

Raton's FCCLA heads to nationals in Calif.

By TIM KELLER

Raton High School's chapter of FCCLA - Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America - sent 15 students to compete at the organization's annual New Mexico convention in Albuquerque this month. Raton's four teams all won first or second place in New Mexico, advancing the entire Raton contingent to July's national convention in Anaheim, Calif.

In addition, a pair of Raton students was inducted into statewide office, led by Makayla Mondragon, who is now the New Mexico FCCLA President. Tucker Berry joins her on the state board as president of public relations. Each will fulfill a term of one year.

Raton's National Program in Action team - Moriah Daniel, Autumn Hunnicutt, and Lakken Medina - won the state gold medal with its Stop the Violence program. Team members presented their PowerPoint presentation to a panel of judges, demonstrating their anti-bullying program and interspersing it with true stories. Remarkably, every judge gave the team an identical score, 100 out of 100.

Raton's Parliamentary Procedure team conducted a formal business meeting for its judges, then took a test over parliamentary rules. When the scores were combined, Breannon Trujillo, Kori Vukovich, Courtney Harrison, Leah Cimino, Michelle Guara, and Mondragon had won a

silver medal for Raton.

Meagan Holland, Kay Love, and Haley Gansz made up Raton's Advocacy team. They produced a program to reduce teen drinking, with a theme that aimed to dispel any perception that student athletes are prone to drinking. Their program won a silver medal.

Finally, Helen Segura and Kristin Vance entered the Chapter Service Manual competition, presenting their community service project in which they spent holiday time with residents at MCMC Long-Term Care Facility and conducted a gingerbread cooking activity with many of the residents. Their project, too, won a silver medal.

The students earned



Photo courtesy of Carmella Berry

Raton High School sent 15 students in four teams to the annual New Mexico Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America FCCLA convention this month in Albuquerque, where, without exception, every student and team won first or second in competition, advancing to the nationals in Anaheim, Calif., in July. Here, the students proudly surround sponsor Myra Baird, in yellow.

their own way to Albuquerque with February's all-you-could-eat homemade Chocolate

Factory. As they set their sights on competing at the Anaheim Convention Center July 10-14, the pub-

lic might hope the students throw another deliciously edible fundraiser to help them on their way.

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Photo by David J. Santistevan Jr.

Boy Scouts official speaks to Kiwanis

Pictured from left are Jeff Mangino, Kiwanis speaker chairman for March; Jeff Berger, executive director of the Boy Scouts of America, Rocky Mountain Council Pueblo District; and Ed Trommter of the Kiwanis Club of Trinidad. Berger spoke to Kiwanis Club members about local Boy Scout Troop 269, and about the Boy Scouts' "New Century New Director" model for the future.

Seniors Inc. receives Trinidad Community Foundation grant

By Richard Sitts
The Chronicle News

The Trinidad Community Foundation recently handed out grants to 10 local non-profit organizations. Among those grantees was Seniors Inc., that received \$1,000. Seniors Inc. Home Care Program Manager Curtis Padilla accepts the check from TCF Board President Phil Rico. Also on hand are TCF board members Mary Ellen Hadad and Howard Lackey at left, and TCF board Secretary Angela Ann Cesario at

right. The grant from TCF allows Seniors Inc. to provide home care to aging individuals who cannot afford to pay for this service that includes personal care, transportation, meal preparation, medication reminders, light housekeeping, and companionship. Padilla said the local Seniors Inc. takes care of 62 clients through Medicaid, 11 through private insurance, and four who are subsidized. For information on the program, contact kcan-della@totalongtermcare.org.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Raton Police Department INCIDENTS:

- 03-23-11
Terrence Stohr: victim of burglary and larceny
- Alfred Sanchez: victim of larceny
- K-Mart: victim of shoplifting

CITATIONS:

- 03-21-11
Agapito Morales: driving while suspended
- Desiree Segura: driver to be licensed
- 03-22-11
Jesus Perez: dog at large
- Jude Anaya: battery
- Angel Baca: battery
- 03-23-11
Michael Bernal: shoplifting

ACCIDENTS:

- 03-22-11
Lucas Cimino and Antonio Vigil: slight damage to vehicles

Social networks put private behavior on public display

DEAR ABBY: "Heartbroken Teacher in Oakland, Calif." (Jan. 14) did absolutely nothing wrong! He wrote a letter of recommendation based on his knowledge and impression of one of his students. That was all he could and should have done. He wasn't obligated to do a background check or any kind of research. That is for the future employer to do if he/she chooses.

I also teach, and would have done exactly the same as he did. It is shocking and sad to discover that one's impression of a student was partially incorrect. Keeping secrets about past wrongdoings is nothing new. But social networking



Dear Abby
Jeanne Phillips

POC, CALIF.

DEAR HELEN: I agree. And only time will tell how it will be resolved. That letter, from a teacher shocked to learn a respected student had posted inappropriate stories about herself online, generated tons of responses from both here and abroad. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am a 25-year-old education student. I don't have a social networking site, nor do I have any desire to create one. I don't understand the importance of posting pictures and personal information on the Internet for all to see. My father, a computer programmer, taught me that once something is posted on the Internet, it's there forever, regardless of whether it is deleted or not.

When I ask classmates why they use a social net-

sites make the evidence of such behavior more accessible. This is an issue for our society to address. -- HELEN IN LOM-POC, CALIF.

working site, the most common answer is, "To stay in touch with family and friends." The last time I checked, the telephone was used for that reason. -- KIM IN ORADELL, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: I am tired of living in a world that revolves around social networking sites. As a 20-something, I have friends who don't think twice about what they post. They'll tell the world anything - from drug use, sex stories, their latest vandalism to their disgusting underage drunk escapades. They also include semi-nude photos of themselves because they think it's cute. I truly am ... ASHAMED OF MY GENERATION, RED OAK, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: As teachers, we never completely see the character of our students. I interact with them outside of the classroom, but only at lunch and in student groups. No matter how friendly I become with my students, I am always their teacher, so I can never fully know who they are, and I never assume that I do.

When I write a recommendation, I can only comment on the person I was able to observe as their teacher (or rarely, mentor). My recommendation letters

often mention my boundaries of perception, and I never go beyond that. Teachers shouldn't fear the repercussions of their comments if they honestly state what they observed. -- CHRISTENSEN IN DAEGU, SOUTH KOREA

DEAR ABBY: Employers managed for centuries without being able to learn a person's life story at the click of a button. There's a reason it's called "social networking." If we wanted our employers there, we'd invite them. Anyone who snoops uninvited is invading our privacy. My employer pays me for the time I am at work. The rest of the time, I should be free to do as I please. -- CHRISTOPHER IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, we had a different definition of "friend." A friend was a flesh-and-blood person with whom one visited face-to-face, not some image on an electronic screen. Before I'm branded an old fogey, let me say I realize social networking sites have advantages and disadvantages.

In my youth - and occasionally even now - when I get together with friends, discretion is sometimes thrown to the wind. But if I decide to put the proverbial lamp shade on my head, it's in the company of a chosen few. Why do the youth of today pride themselves in exposing their indiscretions? Do they really need a record of all the times they acted like a jackass? -- RATIONAL IN JOHNSTOWN, PA.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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