

# Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana

JULY 24-26, 2009



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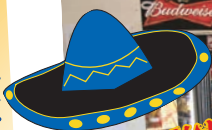
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## THE TAOS NEWS

P.O. BOX 3737

TAOS, NM 87571

PUBLISHED BY EL CREPÚSCULO, INC.

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SUCESOR DE EL CREPÚSCULO

FUNDADO EN 183 POR EL PADRE ANTONIO JOSÉ MARTÍNEZ

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# WELCOME TO THE 2009 LAS FIESTAS DE SANTIAGO Y SANTA ANA

*Bienvenidos a Taos,*

I feel extremely honored and proud to represent Taos as La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos 2009. I am looking forward to my journey with my princesas, Ashley, Jessica, and Jenea. Even with the title of La Reina, in my heart I feel and look at it as we are all winners. As the royal court we hope to set an example to all the young girls in the community that they too can dream big and realize their goals.



TINA LARKIN

As I take on this new leadership role, I hope to learn more about my religion, culture, and traditions. I can't wait to meet new people and embark on new experiences with my princesas. My religion and my faith mean a lot to me and this opportunity will allow me to learn even more.

I would like to thank my parents, Molly and Tim Salazar, for all they have done for me as well as my little brother Alejandro, who is my biggest

fan. I would like to thank my grandparents Marty and Rose Baxter, and Susana Trujillo for their love and support. To the rest of my family, friends, and to Jasmine Peralta and family from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the encouragement, the support, and the love you have shown me. Thank you to my princesas and their families, and to all the sponsors for their generous donations. I also want

to thank the Taos Fiesta Council for carrying on the Taos Fiestas every year, especially our sponsors Evangeline "Vangie" Romero, Elma Vigil, and Sonya Romero for all their guidance and assistance, we look forward to working with you through the year. Gracias, Thank you, God Bless,

*!Que Vivan Las Fiesta de Santiago Y Santa Ana!*

Sincerely,

Angelica Lydia Salazar

*La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos 2009*

---

## FAREWELL FROM 2008 FIESTAS QUEEN

*Buenas tardes familia, amigos, y miembros de nuestra comunidad,*

As La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos 2008, I would like to say farewell to a year of memories and experiences. This opportunity of a lifetime has taught me so much about our culture, traditions, and religion. I am very proud and honored to have represented Taos in its beauty and diversity. Throughout my reign, I have attended many fiesta functions within Northern New Mexico and met many, many wonderful people that have made this experience worthwhile.



MEGAN AVINA

I would like to first of all thank my parents, Pamela and Francisco Martínez, and my siblings, as well as the families of my court for all their support, help, and love throughout the year and within our lives. Thank you to my princesas and friends, Suzanne Archuleta and Kaitlyn Baca for sharing this experience with me and making this a year to remember. Thank you to the Taos Fiesta Council

for providing the opportunity to represent my home town and keeping the Taos Fiesta traditions alive, especially thank you to our Fiesta sponsors, Evangeline 'Vangie' Romero, Elma Vigil, and Sonya F. Romero for your guidance, heartfelt support, and friendship. Last but not least, thank you to the community of Taos for being in our lives and allowing us to be part of yours; you have touched our hearts and we

will forever remember your kindness.

To the 2009 Fiesta Court, best of wishes to a year of joyous memories, experience everything to its fullest and may the dear Lord guide you in all you do. I know you will learn so much about our traditions and culture in contributing to our community. Represent Taos well and may God bless you.

*¡Que vivan Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!*

Amogene Olaya Fatima Martínez

*La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos de 2008*

# Bienvenidos A Los Hispanos!

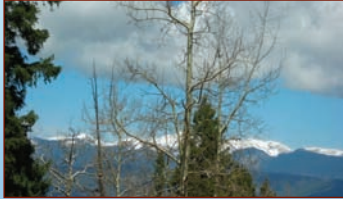
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# ¡BIENVENIDOS!

Fellow 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. This is the reason that we have selected "Honoring the Faith of Taoseños" / "Honorando la Fé de Nuestros Taoseños" as the 2009 theme.



opportunity for all of us to unite in fellowship. It's 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.

We invite our visitors to tour and visit the many cultural and historic sites throughout Taos.

Have a safe Fiesta weekend.

*¡Dios les bendiga! ¡Que vivan Las Fiestas!*

Atentamente,  
Edward Coca, President  
Taos Fiesta Council

## 2009 TAOS FIESTA COUNCIL



*Back row: Daniel Miera; Edward Coca, President; Jose Coca; Patrick Vigil; Don Francisco Trujillo II, Treasurer; Front Row: Celsa Vigil, Secretary; Kathy Coca, Vice President; Liz Peralta; Theresa Martínez; Christina Montez; Elma Vigil; Kathleen Branchal; Rubeen Martinez; Not pictured: Georgianna Gonzales; Donna Jo Martínez; Manuel Medina; Angelica Miera; Ronald Montez; Vangie Romero; Sonya Romero; Theresa Trujillo*





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## FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

*Bienvenidos!*

On behalf of the Town of Taos Council, our wonderful staff, and my family, I welcome everyone to the 2009 Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana.

The Taos Fiesta Council is an incredibly hard working group, committed to making this tradition better and better each year for family, friends and visitors to Northern New Mexico. They are also a valuable contributor to our community all year long — assisting many other organizations in our collective efforts to preserve what we love about Taos, while also improving what we need to.

We congratulate all of you on another successful year, and a special congratulations to our Fiesta Queen and her court. Thank you for representing Taos not only in our community — but to the region, our state, and the nation.

This annual celebration is a time for us to visit with old friends, make new ones, be thankful for our blessings, and enjoy our beautiful plaza — the heart of Taos.



All Taoseños and visitors have an opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of Fiesta on our historic Taos Plaza during this festive weekend.

Please take the time to enjoy the incredible outdoor beauty of the area, the friendliness of the people, our fine art, recreation offerings, unique shopping, diverse lodging, fun entertainment, our relaxing spas, and so much more. The Fiestas de Taos is a special time for all of us.

Have a great time, keep safe and please visit beautiful Taos often. Please don't drink and drive during this celebration — have a safe Fiestas weekend. We encourage any who can to take the [www.TaosExpress.com](http://www.TaosExpress.com) buses which make non-stop round trips from Santa Fe to Taos each weekend — it is a relaxing and convenient way to travel to Taos — Fiestas weekend or otherwise. Call (575) 751-4459 for reservations.

*¡Que vivan Las Fiestas de Taos!*

Darren Córdova, Mayor  
Town of Taos

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## FROM THE TAOS COUNTY COMMISSION

*¡Bienvenidos fellow Taoseños and friends!*

On behalf of the Taos County Board of Commissioners, Elected Officials, and County staff, I would like to extend an invitation to our visitors and friends to join us in our 2009 annual Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!

Our fiesta celebration is truly a time of commemoration and tradition that has its roots deep within northern New Mexico history.

This is a joyous time that brings our community together; it's a celebration of life and unity of our diverse and rich, tricultural people. The Taos Fiestas draw the elderly and the young to one place in time to strengthen our families and to make new, lasting friendships. This year's theme, "Honoring the Faith of Taoseños," exemplifies the faith of all our citizens within this community that assures us of a brighter future.

We encourage your participation in the Taos



Fiestas; come out and enjoy the spirit of the community through the gatherings, the ethnic foods rich in taste, and vibrant sounds of New Mexican music. We welcome you to experience this community celebration first-hand.

It's important to remember that our freedom to celebrate our Fiestas is only possible because of the sacrifice by our American heroes. Keep them in

your constant prayers for their safe return! Thank you to our Fiesta Council who through their hard work keep our tradition alive. Thank you to the residents of Taos County and our guests who, through their participation, always make our fiestas memorable.

*¡Que Vivan las Fiestas de Taos y La Reina y Princesas!*

Daniel R. Barrone, Chairman  
Taos County Board of Commissioners



## FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

Welcome Taoseños and visitors on behalf of all the elected and appointed officials of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) 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 cariños of our citizens and communities.

Thank you from our 13 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

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## FROM THE PUEBLO OF TAOS



**Ruben A. Romero,**  
Governor

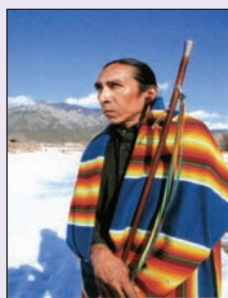
In the fun and festive spirit of the celebration of our patron saints Santiago y Santa Ana, we are reaching out to all sectors of our community and Taos County; that part of the spirit is about showing kindness and goodwill to our fellow community members.

This is the tradition of all and the spirit is to give back and get involved. We want to ensure that those in need are not forgotten here at home and in the service to our country and to honor each other's culture.

The holiday of our patron saint has remarkable qualities within our cultures and none surpasses the devotion we have during this unique time of the year.

May it be a blessed event and bring with it peace and happiness. You are most welcomed to attend our ceremonies on July 25 and 26.

Ruben A. Romero, Governor  
Bernard Lujan, War Chief



**Bernard Lujan,**  
War Chief





## TAOS FIESTA COUNCIL 2009 PLAZA ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY (JULY 24)

Noon-1 p.m.	Monica Yvette y Grupo Confianza
1-2 p.m.	Juan Rivera - Vocalist
2-3 p.m.	Julian Lucero Band
3-4 p.m.	Catalina Río Fernández & Flamenco Nuevo México
4-4:30 p.m.	Niños Bailadores
4:30-5 p.m.	Paul Jones - Native Flute
5-6 p.m.	Legacy of Santa Fe
5:30-6:30 p.m.	FIESTA MASS - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
6-7 p.m.	Mystic Dance Team
7-9 p.m.	OPENING CEREMONIES - TAOS PLAZA
9-10 p.m.	Mariachi Buenaventura
10 p.m.	PLAZA CLOSES

### SATURDAY (JULY 25)

8:30-9 a.m.	Morning Prayer - Ministerial Alliance
9-10 a.m.	T.E.A.M. Choir
10-10:30 a.m.	CHILDREN'S PARADE
10:30-11 a.m.	Mariachi Buenaventura
11 a.m.-Noon	Baile Español
Noon-1 p.m.	Baile Folklorico de Santa Fé
1-2 p.m.	Miguel Timoteo y Suavidad
2-3 p.m.	Erika Bonilla con Mariachi Tradicional
3-4 p.m.	Baile Ilusion Dance Company
4-5 p.m.	Ernestine Romero y Grupo Malsangre
5-6 p.m.	Sassfire
6-7 p.m.	Los Zapateados
7-8 p.m.	Daniel Córdova y Esperanza
8-9 p.m.	Danza Azteca
9-10 p.m.	Al Leyba y Tierra Mala
10 p.m.	PLAZA CLOSES

### SUNDAY (JULY 26)

9-10 a.m.	St. Francis Choir
10-11 a.m.	Mystic Dance Team
11 a.m.-Noon	Mariachi Encantadoras del Río Grande
Noon- 1 p.m.	Ballet Folklorico Arco Iris Fantastico
1 p.m.	HISTORICAL PARADE
1-2 p.m.	Paul Jones - Native Flute
2-3 p.m.	UNICO
3-3:15 p.m.	SPECIAL COMMUNITY PRESENTATION
3:15-4:15 p.m.	Young Guns
4:15-5:15 p.m.	Mariachi Encantadoras del Río Grande
5:15-6:15 p.m.	The Bad Boys
6:15-7:30 p.m.	Darren Córdova y Calor/Mariachi Calor
7:30 p.m.	CLOSING CEREMONIES

*Highlighted performers have donated their time, talent and performance to the community. The council thanks each of them for their generosity. Schedule is subject to change. Up to date information may be found at [www.fiestasdetaos.com](http://www.fiestasdetaos.com).*

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## FIESTA CELEBRATIONS CENTER AROUND SAINTS

In the traditional New Mexican sense, a fiesta is a celebration honoring any Catholic patron saint's feast day. Much more than fun and good cheer, it serves as a time to honor the community and recognize one's spiritual connection.

Thus, a special mass typically inaugurates a fiesta, allowing for personal reflection and acknowledgment of the year's blessings.

Most communities host a pageant in which they choose a reina, or queen, from the young women native to the town or village. The queen carries the responsibility of not only representing her peers, family and fellow residents in a positive way, she is also a "goodwill ambassador" to other fiestas.

Animated with coronation processions, dances, food, arts and crafts vendors and live entertainment, fiestas create an environment where people can socialize and renew the bonds of friendship.

American Indian communities include tribal observances held on the exact calendar date of the

traditional feast day. Other communities sometimes adjust the date to coincide with the nearest weekend or to avoid conflict with the activities of another nearby community with the same patron saint.

After the 1934 incorporation of Taos, civic leaders created Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana (usually held the third weekend of July) to boost the local economy. Since the Taos Pueblo observes feast days of Santiago and Santa Ana, leaders decided to also make them the town's patron saints.

Local families use this time for home gatherings, barbecues, plaza walks or taking their children to the various activities. Amidst the live music, relatives and friends can visit or shop the local wares sold at the specialty booths.

Each year the parades prove to be a town favorite, with the children's morning parade kicking off Saturday events and the historical parade on Sunday afternoon.

—Jerry A. Padilla

---

## ROYAL RESPONSIBILITY: TAKING ON FIESTA TRADITIONS

It's not easy being a princess.

Just ask any past member of the

Fiestas Royal Court, or Sonya Romero, co-chair of the Royal Court committee and a past Fiesta queen.

While any Catholic girl living in the Taos area between age 16 to 19 with a Spanish surname can be on the Royal Court, only a few commit to the rigorous requirements set forth by the Fiesta Council, said Romero.

As part of the judging process this year, all princesses wrote an essay focused on Taos history with an emphasis on religion.

Perhaps one of the more demanding aspects involves sponsorship. Leading up to the June 21 pageant, each court member sought support from local individuals and businesses. These funds go towards the travel and lodging expenses accumulated when the court acts as Taos ambassadors at Northern New Mexico events throughout the year.

At the official competition and crowning, each girl gave a speech explaining why she wanted to

be Fiesta Queen and what she would bring to the leadership role.

The court got to have a little fun this year and showed their unique flair. Part of the competition included a fashion show in which each contestant created their own version of Taos style. And, just as in those famed Miss America shows, there is a talent portion.

Over the years, Romero explained, the talents have expanded to such interests as poetry reading, cooking and photography.

But, even when having fun, the princesses were working and being judged. A group dance routine was not only for entertainment, but used to see how well each one worked with children and each other.

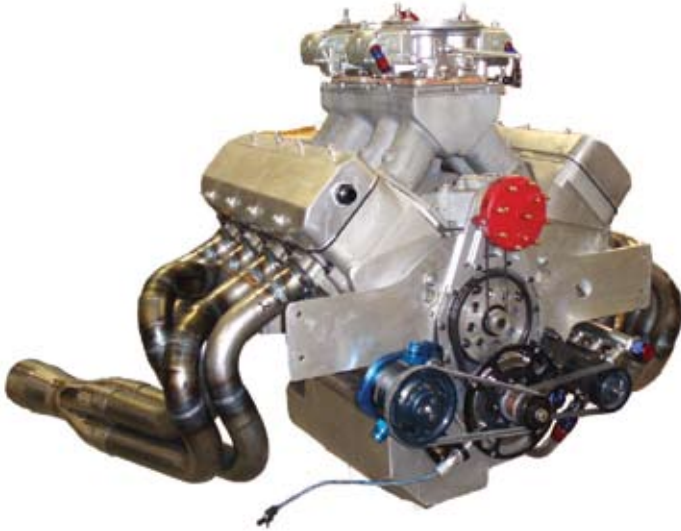
Yet, even after the queen receives her crown and the jubilee of Fiestas ends, the court still has responsibilities throughout the year. As each member learns, there's a lot more to being a Taos princess than sitting pretty.

—Paige Gray



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## REINA ANGELICA LYDIA SALAZAR

**A**ngelica Salazar knows that wherever her ambitions lead her in life, she will be a part of Northern New Mexico. “No matter where you go, you have a home in Taos,” Salazar, 17, said. “Growing up here gives you backbone; it gives you stability.”

Such stability has grounded Salazar, compelling her to become active in community groups and causes, such as the San Francisco de Asís Church and American Relay for Life Cancer Society.

In joining the 2009 Royal Court of Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana, Salazar has not only made enduring memories with fellow princesses, but gained a new level of confidence.

“[The pageant] has made me more determined when I want something,” she said. “I’ve put all my effort into it.”

Salazar used the same self-motivation while completing her high school degree this year through the Ashworth University program, an

online degree which allowed her to learn from home. She’ll continue her education at the Universal Therapeutic Massage Institute in Albuquerque next year.

“I’ve always given my friends massages ... it’s kind of my calling,” Salazar said.

Though she felt a little of the natural nervousness that comes with competition, Salazar relished the group dance number with her background in dancing and gymnastics.

“These are all the dances I did when I was little, so it’s familiar and fun to work with the children.”

But, above all, Salazar said she loves contributing to Taos tradition. Despite the stress, she’s eager — and honored — to possibly play role model to her young cousins and other young girls, just as past Fiestas Queens were to her.

Salazar is the daughter of Molly and Tim Salazar of Ranchos de Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Rose and Marty Baxter. Her paternal grandmother is Susana Trujillo.

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Taos Pharmacy was named Taos Drug  
and was located on the plaza. It was a great kid's  
hang out with a jukebox and soda fountain. It was in the  
midst of the annual fiesta activities. Having been born and  
raised in Taos, some of my fondest childhood memories involve  
the Fiestas de Santana Y Santiago. I remember when \$5 was  
a huge amount of spending money. I remember winning  
movie passes for being in the children's parade. Now  
I look forward to seeing old friends so we can  
remember together.



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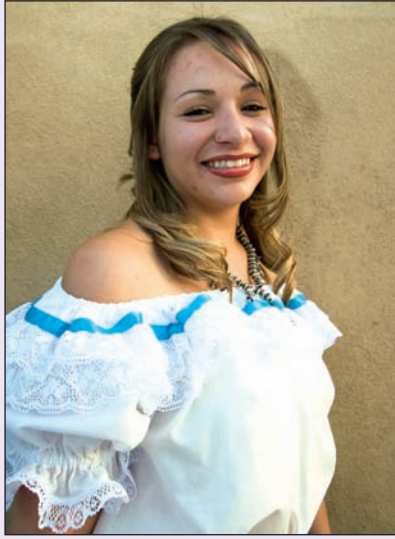


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# PRINCESA JESSICA AMBROSIA NICOLE COCA

**B**eing in the kitchen means much more than simple meal preparation for Royal Court member Jessica Coca. Cooking involves figuring out how different puzzle pieces — the ingredients — fit together for the best flavor. It involves seeing satisfied expressions on hungry faces. It involves bringing family together.

“I learned from my Nina ... she doesn’t use recipes, she just throws everything together,” said Coca, 18, who made tamales for her talent in the Fiestas pageant. “I have a passion for being in the kitchen.”

The 2009 Taos High School graduate participated in the school’s culinary arts programs, where Coca saw first-hand the difficulty of the restaurant and catering business. Though she did want to pursue a career as a chef, she’s now thinking about radiology. But for a time she also considered fashion design.

She admits she changes her mind a lot, but

she never thought twice about serving on the Royal Court for Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana.

“I find it a blessing, a privilege, because of my heritage and religion, to be on the court,” Coca said.

She solidified her decision to become a Fiestas princess after traveling with her sister when she was on the court a few years ago. Besides the sheer amusement of that experience, Coca saw how the court represented an important piece of the community — something she wanted to contribute to as soon as she could.

“I love being part of Taos,” she said, explaining that wherever she goes, the town will be with her. “It’s like they say: You can take Taoseño out of Taos, but you can’t take the Taos out of the Taoseño.”

Jessica is the daughter of Kathy and José Coca of Ranchos de Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Barbara and Lloyd Mondragón. Her paternal grandparents are the late Elizeria and late Eleuterio Coca.

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**Brenda McGuill, Nurse Care Advisor, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico and fellow Nurse Care Advisors – Vicki, Nicole, and Deedree**

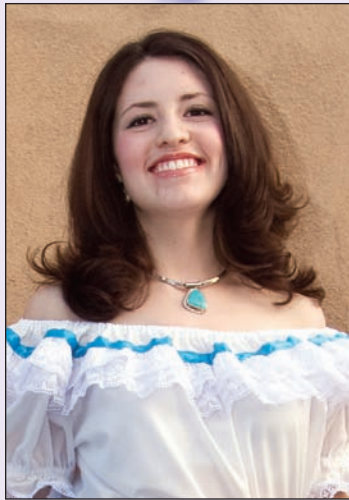


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TINA LARKIN

# PRINCESA ASHLEY ANNE CECILIA BRANCH Y BACA

**T**hough in the days leading up to the Fiestas pageant, anxiety and anticipation filled her, Ashley Branch y Baca, 17, can usually rely on the exquisite ease and aesthetics of Taos to calm her.

“Taos is such a beautiful area,” Branch y Baca said. “The landscape brings tranquility.”

The competition build-up and preparation may be nerve-wracking, but the 2009 Taos High School graduate has wanted to vie for Fiestas Queen ever since she was a little girl when she saw her aunt crowned queen of the Las Vegas Fiestas. Witnessing how much her aunt enjoyed the experience, Branch y Baca knew participating in the Royal Court would be a worthwhile event, particularly because it is steeped in tradition.

“I’ve loved learning more about my culture and Native American culture,” she said. “I’ve learned so many new things I didn’t know about before.”

Branch y Baca can use this willingness to understand people and cultures as she embarks

upon a career in sports medicine as a physical therapist. As a cross-country and track athlete in high school, and holder of a second-degree black belt in tae kwon do, she watched peers work hard and perform through injuries — something she’d like to prevent.

“I want to help people so they can reach their full potential in whatever sport they choose to do.”

Being a part of the pageant and Royal Court can serve as another avenue for helping others in the community for Branch y Baca. Just as she has been motivated by supportive people in the Taos community, she hopes to do the same and “inspire others to achieve their dreams.”

“It’s such a spiritual place,” she said of her hometown. “It’s so interesting to meet so many intelligent people all with different backgrounds and with so many ideas.”

Branch y Baca is the daughter of Darlene and James Branch of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Frances and Alfredo Baca. Her paternal grandfather is Benjamin Branch. Her great-grandmother is Juanita Vigil.

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## PRINCESA JENEA LYSETTE MAESTAS

**A**s soon as she got her chance, Jenea Maestas knew she'd be a part of the Royal Court for Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana. "When I was little, I'd see the [Fiestas] girls, and always wanted to be one," said Maestas, 18, a recent Taos High School graduate.

She admitted it's been a difficult journey between pageant preparation and researching for the required essay. But, she said, the work pays off since she's contributing to the history and tradition of her community.

With a special love for nature and outdoor activity, Maestas seems to have been born in the right place. And even as she travels to the University of New Mexico in the fall, she knows she'll take the values of her "unique," "close-knit" town with her.

Though she may eventually study biology, Maestas enjoys a wide variety of interests, from

crafts to snow-boarding. For the pageant talent portion, she read her own poem, after some encouragement from her mother.

"I didn't know what I was going to do for my talent," she said. "But, one day I just sat down and wrote [the poem] and my mom really liked it."

Maestas revels in the excitement from events such as Fiestas. In high school as a cheerleader, she loved feeling the energy from the crowd. She was able to use her cheerleading and dance skills in her favorite part of the pageant, the group routine.

The entire Royal Court process has proved an adventure for Maestas— one too profound to properly articulate.

"I just can't put it all into words because it means so much — the girls, the experience, what I've learned, all of it," she said.

Jenea is the daughter of Denise and David Maestas of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Florence and Tim Romero. Her paternal grandparents are Josie and the late Alex Maestas.

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## A 'SON OF THUNDER' AND A HOLY GRANDMOTHER: HONORING TAOS' PATRON SAINTS



© Raymond López

*'Santiago' by Raymond López*



National Gallery of Scotland

*'The Immaculate Conception with Saint Joachim and Saint Anne' by Francisco de Zurbarán*

While area residents revel in the late July joy of the parades, performances and pageantry, the honored saints behind the ceremonies — the “son of thunder” and the holy grandmother — remain the solemn focus.

Taos Fiestas recognizes the feast days of the town's two patron saints, Saint James the Apostle, or Santiago (July 25), and Saint Anne, or Santa Ana (July 26).

An original disciple of Jesus, Saint James is also the patron saint of Spain. According to legend, he and his brother John earned the nickname “sons of thunder” from Jesus, supposedly due to their passionate, zealous personalities. In the eighth century, those dynamic traits led Saint James to defend the Christians against the Moors in a battle for control of the Iberian Peninsula. According to ancient accounts, some years later, after King Herod beheaded the saint, Saint James' remains were returned to that area which is today known as Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

“During the middle ages, it was the destination of thousands of pilgrims every year who took the route of Santiago that begins in Paris and ends at the cathedral where Santiago is believed to be buried,” said Father Allan Figueroa Deck of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. “The Spaniards thought of their conquest of the Americas in terms of the ‘reconquest’ they successfully executed in Spain under the patronage of Santiago.”

Several stories exist about the life of Saint Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary — Jesus' grandmother. The Catholic Church believes Mary was born free of original sin, thus the Immaculate Conception, though this is often confused with Jesus' conception. The Gospel of James recounts how an angel visited Anne, who struggled with fertility, and told her and her husband, Joachim, that they would conceive a child whose life would be dedicated to God.

“In Iberian culture Santa Ana is the grandmother par excellence,” Deck said. “Now the grandmother is the principal religious educator in Hispanic families. She is much revered and plays a central role in promoting both faith and family life. She is Jesus' grandmother!”

During these weekend celebrations, the community prides itself not only for feasting with friends and families, but for taking time to pay homage to Taos' patron saints.



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## CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

As a boy growing up in Taos, Melitón Trujillo attended Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana every year, enjoying the many celebrations particularly special to locals.

Little did he know then that he would become part of the honored town tradition, when, in the early 1980s, the Fiestas Council asked him to create the crown for La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos.

The council gave a basic idea to Trujillo, who does silversmith work as a hobby, from which he

added a few adjustments.

"I just laid it out using my own judgment," he said. "I made a few changes and expanded it,"

Made from solid sterling silver, the crown is embedded with turquoise and has two doves carved into it alongside the names of Santiago and Santa Ana. It has been used every year since its creation, more than 20 years ago.

"It's nice to see it every year," Trujillo said, "but I don't like to brag too much. But, my wife does like to tell people around town."

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GREG KRELLER

*Taos Lions Club member Bill Harrison pulls back the lever of the Tio Vivo in 2003.*

## ROUND AND ROUND WE GO: TÍO VIVO'S ANNUAL DELIGHT

**I**f it's time for Taos Fiestas, then it's time for Tío Vivo.

Fun-filled, carefree whirls on the town's prized carousel solidify the July celebrations for many children and returning natives, who rode the amusement when they were children.

Since it first started spinning at Fiestas in 1939, Tío Vivo, or Uncle Lively, has dazzled crowds with its unique, 16 hand-carved horses.

"[Tío Vivo] is very much an integral part of Fiestas," says Wayne Rutherford of the Taos Lions Club. "There's just nothing else like it."

The service organization has taken responsibility for Tío Vivo ever since a carnival company abandoned it in a Peñasco stable during the Great Depression. The Lions house it throughout the year and set it up at various Northern New Mexico events. But every July, the carousel, which some believe came from 19th-century Spain, takes the stage at Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana.

New members, or "Lion Cubs" are tasked with the set-up, which takes several hours with seven or eight people, according to Rutherford. He says the Cubs tend to stand in awe when first helping out with the preparation.

"They're amazed, perplexed and entertained by it," Rutherford says. "It's so unique, I bet there's not 500 people in the world that have done something like this."

Because the horses are actually free-standing and not attached to the platform, the device is called a "flying jenny," as each "jenny" appears to be soaring through the sky as the carousel spins. With each horse valued at an estimated \$15,000-20,000, Rutherford says as a whole, the carousel is of inestimable value.

Mystery still shrouds the old carousel's creation since no definitive answers exist past its discovery in the barn. In 1997, then-chairman of the National Carousel Association, Tom VanSant, examined Tío Vivo to determine a possible origin.

"There's not much of anything we can identify," VanSant said at the time. "The mechanics of the machine are so unique."

Over the years, Tío Vivo has garnered much local and some national attention, even making a trip to Hollywood in 1947 to appear in the film "Ride the Pink Horse." In the 1950s, the Lions Club invited Taos artists to paint a horse in their individual style.

Almost mimicking the circular nature of merry-go-round rides, Tío Vivo comes back every year to entertain new audiences and let older Taosños reminisce.

"People who rode it love to come back and see it," Rutherford says. "It takes them back to their past."

—Paige Gray

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# FIESTA RECIPES

*Courtesy of Taos Fiesta Council*

## BISCOCHITOS

*A New Mexico favorite and the state cookie  
Yields 5 dozen*



- 1 pound lard
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons anise seed
- ½ cup brandy
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ cup sugar
- 6 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon

### Directions:

1. Cream lard, sugar and anise seed in a large mixing bowl. Add eggs and beat well.
2. Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a large mixing bowl.
3. Alternately add flour and brandy to creamed mixture until stiff dough has been formed.
4. Knead dough slightly and pat or roll to a ¼- to ½-inch thickness. Cut dough into desired shapes.
5. Combine sugar and cinnamon in a small mixing bowl. Dust the top of each cookie with a small amount of mixture.
6. Bake in a 350°F oven for 10 minutes, or until cookies are lightly browned.

## RED CHILE AND MEAT

*Chile con carne  
Yields 6 servings*



- 3 pounds beef chuck
- 2 tablespoons onion powder
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 1½ teaspoons cayenne pepper
- 2 cubes beef bouillon
- ½ cup canned beef broth
- 3 ounces tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon juice from cooked jalapeño
- 1 quart water
- 6¼ tablespoons chile powder
- 1 tablespoon cumin
- 1½ teaspoons garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon white pepper
- ⅔ teaspoon salt

### Directions:

1. Cut meat in cubes and brown in a large, heavy dutch oven.
2. Add onion powder, paprika, cayenne, bouillon, beef broth, tomato sauce, jalapeño juice and water.
3. Cook over low heat for about 2 hours, adding more water as needed, until meat is tender.
4. Add chile powder, cumin, garlic powder and pepper, cook for 20 to 30 minutes more.

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