

Know Your Neighbor: Walker says ‘no need to drive to Santa Fe or Albuquerque’

By Kathy Córdova

For The Taos News

Dana Walker (pronounced Diné) has participated in various work activities, but her current work as a cosmetologist suits her greatly. Last month, she joined Valorie Archuleta and Stella McGinnis at It's a Small World Salon in Taos to work on hair, skin and nails for clients.

“When I attended Vogue College of Cosmetology in Santa Fe, I enrolled for the basic course, but then added extra courses in order to provide special services for the clients in Taos,” said Walker.

Please discuss your background.

I was 7 years old when my parents moved the family to Taos. I graduated from Taos High School in 2006. After graduation, I attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. For two years, I studied for a fish and wildlife science major and a dance minor. Then my dad became ill and passed away. I left school to help my mom. Since I was 19, I served as a professional dog groomer. I was certified in Tucson and worked mainly on basic house animals.

First animals, then humans?

I decided that I wanted to study cosmetology. My fiancé, Felix Perez, was my greatest support. He cared for the kids while I commuted to Santa Fe and back every day that class was in session. I finished the program in a little under a year. Besides the basic program, I worked on other specialties. For hair, I can complete cuts, color, relaxers, shampoo, sets and perms. As far as nails are concerned, I can complete manicures and pedicures. Now, there's no need for clients to drive to Santa Fe or Albuquerque for specialty skin treatments. It is my goal to offer reasonable services right here in Taos. I can do facials, chemical peels, microderms, galvanic treatments, high-frequency microcurrent and LED light therapy.

Additional services include hair extensions, eyelash extensions and eyebrow extensions.

What's the salon like?

I'm new at the salon, so quite a few of my clients are walk-ins. I also accept male clients and appointments. It's a Small World is located in Cantu Plaza, between Carhartt and Tuesday Morning at 101 Camino de la Placita, Suite B.

We're open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. I really like working there because Valorie, Stella and I always help one another. All of us want the salon to succeed, so it's easy to cooperate and offer advice and assistance.

Regarding walk-ins, I like helping with the clients who benefit from being seen that day. You know, women want things done now.

Tell us about your family.

My grandma, Wanda Walker, lives in California. My dad, Terry Wayne Walker, passed away. My mom is Denise Walker. I have two brothers.

John Lewis lives in Lower Las Colonias. My brother, Richard Walker, 15, will be a sophomore this year. As I mentioned before, Felix Perez is my fiancé. My three children are Devon Martinez, 7, Antoine Fernandez, 3, and Kiana Perez, 4 months old.

What do you do in your spare time?

I like to help others. As a former drill team member, I decided to help the team by working on fundraising. I love scary movies that are based on true events. Such examples include “Amityville Horror” and “The Exorcism of Emily Rose.” My favorite reading materials, of which I’m very picky, included spiritual topics. “He Came to Set the Captives Free” is the first book that comes to mind. Regarding food, I watch what I eat. When I was pregnant, I suffered from pregestational diabetes. I started watching my diet and my weight dropped from 200 to 135 pounds. I love pasta with salad, including lasagna and chicken Alfredo. My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, yes, because of the good food, but mainly because it brings the family together.

Family is important to**you?**

I like to spend time with my family and make sure that they’re OK. My best time is spent with my fiancé and the kids. We love the outdoors, including fishing and hiking. We like to visit historic sites, such as Pot Creek. The best outdoor spots are the fish hatchery and Abiquiò Lake. The time I spend with the family is special, as well as my attempt to make up for the time lost during the years when I worked two jobs during the same time period.

Parting words for the readers?

I’m at the It’s a Small World Salon, where I want to assist the clients. I want to encourage those who have need of our services to contact me.

Feel free to drop by or call. The staff and I are ready to help everyone with their needs.



Dana Walker and her son, Devon Martinez, 7, outside of It’s a Small World Salon in Taos.

Katharine Egli