



Fiestas de Santiago

L

Santa Ana

*"Dios, Familia, Amigos y Comunidad,
God, Family, Friends and Community"*

2017



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¡Que Viva Taos!

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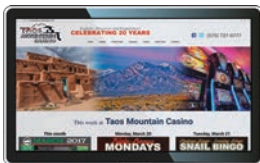


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Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana

ON THE FIESTAS COVER: THE 2017 FIESTAS DE SANTIAGO Y SANTA ANA ROYAL COURT,
PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHARINE EGLI

26	FIESTA COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S WELCOME
26	THE FIESTA COUNCIL
28	FIESTA COUNCIL INVITATION
28	LIST OF OFFICIAL SPONSORS
30	2016 REINA'S FAREWELL
31	2017 REINA'S WELCOME
32	TOWN OF TAOS WELCOME
32	TAOS COUNTY WELCOME
33	TAOS PUEBLO WELCOME
34	REP. ROBERTO GONZALES WELCOME
34	SEN. CARLOS R. CISNEROS WELCOME
36	ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE
38	HISTORICAL PARADE GRAND MARSHAL TINA MARTINEZ
40	FIESTA HONOREE GEORGE CHACON
42	FIESTA HONOREE ALAN VIGIL
44	THE ROYAL COURT
48	REINA ROMERO
49	PRINCESA BACA
50	PRINCESA JIMENEZ-GONZALES
51	PRINCESA PEREZ
52	LINEAGE OF LA REINA

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Fiesta

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Free Entertainment - Historic Plaza

Fiesta Fine Arts & Crafts Market

Sept. 8 - 10 - Fine Arts, Crafts and Food Booths

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3 - 7 p.m. / Sun., Aug. 27
Santa Fe Plaza
Free Entertainment

Fiesta Melodrama

Starting August 24
Tickets: 505-988-4262
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Historical Lecture

6 p.m. / Wed., Sept. 6
NM History Museum
Tickets: 505-476-5200

Burning of Zozobra

3 p.m. / Fri., Sept. 1
Fort Marcy Park
Tickets: 1-855-ZOZOBRA
Burning at 9:30 p.m.

Concierto de Mariachi Matinee

10 a.m. and 2 p.m. / Wed., Sept. 6
Lentic Performing Arts Center
Tickets: 505-988-1234

Pregón de la Fiesta

6 a.m. / Fri., Sept. 8
Rosario Chapel
499 N Guadalupe St.,
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Bandstand on the Plaza

10 a.m. - 10 p.m. / Sept. 8
10 a.m. - 10 p.m. / Sept. 9
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Sept. 10
Santa Fe Plaza

City and State Opening of Fiesta

Noon / Fri., Sept. 8
Santa Fe Plaza

Entrada de Don Diego De Vargas

2 p.m. / Fri., Sept. 8
Santa Fe Plaza

La Merienda

(Fashion Show)
3 p.m. / Sat., Sept. 9
James A. Little Theatre
La Sociedad Folklorica
505-471-4626

Solemn Procession

9:30 a.m. / Sun., Sept. 10
Palace of the Governors

Pontifical Mass

10 a.m. / Sun., Sept. 10
Cathedral Basilica of
Saint Francis of Assisi

Closing Ceremonies

5:15 p.m. / Sun., Sept. 10
Santa Fe Plaza

Mass of Thanksgiving and Candlelight Procession

7 p.m. / Sun., Sept. 10
Cathedral Basilica of
Saint Francis of Assisi



7:30 p.m. / Sat., Sept. 2
The Santa Fe Opera

Tickets:
1-800-280-4654
505-986-5900

Gran Baile



7:30 p.m. / Sat., Sept. 9

Santa Fe Community Convention Center
TICKETS: Available at the Door

www.santafefiesta.org



President's Welcome

¡Bienvenidos!

Dear visitors and fellow Taoseños:

On behalf of the Taos Fiesta Council and myself, we welcome you to our annual celebration, Las Fiestas de Taos. We invite you to celebrate the feast days of our patron saints Santiago y Santa Ana. 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 centuries-old tradition of Las Fiestas de Taos has been passed from generation to generation, and is our way of preserving the rich cultures that we have developed in Taos over the last 400 years. This festivity is an opportunity for each of us to unite in fellowship. It is a special time for families, friends and visitors to join together and enjoy each other's company. It is a time to listen to the mariachi and to the traditional Northern New Mexico music that makes Taos so special. It is a time to taste the delicious food and to view the many talented groups performing Spanish flamenco, Mexican and New Mexican dances, and to experience the ambiance of Taos' Historic Plaza.

Our theme for this year's celebration is, "Dios, Familia, Amigos y Comunidad; God, Family, Friends and Community; Las Fiestas de Taos". This is about life in Taos, where our grandparents instilled upon us – as did their grandparents before them – "siempre Dios primero," ("always God first"). It brings to light the importance of our families and friends, and all visitors to Taos, and how very important it is to have our tricultural community come to together as one people.

We thank our past reina, and congratulate and welcome our new reina and her court. We wish them well in representing Taos in all that they do. We welcome



COURTESY PHOTO/SEAN KELLY PORTRAITS

Las Fiestas Council President Anna Herrera

all of our neighboring Royal Courts and Cuadrillas in celebrating our culture and traditions. Without the support of the entire Taos community, we would not be able to continue with this age-old celebration, and thus we thank each and everyone for your generosity and help. The annual Las Fiestas de Taos 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 Las Fiestas weekend. ¡Que Dios los bendiga y que vivan Las Fiestas!

ANNA HERRERA
PRESIDENT, TAOS FIESTA COUNCIL



2017 Las Fiestas Council

PHOTO BY CHUCK MCLAUGHLIN OF SEAN KELLY PORTRAITS

The 2017 Taos Fiesta Council: Back row from left to right: Wilbert Vigil (auxiliary); Elma Vigil; Hon. Don Francisco Trujillo II, vice president; Hon. Judith 'Judi' Cantu; Joseph Quintana, treasurer; and Leslie Vigil. Front row (left to right): Anna Herrera, president; Sonya Vigil-Torres; Kathleen Branchal, immediate past president; Christine Barela, secretary; Sonya Romero; and Hon. Evangeline 'Vangie' Romero. Not pictured: Renee Medina Lavadie; Donna Jo Martinez (auxiliary); Tina Jo Martinez; Manuel Medina; Thelma Montez; Annabelle Garcia Noga; Helio Sanchez; Bernadette Trujillo; Theresa Trujillo; Auxiliary members Christina Rose Martinez; Roger Martinez; Durin McCash; Elizabeth Peralta; Celsa Vigil; and Patrick Vigil.

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



The pride,
the passion,
the traditions of Taos
live right here.


CENTINEL BANK
of TAOS

Invitation

The Taos Fiesta Council, Inc., cordially invites you to attend the following 2017 Fiestas de Taos events:

FRIDAY, JULY 21 MARIACHI FIESTA MASS AND CROWNING OF THE FIESTA QUEEN AND COURT

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church / 5:30 p.m.

Performance by Mariachi Sonidos del Monte from Santa Fe

OFFICIAL FIESTA OPENING CEREMONIES

The Historic Taos Plaza / 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 22 CHILDREN'S PARADE

Enos Garcia Elementary School to Historic Taos Plaza / 10 a.m.

GRAN BAILE DE LAS FIESTAS

Featuring Suavecito from Socorro, New Mexico

Historic Taos Plaza / 8-11 p.m.

This is a family event, open to the public at no charge.

SUNDAY, JULY 23 MARIACHI MASS

San Francisco de Asís Church / 8 a.m.

Performance by Mariachi Sonidos del Monte from Santa Fe

HISTORICAL PARADE

Paseo del Pueblo Sur / NOON

Parade begins at the Taos County Complex heading north and ending at Garcia Street.

2017 OFFICIAL FIESTA SPONSORS

Turquoise Sponsors

Taos Fiestas Council, Inc
Taos County

Town of Taos

Coral Sponsors

The Taos News

Amigos de Las Fiestas

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Taos Police Department

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Insurance Agency

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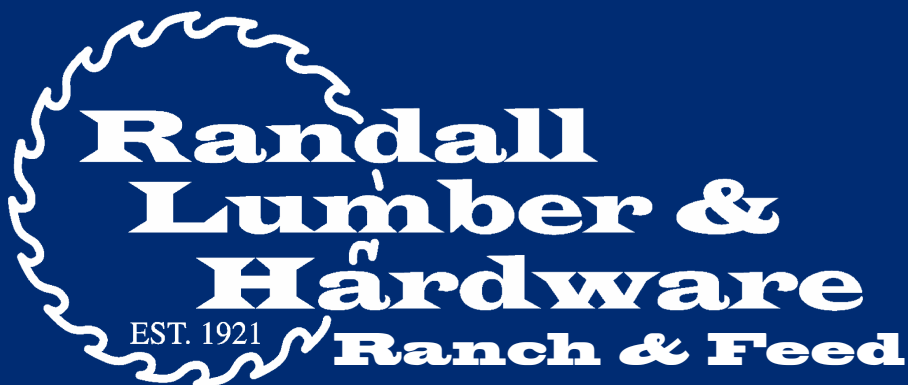
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Taos, NM. 87571
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M-F 8AM-6PM / Sat 8AM-4PM
Sun 10AM-2PM

2016 Reina Farewell



¡Bienvenidos Familia y Amigos de Taos!

A FAREWELL FROM LA REINA 2016, MARISSA VIGIL

My past year was full of laughter, joy, new experiences, friendships and memories to last a lifetime. Sadly, my reign as La Reina de Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santana por el año dos mil diez y seis is coming to an end. I was honored to represent my community, heritage and culture in a positive manner as La Reina de Taos. I was blessed to share such memorable, uplifting and impressionable memories with my Princesas Angel, Julia and Justine. I truly feel blessed to have made some lasting friendships with such wonderful, smart and beautiful individuals.

I would like to first thank my mom, Marla Vigil, for her continued support and love during my reign. You have always held my hand through all my joys and tears. To my grandparents Rick and Nadine Vigil, thank you for following me to each event, supporting me and making sure my endless list of necessities was always met. Your hard work and long nights are very appreciated. To my brother and sister, thank you for your patience and support, and making me feel like I was an inspiration to the both of you.

To my Nina Amanda Arellano and Aunt Karen Arellano, thank you for attending the events with me and my family. I appreciate you for supporting my journey and love you always. Thank you to my Aunt and Uncle Tanya and David Sena, for being supportive of all my decisions, quest and endeavors. You have been by my side every step of the way allowing me to feel free and proud, and that I truly have made an impact during my reign.

To my Great-Grandparents Jose and Ernestina Vigil, thank you for keeping me focused on my path of what it is to be La Reina – representing my family, my faith and my community proudly with the same lasting values you have instilled in our own family. You two are an inspiration to me and I am proud to have shown you a new world, and comfort zone (ha ha).

To my caballero, Omar Hernandez, there are no words that can explain the graciousness I feel for having you by my side during this wonderful time. You were truly my rock, my supporter and my biggest fan. Your love and eagerness to always make sure I was taken care of, had a smile on my face and that we all had a wonderful time is very much appreciated.

To my princesas and their caballeros, thank you for the ever-lasting friendships, and core memories that will last a lifetime. I could not have chosen a better group of women and gentlemen to share this experience with me.

Elma, Sonya and Vangie, you three ladies have been the largest support of all. Without you, the Fiesta Council and this wonderful tradition, it would not be possible for our community's little girls' dreams of one day being La Reina de Taos, to become a reality. Through this beautiful and respected tradition that you continue to keep alive, you gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dream, and I thank you for that. I am very grateful. Sonya, during this experience you have been like a big sister, always leading us down the right path, sharing advice and preparing us for what was to come. Elma, thank you for your loving support, smile and positive attitude. You always made the experience fun and enjoyable. Vangie, thank you for being our protector. You always kept us safe, on point and made me feel that we were true royalty, and were something to be respected and looked up to. I adore you. Thank you again for joining me in this journey. I have learned so much from you and respect your role in my life. You have made a lasting impression in my life forever. I will never forget you.



KATHARINE EGLI

La Reina Marissa Vigil

Thank you to the surrounding fiesta courts and communities for inviting us to share in your traditions and celebrations. Finally, to the community of Taos, thank you for accepting me as your Reina with open arms. I am truly honored to have represented our culture, and tight-knit family-oriented town of Taos. I hope that I have served you well and represented you in a positive and inspiring manner. Thank you for supporting my court and me with your donations, prayers and loving actions.

Most importantly, I would like to thank God. Through him, my dreams have been fulfilled, my happiness has overflowed, and I have felt the purest of loves. With his protective hand, he has allowed me to have an experience of a lifetime. Through this past path he has chosen for me, I have matured in my faith and personal life, which I can never repay. He is my truth, my savior and my one-and-only judge to whom I will forever be indebted. Thank you all.

¡Que vivan las Fiestas! Muchisimas gracias a todos y que Dios los bendiga.

Con mucho cariño,

Marissa Josette Vigil

La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos 2016

2017 Reina Welcome



¡Bienvenidos a mi Comunidad de Taos!

A WELCOME FROM LA REINA 2017, SAVANNAH ROMERO

Muchas gracias a todas por la oportunidad y privilegio a servir como La Reina de Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana por el año dos mil diez y siete. I have been blessed with the honor of representing my family, my heritage and my home of Taos and Arroyo Seco. With the title of La Reina comes great responsibility. I, Savannah Renee Rose Mary Romero, promise to represent my community of Taos with great dignity, honor and respect. I also am honored with the opportunity to represent my small community of Arroyo Seco and my beloved church of Holy Trinity. I plan on continuing my education with the Catholic faith to better represent our community throughout Northern New Mexico. I look forward to being a role model for the children of Taos, and hopefully inspiring many to preserve the beautiful traditions of Las Fiestas! The town of Taos is a rich multicultural community that makes it unique in its own way. I appreciate the multicultural traditions within Taos County, and look forward to being able to participate in other events around town.

I want to also take the time to congratulate mis princesas, Ariana Baca, Mariana Jimenez-Gonzales y Gabriella Perez. You three beautiful, kindhearted, lovely young ladies will proudly represent our community by my side for the next year. I know within this year we will grow irreplaceable friendships and unforgettable memories along the way. Through the short time we have spent together, I can't help but feel like we've already built a sisterly bond no one but us four can explain. I look forward to spreading our love and light around Northern New Mexico as the Royal Court of 2017.

The theme for Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana this year is, "God, Family, Friends, Community... Las Fiestas de Taos!" In honor of this year's theme, I would like to ask the community of Taos to continue putting God first in everything they do. With God's direction anything is possible. I would also like to suggest to the community of Taos to cherish the relationships in their life, whether it is with family or friends. God, family and friends are the foundation of the strong community of Taos. I would like to also invite the entire community to come out to the Taos Plaza and celebrate Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana on July 21-23.

I would like to thank the three judges for the 2017 Fiestas Pageant – Maria Archuleta, Everett Romero and Barb Wiard. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of representing our community of Taos. I hope to make you proud. Thank you to all my family, friends and sponsors for helping me get to live my childhood dream. Without all of your support, this would have not been possible.

I would like to take the time to thank a couple of individuals. First, to my biggest fans, my parents, Daniel and Nicole Romero. Momma, without your guidance through life I would not have been the woman I am today. I love you with all my heart and I truly appreciate everything you do for me, you are honestly my best friend. Dad, thank you for always reminding me of where I come from. Without your lessons of my family history, I would have not been able to understand the importance of the Hispanic heritage in my life. I love you. Thank you to my paternal grandparents, Dan and Renee Romero, you two have always been there for me and always supported me in everything I do. I love you. To maternal grandparents, Diana DeHerrera, you have shown me so much love in my 18 years of life and taught me that family always comes first. I love you. Also to my grandpa, the late Nick



KATHARINE EGLI

Reina Savannah Romero

Cisneros, I wish you could be here to see the person I have become in hopes that I would've made you proud. To my little brother, Daniel, thank you for believing in me the most and being my rock. I hope I continue being an inspiration and making you proud. I love you. To my Nina Danette and Tio David Quintana, with your guidance and love through everything I do we have built an irreplaceable bond. Thank you for guiding me in both life and my faith. I love you guys so much. To my Tia Stephanie Romero-Saavedra, La Reina de Taos 2004, you have been an incredible inspiration in everything I do. I promise to represent the community of Taos as well as you did. To my best friends, Mariano Martinez and Laura Thomas, thank you two for pushing me out of my comfort zone and helping me achieve my dream. Sonya Silva-Baca, thank you for the years of enjoyment through dance. I appreciate your love and support. Lastly, I would like to thank the Taos Fiesta Council for your support of me and mis princesas. I'm positive we will represent the community well, and we will never be able to say thank you enough. ¡Que vivan Las Fiestas!

Savannah Renee Rose Mary Romero

La Reina de Las Fiestas de Taos 2017

WELCOME

from the Mayor's Office



COURTESY PHOTO

Mayor Dan Barrone

As the mayor and Town Council of the town of Taos, we are proud to host the 2017 Las Fiestas de Taos here in the heart of our community on the Historic Taos Plaza.

With this year's theme of, "God, Family, Friends and Community; Dios, Familia, Amigos y Comunidad," our Fiestas are 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 the 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.

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 Las Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana and our rich heritage.

We would like to thank the Fiesta 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 2017.

*¡Bienvenidos, nuestra
comunidad es su hogar!*

Welcome, our community is your home!

**MAYOR DAN BARRONE
AND THE TAOS TOWN COUNCIL**

WELCOME

¡Bienvenidos! Taos County



COURTESY PHOTO

Jim Fambro

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, which 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 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 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 2017 Fiestas de Taos from July 21-23 on the Historic Taos Plaza.

*¡Que Vivan Las Fiestas de Taos
y Nuestra gente!*

**JIM FAMBRO
CHAIRMAN, TAOS COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**



WELCOME

Taos Pueblo



RICK ROMANCITO

2017 Taos Pueblo War Chief Curtis Sandoval



RICK ROMANCITO

2017 Taos Pueblo Governor Ruben A. Romero

Taos Pueblo joins the town of Taos and surrounding communities in welcoming everyone to the 2017 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!

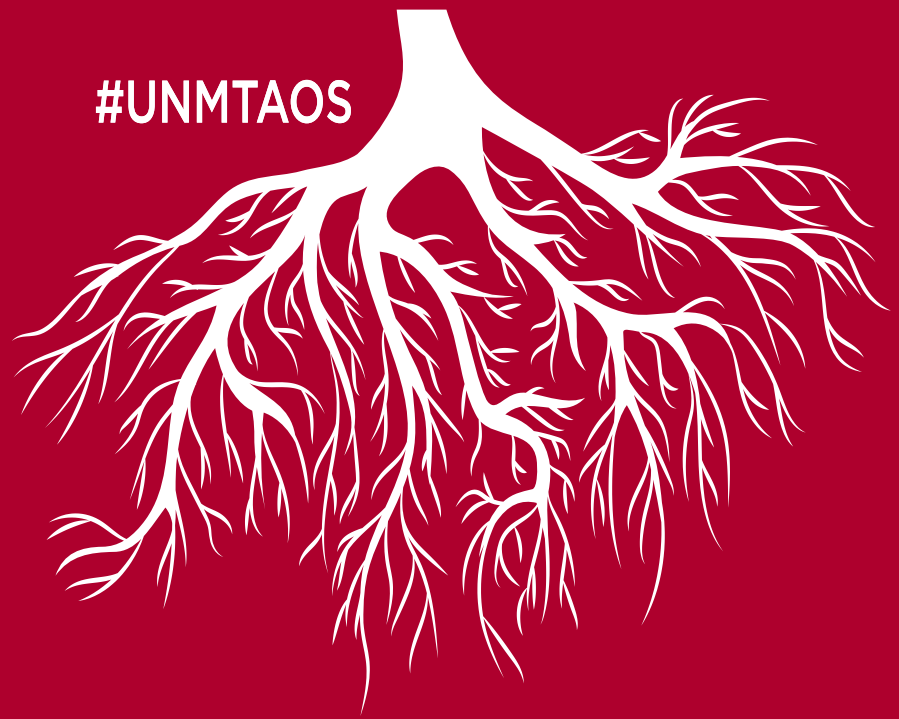
Contact us at 758-1028 or visit taospueblo.com for more information.

**GOVERNOR RUBEN ROMERO
WAR CHIEF CURTIS SANDOVAL**



**KNOWLEDGE
IS POWER
SABER ES PODER**

#UNMTAOS



Qué Vivan las Fiestas de Taos!

WELCOME LETTER FROM

*Bobby
Gonzales*

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



COURTESY PHOTO

Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales

¡Bienvenidos to the 2017 Taos Fiestas!

The Taos Fiestas bring family and friends from across the country together to celebrate the feast day for Santiago y Santa Ana. The mass for the crowning of the queen and her court, gazebo performances, the children's parade, historical parade and of course, the food stands, are opportunities to visit with family and renew old friendships.

So welcome to the unique traditions of Taos and the state of New Mexico. Enjoy your weekend and return each year to our community of old and new traditions.

Como siempre,

ROBERTO "BOBBY" GONZALES
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

WELCOME LETTER FROM

*Carlos
R. Cisneros*

STATE SENATOR



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Carlos R. Cisneros

¡Bienvenidos a La Fiestas de Taos!

Taoseños and visitors from far and near, welcome to the annual Fiestas de Taos spanning over a three-day period.

The theme for this year's Fiestas – "God, Family, Friends and Community (Dios Familia, Amigos y Communida, in the language of most Taoseños)" – is most befitting as we gather to thank God for another year, honor our families and community, and visit with friends.

Las Fiestas de Taos is an annual community celebration in the Hisotirc Taos Plaza in a tradition passed from generation to generation, as a way of preserving the rich tricultural way of life that has developed in Taos over the last four centuries.

Enjoy the festivities, which include musical and dance performances, parades, good food and crafts – and above all else, be safe.

Again, bienvenidos!

Como siempre,

CARLOS R. CISNEROS
STATE SENATOR



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Find us at Fiestas de Taos
July 21st, 22nd, & 23rd

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¡Que *Vivan* las Fiestas de Taos!



Photo by Scott Fischer

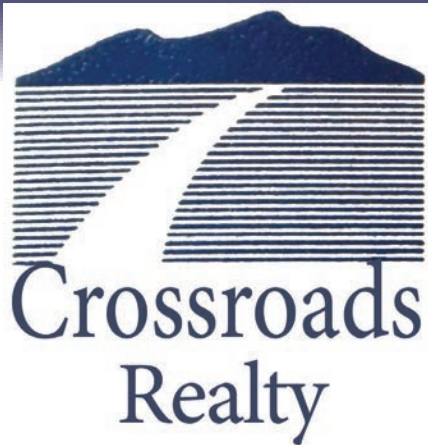
Guadalupe Credit Union is proud to be a part of the Fiestas de Taos celebration and the Taos community!

¡Guadalupe Credit Union se enorgullece de ser parte de la celebración de las Fiestas y la comunidad de Taos!

Be on the lookout at the beginning of August for our new location in Taos - Mantengase alerta de nuestra nueva locación en Taos a principios de Agosto

~ **630 Paseo Del Pueblo Sur, Suite A** ~

575-758-3899 • guadalupecu.org



Welcomes
Amanda Tafoya
&
Thomas Tafoya



Amanda Tafoya
Cell: 575-770-0830
taospaint@yahoo.com



Thomas Tafoya
Cell: 575-770-1393
chubytafoya@yahoo.com

Fax: 575-758-8959 www.crossroadstaos.com

Entertainment Schedule

TAOS FIESTA COUNCIL 2017 • HISTORIC TAOS PLAZA

Friday, July 21

NOON-1 P.M.
EDDIE HERRERA Y VENGANCIA

1-2 P.M.
MICHAEL RAEL Y CIELO

2-3 P.M.
MYSTIC DANCE

3-4 P.M.
MAGGIE "LA RANCHERITA" VIGIL
& THE INDIAN NICKLE BAND

4-4:30 P.M.
NIÑOS BAILADORES

4:30-6 P.M.
LEGACY OF SANTA FE

5:30-6:45 P.M.
FIESTA MASS AT OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE CHURCH
PROCESSION WITH MARIACHI
SONIDOS DEL MONTE

6-7 P.M.
CATALINA RÍO FERNANDEZ Y
FLAMENCO NUEVO MEXICO

7-8 P.M.
OPENING CEREMONIES ON
HISTORIC TAOS PLAZA

8-9 P.M.
LLUVIA NEGRA

9-10 P.M.
DAVE MAESTAS BAND

10 P.M.
PLAZA CLOSES

Saturday, July 22

9-10 A.M.
SPANISH SOUNDTRACK

10-10:30 A.M.
CHILDREN'S PARADE

10:30-11 A.M.
MARIACHI SONIDOS DEL
MONTE

11 A.M.-NOON
MYSTIC DANCE

NOON-1 P.M.
THE TANYA GRIEGO BAND

1-2 P.M.
EMI ARTE FLAMENCO WITH
EMMY GRIMM, VICENTE GRIEGO
'EL CARTUCHO' AND ANTONIO
GABARRI JIMENEZ

2-4 P.M.
LEGACY BAND OF COLORADO
SPRINGS & PARIS ESCOVEDO

4-5 P.M.
BAILE ILUSION

5-6 P.M.
SUAVE

6-7 P.M.
BAILE ENCANTADO

7-8 P.M.
SINGER-SONGWRITER GUSTAVO
RODRIGUEZ (AUSTIN, TEXAS)

8-11 P.M.
GRAN BAILE DE LAS FIESTAS
SUAVECITO

11 P.M.
PLAZA CLOSES

Sunday, July 23

8 A.M.
MARIACHI MASS AT SAN
FRANCISCO DE ASÍS CHURCH

9:30-11 A.M.
ST. FRANCIS CHOIR

11 A.M.-NOON
AUDREY DAVIS & JOHNNY
ARCHULETA

NOON
HISTORICAL PARADE

NOON-1 P.M.
DAWN LUZ PADILLA

1-2 P.M.
THE UZ BAND

2-3 P.M.
CUARENTA Y CINCO

3-4 P.M.
MEZCAL

4-5 P.M.
SIMPATICO

5-6 P.M.
ERNESTINE ROMERO

6-7 P.M.
SEVERO MARTINEZ Y FUEGO

7 P.M.
CLOSING CEREMONIES

All performers listed in italics have
donated their time and talents to the
people and community of Taos.

¡Que Vivan Las Fiestas!



taoscounty.org



SCOTT GERDES
Tina Martinez, the 2017 Fiestas de Taos grand marshal, in her Talpa home.

Everybody's Grandma

By Scott Gerdes

“What a sweetheart.”

“You’ll love her to pieces.”

“She is one of Taos’ elders.”

“She made a difference
in many people’s lives.”

Ask anyone who has crossed paths with Tina V. Martinez – and that’s a lot of people – and you’ll likely hear such descriptions about this year’s Las Fiestas de Taos parade grand marshal.

Martinez’s story begins with her birth on Halloween 1925 in Santa Fe. Summer months were spent visiting her grandfather, Juan N. Vigil of Talpa, and her aunt and uncle, Eloisa and Gilbert Vigil. It was during one of those visits that she met her future husband, the late Polito E. Martinez of Taos (teacher and Ranchos Elementary principal). They wed, settled in Talpa and raised five children: Polito Jr., Patsy, Donald, the late Teddy and Tina Jo. Eleven grandchildren and a dozen great-grandchildren now fill the branches of her family tree.

Besides raising her children, she took a genuine affinity for people beyond the

Martinez homestead. She served as Taos County Chamber of Commerce secretary for two years. In that capacity, she met many “interesting people.”

“Several of them would return to the area and look her up so they could visit and learn more about the beautiful Taos area,” daughter Patsy relayed.

Following the retirement of her supervisor, she opted for a change of scenery and went to work as a sales clerk at Sewell’s Indian Arts on Taos Plaza and the Kit Carson Road location.

In 1963, Martinez’s career took a big turn. District Judge Fred Federici appointed Martinez clerk of the Eighth Judicial District Court. She went on to work for Judge Federici and two others, Judge McIntosh and Judge Wright. Among her duties were the supervision of court employees and assisting attorneys with records and scheduling. The position allowed her to continue to help many Taoseños – something she has always felt drawn to.

“I love people,” she simply stated.

Martinez worked for the courts for 18 years, retiring in 1981.

Not one to rest on her laurels, she took her love for being involved with the community to the Taos Municipal School Board, serving

as a member for five years. Listening to the parents and students was always paramount to her.

Not stopping there, Martinez is a life member of the VFW Ladies’ Auxiliary; she has served as treasurer and board member of the Talpa Mutual Domestic Water Association for several years; and she and Polito were mayordomos for Nuestra Señora de San Juan de Los Lagos Catholic Church in Talpa and also for San Francisco de Asís Catholic Church in Ranchos de Taos.

After the passing of Polito, she couldn’t just sit around the house, no matter how beautiful and calming the views of Talpa farmland are out of her home’s windows.

While serving 14 years as a Peoples Bank hostess, Martinez made and handed out cookies to customers three days a week. On Fridays, she manned the popcorn machine. It was there she became known as “Grandma Tina.”

“I still love helping and interacting with people,” she said. “I miss people.”

Martinez will get her opportunity to be around hundreds of folks at this year’s Fiestas. Albeit, she’ll be riding in a classic car instead of in the thick of the crowd. But that’s OK.

“From afar, I’ll get to see many of my good

friends,” she said with a grin.

Martinez is no stranger to Las Fiestas de Taos. The family’s involvement began with Polito, who was a member of Kiwanis. By his side, the family helped organize the parade – “We kept it running smoothly.” The Martinez children were taken to Las Fiestas every July.

“We attended some of the dances,” Martinez recalled of past Fiestas. “My husband and I would walk around the park to visit with out-of-state friends who came back for the Fiestas.”

The traditions of Las Fiestas de Taos, she added, are “important to keep going.”

The invitation to be Las Fiestas de Taos parade’s grand marshal surprised Martinez.

“At my age (92), I wondered if I should accept it or not,” she chuckled. The thought of seeing old friends and making new ones, however, made the decision for her quite easy in the end.

TINA MARTINEZ, 2017 FIESTAS DE TAOS PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

*I love
people'*

Honoring George Chacon

AN ARTIST ALL AROUND

By Teresa Dovalpage

The Fiesta Council is honoring one of Taos' most beloved artists, George Chacon, who passed away on April 1 while playing the conga drums at a SOMOS event.

Señor Chacón was born in Saguache, Colorado, but he and his wife, Beverly, moved to Taos in 1983 – honorary Taoseños, indeed.

He received numerous recognitions during his career, like the Miguel De Unamuno Award in 1994 and the Taos Society of Portrait Artists Award in 2003. He was also well known for his many murals that gained him national recognition.

A mural he painted of the Taos Ski Valley at the base of the mountain was published in *The New York Times*. There was also the Town Hall wall that he designed to portray a timeline of Taos' history in eight murals – he painted four of them, and “El Santero,” a mural in Cabot Plaza that was once featured on the cover of *Travel Magazine*. He also worked with oils, acrylics, monotypes and mixed media. He was an artist all around.

One of my fondest memories of George and Beverly is meeting them on a Saturday morning at Gutiz. George talked enthusiastically about one of his pieces called “Duende” that depicted flamenco dancers. Duende means soul, inspiration and passion. George’s work had plenty of that.

I also remember a painting session in Ray Vinella’s study at the Taos Retirement Village with George, Elizabeth Jose and other local

artists, when I modeled for them. A few weeks later, George surprised me by giving me my framed portrait as a present.

Don Francisco Trujillo II also remembers George fondly. “George was very special to the Fiesta Council and highly respected. He created the coat of arms that are displayed at the gazebo during Fiestas on the historic Taos Plaza,” he said. “Over a 30-year period – adding a few more to our collection each year – the Taos Fiesta Council commissioned the shields, which reflect local, traditional surnames of Taos families and some of the original Spanish Conquistadores to the region. George was meticulous in his research to ensure that each surname was accurately portrayed. We appreciate his talent and generosity to our community of Taos.”

Homage to George couldn’t omit the annual

Día de los Muertos celebration that he and Beverly hosted at The Taos Inn from 1989 until 2016. On Nov. 2, which was also George’s birthday, they decorated the altar and encouraged people to bring photos and mementos of their loved ones as well.

Music was often part of the celebration, with Cuban Bata drumming by George (he was an accomplished musician, too) and mariachi songs.

“Every year, as we lose more of our relatives and friends, the special meaning of this holiday becomes more profound,” said George when I interviewed him for a Day of the Dead story in 2014.

This year on Nov. 2, we will remember George in our own altars. But we will take comfort in the idea that he is still painting in heaven. Honor a un gran artista de Taos!



FILE PHOTO/RICK ROMANCITO
George Chacón in his home studio.



FILE PHOTO/RICK ROMANCITO
George Chacón in front of his iconic mural, titled “The Santero,” on Cabot Plaza Mall near Taos Plaza.

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Honoring Alan Vigil

A CHAMPION OF CULTURE AND TRADITION

By Teresa Dovalpage

Among the 2017 Fiesta honorees is the late Alan (Allen) Vigil, who was the planning director for both the town of Taos and Taos County for a combined 30-plus years.

He was pivotal in the designation of the Taos Historic District and the initial driving force of the first "Vision 20/20 Plan" for Taos, for which the team was honored by the New Mexico Municipal League.

Señor Vigil was an active member of the San Francisco de Asís Church community. For

decades, he was the director of the church's men's choir, still known as Alan's Choir (Allen was his birth name and he made "Alan" his stage name).

He taught himself to play the guitar at a young age and by the time he was in junior high, he was already playing in a band.



COURTESY ARIANA VIGIL-DELMERICO
Alan Vigil

"Music would be his first love until he met Geraldine Black one evening in Albuquerque," said his daughter Ariana Vigil-Delmerico. "That night, she stole his heart. They settled in Taos and started a family: six children and six grandchildren. Married for 42 years, he worked day and night to provide for his family so his wife could stay home with the children."

He was passionate about his Catholic faith and led his ministry through music for more than 40 years.

"He was often called upon to sing for funerals, and when families could not afford to pay him, he would say, 'No te penas, just do me a favor and give to others when you can,'" Vigil-Delmerico said.

He also sang for weddings, birthday parties,

or any family celebration where his music was the focal point.

"Any time there was a fundraiser in Taos, he could be counted on to volunteer his musical talents for a good cause," his daughter recalled.

Kathleen Branchal, immediate past president of the Fiesta Council, calls Señor Vigil's devotion to his family, his faith in God and his strength in bearing his cross "very inspiring."

"He loved using his God-given talent in church and it became most vital and important for him upon being diagnosed with cancer," Branchal said.

But Vigil didn't let the illness stop him from singing. He didn't let it interfere with his sense of humor either.

"In 2005, I had to be hospitalized for a short time and Alan was at the hospital visiting his mom, who happened to be there at the same time," Branchal recalled. "When he saw me in my room receiving a blood transfusion, he asked if I was OK, then joked, 'Aw, you're getting an oil change!' He then prayed with me and left to go see his mom. That simple gesture and his positive outlook on life always stuck with me. He had already been battling his own illness."

Vigil was always "smiling and happy," said fellow parishioner Tanya Vigil (no relation).

"He and Vito Trujillo used to play together," she said. "And he was always very involved with the community. He was a true Taoseño, a champion in preserving our culture and traditions."

Branchal remembers one of the very last times that Vigil sang in church, when he didn't even have the strength to carry his own guitar.

"He happily and peacefully walked in church to take his place in leading the choir and his beloved friend Vito got up immediately to go fetch the guitar from his car for him," she said. "Alan was a doer; he accepted his cross without complaint and fought with great dignity to the very end. He was loved by many parishioners and is dearly missed."

"I cannot express enough gratitude for the honor that (the Fiesta Council) is bestowing upon my father," said Vigil-Delmerico.

"It means the world to my mother and my family that you all are taking the time to recognize him."



FILE PHOTO/GREG KRELLER

Alan Vigil sings "Brown Eyed Girl" with his granddaughter, Briana Torres, then 10, at the Taos Plaza gazebo during Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana in 2003.



Taos Fiestas Royal
Court for 2017



MEET THE
2017
*Royal
Court*

STORY BY TERESA DOVALPAGE IIII PHOTOS BY KATHARINE EGLI



Reina Savannah Romero



La Reina The Royal Court

The queen of the 2017 Fiestas de Santiago y Santa Ana is Señorita Savannah Renee Rose Mary Romero. She has dreamed of being Reina since 2004, when she was queen attendant for her aunt Stephanie Romero, who was crowned that year.

A few days after having been chosen Reina, she said she still couldn't believe it happened.

"I wake up in the middle of the night, look at my sash and remind myself that it's real," she said with a bright smile.

La Reina is 18 years old and a 2017 graduate from Taos Cyber Magnet School.

"Savannah is a very focused and smart young woman," said Cyber Magnet Director Kate Jensen. "When she sets her mind on something, she gets it done. I am so proud of her!"

Reina Savannah was a member of the Taos Tigers Classics Drill Team, where she took part in state competitions for several years and received a scholarship to the University of the Southwest. An enthusiastic dancer, she started taking flamenco lessons with Catalina Río Fernandez when she was just 3 years old.

In 2015, she traveled to the Dominican Republic to provide humanitarian services through the Rustic Pathways organization. She currently attends University of New Mexico-Taos (UNM-Taos) and will be transferring to the main campus in Albuquerque to pursue a career in medicine and health sciences with a minor in dance.

"I want to thank my family, my friends, my sponsors and all the community," she said. "I will do my best to represent all Taoseños, and be a role model for our youth. Muchas gracias a todos."

Princesa Ariana Janelle Celina Veronica Baca is 17 years old. An honors student, she takes dual credit courses at the University of New Mexico-Taos. She recently won the Emperor Science Award and gained a mentorship with an oncologist. She is also a member of the Outlaw 4-H Club and serves as Taos County president for the 4-H Council.

Her Catholic faith is very important for her, so the Fiestas theme (God, Family, Friends and Community: La Fiestas de Taos) was particularly meaningful to Princesa Ariana. She is part of the St. Michaels Youth Core Groups, the Retreat Team at Our Lady of Guadalupe and a member of the Guadalupanas Pilgrimage Group. She plans to attend New Mexico State University in Las Cruces to become an anesthesiologist.

Princesa Mariana Fatima Sebastian Jimenez-Gonzales is 17 years old. She is a member of the Honor Society and HOSA-Health Occupation Students of America. A project very close to her heart is to prevent teen suicides and raise awareness about the issue. She has been a member of the Teens for Awareness Club since December 2016. She was also a member of the Lady Tigers volleyball team, the Outlaws 4-H Club and a violinist for Mariachi El Tigre.

Princesa Gabriella Aaliyah Bridget Marie Perez is 16 years old. She has been a member of the Taos High School varsity cheerleading squad for the last four years and is also part of Mariachi El Tigre, where she plays the violin and performs traditional New Mexico Spanish colonial dances. She has been a member of the student nutrition program at Taos High for the last three years and plans to attend Arizona State University.

"I want to send a message to other girls – step out of your comfort zone as I did when I entered the pageant!" she said.

The fiesta Mass and crowning of the queen will take place on Friday, July 21, 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

¡Que vivan las Fiestas!



Princesa Ariana Baca



Princesa Mariana Jimenez-Gonzales



Princesa Gabriella Perez



Reina Savannah Romero

Reina Savannah Romero

Savannah is 18 years old and is a 2017 graduate from Taos Cyber Magnet School. She was a member of the Taos Tigers Classics Drill Team, where she competed at state for several years. Savannah received a scholarship to the University of the Southwest. With a passion for the arts, she enjoys learning an assorted style of dance, but the style closest to her heart – since she was a young child – has been flamenco.

Savannah has also traveled to the Dominican Republic, committed to provide humanitarian services through the service work organization Rustic Pathways. In addition to her travels, she enjoys reading, writing, singing, doing makeup, laughing and having fun with her friends and her family.

She is currently attending the University of New Mexico-Taos and will be transferring to the main campus in Albuquerque to pursue a career in medicine and health sciences with a minor in dance. Her goal is to become a pharmacist.

She is the daughter of Nicole and Daniel Romero of Arroyo Seco. Her maternal grandparents are Diana DeHerrera and the late Nick Cisneros. Her paternal grandparents are Renee and Dan Romero.

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The Sanchez Family
Timberline Electric
Victoria Romero
V. Susan Fisher
Viva Sports
Michael's Kitchen Taos
Ziggy's Frozen Yogurt

Princesa Ariana Baca



Princesa Ariana Baca

Ariana is 17 years old and will be a 2018 Taos High School graduate. She is an honors student and is engaged in dual credit courses at the University of New Mexico-Taos. Ariana enjoys learning and has participated in the Taos Tigers Lab Science Fair. She recently won the Emperor Science Award and gained a mentorship with an oncologist. In addition to her classes, she is a member of the Outlaw 4-H Club, president of Club Council and is currently serving as Taos County president for the 4-H Council.

Ariana is audacious and lives life to the fullest. She enjoys reading, being outdoors, raising livestock, hunting, camping, archery and spending time with her family. She loves to dance and has been actively involved in the Taos Classics Drill Team. Ariana is also very involved in the St. Michaels Youth Core Groups and the Retreat Team at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. She is a member of the Guadalupeñas Pilgrimage Group.

Her plans are to attend New Mexico State University in Las Cruces to pursue a career in medicine with the goal of becoming an anesthesiologist. She has already begun an internship with Taos County EMS.

She is the daughter of Juanita and Raymond Baca Jr. of Ranchos de Taos. Her maternal grandparents are Clorinda Georgina Mondragon and the late Pacomio Mondragon. Her paternal grandparents are Doris and Raymond Baca Sr.

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Princesa Mariana Jimenez-Gonzales



Princesa Mariana Jimenez-Gonzales

Mariana is 17 years old and will be a 2018 Taos High School graduate. She is an honor student, where she is engaged in advance placement classes and is a member of the Honor Society. Mariana is a very active member in Health Occupation Students of America. She qualified to compete in both Forensics and Community Awareness at Nationals and will be competing in Community Awareness in Orlando, Florida. She is also involved in the Chem Club, helping elementary students with science fairs.

She was a member of the Lady Tigers volleyball team and a lively violinist of Mariachi El Tigre. Mariana loves to sing and play the violin, and enjoys drawing in her free time. She is also an active member of the Outlaws 4-H Club, competing in crafts like crocheting, braiding and various shooting sports, such as hunting and archery.

Mariana plans to pursue a career in forensic pathology, and will be exploring her college options this summer.

She is the daughter of Jenice Gonzales-Gallegos and Celedon Gallegos of El Prado, and Genaro Jimenez and Jennifer DeBow of Talpa. Her maternal grandparents are MaryAnn Martinez and Johnny Gonzales. Her paternal grandparents are Maria and Alex Gallegos, Isabel Aguilar and Daniel Jimenez.

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MaryLou Chavez

Rita Mondragon

Kathleen Branchal

Princesa Gabriella Perez



Princesa Gabriella Perez

G

abriella is 16 years old and will be a 2018 Taos High School graduate.

In addition to her classes, Gabriella has been a member of the Taos High School varsity cheerleading squad for the last four years. This year, the team won its fourth New Mexico State Cheering Competition. She participates in the Taos High School group, Mariachi El Tigre, where she plays the violin and performs traditional New Mexico Spanish colonial dances to the lively music of the mariachi.

Gabriella has been a member of the student nutrition program at the high school for the last three years. She is also an aide at the Taos High School Day Care in preparation for getting her Early Education Certificate. Gabriella is also involved with young children in Taos Extreme Cheer, and has taken classes for helping with special needs students. She loves children, and enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Her plans are to attend Arizona State University to pursue a career in nursing. Gabriella's goals are to become a pediatric nurse.

She is the daughter of Cyndee Perez and Anthony Perez of Taos. Her maternal grandparents are the late Rafelita Martinez and the late Cipriano Martinez. Her paternal grandparents are the late Virginia Perez and the late Tony Perez.

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The Royal Lineage

LAS REINAS THROUGHOUT LAS FIESTAS DE TAOS HISTORY

2016
MARISSA JOSETTE
VIGIL

2015
MARIA ERNESTINA
ELENA ARCHULETA

2014
JENNA ROSE LOUISA
AMELIA PERALTA

2013
ANGELICA
ESPERANZA
RODRÍGUES

2012
JULIETTE
ELIZABETH
REBEKAH PERALTA

2011
ANNA ELOISA
VÁSQUEZ

2010
DESIREE BRIANA
APODACA

2009
ANGELICA LYDIA
SALAZAR

2008
AMOGENE OLAYA
MARTÍNEZ

2007
ANA ALICIA
ROMERO

2006
MICAYLA
CORRAL-JEANTETE

2005
MARIA ELENA
MARTÍNEZ

2005
ELENA VILLA FRANCA

2004
STEPHANIE
ROMERO

2003
JESSICA QUINTANA

2002
CONTESSA TRUJILLO

2001
SONYA FRANCESCA
ROMERO

2000
CRYSTAL MARTÍNEZ

1999
MAYA MARTÍNEZ

1998
SAMANTHA
GALLEGOS

1997
MONICA TAFOYA

1996
CRUCITA ROBERTA
MEDINA

1995
ROXANNE
ANDERSON PÉREZ

1995
EVELYN TRUJILLO

1994
KARINA GALLEGOS

1993
SANTANA TAFOYA

1992
LEANDRA MEDINA

1991
KATRINA LUCERO

1990
GINA VAROS

1989
ALBERTINA
ESPINOZA

1988
DENISE JEANTETE

1987
FATIMA SUAZO

1986
STEPHANIE
CÓRDOVA

1985
ERLINDA SÁNCHEZ

1984
WENDA MARTÍNEZ

1983
JUDY SUAZO

1982
CARMEN VIGIL

1981
LORRAINE ROMERO

1980
DARLENE VIGIL

1979
NATALIE PADILLA

1978
DIANA VALERIO

1977
GRACE COCA
(CHÁVEZ)

1976
GINA ORTIZ
(OSBURN)

1975
VERONICA ROMO
(MIERA)

1974
BERNICE
SANDOVAL

1973
CARMAN LEDOUX

1972
CHRISTINE
MONDRAGÓN
(VARGAS)

1971
STELLA LUCERO
(HOKANSON)

1970
CARLA MARTÍNEZ

1968
YVONNE
SANTISTEVAN

1967
CARMAN MARES

1966
TEODORA VIGIL
(MEDINA)

1965
LUPE VALERIO
(DOMINGUEZ)

1964
SYLVIA STRUCK
(ROYBAL)

1963
FRANCES COHN
(MILLER)

1962
GLEECY MARTÍNEZ
(BUTTLER)

1961
MAIDA MARES
(MARTÍNEZ)

1960
ROSALIE
OTERO

1959
ELIZABETH NAOMI
VAROS

1958
DIANA RAEI

1957
MARTHA MARTÍNEZ

1956
MANUELITA
MONDRAGÓN
(MULLINS)

1954
STELLA
MARTÍNEZ

1953
LUCILLE TRUJILLO

1952
CECILIA
MARTÍNEZ Y
SALAZAR TORRES

1949
LUCILLE ORTIZ

1948
PORFERIA VALERIO

1936
ALICE
MARTÍNEZ
(KNIGHT)

1927
MARCIA ANAYA
(WHEATON)