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President's Welcome

Another year has come and gone, and it is with gratitude that we reflect on the history behind us and embrace the building of memories for future generations. We must always remember the importance of keeping traditions alive while honoring those before us whose visions were founded on family values, friendships, community and spirituality.



Kathleen Branchal

Photo by Jim Cox

We Taoseños are blessed to live in such a beautiful, culturally rich, majestic county. When I think of my childhood and my lifelong memoir as a Taoseña, I can appreciate actively participating in the rich history of this beautiful community. Kinship has united many of us on many occasions. Together, we have danced to the diversely talented musicians abundantly widespread throughout the county. We have gathered with our Native brothers and sisters. Our hands have graced the walls of our beloved San Francisco de Asís Church at the annual *enjarre*. We have shared at the table what we have grown and gathered. We have sung and enacted rituals dating back to the time of Christ. All these customs are what has kept the uniqueness of Taos ALIVE!

Taos Fiestas is a grandfather of all traditions in this beautiful *Tierra De Dios*, and it is for this reason the Taos Fiesta Council works tirelessly to continue bringing Las Fiestas de Taos to fruition. The community's exceptional response is the motivation behind the Council's efforts year after year.

This year's theme, "Celebrating Centuries of Taos Art; Celebrando Siglos de las Artes de Taos," coincides with the centennial celebration of the Taos Society of Artists.

Taos' artistic talent has taken many forms and has been richly represented in our tri-cultural diversity. We are blessed to have so many talented artists walking among us. Taos is a live canvas and you are the beauty that defines Taos!

Thank you, Taoseños, for your part in honoring our Taos ancestors' visions and traditions. May you enjoy the fruits of our labor, but most importantly the building of friendships and memories for years to come!

¡Que vivan Taoseños y que vivan Las Fiestas!

*Con cariño, su hermana en Cristo,
Kathleen Branchal
President, Taos Fiesta Council, Inc.*

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On the Cover:
The 2015 Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana Royal Court, photograph by Katharine Egli



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*The Taos Fiesta Council
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FRIDAY, JULY 17

Fiesta Mass & Crowning of Queen & Court
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
5:30 p.m.

Official Fiesta Opening Ceremonies
Historic Taos Plaza
7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Children's Parade
Enos Garcia Elementary to Historic Taos Plaza
10:00 a.m.

Gran Baile de las Fiestas
Historic Taos Plaza
9 p.m.-midnight

SUNDAY, JULY 19

Historical Parade
Paseo Del Pueblo Sur
Noon

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Thank you for assisting in maintaining a centuries-old community tradition!



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Jenna Rose Louisa Amelia Peralta

A FAREWELL FROM LA REINA DE LAS FIESTAS DE
SANTIAGO Y SANTA ANA DE 2014

BIENVENIDOS FAMILIA Y AMIGOS DE TAOS

Upon completing a successful and memorable year, I consider myself fortunate and blessed to have represented our beautiful community of Taos as La Reina de Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana *por el año dos mil catorce*. It is with profound appreciation to have held a commendable title of representing our wonderful community, our glorious religion and our exquisite cultures, history and traditions. My court and I have had the pleasure of participating in various unforgettable events throughout Northern New Mexico, where we were welcomed by many amazing people and witnessed the relationships extended amongst our neighboring communities. With great pride, we have learned the importance of cherishing our heritage, valuing the faith we have in our Lord and persistently demonstrating the need to keep our traditions alive.

I would like to start by thanking God, for everything is possible when you put God first in your life. Thank you to my parents, Dina and Joseph Peralta, for the unconditional love and encouragement you have given me throughout all of my accomplishments in life. Thank you to my two beautiful sisters, Jasmine and Juliette, for being my role models and inspiring me to dream big and attain my goals. I would like to express my appreciation to my grandparents, Virginia and Urban Romero, Liz and Alfred Peralta, for the love and support you've given me throughout my life. Thank you to my Nina Yvette for your encouragement and affection. To my Nina Vangie, Nino Toby and god-sister Sonya: thank you for opening your hearts and showing me the importance of faith, traditions and representation. Fiestas would not have been the same without your support. I know from the bottom of my heart that the love, support and inspiration my family has given me has, and will, continue to



Photo by Tina Larkin

influence my life, and there are not enough words to express the appreciation I have for each and every one of you; I love you all!

My Princesas, Sonya and Sofia, I want to especially thank you for accompanying me through these experiences; it was an honor having you by my side. You ladies are amazing in every way, and I will cherish in my heart the friendships and memories we made. Thank you to the families of my Princesas for everything you have done for us.

On behalf of my court, I would like to thank the community and all our

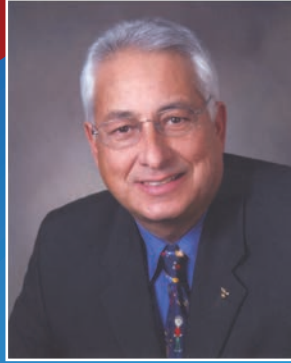
sponsors for your donations and endorsements that helped to make this great experience possible. Thank you to the escorts who proudly presented us and shared in their laughter. A special thanks and blessings to our Royal Court Sponsors, Vangie, Elma, Sonya and Remi, thank you for your guidance, love and friendship throughout the year. To the Fiesta Council, I personally want to express my appreciation for maintaining the traditions and faith of our community through Fiestas and providing opportunities for our youth to do the same. Your dedication and efforts will never go unnoticed; you have initiated the desire to keep the community together, strengthened our traditions and cultures, and you have demonstrated how we could participate in preserving all that makes us proud Taoseños.

Last but not least, to the 2015 Royal Court, I wish you joy, wisdom and luck on your journey. Embrace the opportunity you are taking on as an honor and privilege. I know you will represent Las Fiestas de Taos to the best of your abilities with confidence and gratitude.

*Muchísimas gracias a todos y dios los bendigas y
¡Que Vivan Las Fiestas!*

*Sincerely,
Jenna Rose Louisa Amelia Peralta
La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos 2014*

¡Que Vivan las Fiestas!
¡Que Viva Taos!



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Maria Ernestina Elena Archuleta

A WELCOME FROM LA REINA 2015

¡BIENVENIDOS A TAOS, NUEVO MÉXICO!

Muchas gracias a todos por la oportunidad de servir como La Reina de Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana por el año dos mil quince. I am greatly honored to be representing my church of San Francisco de Asís in Ranchos de Taos, my loving and supportive family and the wonderful community of Taos. Every religion, culture and tradition is what makes Taos so amazing and unique from anywhere else in the world. I am committed to preserving Las Fiestas de Taos for future generations to enjoy.

I am delighted and proud to accept the title as La Reina de Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana, and I promise to uphold the position to the best of my ability.

I look forward to sharing this journey with two beautiful young ladies, mis Princesas, Monique Arianna Nicole Cisneros and Ashlee Rayshar Elishia Vigil. Representing our community, meeting new people and spending time together will bring us memories that will last a lifetime. As members of the Fiesta court, we will represent Taos with pride, respect, devotion and demonstrate those qualities everywhere we go.

To honor this year's theme for Las Fiestas, "Celebrating Centuries of Taos Art," I would like to invite everyone to come out and visit our local art galleries and museums. Taos is filled with years of art history that dates back to the early 1800s. Many people travel across the country to visit Taos to take in our unique landscapes and beautiful vistas that are often replicated in paintings, drawings and photographs. Taos Pueblo is home to famous



Photo by Katharine Egli

jewelers, pottery makers and fashion designers. We have well-known *santeros* and carvers, whose carvings are displayed not only in our local galleries, churches and museums, but also in well-known museums across the country.

I would like to thank my parents, Darlene and Pablo Archuleta, for giving me the confidence to dream big and supporting me in everything I do. Thank you to my brothers Ryan and Pablo for always being there for me. A special thanks to Ursula Salazar, who has persistently pushed

me to do my best and to never stop believing in myself. Aunt Helen Archuleta, thank you for always being there to put a smile on my face and to my cousins Felice and Jennifer Trujillo, who have encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone, and continually looked out for me.

I would especially like to thank the Taos Fiesta Council for allowing my court and me this opportunity to represent our community and guiding us to be great role models. Furthermore, we extend our appreciation to the community for supporting and sponsoring us with their generous donations and assistance.

May God bless our beautiful Taos Valley and all those who call our unique picturesque community home. Bienvenidos a mi Comunidad, mi casa!

Muchísimos gracias y

¡Qué Vivan Las Fiestas de Taos!

Maria Ernestina Elena Archuleta

La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos por 2015

¡Que Vivan las Fiestas de Taos!

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Photo by Scott Fischer



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A collage of photos showing children at Taos Fiestas. The photos depict children in traditional attire, dancing, and playing musical instruments. The background is decorated with colorful streamers and a large umbrella.

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Since 1954, **Robert Medina and Sons & Daughters—a Concrete, Sand and Gravel Company**, has been the foundation of many Taos homes and businesses. Founders Roberto and Juanita were, and still are, a great part of the **Fiestas de Santiago and Santa Ana**. The Medina Family and Company thank you and wish everyone a festive and joyful time with family and friends during the **Taos Fiestas!**

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Welcome to Taos!

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

As the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Taos, we are proud to host the 2015 Fiestas de Taos here in the heart of our community on the historic Taos Plaza.

With this year's theme of "Celebrating Centuries of Taos Art; Celebrando Siglos de las Artes de Taos," Fiestas is a time for reunions, parades, music, dancing and the celebration of all the wonderful memories and traditions of our community.

Whether you are a lifelong resident who fondly remembers your first ride on Tio Vivo and your first Fiestas parade, or this is the first time you will get to dance on the Plaza under 100-year-old trees with your friends and neighbors, we promise that you will experience Taos at its best.



Dan Barrone

Submitted Photo

This wonderful blend of our religious, agricultural and Hispanic culture brings us all together in one place for one beautiful New Mexico summer weekend in celebration of the Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana and our rich heritage.

We would like to thank the Fiestas Council and the many volunteers and participants that make the Fiestas such a wonderful event. Congratulations to La Reina de las Fiestas de Taos y Las Princesas del año 2015.

¡Bienvenidos, nuestra comunidad es su hogar!

*Welcome; our community is your home!
Mayor Dan Barrone and the Taos Town Council*

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome!

FROM TAOS COUNTY

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Fiestas de Taos, an annual celebration of the community's patron saints, Santiago and Santa Ana, who Taos County residents have been celebrating since the days of the early trade fairs. Colorful parades, music and dancing in the Plaza have historically been part of this community celebration that brings us all, young and old, together.

The Taos County Board of Commissioners, county assessor, county clerk, county probate judge, county sheriff, county treasurer and Taos County staff invite you to have a great time in our wonderful community and to



Tom Blankenship

Katharine Egli

help us celebrate this annual event.

On behalf of those who proudly serve the people of Taos County, I would like to thank the Taos Fiesta Council and all of the volunteers for their countless hours organizing and planning this historic and time-honored event we call Fiestas.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2015 Fiestas de Taos, July 17-19, on Historic Taos Plaza. ¡Que vivan Las Fiestas de Taos y toda su gente!

*Tom Blankenship
Chairman, Taos County Board of Commissioners*



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¡Que vivan las fiestas!

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Welcome FROM TAOS PUEBLO



Rick Romancito
2014 Taos Pueblo Gov. Clyde M. Romero Sr.



Rick Romancito
2014 Taos Pueblo War Chief David G. Gomez

Taos Pueblo joins the town of Taos and surrounding communities in welcoming everyone to the 2015 Fiestas de Taos. Fiestas de Taos is a time to join neighbors in celebration and to give thanks for the special place where we live.

Our main feast day of San Geronimo will take place on Sept. 30. On that day we will have foot races, beginning around 7 a.m. San Geronimo Feast Day, in addition to honoring traditions, is a trade fair that has a history going back centuries, when our people traded with other Indian tribes and later with non-Indians.

Our Pueblo has been honored by the United Nations as a place of great significance in the world. UNESCO has honored Taos Pueblo's living culture, which we continue to practice as we have for centuries. We hope you will be able to enjoy your stay and enjoy the town of Taos Fiestas!

Let's all have an enjoyable time! Contact us at 758-1028 or visit taospueblo.com for more information.

Governor Luis Romero

War Chief Robert Espinosa

Welcome FROM THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE ENCHANTED CIRCLE

On behalf of all the elected and appointed officials of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the Enchanted Circle, we welcome Taoseños and visitors to Las Fiestas de Taos. Our 13 members include 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.



Enchanted Circle and experience the *cariños* of our citizens and communities. This festive event is a wonderful opportunity to experience fellowship and unity while surrounded by the beauty of Northern New Mexico.

This year it is a pleasure to celebrate the centuries of Taos art. We honor the history and express our gratitude to the artists, past and present, for the beauty and inspiration they add

to our lives.

Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Hee-Ya-Ho!

¡Qué vivan Las Fiestas de Taos!

Barbara L. Wiard, Chairperson

Intergovernmental Council of the Enchanted Circle

Mayor Pro-Tem, Village of Taos Ski Valley



Forty-five years after the signing of the first United Farmworker's Union Contract, the Town of Taos will be commemorating the work of Cesar Chavez and others - while looking forward to the future of agriculture and culture preservation - with the first-of-its-kind Cultural Educational Tourism Incentive and Revitalization Intervention Panels.

Join Us For This Free Two Day Conference, August 1st & 2nd
See the full schedule of events with guest speakers at www.taoscesarchavezday.com

It's a must-attend event for anyone involved in farming, water conservation or those interested in the cultural preservation that has made Taos so great.



"This event will be a powerful commentary on how the history of our area shapes the present landscape and economic possibilities, uses of land and social issues".

Judi Cantu, Taos Councilwoman and event co-creator.



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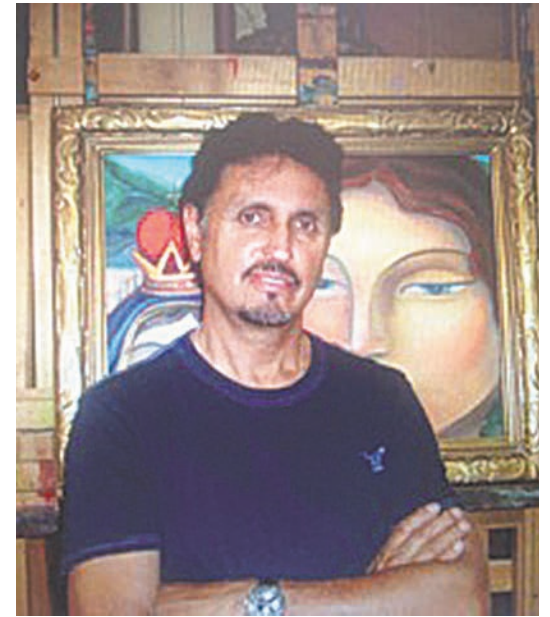




Ouray Meyers



Patrociño Barela's grandchildren, from left, Carlos Barela, Pat Barela Rael and Luis Barela Jr., holding some of their grandfather's carvings and some of their own.



Miguel Martínez

Courtesy photo

Fiestas Council to honor Taos-born artists

By Teresa Dovalpage

Every year, the Taos Fiestas Council chooses a relevant theme for the celebration and honors people who are representatives of it.

“Last year our theme was education, so we honored teachers, custodians and administrators,” said Taos Fiestas Council vice president, the Honorable Don Francisco Trujillo II. “This year, to coincide with the Taos Society of Artists’ centennial commemoration, we decided to celebrate many centuries of Taos art and the contributions of the Native American, Spanish, Mexican and Latino cultures ... the different ethnicities that have made Taos their home.”

So the Council is paying homage to several artists who were born and raised in Taos and whose families had also been in the area for more than one generation.

“There are many wonderful artists in Taos, but these conditions narrowed our search,” said Don Francisco. “We also wanted artists whose work is prevalent in the community.”

Santeros and woodworkers

Among the honored artists are the descendants of Patrociño Barela, who has been called The Picasso of the West. His grandchildren,

Pat Barela Rael, Luis Barela and Carlos Barela, were all born and raised in Taos and have kept alive their grandfather’s carving style in the Barela Studio.

“The Fiestas were always about socializing and having fun, but also about showcasing our heritage and culture,” said Carlos Barela. “We have an old *Taos News* clip of our grandfather in an old wagon with several of his carvings, during a Fiesta parade. That was probably in the ’50s.”

The Barela family has also been part of the Fiestas recently.

“My nephew Dan Barela had a ‘Carte de Arte’ during the Fiestas around three years ago, and my husband Daniel and my brothers showed their works in it,” said Barela Rael. “It was a wooden cart with shelves where the pieces were displayed.”

Another Taoseño to be honored is Roberto Lavadie, a well-known woodworker whose works are in the permanent collection of the Millicent Rogers Museum and the Taylor Museum in Colorado Springs, among others.

“I follow the tradition of Northern New Mexico *carpinteros*,” he said. “I also make sculptures and *santos*.”

He created the altars of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Parish, the Basilica of San Francisco de Asís and Nuestra Señora de la Paz Church in Santa Fe.

“Fiestas are big community parties where we honor the patron saints of Taos,” he said. “My gift for art is a blessing from Tata Dios, and I use it to glorify God and share my faith with others.”

The jeweler

Don Meliton Trujillo, also a native Taoseño whose family has lived here “for more years than he can remember,” created the crown that all the Fiestas queens have worn since 1982. It is made of sterling silver and ornamented with turquoises.

“Carmen Vigil was the first Reina who wore it,” said Trujillo. “I was part of the Kiwanis of Taos, and we were very active in the parade and the Fiestas in general, so I was happy to create a special piece for them.”

Trujillo also made the crown for the Virgin Mary image that is in the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Parish, where the crowning of La Reina takes place.

The painters

Native Taoseño Miguel Martínez is known

for his poetic portraits, oil pastel paintings of women whose faces fill almost the entire canvas.

“I grew up here and attended the Fiestas since I was a child,” he said. “I feel so happy and honored to be recognized during such a special time. And I want to thank all the people of Northern New Mexico for supporting me all these years.”

Ouray Meyers considers himself a self-taught artist who enjoys painting the landscape and the people of Taos. He won the Taos Arts Festival’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 and many other prizes and distinctions.

“I took part in the Fiestas since I was a child,” said Meyers. “My mother would carry me in a cradleboard like a papoose, and we always wore authentic Native American costumes.”

He treasures one particular memory that mixes Fiestas and art.

“One year, the Taos Society of Artists put together a float that represented a broken wagon wheel,” he said. “It was pulled by a horse and Bert G. Phillips drove it, carrying all his paintbrushes and wearing his famous, or infamous, hat.”

Royal Court



PRINCESSA

Monique Cisneros

LA REINA

Maria Archuleta

PRINCESSA

Ashlee Vigil



discovertaos.com

LA REINA

Maria Ernestina Elena Archuleta

READY TO REPRESENT TAOS

La Señorita Maria Ernestina Elena Archuleta is the new Reina de las Fiestas de Taos.

“I look forward to representing Taos with my princesses, who are also my best friends,” were her first words after being chosen Reina de las Fiestas during the June 13 pageant held at the Taos Community Auditorium.

She had already confidently answered the impromptu questions, naming Ernest L. Blumenschein as the most influential person in Taos history because “his paintings helped people from all over the world see how beautiful Taos is.”

Archuleta is 17 years old and will be a 2016 Taos High School graduate. An honors student, she is a member of both the Don Fernando Yearbook staff and the Student Senate. She also participates in Lady Tiger softball and cross country teams.

When she is not busy at school or practicing sports, Archuleta enjoys listening to music and reading. She also loves spending time with her family and hunting, camping and riding



Katharine Egli

ATVs.

Archuleta has just been accepted into the Academy Introduction Mission Program with the U.S. Coast Guard.

“My older brother is in the military, and I am very inspired by him,” she said. “I plan to attend the United States Coast Guard Academy and receive my undergraduate education in management.”

Her goals are to travel, meet new people and experience all that the Coast Guard has to offer.

“I want to live in different cities, see how they compare to Taos and learn about other

traditions,” she said.

She is the daughter of Darlene and Pablo Archuleta of Ranchos de Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Ernestina Ortega and the late Lidio Herrera. Her paternal grandparents are the late Virginia and the late Eli Archuleta.

Her favorite quote is: “Surround yourself with the dreamers and the doers, the believers and the thinkers, but most of all, surround yourself with those who see greatness within you when you don’t see it yourself.”

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*Go to the Plaza,
listen to the music,
watch the dancers,
let the kids ride the
Tiovivo,
go to the parade,
celebrate TAOS...
It's what WE do.*

The logo features a stylized mountain range above the text "CENTINEL BANK" in a bold, serif font. Below this, "of TAOS" is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. A horizontal line is positioned under the main text.

CENTINEL BANK
of TAOS

*¡Que vivan las fiestas!
¡Que vivan nuestras tradiciones!*



The logo for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), consisting of the letters "FDIC" in a bold, sans-serif font inside a rectangular border.

FDIC

PRINCESA

Monique Arianna Nicole Cisneros

PREPARED TO HONOR OUR CULTURE AND HISTORY

La Señorita Monique Arianna Nicole Cisneros looks forward to sharing Taos' history and traditions with different communities in New Mexico and beyond.

"We have so much to share about Taos," she said. "Our town is really out of the ordinary!"

She is committed to keeping Fiestas traditions and memories alive and passing them on to younger generations.

"I want to teach young girls that being involved with the Fiestas is a great way to honor our history," she said. "This year, we are also celebrating the cultural uniqueness of Taos, and I will be happy to share our cultural legacy with as many people as I can."

Cisneros is 17 years old and will be a 2016 Taos High School graduate. She is an honors student and is now taking advanced placement classes.

She enjoys music and dancing and has played the vihuela (a five-stringed, guitar-like instrument) in the Mariachi Program. During the pageant talent competition, Cisneros performed two traditional *valses* with dancing



Photo by Katharine Egli

partner Ryan Rael that they learned from Theresa and Reuben Martínez.

"Another of my passions is cheerleading," she said. "I am honored to represent the Taos High School Varsity Cheerleaders."

Cisneros is an active member of the Saint Teresa Parish in El Prado. She enjoys drawing, writing poetry and camping and fishing with her family.

She plans to first join the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and later transfer to the University of New Mexico to pursue a career in Sports Medicine.

Cisneros is the daughter of Melecia and Philip Ortega of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Didi Cisneros and Jake Muniz. Her paternal grandparents are Diana and J.D. Ortega.

She speaks Spanish fluently. She learned the language at school and with her family, mostly thanks to her great-grandmother Cleo Cisneros, who is 93 years old.

Her motto is: "For every dark night, there's a bright new day."

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T-Shirt Effect

Virginia Medina

Yesterday's Diner

PRINCESA

Ashlee Rayshar Elishia Vigil

COOKING UP A DREAM

La Señorita Ashlee Rayshar Elishia Vigil traces back her interest in the culinary arts to her early childhood.

“I loved being in the kitchen even when I was a little girl,” she said. “Cooking came naturally to me.”

During the pageant talent competition, Vigil showed a video of herself making green chile chicken enchiladas with Spanish rice.

She has been part of the Taos High School Culinary Arts ProStart program for over three years.

Vigil is 17 years old and will be a 2016 Taos High School graduate. She is a member of the Taos Tigers Varsity Track State and District Champion team.

An active outdoor enthusiast, she likes skiing and snowboarding at Taos Ski Valley with the Ski Club. She also likes camping, hunting and horseback riding.

“My favorite [breed of] horse is a kalita,” she said.



Photo by Katharine Egli

On the other hand, she enjoys quietness, which gives her the inspiration she needs to write poetry.

“Poetry helps me express my feelings, make sense of things and connect to my surroundings,” she said.

Vigil is actively involved with the Catholic Church. She just had her confirmation.

She plans to attend the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine in Aurora, Colorado to pursue a career in orthodontics.

“I think a beautiful, healthy smile is very important for people’s self-esteem,” she said. “First, I would

become a dental hygienist, and then I will continue studying to be a dentist someday.”

Vigil is the daughter of Romaine Medina of Arroyo Seco and Emmanuel Vigil of Lower Ranchitos. Her maternal grandparents are Beva and Manuel Medina. Her paternal grandparents are Tillie Montano and Ralph Vigil.

Her motto is: “Try my best in everything I do.”

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Las Fiestas 2015

CELEBRATING ALL THE ARTS WITH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US

By Teresa Dovalpage

The Fiestas theme this year is “Celebrating Centuries of Taos Arts/ *Celebrando Siglos de las Artes de Taos.*”

“*Las artes* mean many different things — Spanish colonial furniture, music, painting, pottery and much more,” said Taos Fiestas Council vice president, Don Francisco Trujillo II. “That’s why we are celebrating the many artistic influences that we have had in Taos for centuries, and our cultural diversity.”

Evangeline “Vangie” Romero, former Taos County Treasurer and Taos Royal Pageant Committee chair, agrees that art goes beyond museum walls.

“Art is everywhere in Taos,” she said. “It’s in galleries and museums, but also in our churches, and in Taos Pueblo and our amazing landscapes. The music and the dances that we share with the community during the Fiestas is also high-quality art that ought to be preserved.”

*The art of dancing!
El arte de la danza*

Luzita Trujillo is the founder and director of Los Niños Bailadores de Taos. They have been dancing in the Fiestas for 39 years.

Trujillo devoted herself to keeping Taos dancing traditions alive after she retired as a school teacher.

“I still wanted to work with kids,” she said. “They keep me active and young! Through Los Niños Bailadores I have worked with children from Taos Pueblo, Questa, Enos García and Ranchos Elementary Schools for decades. Whoever wants to join us is welcome.”

She hopes to pass the dance baton to her mentees, who would be teaching younger generations after she can’t do it anymore.

“Eventually, someone else would have to lead Los Niños Bailadores de Taos,” she said.

Aryanna Rodríguez, the daughter of Renell Romero and Lorenzo Rodríguez, joined the troupe early this year.

“I have already learned a lot,” said the eighth grader. “My favorite dance is *Jesusita en Chihuahua* because it is such a happy *danza*, but I like all of them.”

Romero encourages her to practice as often as possible.

“*Las danzas* are very much part of our cultural legacy and our wonderful Fiestas traditions,” said Romero. “They are part of our family history as well. Aryanna’s older sister, Angelica, was La Reina in 2013. She loved dancing with Luzita and Los Niños during the pageant!”

From the Fiestas Council President: a call for inclusiveness

Kathleen Y. Branchal is the current president of the Taos Fiesta Council. She was a *princesa* in 1982.

“The best way to learn about Taos history is getting involved with the Fiestas,” she said. “When I was a *princesa* I had a lot of fun, but also met many interesting people and found out the origins of many of our traditions.”

Back in the early ’80s, Branchal recalls, there were Native American *reinas*.

“It would be great if we could have Native American representation once again,” she said. “Bringing back Anglo representation would also solidify the tri-cultural uniqueness that characterizes Taos.”

Artists, come forth!

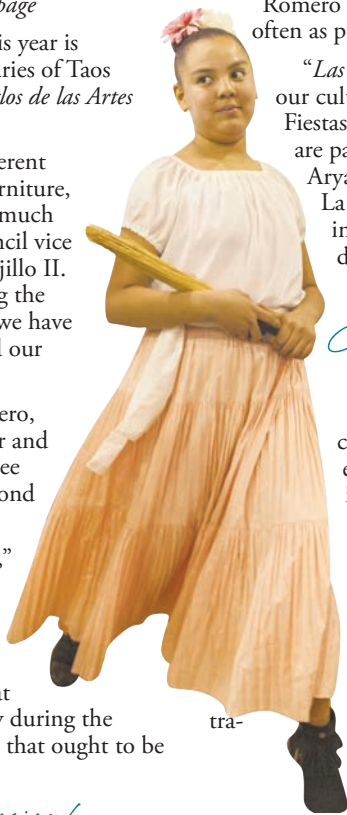
Branchal also invites Taos artists to be part of the Fiestas and show their works there.

“We encourage them to show us who they are,” she said. “We look forward to welcoming them to the parade and the festivities on the plaza. So, artists, come to the Fiestas, find out what they are all about, enjoy what we put out there for the community and contribute to it!”

She wants to highlight the importance of community involvement in all Fiestas events.

“That was our ancestors’ vision, to bring the community together,” said Branchal. “Life here is about visiting, sharing and learning from each other. That is why the Fiestas, one of the oldest standing traditions in Taos, belong in the Plaza. We should celebrate life, art and each other in the center of our beautiful Taos, The Plaza.”

—Continues on page 26





taosmenus.com

—Continues from page 24

The crowning of the Queen and the Entrega

One very important part of the Fiestas celebration is the crowning of la Reina, which always takes place on a Friday.

“This year it will actually start with the vespers on Thursday evening,” Branchal said. “The crowning Mass is at 5:30 p.m. on Friday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish with Father Daniel Gutiérrez. The fiestas councils and royalties from Las Vegas, Santa Fe and Espanola are also in attendance. The spirituality of the Mariachi Mass is a beautiful Fiestas kick off.”

After Mass, people congregate on the Plaza to do the Entrega. They sing a traditional song that is both a farewell to the Reina that leaves and a welcome to the new one.

“We thank the previous Reina and her princesas for their year of service and for representing the community of Taos in Northern New Mexico,” said Branchal. “It’s a beautiful ceremony with a profound spiritual meaning. I will be singing the Entrega to the *reina y princesas salientes* and *reina y princesas entrantes*.”

Verses from the Entrega:

(The Entrega song was composed especially for the Taos Fiestas by Billy Archuleta)

A estas muchachas presentes un consejo les quiero dar,

Nunca olviden que son Taoseñas, y a Dios gracias deben de dar.

Las reinas y sus princesas sirven como representantes,

De toda la gente de Taos aquí y en otros lugares.

Nunca olviden sus raíces, su cultura y tradiciones,

Que se hallan entre vuestra gente, sus palabras, comidas y canciones.

(I want to give some advice to these girls who are present here,

Never forget that you are Taoseñas and must thank God for that.

Queens and princesses serve as representatives,

Of all the people of Taos, here and elsewhere.

Never forget your roots, your culture and traditions, which are part of your people, your words and meals and songs.)



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Playa Entertainment Schedule

TAOS FIESTA COUNCIL 2015

Friday, July 17

NOON-1 P.M.

Eddie Herrera y Vengancia

1-2 P.M.

Mystic Dance

2-3:30 P.M.

Legacy of Santa Fe

3:30-4 P.M.

Niños Bailadores

4-5 P.M.

Dawn Luz Padilla

5-6 P.M.

Lori Ortega:

Nuevo México Lindo y Querido

5:30-6:45 P.M.

Fiesta Mass —

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
Procession with Mariachi Azteca

6-7 P.M.

Catalina Rio Fernandez y
Flamenco Nuevo Mexico

7-8 P.M.

Opening Ceremonies on Historic Taos Plaza

8-9 P.M.

Chris Arellano's Summer School of Rock

9-10 P.M.

Michael Rael y Cielo

10 P.M.

Plaza closes

Saturday, July 18

9-10 A.M.

Mystic Dance

10-10:30 A.M.

Children's Parade

10:30-11 A.M.

Mariachi Buenaventura

11 A.M.-NOON

Baile Encantado

NOON-2 P.M.

Legacy Band of Colorado Springs

2-3 P.M.

Baile Español

3-4 P.M.

The Tanya Griego Band

4-5 P.M.

Baile Ilusión

5-6 P.M.

Los Dedos

6-7 P.M.

Dave Maestas Band

7-8 P.M.

Suave

8-9 P.M.

City Child Band

9 P.M.-MIDNIGHT

Jerome Grant y los Amigos Unidos —
Gran Baile de las Fiestas

MIDNIGHT

Plaza closes

Sunday, July 19

9:30-11 A.M.

St. Francis Choir

11 A.M.-NOON

Trio Los Gallos

NOON

Historical parade

NOON-1 P.M.

Los Zapateados

1-2 P.M.

Duranimals

2-3 P.M.

Severo Martinez y Fuego

3-3:30 P.M.

Special Community Presentation
2015 Fiestas de Taos Theme:
Celebrating Centuries of Taos Art
Celebrando Siglos de las Artes de Taos

3:30-4:30 P.M.

NortherN 505 & Candace Vargas

4:30-5:30 P.M.

UZ Band

5:30-6:30 P.M.

Ernestine Romero

6:30-7:30 P.M.

Gonzalo

7:30 P.M.

Closing Ceremonies on Historic Taos Plaza

**Italicized performers have donated their time and talents to the people and community of Taos. Others are being paid for their performance. The Council thanks each of them for their generosity. More information can be found at fiestasdetaos.com.*



Views from Taos' Royal Pageant

The 2015 Fiestas de Taos Royal Court Pageant, sponsored by the Taos Fiesta Council, was held June 13 at the Taos Community Auditorium. Contestants for La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos included Maria Ernestina Elena Archuleta, Monique Arianna Nicole Cisneros and Ashlee Rayshar Elishia Vigil.

In keeping with the traditions of Fiestas, the contest is open to young ladies between the ages of 16 and 19 who reside in the Taos area. They need to be Catholic and bear a Spanish surname, either paternal or maternal.

The contestants must seek sponsors and write an essay on the history of Taos in advance of the pageant. At the pageant, contestants deliver a prepared speech, and compete in fashion and talent portions of the event. There is also a group dance and a set of impromptu questions that test the contestants' communication skills.

Finally, after deliberation by a panel of judges, a new Reina is announced. Here are some photos from this year's pageant, as taken by *The Taos News* staff photographer Katharine Egli.



The Royal Lineage

LAS REINAS THROUGHOUT FIESTAS DE TAOS HISTORY

2014 Jenna Rose Louisa Amelia Peralta	1993 Santana Tafoya	1971 Stella Lucero (Hokanson)
2013 Angelica Esperanza Rodríguez	1992 Leandra Medina	1970 Carla Martínez
2012 Juliette Elizabeth Rebekah Peralta	1991 Katrina Lucero	1968 Yvonne Santistevan
2011 Anna Eloisa Vásquez	1990 Gina Varos	1967 Carman Mares
2010 Desiree Briana Apodaca	1989 Albertina Espinoza	1966 Teodora Vigil (Medina)
2009 Angelica Lydia Salazar	1988 Denise Jeantete	1965 Lupe Valerio (Dominguez)
2008 Amogene Olaya Martínez	1987 Fatima Suazo	1964 Sylvia Struck (Roybal)
2007 Ana Alicia Romero	1986 Stephanie Córdova	1963 Frances Cohn (Miller)
2006 Micayla Corral-Jeantete	1985 Erlinda Sánchez	1962 Gleecy Martínez (Buttler)
2005 Maria Elena Martínez	1984 Wenda Martínez	1961 Maida Mares (Martínez)
2005 Elena Villafranca	1983 Judy Suazo	1960 Rosalie Otero
2004 Stephanie Romero	1982 Carmen Vigil	1959 Elizabeth Naomi Varos
2003 Jessica Quintana	1981 Lorraine Romero	1958 Diana Rael
2002 Contessa Trujillo	1980 Darlene Vigil	1957 Martha Martínez
2001 Sonya Francesca Romero	1979 Natalie Padilla	1956 Manuelita Mondragón (Mullins)
2000 Crystal Martínez	1978 Diana Valerio	1954 Stella Martínez
1999 Maya Martínez	1977 Grace Coca (Chávez)	1953 Lucille Trujillo
1998 Samantha Gallegos	1976 Gina Ortiz (Osburn)	1952 Cecilia Martínez y Salazar Torres
1997 Monica Tafoya	1975 The late Veronica Romo (Miera)	1949 Lucille Ortiz
1996 Crucita Roberta Medina	1974 Bernice Sandoval	1948 Porferia Valerio
1995 Roxanne Anderson Pérez	1973 Carman Ledoux	1936 Alice Martínez (Knight)
1995 Evelyn Trujillo	1972 Christine Mondragón (Vargas)	1927 Marcia Anaya (Wheaton)
1994 Karina Gallegos		



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