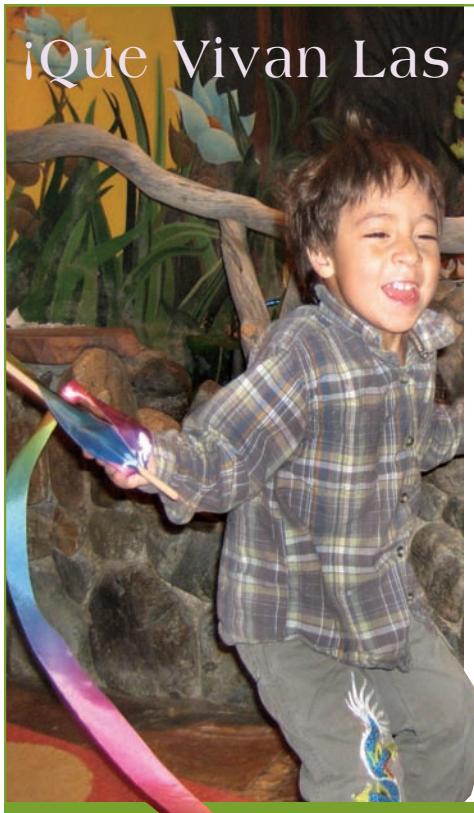
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SOPAIPILLAS: FAVORITE FIESTA FARE

The recipe most in demand in the 20 years that Fayne Lutz collected local food how-tos was, by far, the Northern New Mexican bread, the *sopaipilla*.

These crusty, deep-fried pillows are served as bread and sop up chile and meat juices like the champion crusty bread scoops they are. Over the years of trial and error, the secret to making light puffy sopaipillas turned out to be hot fat, at least 500 degrees. Since most deep fat fryers only go up to about

400 degrees, it's obvious why so many people had sad flat little patties so often.

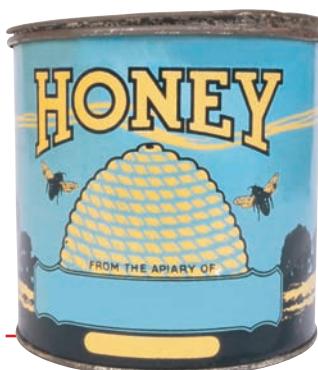
Lutz's solution was peanut oil, a candy thermometer and a deep pan. Peanut oil gets the hottest but it will still smoke, so keep the ventilation fan. Smaller dough lumps or squares also help the puffiness, so keep the fry bread sizes small, increasing in size as your skill increases. Fry up only one or two at a time and keep them warm until you have enough to serve for the table.

SOPAIPILLAS RECIPE **La Cocina Restaurant, Taos Plaza**

Makes about 1 dozen

- 1 tablespoon lard**
- 1 cup flour**
- 1 teaspoon baking powder**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
- 1/4 cup buttermilk**
- 1/4 cup water**

Mix flour and lard together



until consistency of coarse cornmeal. Add remaining ingredients and roll out on a lightly floured surface until about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. Turn and roll out again. Do not try to handle the dough very much. Cut into three-inch triangles or squares and drop one at a time into deep, hot fat, 500 degrees, if possible. Baste with a spatula until brown on both sides. Serve with honey butter or plain honey.



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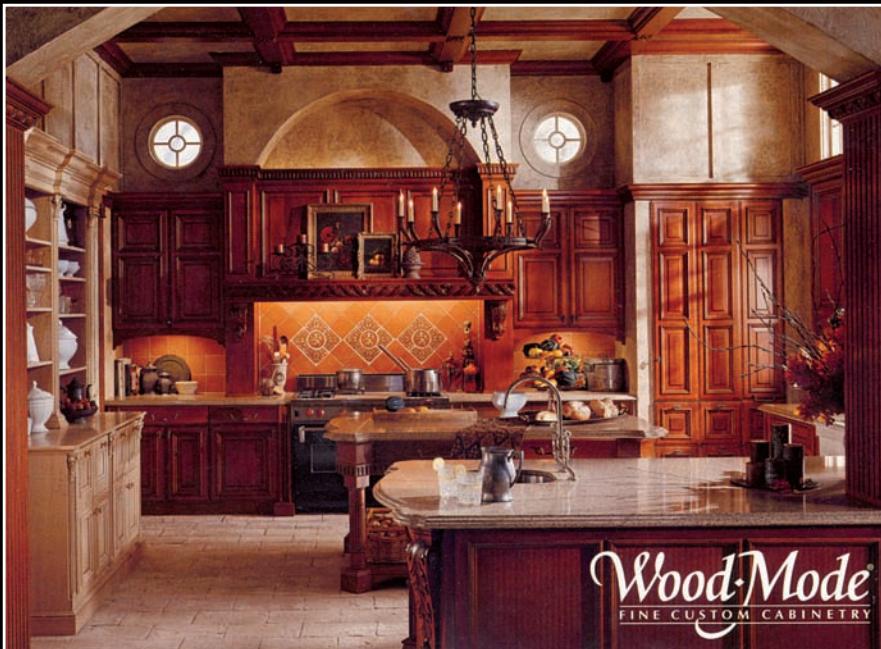
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