

2011
Fiestas de Santiago
y Santa Ana



Ayer, Hoy y Manana

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¡Bienvenidos!

Fellow Taosenos and visitors: On behalf of the Taos Fiesta Council, welcome to our annual celebration, Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana.

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'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.



Courtesy Photo

**Taos Fiesta Council
President Joseph
Quintana**

We thank God for the many blessings

that have been bestowed upon us over the past year and ask God's grace in preparing us for yet another year. The Taos Fiesta Council has chosen the theme for the 2011 Fiestas to be "Ayer, Hoy y Manana," which honors past Fiestas, our present fiestas and future generations that will come after us. We congratulate our new Reina and her court, as well as the honorees for this year's Fiestas and wish them well in representing Taos in all that they do.

Without the support of the entire Taos community we would not be able to continue with this age old tradition and we thank each and everyone for your generosity and help. The annual Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana belongs to the people of Taos and the Taos Fiesta Council is honored to serve as stewards for you and your Fiesta.

We invite you and our visitors to tour and visit the many cultural and historic sites throughout the beautiful community of Taos. Have a safe and festive Fiesta weekend. *Dios los bendiga! Que vivan Las Fiestas!!*

Joseph J. Quintana
President, Taos Fiesta Council

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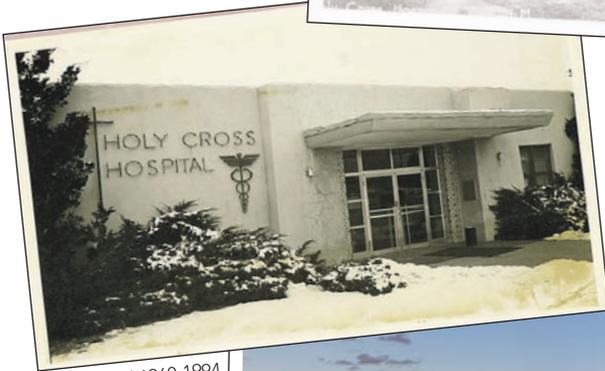
ON THE COVER:

Princesa Jenni Alyssa Medina,
Princesa Bianca Claire Silva,
Reina Anna Eloisa Vásquez and
Princesa Andrea Bibiana Mondragón.

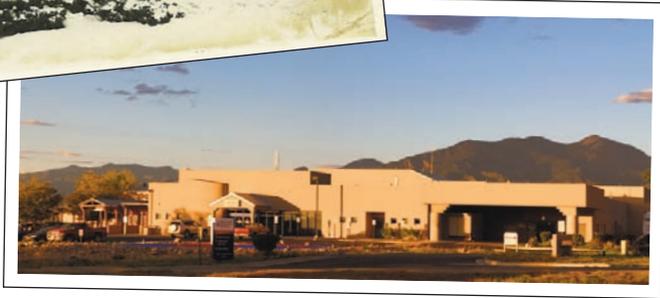
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Bienvenidos familia y amigos de Taos

As the end of my year as La Reina de Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana approaches, I look back on how truly blessed I have been to have had this honorable opportunity. As I look back on the past year, it is difficult to find the right words to describe how amazing this year has been, but wonderful, honorable, memorable and fun come close to the emotions I feel inside.

My princesses and I have had the pleasure of traveling throughout New Mexico to partake in fiesta festivities of other communities and to represent our beautiful community of Taos to the best of our abilities. In doing so, we have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge about how important it is for us to keep our wonderful heritage, religion and traditions de nuestra comunidad de Taos alive. We've met many wonderful people along this journey and have made numerous memories that will last a lifetime. Being a part of the 2010 Taos Royal Court, has been an experience that will never diminish from our hearts.

I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all the people who have helped make this experience possible. To my parents Raul and Carla Apodaca and my little brother Raulie, thank you for all the love, encouragement and hard work you have given to make this dream my reality. I couldn't have done it without you. Also to my best friend Valerie, thank you for always being there for me. To my grandparents, Abe and Louisa Cárdenas and Roger and Dolores Apodaca, thank you for your love

and support during this special time.

I would truly like to thank my princesses, Raylyn, Remedios, Jasmine and Robyn for accompanying me throughout our year. You ladies are amazing and I can't imagine going through this memorable journey without you. Also, thank you to the families of my princesses for all your love, support and hard work you have shown us throughout the year.

On behalf of my court, we would like to thank our sponsors Evangeline "Vangie"

Romero, Sonya Romero and Elma Vigil for the love, hard work and guidance you have given us from start to finish. To the Taos Fiesta Council, thank you for hosting the annual Taos Fiestas. Your hard work to keep our traditions alive allowed us to be able to hold the honorable titles of La Reina y Las Princesas de Taos por el año dos mil diez. To our beautiful Taos community, thank



Tina Larkin

2010 Reina Desiree Briana Apodaca

you for believing in us to represent la gente y nuestra comunidad to the fullest. Last but not least, thank you to all the families, friends and generous sponsors for making this everlasting opportunity possible.

To the 2011 Royal Court, I extend my best wishes toward an amazing year. Embrace the experience and cherish it forever. I know each one of you will represent our Taos community to the best of your ability. Good Luck and God Bless You All!

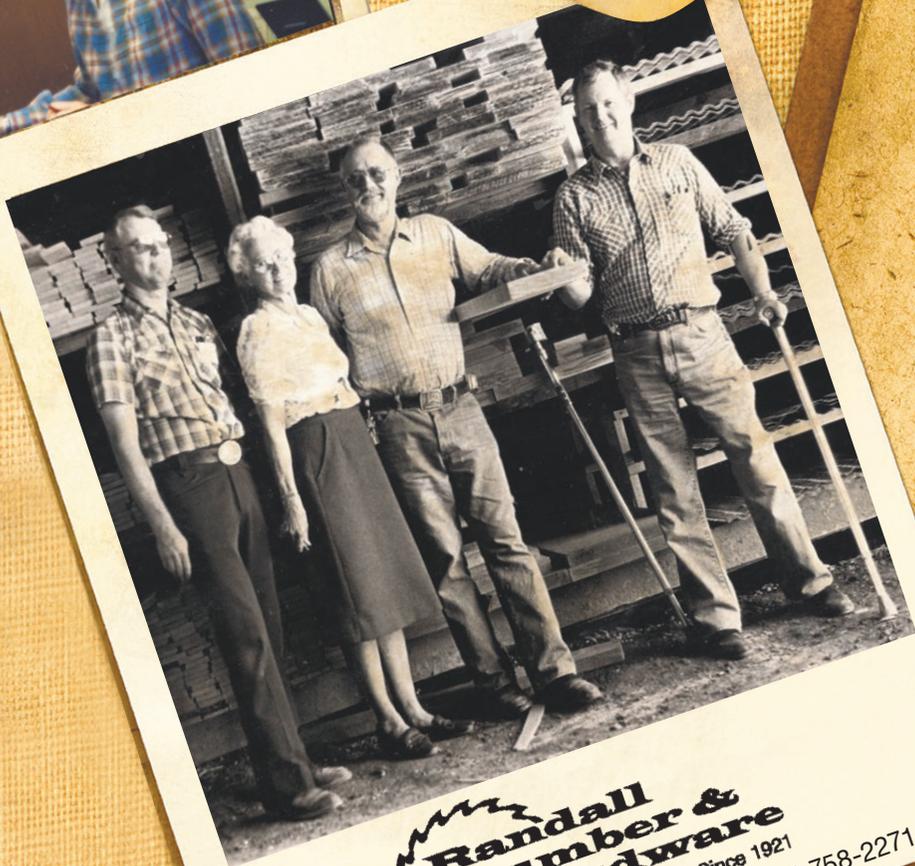
Muchisimas Gracias Por Todo y ¡Que Vivan Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!

Desiree Briana Apodaca
La Reina de Las Fiesta de Taos 2010

'Being a part of the 2010 Taos Royal Court, has been an experience that will never diminish from our hearts.'

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¡Hola fellow Taoseños and visitors, bienvenidos a Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!

Gracias a todos por la oportunidad de servir como *La Reina De Las Fiestas De Santiago y Santa Ana por 2011*, I am proud to represent my beautiful community of Taos. Taos is like no other place in the world; its uniqueness is remarkable for the reason that each culture has its own special features that contribute to the identity of Taos.

I thank Our Dear Lord, for I am truly blessed and honored to celebrate my religion with everyone this Fiestas. I pray to our patron saints, Santiago and Santa Ana, to bless me and my Princesas for a safe and memorable year, as well as blessings for a peaceful and joyous celebration for our families and friends from near and far, and for all those who visit our community this fiesta year.

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. We as a community can encourage them to make constructive choices, representing the community in positive ways, preserving our cultural traditions for future generations, and showing pride in where they come from.

The fiesta theme "*Ayer, Hoy, y Mañana: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*" is a time-honored tradition that was celebrated by our ancestors, by us today, and by those of tomorrow. The

festivities around Taos Plaza will be a special time to enjoy traditional music, traditional Spanish dances, delicious foods, fun rides on the historic Tio Vivo Carousel, the Children's Parade and Historical Parade. I, as *La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos*, invite everyone to have a fun and safe time.

It is with great honor and delight that I share and continue the traditions, customs and our multi-cultural community alongside my court attendees. I am looking forward to my journey with my Princesas, Jenni Medina, Andrea Mondragón and Bianca Silva. These girls are all beautiful, wonderful and caring young ladies and together we will experience a lifetime of memories. We will represent Taoseños with love and appreciation.

On behalf of the 2011 Fiestas Court, I would like to express my gratitude to our families who have been there for us throughout the

years (without them we would not be who we are today), 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 "Vangie" Romero, Sonya Romero, and Elma Vigil for their dedication and hard work.

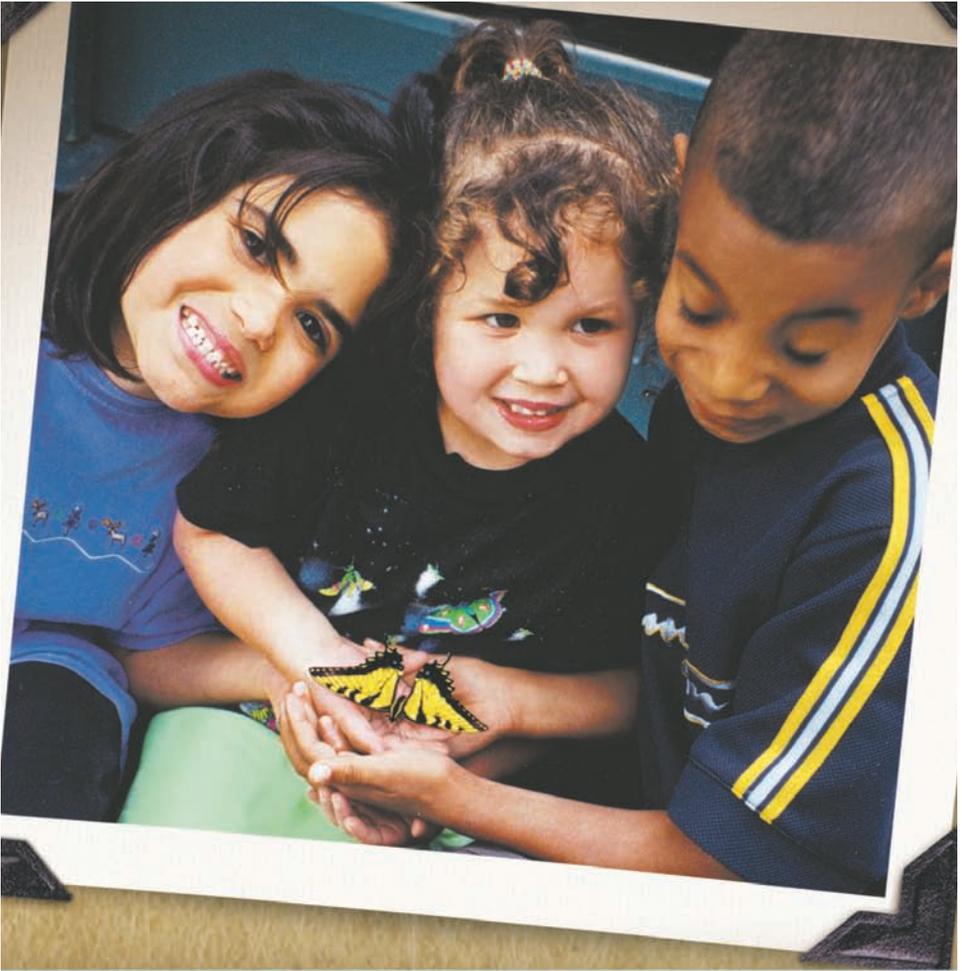
¡Gracias y Que Vivan Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!

Sincerely,
 Anna Eloisa Vásquez
La Reina de Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana de 2011



"Ayer, Hoy, y Mañana: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"

FIESTA THEME



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From the Mayor's Office

As Mayor of the Town of Taos, I welcome you to join us during our Fiestas de Taos celebration with a 2011 theme, “*Ayer, Hoy y Mañana*; Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.”

This year has been a challenge for all of us in the Taos area due to the economic recession, but we continue to progress as a community and welcome over a million visitors each year in the traditions that have been part of our Northern New Mexico hospitality for several hundred years.

During 2011, we welcomed the U-17 Soccer Team from Rwanda to our new FIFA 2 Star EcoPark multi-use field complex, so they could train at 7,000 feet prior to their World Cup competition in Mexico City. This signals a new chapter in the legacy of Taos, adding outdoor training, team and individual recreation and adventure to our mix of offerings. We blend this with our exotic ambiance and architecture, creative culture of art, Hispanic, American Indian and Western heritage, wild outdoor beauty – and world-class food, shopping, entertainment, accommodations and activities.

During 2011, we also know that visitors will be, “Transformed by the Land, Light & Legend of



Courtesy Photo

Taos Mayor Darren Cordova

Taos,” our traveller education theme for this year — particularly as part of Fiestas de Taos.

Traditionally, the Fiestas de Taos is a time when Taoseños are invited to put aside their labor for the weekend and enjoy the leisure of the cultural Fiestas celebration. This year’s ceremonies will be particularly interesting as organizers pay special attention to the dress, activities and traditions of Fiestas gone by.

Attendees can expect a celebration with great food, music and performances from some of Taos’ most

talented — and this guide is a good place to start in learning all that is offered.

A historic parade, mariachi, Tio Vivo (an historic, traditional merry-go-round) and traditional dances will be some of the highlights of the three-day event. I encourage everyone to come celebrate with us, enjoy Taos and the Fiestas.

To learn more about Taos and all its offerings, please visit www.TaosSacredPlaces.com and www.Fiestasdetaos.com.

¡Que Vivan Las Fiestas!

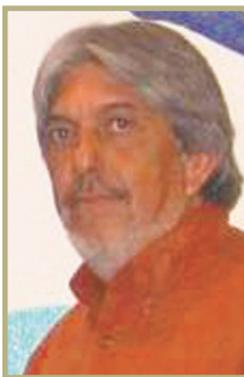
Mayor Darren M. Cordova
Town of Taos

From the Taos County Commission

Bienvenidos fellow Taoseños and friends! On behalf of the Taos County Board of County Commissioners, elected officials and county staff, I would like to welcome you to Taos County, and extend an invitation to join in the 2011 Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!

The celebration of the Fiestas is a time of commemoration and tradition. We must take advantage of opportunities like the Fiestas to come together, put differences aside, and celebrate life in the midst of our majestic mountains and rich traditions.

Given the theme of “*Ayer, Hoy y Mañana*” Taos County is pleased to introduce our new, state-of-the-art Administrative, Judicial and Detention facility, and to showcase our progress through the ages, from the historic Old County Courthouse, which is still located on Taos Plaza, to the once avant-garde



Courtesy Photo

Joe Mike Duran

County Complex occupied from 1969 until this year, and now, looking into the future, in our new facility. We are proud to offer a complex which houses almost every county office in one building, as well as the District and Magistrate Courts and the District Attorney’s Office.

Without your support, it would not have been possible, and without the support of each other, this community would not be what it is. Thank you to the Fiesta Council for keeping our traditions alive. And finally, 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, la Reina y las Princesas!

With gratitude,
Joe Mike Duran, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners of Taos County



**"Que Vivan
Las Fiestas
de Taos"**

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From the Intergovernmental Council

Welcome Taoseños and visitors, on behalf of all the elected and appointed officials 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 Taos' rich cultures and honor our "*ayer, hoy, y mañana.*"

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



Submitted photo
Barb Wiard

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 Fiestas 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

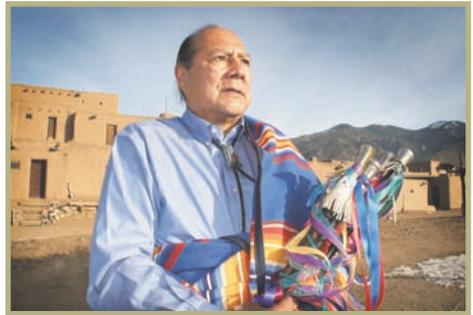
Greetings from Taos Pueblo

Welcome! Taos Pueblo would like to join the Town of Taos and surrounding communities in welcoming everyone to the annual Taos Fiestas to be held on July 22-24. The Fiestas are a time when we join our neighbors in celebration and to give thanks for living in a special place – the Taos Valley.

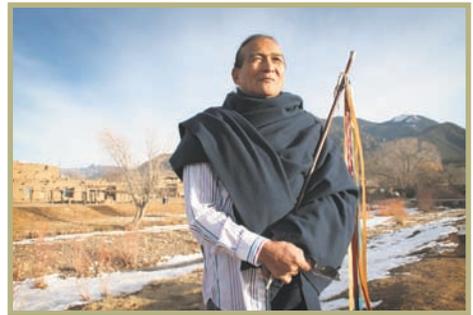
We would also like to invite everyone to visit Taos Pueblo July 25 and 26 for our Santiago y Santa Ana feast days. On these days we will be doing our Corn Dances, which begin around 2 p.m. We celebrate our main feast day of San Geronimo on Sept. 30 and on that day we hold our foot races starting around 7 a.m. Our annual feast, in addition to honoring our traditions is a trade fair that has a history going back centuries, when we traded with other Indian tribes and later with non-indians.

Our Pueblo has been inscribed by the United Nations as a very special place that is of significance worldwide. UNESCO has recognized Taos Pueblo for its living culture, which we continue to practice for centuries. We hope that you will be able to visit us and join us on these joyous occasions. You can contact us at (575) 758-1028 or visit www.taospueblo.com.

Governor Nelson J. Cordova
 War Chief Edwin Concha



Rick Romancito
2011 Taos Pueblo Governor Nelson J. Cordova



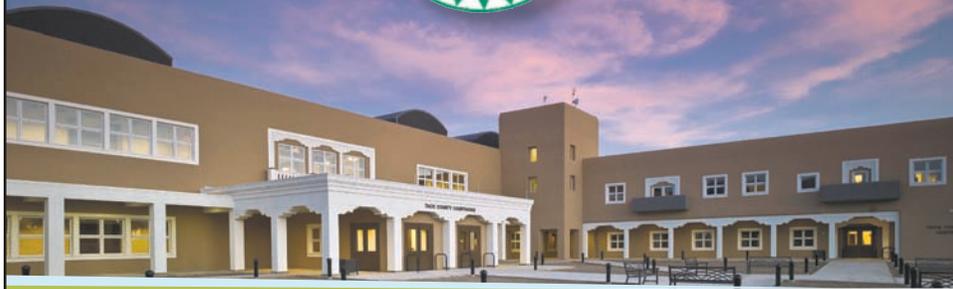
Rick Romancito
2011 Taos Pueblo War Chief Edwin Concha

Mañana

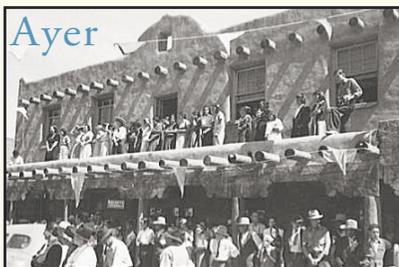
County Complex, 2011-



Photo by Robb Williamson

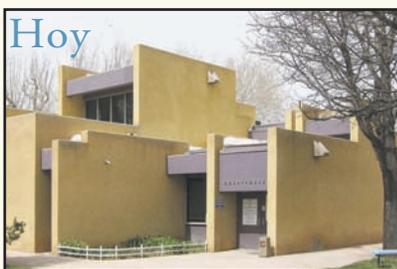


Ayer



Old County Courthouse 1940
during Las Fiestas de Taos

Hoy



County Courthouse, 1969-2011

Taos County Wishes Everyone A Happy, Fun & Safe 2011 Fiestas!

*On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of
Taos County, please accept our thanks for the support of all Taoseños in
realizing a new County Administrative, Judicial and Detention Complex.*

*We look forward to maintaining the tradition, culture and
beauty that make Taos County so unique, while
leading Taos County into the future.*

¡Que Vivan las Fiestas!



From L to R:

Daniel Barrone, Commissioner District I; Nicklos E. Jaramillo, Commissioner District IV; Andrew Chávez,
Commissioner District III; Joe Mike Durán, Commissioner District V; Larry Sánchez, Commissioner District II



Tina Larkin

The Fiesta Mass is 5:30 p.m. Friday (July 22) at Our Lady of Guadalupe church.

Taos Fiesta Council 2011 Event Schedule

Friday (July 22)

- Noon-1 p.m.: Spanish Soundtrack
- 1-2 p.m.: To Be Determined
- 2-3 p.m.: Johnny Bad Boy y Grupo Animo
- 3-3:30 p.m.: Dickie Córdova (soloist)
- 3:30-4 p.m.: Niños Bailadores
- 4-5 p.m.: Catalina Río Fernández and Flamenco Nuevo México
- 5-6 p.m.: Mariaches Encantadoras del Río Grande
- 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 on Taos Plaza
- 9-10 p.m.: Mariachi Encantadoras del Río Grande
- 10 p.m.: Plaza closes

Saturday (July 23)

- 8-9 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 Encantadoras del Río Grande
- 11 a.m.-noon: UNICO
- Noon-1 p.m.: Mystic Dance Team

- 1-2 p.m.: Severo Martinez y Fuego
- 2-3 p.m.: Los Zapateados
- 3-4 p.m.: Suave
- 4-5 p.m.: Baile Español
- 5-6 p.m.: Ernestine Romero y Malsangre
- 6-7 p.m.: Baile Ilusion
- 7-8 p.m.: Monica Yvette y Grupo Confianza
- 8-9 p.m.: Lydia Rael – Baile Folklorico de Santa Fe
- 9-10 p.m.: Teonantli Danza Azteca
- 10 p.m.: Plaza closed

Sunday (July 24)

- 9-10 a.m.: St. Francis Choir
- 10-11 a.m.: Hip-Hop Evolution
- 11 a.m.-noon: WithOut Warning
- Noon-1 p.m.: Dickie Córdova y la Plevé
- 1 p.m.: Historical Parade
- 1-2 p.m.: Audrey Davis Trio
- 2-3 p.m.: Mariachi Encantadores del Río Grande
- 3-3:15 p.m.: Special Community Presentation
- 3:15-4:15 p.m.: Young Guns
- 4:15-5:15 p.m.: Jerome Grant
- 5:15-7 p.m.: Darren Córdova y Calor/ Mariachi Calor
- 7 p.m.: Closing Ceremonies

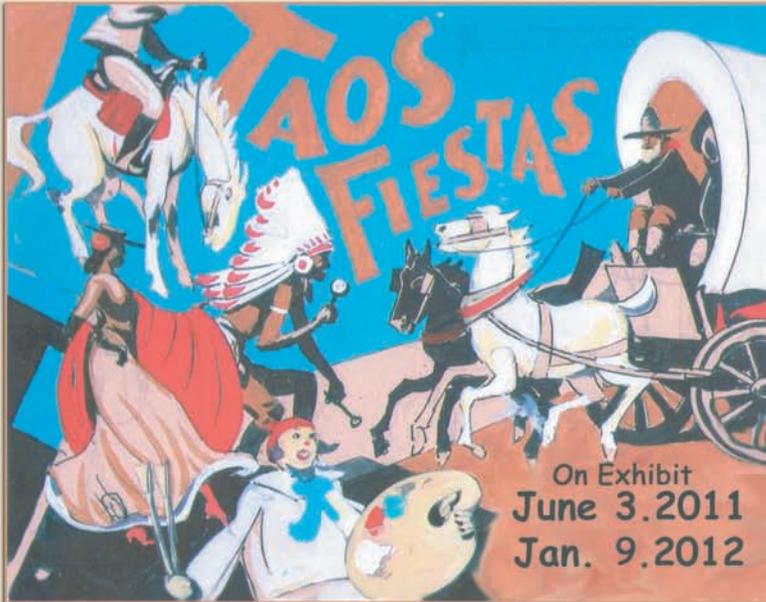


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Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana



Tina Larkin

2011 Fiestas Court: Princesa Bianca Claire Silva, Princesa Andrea Bibiana Mondragón, Princesa Jenni Alyssa Medina and Reina Anna Eloisa Vásquez.

25th Contemporary Hispanic Market Silver Anniversary

July 30th & 31st 2011

Saturday
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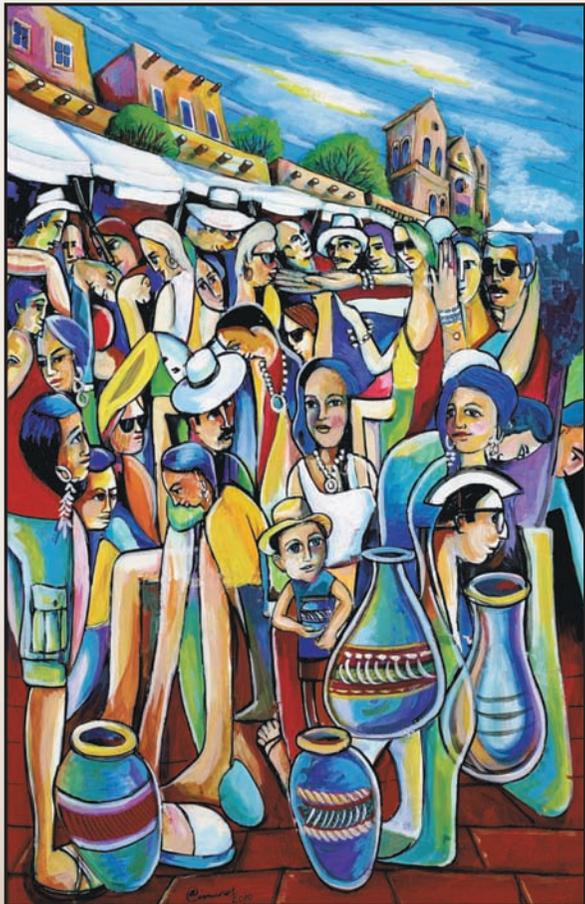
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Arturo Cisneros

Queen Anna Eloisa Vásquez

La Reina de las Fiestas 2011 Anna Eloisa Vásquez speaks perfect Spanish.

She entered the pageant to inspire younger girls, as well as to share what she shows and loves about Taos.

“There is a lot that people need to know about our town,” she said. “The historical places like Taos Pueblo, the Ranchos Church and the Plaza, and the many outdoor activities that can be done here, like river rafting and skiing.”

For the fashion show she wore an outfit made by her great-grandmother. “My great aunt Ruth Rodríguez wore it when she ran in the 1959 Fiestas,” she said.

In her speech, she talked about how celebrating the Fiestas is an honored tradition in her family, and referred to her secret desire of becoming La Reina someday.

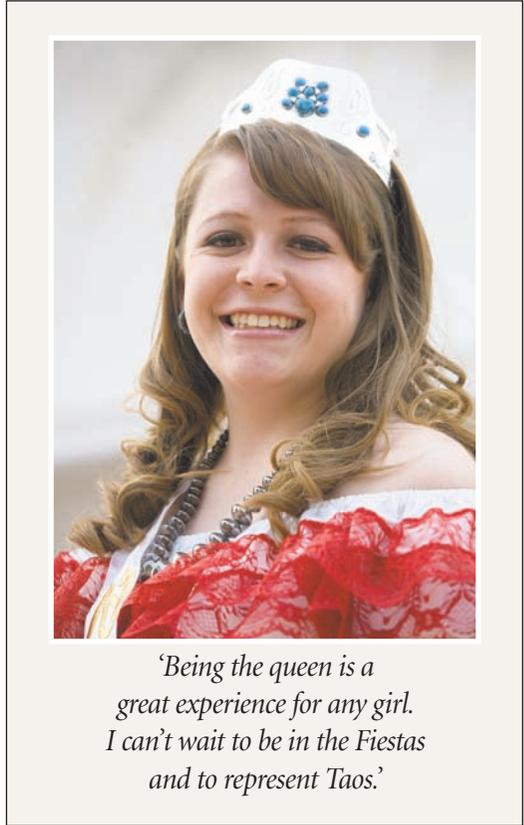
She danced a slow version of a mazurka during the talent show. She and her partner glided on the stage with true 18th century charm.

Her favorite movie is “Selena,” and her favorite book is “Bless me Ultima.”

Vásquez is 18 years old and a 2011 Taos High School graduate. She participated in Taos Tiger Orange Krush Dance Team for four years and is also involved with the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, where she works with children as a tutor and mentor.

She plans to attend UNM-Taos to pursue a career in medicine and hopes to become a pharmacist.

Vásquez learned about her traditions from her grandparents and she is proud of her Catholic faith. “My faith and my fam-



‘Being the queen is a great experience for any girl. I can’t wait to be in the Fiestas and to represent Taos.’

ily are very important to me,” she said. “I love being with *la familia*, especially my two nieces and my nephew.”

La Reina is the daughter of Lorraine and Johnny Vásquez, of Talpa. Her maternal grandparents are Floraida and Tito Archuleta. Her paternal grandparents are the late Margarita and Luis Vásquez.

– Teresa Dovalpage

Anna Vásquez’s Sponsors

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 Josh Cohn
 Copy Queen of Taos

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**¡Que Vivan las Fiestas!
¡Que Viva Taos!**



**Roots, Heritage, Traditions, Culture, Friendships —
One weekend that represents all that makes Taos special.**

Enjoy the Weekend and Be Safe.

Paid for By the Committee to Re-Elect Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, Marcos A Gonzales Treasurer

Princesa Jenni Alyssa Medina

Jenni Alyssa Medina is a well-traveled young woman. Her father was in the Air Force, and the family has lived in the Azores islands, Washington and San Antonio, among other places. But she is proud to be a Taoseña, and that was one of her reasons to enter the royal pageant: to represent the town she loves so much.

For the fashion show she wore an original handcrafted dress and a 10-strand necklace that belonged to her grandmother.

In her introduction speech, Medina talked about Santiago and Santa Ana, the patron saints of Taos, and the historical meaning of the Fiestas.

Her talent performance consisted of singing two beautiful songs in Spanish, accompanied by young men who played the guitarrón and the vihuela.

Medina is 18 years old and a 2011 graduate of Taos High School. She was an active member of the Honor Society and a letterman athlete of Lady Tiger sports. She was also involved with the culinary arts classes and enjoys playing volleyball, softball and basketball, and dancing zumba.

She plans to attend New Mexico State University and pursue a career in oceanography. "My goal is to become a marine biologist someday," she said.

Her favorite book is "Always and Forever," and her favorite movie is "Finding Nemo."

Her strong Catholic faith is very important to her. She goes to Saint Francis church and, during the annual enjarre, works in



She plans to attend New Mexico State University and pursue a career in oceanography. "My goal is to become a marine biologist someday," she said.

the kitchen and has also helped do plaster work.

Medina is the daughter of Cindy and Teodoro Medina of Ranchos de Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Dolores Montoya and the late Fred "Lico" Montoya. Her paternal grandparents are Lucia and Teodoro Medina.

– Teresa Dovalpage

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Princesa Andrea Bibiana Mondragón

Andrea Bibiana Mondragón joined the pageant because she wanted to show people what Taos is really about. “The Fiestas are about our culture and how we are able to work together in this community,” she said.

In her speech she referred to the gas outage that the town suffered last winter and how it showed Taos’ spirit of solidarity during hard times. “Many families opened their houses to friends and strangers,” she said.

For the fashion show, she combined contemporary and turn-of-the-century elements. She wore a white cotton peasant blouse and a broom skirt made by her aunt when she ran for the Fiestas in 1992.

Mondragón is a volunteer by nature. “I enjoy helping people,” she said. “My grandma is sick and can’t walk anymore, and I have always helped her. That inspired me to do the same for others.”

Mondragón was president of the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA)-Student Club, an organization that provides a program of leadership, development and motivation for high school students interested in the medical field. She plans to attend Central New Mexico Community College and hopes to become a geriatric nurse.

Not surprisingly, during the talent show she chose to highlight her skills as a caregiver, taking a volunteer’s blood pressure and changing a bandage.

She is looking forward to starting college in the fall but admits that she will miss Taos — the mountains, the rivers, and the beauty of the four seasons.



“The Fiestas are about our culture and how we are able to work together in this community.”

Her favorite book is “My Sister’s Keeper” and her favorite movie is “The Notebook.”

Mondragón is 18 years old and a 2011 graduate of Taos High School, where she participated in Taos Tiger Varsity Cheerleading.

She is the daughter of Renetta and Augustine Mondragón, of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Joyce M. Martínez and Mike Martínez. Her paternal grandparents are Arlene and Gilbert Mondragón.

— Teresa Dovalpage



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Princesa Bianca Claire Silva

Bianca Claire Silva is the youngest contestant in the pageant, a senior in Taos High School.

“I entered the pageant because I watched other girls do it before and it looked like fun,” she said. Five of her cousins have been Fiesta Queens, so it runs in the family!

For the fashion show, she wore a white cotton outfit donated by a friend who was a former Fiesta Queen and black moccasins with silver conchas.

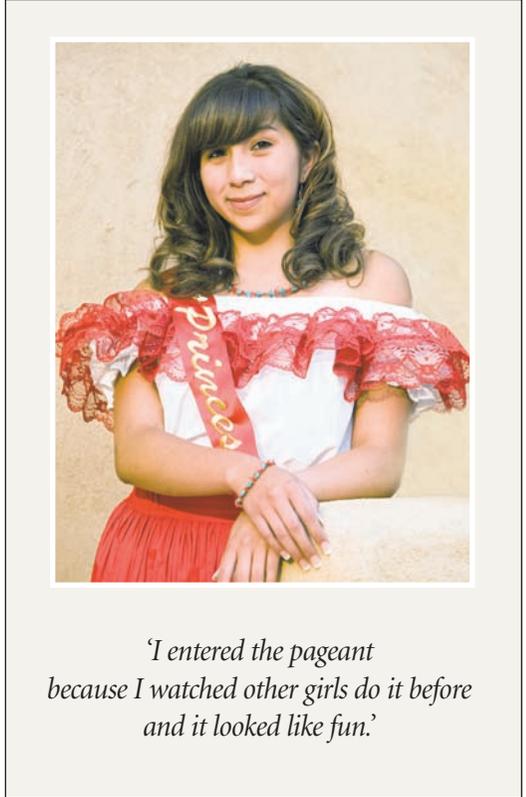
In her speech she mentioned several Taos churches (Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Holy Trinity and St. Francis) and different aspects of the Taoseño culture, like music and food.

She doesn’t have a favorite book or movie. “I like too many of them,” she said with a smile.

Silva is 16 years old and will be a 2012 Taos High School graduate. She is an active member of Taos Tiger Varsity Cheerleading and the Taos Lady Tiger Track. She also participates in the high school chorus and in the All-Star Cheer Team.

She plans to join the military, then go to college to pursue a career in medicine. “I’d like to be a registered nurse,” she said.

A lively young woman with a passion for cheering, dancing and running, Silva danced a solo cumbia song in the talent portion of the pageant. She made the entire audience move to the cumbia rhythm.



‘I entered the pageant because I watched other girls do it before and it looked like fun.’

Silva is the daughter of Bernadette Trujillo and Derek Silva, of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Rebecca and Wilfred “Butch” Trujillo. Her paternal grandmother is the late Irene Silva.

– Teresa Dovalpage

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The royal lineage:

Las Reinas throughout Fiestas history

2010 Desiree Briana Apodaca	2005 Maria Elena Martínez	2000 Crystal Martínez	1995 Evelyn Trujillo
2009 Angelica Lydia Salazar	2005 Elena Villafranca	1999 Maya Martínez	1994 Karina Gallegos
2008 Amogene Olaya Martínez	2004 Stephanie Romero	1998 Samantha Gallegos	1993 Santana Tafoya
2007 Ana Alicia Romero	2003 Jessica Quintana	1997 Monica Tafoya	1992 Leandra Medina
2006 Micayla Corral-Jeantete	2002 Contessa Trujillo	1996 Crucita Roberta Medina	1991 Katrina Lucero
	2001 Sonya Francesca Romero	1995 Roxanne Anderson Pérez	1990 Gina Varos



Past Reinas, see page 26

From left, Las Reinas from 2006, 2009, 2007 and 1998.

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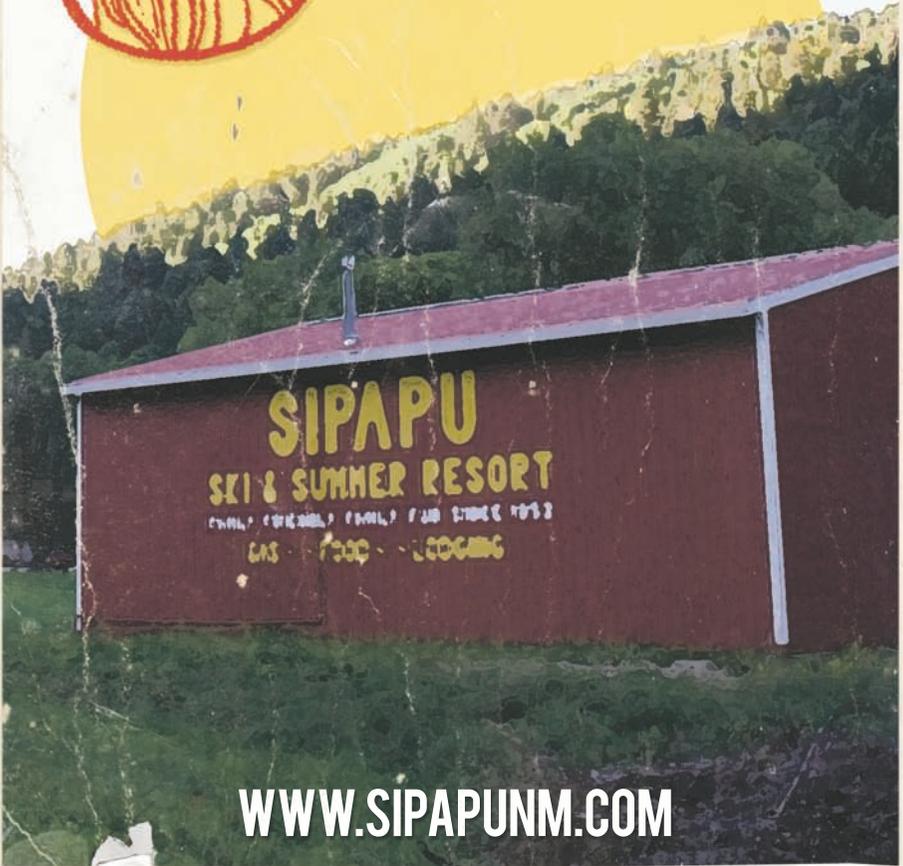


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Past Reinas, from page 26

1989 Albertina Espinoza	1979 Natalie Padilla	1968 Yvonne Santistivan	1958 Diana Rael
1988 Denise Jeantete	1978 Diana Valerio	1967 Carman Mares	1957 Martha Martínez
1987 Fatima Suazo	1977 Grace Coca	1966 Teodora Vigil	1956 Manuelita Mondragón
1986 Stephanie Córdova	1976 Gina Ortíz	1965 Lupe Valerio	1954 Stella Martínez
1985 Erlinda Sánchez	1975 Veronica Romo	1964 Sylvia Struck	1953 Lucille Trujillo
1984 Wenda Martínez	1974 Bernice Sandoval	1963 Frances Cohn	1952 Cecilia Martínez y Salazar Torres
1983 Judy Suazo	1973 Carman Ledoux	1962 Gleecy Martínez	1949 Lucille Ortíz
1982 Carmen Vigil	1972 Christine Mondragón	1961 Maida Mares	1948 Porferia Valerio
1981 Lorraine Romero	1971 Stella Lucero	1960 Rosalie Otero	1936 Alice Martínez
1980 Darlene Vigil	1970 Carla Martínez	1959 Elizabeth Naomi Varos	1927 Marcia Anaya

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Style and traditions merge in the Taos Royal Pageant

By Teresa Dovalpage

Attendees to the 2011 Taos Royal Pageant had a glimpse of the youngest, happiest, brightest faces in town. The event took place at Bataan Hall on Saturday, June 18 from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and was emceed by Don Francisco Trujillo II.

“The Taos Fiesta Council takes great pride in hosting events like Las Fiestas de Taos which, in one form or another, have been celebrated for over 400 years,” said Trujillo.

“The theme of the Fiestas this year is ‘ayer, hoy y mañana’ (yesterday, today and tomorrow),” said Evangeline (Vangie) Romero, co-chair of the pageant, who acted as a motherly presence to the contestants before and during the event. Her daughter, Sonya Romero, the 2001 Fiesta Queen, was the pageant’s coordinator and the young women’s coach.

The 2010 Taos Royal Court was there too. The 2010 queen, Desiree Briana Apodaca, thanked the town of Taos for believing in them to represent “*la gente and nuestra comunidad*” to the fullest” and her princesses for accompanying her throughout the year.

Antonio Gabriel Jacquez was the pageant auditor. The judges were Monica Padilla Ortega, Steve Fuhlendorf and Antonia Feliz Santistevan.

Entertainment was provided by Lucita Trujillo and Los Niños Bailadores, who performed El Baile de la Escoba and other traditional dances, and by Mariachi Calor, directed by Darren Córdova, who wowed the audience with hits like “El rey” and “La Malagradecida.”

On the stage, decorated with colorful sarapes and traditional sombreros, the four contestants (Jenni Alyssa Medina, Bianca Claire Silva, Andrea Bibiana Mondragón and Anna Eloisa Vasquez) had the first chance to shine with their introduction speeches. They talked about the importance

of the Fiestas, the patron saints of Taos (Santa Ana and Santiago de los Caballeros), their personal recollections of previous Fiestas, and the importance of preserving the town’s history and traditions.

During the talent show, the contestants showcased their unique skills. Medina sang Spanish songs accompanied by two young musicians who played the guitarrón and the vihuela. Her rendition of *Las Mañanitas* brought tears to the eyes of an elderly lady seated next to me. Mondragón demonstrated her ability as a caregiver by taking the blood pressure of a volunteer and changing a bandage. Silva danced a solo cumbia son, “Bailar esta cumbia,” and Vasquez danced a slow version of a mazorca.

The contestants also performed a group number “to help establish the camaraderie that will help them support each other during the year of their reinado,” Trujillo said. They danced “Jesusita en Chihuahua” (an old Mexican folk song), “La Danza del Pañuelo,” in

which the dancers carried beautiful red kerchiefs, and “La raspa,” an original Taos song. In the last dance, they were joined by girls from Los Niños Bailadores.

Later, the contestant answered impromptu questions onstage. In the end, it was a difficult decision for the judges because the four young women were smart, poised and very articulate.

After a nail-biting wait, the winner, Anna Eloisa Vasquez, was announced. Emotions ran high and the new Reina, smiling and tearful at the same time, posed for pictures with the royal court.

“I can’t wait to be in the Fiestas and to represent Taos,” Vasquez said.

The Fiesta Mass and Crowning of the Queen will take place on Friday, July 22, in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, at 5:30 p.m.

¡Que vivan Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana!



Tina Larkin

2011 La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos Anna Eloisa Vásquez, 18, pauses center stage to take it all in Saturday night (June 18) at Bataan Hall.



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Taos Fiesta honorees

Keeping with the spirit of the 2011 theme for Las Fiestas de Taos, “Ayer, Hoy y Mañana,” the Fiestas council has selected the following honorees.

“Ayer” (yesterday)
Feloniz Trujillo

Feloniz Trujillo was born Dec. 25, 1924 in Lower Ranchitos. She became an orphan at the age of four. She moved from house to house mostly staying with family until she met and married the love of her life Ruben E. Trujillo of Los Córdovas.



The couple enjoyed 53 happy years of marriage before Ruben passed away Jan. 10, 1995.

Feloniz and Ruben loved to dance; in fact they led many wedding Marchas and she vividly remembers her last dance with her husband. They danced a polka at the New Year’s Eve Party at Ancianos on Jan. 1, 1995. Ruben passed nine days later. They belonged to a dance group called “The Alegres.” Every year for Las Fiestas de Taos the dance group performed on the gazebo for two to three hours. Feloniz is the sole survivor of the group.

Nowadays Feloniz spends her time volunteering at the Ancianos.

“Hoy” (today)
Don Francisco Trujillo II

The Honorable Don Francisco Trujillo II is a native Taoseño from two longstanding, time-honored Taos families. He currently serves as vice-president of NALEO, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, the organization that represents over 6,000 Latino/Hispanic elected and appointed officials at all levels of government throughout the United States. He is a single father raising his son, Christopher. He has not missed a single Fiestas since he became



a council member in 1982. Trujillo has served as president, vice-president and treasurer and is the longest serving member on the Taos Fiesta Council. In 1982 Don Francisco implemented the Friday “Marcha Extravaganza.” This event takes the Taos Fiesta royalty and visiting royalty into various Taos locations to dance the traditional

Gran Marcha.

“Mañana” (tomorrow)
Christina Rose Martínez and Durin McCash

Christina Rose Martínez is 10 years old. She just completed fourth grade with a 4.0 GPA and is highly active in various school activities. She held the position of class representative in student council, plays forward on her school’s basketball team and was a member of the Jump Rope Squad.



She has also been associated with the 4-H Club for several years and raised small animals and presented her artistic skill for the Taos County Fair. She is currently a member of Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails

since 2006 and participates in activities such as camping, Help Keep New Mexico Beautiful and has helped collect donations for Roadrunner Food Bank, Toys for Tots and care packages for deployed military members. She enjoys helping the community whenever possible.

Her religion is very important to her. She attends church regularly and enjoys participating in religious education as well as assisting in Mass as an altar server.

Christina has attended the Fiestas every year and had the honor of being a Junior Princesa from 2005-2008. She continues to assist the Taos Fiesta Council as an auxiliary member and anxiously awaits the day she can run for La Reina De Las Fiestas De Santiago Y Santa Ana.

Durin McCash was born on Aug. 25, 2000, a great day for the family as he was born on the same date as his great grandfather, the late Arthur “Fasho” Trujillo. Durin will be a sixth-grader and attends school at Eagle Nest Elementary. He is the son of LeAndra Medina-Gordon, 1992 Fiestas de Taos Queen, stepfather Matt Gordon and Strider McCash. Durin has a younger sister, Bree, who was a 2010 Junior Princesa.



He is the grandson of Manuel Medina and Theresa, also known as JaJa.

Durin’s hobbies include playing soccer. He started playing when he was 4 years old with the Taos Recreation League. He currently plays club

Fiesta honorees, see page 34

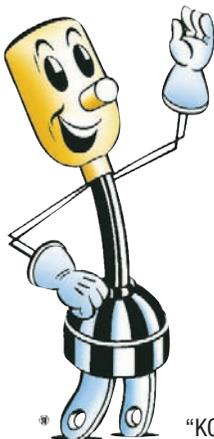
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Fiesta honorees, from page 32

United. He also loves playing basketball and idolizes his cousin, Taos High School Basketball Coach Daniel Trujillo.

Durin's involvement with the Fiestas de Taos began when he was 5 years old helping his Grandpa Manuel (MTM Crane Service) in the Plaza. They deliver the casita, which serves as a meeting area for the Fiesta Council members all weekend. Durin has been involved every year with the children's and main parades. He enjoys the

Fiestas every year and is always eager to volunteer his time. He is involved with the yearly re-stucco of the San Francisco de Asís church in Ranchos de Taos. Conserving the culture of the Fiestas de Taos, his heritage and his ancestors will continue with Durin... *Que Vivan los Niño's de Taos!!*

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Tina Larkin

The Children's Parade during the Fiestas festivities usually draws some smiles from the crowd.

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The 2011 Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Robert Floyd Valero.

Robert Floyd Valero was born Oct. 24, 1962 and passed away on June 30, 2010.

He is survived by his family, including mother Mary Mae Carmichael; son, Robbie Valero Jr.; brother, Marcos Forrester; and sister, Marlene Offen. He was very well known by numerous friends and family here in Taos.

Robert worked for many years



Courtesy Photo

The 2011 Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana is dedicated to the late Robert Valero.

with the movie industry in Los Angeles. He would save his vacation time to attend the Fiestas de Taos every year; he would not miss Fiestas.

His biggest thrill of Fiestas was to lead the parade, driving a convertible with the grand marshal, the mayor or the queen. Another favorite thrill was to attend all the Fiestas dances. He would go from one nightclub to another; he loved dancing to Spanish music and his love for Fiestas was incredible.

He is greatly missed by many, many people.

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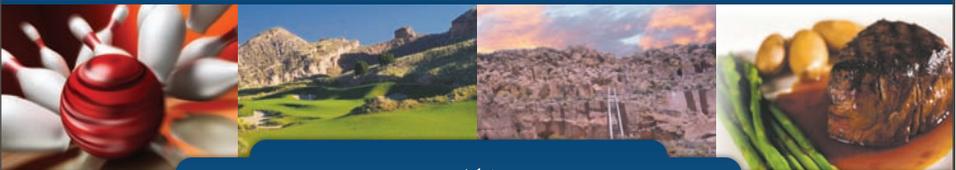
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