

SCHOOL NEWS

Trinidad Children's Choral concert Thursday

By Gay Lee Massarotti
The Chronicle-News

For the past 8 years, the Trinidad Children's Choral has presented a spring concert to a packed auditorium and delighted the community.

This year the Choral will be presenting "Thank You For the Music." Under the direction of Fisher's Peaks staff directors, Connie Pallone, Debbie Fiorenzi and Jennifer Erickson, the 55 talented 4th, 5th and 6th grade students will be performing songs from the 1940s.

Their selections will include "Teach Me to Swing," "Route 66," "Hair," "New York, New York," and the more recently-released popular tune "The Climb," recorded by Miley Cyrus.

Come prepared to be impressed by the musical talent of the Children's Choral on Thursday, April 22 at 7 p.m. in the Trinidad Middle School auditorium.

DWI Task Force Aims at Prom

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

With Prom Night arriving in Raton Saturday, the Colfax County DWI program has unrolled its "BuzzFree Prom" program for the second consecutive year. The program rewards students who sign a pledge to not use drugs or alcohol on prom night. Students who sign the pledge receive a BuzzFree ID key tag that offers discounts up to 20% off at participating merchants in Raton and Trinidad.

Florists and restaurants dominate the list of participating businesses, which includes Black Jack Steakhouse, Beall's, Chef Liu's, Cougar Canyon, The Crystal Café, Denny's, Flowerland, K-Bobs, Nano & Nana's, Peak's Restaurant at Trinidad Holiday Inn, Rose Petal, Sands Restaurant, Pappas Sweet Shop, Tequila's, and Rino's. Others were still signing on this week.

Working with the Raton DWI Student Task Force, the county DWI program has flooded Raton with programs and messages during

the past two weeks, all with the goal of having a safe, drug- and alcohol-free prom. Public service announcements have aired on radio programs. Pizza Hut has attached "Deliver BuzzFree Prom" flyers to pizza boxes. Students from Columbian and Kearny Elementary Schools have written letters to prom attendees asking them to be good role models and go to prom BuzzFree.

Student task force members filled Raton High School's sidewalks with chalk art and messages. Students attending prom at the Raton Convention Center Saturday night will take breathalyzer tests on the way in, then they'll find tent cards set up on their tables promoting an alcohol-free celebration.

Friday, the Raton DWI Student Task Force will hold a BuzzFree Prom promotion and fundraiser at Raton High School. Bill Serrazio has donated a van for the group's Car Bash. Students will buy tickets at 50 cents each to bash the car. Bashing a window will require a \$2 ticket. Task



Photos by Tim Keller

In preparation for Friday's Car Bash at Raton High School, DWI Student Task Force members aim to practice on teacher Steve Wenig's car this week. From left, Arissa Maldonado, Megan Holland, Kaycie Vukonich, Steve Wenig, Justin Apodaca, Haley Gansz, Amy Grubelnik, and Kay Love.

force members are Justin Apodaca, Haley Gansz, Amy Grubelnik, Megan Holland, Tamara Johnson,

Kay Love, Arissa Maldonado, Shana Trujillo, and Kaycie Vukonich. They're all hoping that

their weeks of work will succeed this year in producing a prom that is fun, safe, and BuzzFree.

Branson schools observe special April reading program

Special to The Chronicle-News

It's April, and in Branson, that means Shared Reading Month. For 17 years, the PTA (newly renamed Branson Community Cares for Students/BCCS) has boosted literacy by encouraging students to read at home with their families and, in reward, receive books for their personal home libraries.

This year, BCCS has added an innovative twist to the program. Each week, a guest author or illustrator will spend time in classrooms with preschool, elementary, and high school students - sharing their work and also modeling for students the importance of reading, writing, and the creative arts. BCCS has also generously purchased books for students from each author to share with their families at home.

Later, in May, students will travel to Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Pueblo, each armed with a \$20 gift card provided by a \$500 grant from San Isabel Electric Association, who for the past two years has generously supported Branson School's efforts to promote reading for enjoyment and education.

Trinidad's Vi Mettler visited with students the first week of April, delighting the youngsters with her African garb, a collection of

musical instruments, and her tales of going to Africa to home-school her young grandchildren. Her book, "Grandma Alone in Africa" was well received by the children.

On Thursday, April 15th, Eugene Vories, well-known author of cowboy literature and historical fiction, traveled from LaVeta to share his experiences of growing up near Walsenburg in a ranching family and transforming those into tales using southeastern Colorado as a back drop.

On April 21st Branson School will welcome Trinidad illustrator Esther Cass and businessman/author William Bilderback. The duo will share their children's book about financial education with the students.

Wrapping up author visits on April 29 is Branson resident Rachel Snyder, who brings her inspirational words to students through poetry and prose. In support of her visit, publisher Blue Mountain Arts of Boulder has donated a book for every Branson student to take home.

Authors will be in Branson from 11:00am to 3:00pm on their respective days. Parents and community members are invited,

Trinidad Area Arts Council 2010 Writing Contest Winners

The Trinidad Area Arts Council (TAAC) has been collaborating on this contest for 11 years - to support cultural and educational community events for Las Animas County students. The consistently high numbers of students participating in this contest is evidence of our classroom teacher's support, as well as our large county schools' support, also.

The contest was open to School District 1, Hoehne, Primero, Aguilar, Branson, Kim, and Holy Trinity Academy, as well as to home-schoolers. Each school collected their respective entries and then turned them in for judging.

Two literary areas are addressed in this contest: prose and poetry. There are four age categories: K-2, 3-5th, 6-8th and high school. All entries were reviewed and judged by a panel of Trinidad Area Arts Council board members and teachers from area school districts.

Winners - Prose

K-2:
1st Place: Cyress Cordova - Primero
2nd Place: Kayla Haugen - Eckhart
3rd Place: Ingrid Hofmeister - Hoehne
Honorable Mention: Forrest Aguilar - Hoehne

3-5:
1st Place: Sean Doherty - Kim
2nd Place: Luis Viera Flores - Fisher's Peak
3rd Place: Emily Shannon - Fisher's Peak
Honorable Mention: Dusty Meyers - Fisher's Peak

6-8:
1st Place: Tressa Kinnison - Primero
2nd Place: Indie Hillhouse - Primero
3rd Place: Jasmine Walker - Hoehne
Honorable Mention: Nita Cordova - Primero

9-12:
1st Place: Darci Komarowski - Primero
2nd Place: Zak Harmes - T'dad Hi School
3rd Place: Krissy Armijo - T'dad Hi School
Honorable Mention: Caitlyn Reyes - HTA

- Hoehne
2nd Place: Alysse Trujillo - Primero
3rd Place: Nellie Perez - Eckhart
Honorable Mention: Rhianna Hopper - Hoehne

3-5:
1st Place: Jirina Aragon - Fisher's Peak
2nd Place: Sydney Aragon - Hoehne
3rd Place: Kathryn Santistevan - Fisher's Peak
Honorable Mention: Thomas Grove - home school

6-8:
1st Place: Michael Felthager - T'dad Middle School
2nd Place: Jacob Walter - Hoehne Junior High
3rd Place: Krista Gonzales - T'dad Middle School
Honorable Mention: Alix Rea-Feagaiga - T'dad Middle School

9-12:
1st Place: Percy Cline - HTA
2nd Place: Brianna Payne - HTA
3rd Place: Brett Gonzales - HTA
Honorable Mention: Haley Sheldon - Branson

Winners - Poetry

K-2:
1st Place: Tatum Rivera



SCHOOL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

■ **Trinidad** - District Accountability meeting 6 p.m. 3rd Weds @ the school's District Office, BOE Room, 215 S. Maple Street.

THURSDAY

■ **Hoehne** - Board of Education meets 6 p.m. 4th Thurs. of every month @ the school. Call 846-4457 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

GENERAL INFO

■ **NMHU in Raton** - GED examinations May 3 & 4. Last day to register is Friday, April 30. Pickup registration & schedule 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. @ 130 Park Ave, Raton. Call 575-445-0445 for more information.

■ **Rocky Mountain SER** - Southern Colorado Headstart is currently accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Please contact the school at 846-4391 for appointments or information.

SCHOLARSHIPS

■ **FREE Scholarship** for Summer Health Careers Institute available to students interested in Health, Science & Math careers, July 18-23. Activities include opportunities to observe various departments in hospitals & shadowing health professionals while staying at the University of Colorado Denver Health Science Center. For more information call SE Colorado Area Health Education Center @ 719-544-7833 or toll-free 866-330-7100 or e-mail susuzette.bartch@secahec.org. Funding provided by a grant from the Colorado Trust.

Children plant seeds for future greenhouse

By LAURA L. BREWER
The Chronicle-News

The Raton Head Start School applied for and received a "Head Start Body Start" grant, which was available through the Federal Department of Health & Human Services as part of a federal initiative to promote physical activity and healthy eating. According to Danielle Segura, Mora/Colfax Head Start coordinator, with the funds received, Head Start will soon have its own greenhouse, and through the assistance of the Colfax County Extension Office and 4-H program, the green house will be filled with an assortment of vegetables that the children planted this past week.

Boe Lopez, Colfax County Extension Service, and Sean Moore, Colfax County 4-H, visited the Colfax/Mora Head Start in Raton to demonstrate planting the tiny seeds that will eventually grow into mature vegetable plants. The children from four different classrooms took turns dropping seeds of tomatoes, snap peas, cherry tomatoes, and zucchini into individual fingers of disposable plastic gloves in which were placed dampened cotton balls. After the seeds sprout and grow larger, they will be transplanted to soil in pots and placed in the newly built greenhouse. Later this fall, the fresh vegetables will be picked and the children will learn how to prepare them into healthy meals that will later be enjoyed during a family style dining experience with their families. For students this year, fresh vegetables will be purchased and prepared for a special family cooking night on May 5. According to Segura, the Colfax County Extension office has been very helpful in providing classroom instruction on healthy eating, cooking, and nutrition.

The Mora/Colfax Head Start program serves 80 children in Raton and 170 throughout the two counties. The director of Raton's program, Beverly Dobbins-Montoya, with Segura's assistance, oversees four classrooms, four teachers, four assistants, and one roving substitute. The Head Start Body Start grant funding has previously allowed the school to purchase and install playground equipment.



Photo by Laura L. Brewer

Boe Lopez, Colfax County Extension Service, helps students in the Head Start class plant seeds in the fingers of plastic disposable gloves.