

Trinidad State flings open doors for high school students

Special to The Chronicle-News

TSJC's Career Fair/Spring Fest: Looking into Your Future was held April 14 on the TSJC Trinidad campus. More than 190 high school students from 11 area high schools participated with 86 high seniors receiving the Red Carpet Scholarship.

Students attending came from Aguilar, Crowley County, Hoehne, Holy Trinity Academy, La Veta, Los Lunas, Primero, Raton, Springer, Trinidad and Valencia.

Prior to the event, high school students were able to select the program areas they wanted to visit and learn more about. Each student was able to "experience" at least three programs offered at Trinidad State. Choices included nursing, massage therapy, cosmetology, welding, line tech, gunsmithing, auto mechanics, diesel mechanics, heavy equipment, biology, chemistry, computer science and robotics.

Nearly 40 businesses participated in the Career Fair, answering questions related to career options and employment opportunities.

A presentation on the safe use of social networking sites such as Facebook, opened students' eyes as they learned how photos, fan association, comments, profiles, etc. could affect their future employment.

The event ended with a barbeque lunch courtesy of TSJC.

Crowley County High School Counselor Gail Anderson said, "Thanks so much for the wonderful day! Our kids came back

so excited about the possibilities for their future!"

Sandra K. Veltri, Trinidad State Junior College Vice President of Student/Academic Affairs, thanked, "Charlene Duran, Trinidad Campus Student Activities Coordinator; Ron Barros, CTE Special Populations/Job Placement Coordinator; Nicole Janssen, Admissions Counselor; the TSJC Student Ambassadors and a team of dedicated Trinidad State Junior College staff who joined together to make this an unforgettable college experience for local area high school students and counselors."

"Students, high school counselors, participating businesses, TSJC faculty and staff found the entire event to be fun and beneficial in helping students make choices for their futures! We're already planning next year's event!" said Duran.

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Guadalupe Society to hold fiesta for May mass celebration

Special to The Chronicle-News

Traditionally, the Catholic Church refers to May as the "Month of Mary" and by the Catholic/Hispanic Community as "El Mes de Maria" or "El Mes de Las Madres." This year our celebration will begin with a procession into the church. The Trinidad Mariachi group will provide the music for the Mass, which will be celebrated by Father Kieran Alaribe and the readings will be by Al Sanchez.

There will be no crowing this year at the church. Everyone is invited to join us at Holy Family Hall immediately after the mass for a short program in honor of our

Lady with Ashley Pedregon doing the honors. We will have our traditional potluck dinner following the program. We invite everyone to celebrate this special day with us. We look forward to other fiestas, which include our Summer Picnic, the December celebration of the apparition of our Blessed Mother to Juan Diego and other activities. The entire community is invited to attend these celebrations.

La Sociedad De Nuestra Senora De Guadalupe is sponsoring its annual May celebration at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 2.

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Welcome home troops!



Photo by Marty Mayfield

On April 24, Gabrielle Sintas of Trinidad, rides with her dad, Dickie, in the parade to welcome home the troops from Iraq.



Photo by Tim Keller

Minnesota a cappella quintet Home Free raised the rafters at the Shuler Theater last Thursday night.

Home Free brings a cappella joy to the Shuler

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

When the nationally-touring Minnesota a cappella group Home Free took the Shuler stage Thursday night and jumped into their opening notes, the first thought was, "They're playing recorded bass and drum tracks...that's cheating!" But it wasn't so.

The band's secret weapons, taking it far above expectations, were "bassist" Tim Foust and "percussionist" Adam Rupp: while both contributed some harmony vocals, mostly they provided what sounded convincingly like a professional rhythm section, produced entirely with their mouths. It was extraordinary.

In fact, only when Rupp actually sat at an imaginary drum kit and used his

and cymbal parts in an unaccompanied drum solo was it possible to grasp the enormity of what he's accomplished. It turns out he's twice won first place vocal percussionist titles at National Harmony Sweepstakes competitions.

Rupp's percussion anchored and propelled Home Free's richly-layered vocal harmony sounds as they performed two full sets of familiar songs and a pair of originals. Just reading the song list was enough to provoke laughter - the group sings the surf instrumental classic "Wipeout" - and comedy is, indeed, an integral part of the group's attraction.

They've figured out that the key to the audience having fun is for the singers themselves to have fun.

They've worked out many comedy bits and jokes, but they clearly enjoyed improvising and playing around, too. It worked: the audience laughed as often it applauded.

The five singers wore matching dark charcoal suit coats and slacks with black sneakers and white laces, each wearing his choice of t-shirt. Four slender singers included Foust, whose speaking and singing voice was an impossibly low and deep bass; the highest voice belonged to tenor Rob Lundquist, the one singer who was, well, large. The group allowed the personality of each singer to emerge as all made enjoyable connections with the audience.

Highlights included a barbershop quartet-style "I Am Woman" and The Beatles' "I Saw Her Standing There," for which the singers lined up across the stage to pantomime The Beatles with their instruments, right down to Ringo Starr's drum kit and Paul McCartney playing left-handed bass. When Jason Mraz' contemporary hit "I'm Yours" reached its first hook, squeals of delight escaped from an entourage of teens in the upper balcony.

The least effective song was the band's official closer, "God Bless the U.S.A.," which seemed a gratuitous choice, yet one guaranteed to strengthen the calls for an encore. Using cordless microphones, four of the five singers fanned out across the auditorium, even up into the balcony, to fan the revelry with "Joy to the World," and it would be fair to say that they brought down the house.

With just one show remaining in the Raton Arts & Humanities Council's 2009-2010 Performing Arts Season, the council began Thursday night selling season tickets to the 2010-2011 series at a discount price of just \$75 until June. Home Free's laugh-filled a cappella singing show reminded patrons of just what a great deal that is.

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