

Photos courtesy of Trinidad State Junior College

This is the photo of the 1962 championship Trinidad State Junior College football team. The athletic director at the time, Charlie Latuda, can be seen standing in the back row at far right. Randy Beverly is in the same row, standing six players to the left from Latuda, with what appears to be a zero visible on his uniform.

New York Jets '69 Super Bowl defensive star played for Coach Latuda at TSJC

Continued from page 1 that year, Beverly's defensive heroics should not be overlooked. His second-half pick of 1968 season NFL MVP Earl Morrall occurred in the Jets' end zone and stalled a critical Colts drive. Baltimore's high-octane offense didn't score until late in the fourth quarter when the Super Bowl outcome had already been decided.

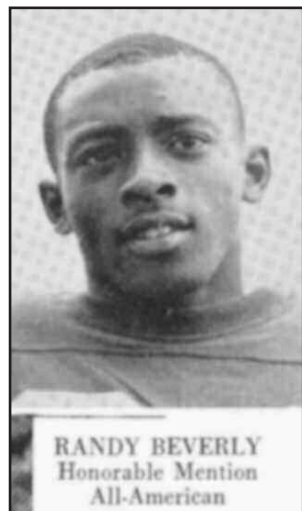
Due to his ineffectiveness against the tough Jets defense, Morrall was pulled in the third quarter and replaced by aging Hall of

Fame quarterback Johnny Unitas, who was no more effective than Morrall (6-17, 3 INTs) had been, according to game accounts.

That Super Bowl III is still remembered as the American Football League's first win over the entrenched National Football League, whose Green Bay Packers had easily won the first two Super Bowls over AFL upstarts. Namath had also brashly predicted a Jets victory prior to the game and backed up his trash talk with an MVP performance in the game. Beverly was named the game's Defensive MVP.

"The week before the Super Bowl against the Baltimore Colts, we were 21-point underdogs," said Beverly in a 2001 newspaper article in Monroe Township, N.J., where he was living at the time. "It was our first Super Bowl, so the pressure was really on because our league had lost the first two games. But we looked at the Colts and saw some weaknesses and knew what they're strengths were. We felt our strengths were more than theirs and our weaknesses, less."

Namath then was not unlike today's high-spirited, trash-talking Jets, although then Jets coach Weeb Ewbank had told his team to tone it down before the big game. Beverly related how Namath had been cornered by reporters who kept pressuring him to make a prediction. After guaranteeing a Jets victory, Beverly noted that



Broadway Joe was only saying what confident team members felt, but couldn't say. "It took a lot of pressure off of us because now it was out. Now, we didn't have to hide it."

Latuda, 85, who also coached Holy Trinity Academy to two Colorado parochial football championships in 1954 and again in '56, recalls that Beverly was a two-way star for his '62 TSJC team as both an offensive running back and defensive back. Then TSJC President Guy Davis asked Latuda to become his director of athletics the same year and later did all the scouting for future athletic prospects.

TSJC discontinued football in 1970 when so many other state junior colleges and former opponents had eliminated their grid programs, Latuda said, forcing Trinidad State to play mostly Arizona JCs and resulting in escalated travel

expenses.

Beverly is one of the few TSJC sports stars to make it in the pros. The school athletic department's biggest star was probably NBA standout Spencer Heywood, who for several years in the early 1970s was among the league's top scorers.

At TSJC, Latuda also coached against Roger Staubach, 1963 Heisman Trophy winner as a junior, '64 Heisman runner-up and who later quarterbacked the Dallas Cowboys and became an NFL Hall of Famer. Staubach played at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell in 1961-62 before entering the U.S. Naval Academy.

"Charlie's first assignment as a defensive coach was to try and stop Roger," laughed longtime TSJC supporter-administrator and Las Animas County Democratic Party Chairman Pete DeLuca. "The defensive backs would come up to stop him and he'd lob a pass completion over their heads." Latuda related how tough an assignment that was in those days, because Roger the Dodger was one of the first great scrambling quarterbacks who could improvise off any play. "We just weren't used to seeing that type of quarterback. The next year he went to the Naval Academy."

In addition to Heywood and Frank Clark, DeLuca said Beverly has to rank among TSJC's top 10 athletes who ever played at the college.

Hunter Schoonover is a superhero

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

RATON - Twelve-year-old Hunter Schoonover brought the evening's only humorous speech to last Thursday night's annual Knights of Columbus Oratorical Contest at the Shuler Theater; with it, he walked away with 1st place in his division and the rolling laughter of audience and co-contestants alike.

Taking his title from this year's contest theme, "Welcome to My World," Schoonover shared his tra-



Raton's Hunter Schoonover won the audience and judges with his hilarious account of trying to become a superhero to win girls.

vails of trying to win girls by becoming a superhero.

Continued on page 7

Motions made in fatal stabbing case

Continued from page 1

were made by the defense and prosecution before Judge Leslie Gerbracht Thursday morning.

The next motions hearing was set for Wednesday, March 23, at 10:30 a.m. A trial is still set to begin on April 4 at 9 a.m.

According to police reports, Romero allegedly stabbed Williams, 24, of Trinidad, on Aug. 15, 2010, after both men were playing pool and after an argument between the two at the Empty Pocket Saloon on North Linden Street in Trinidad. After arguing outside the bar for about five minutes, Romero allegedly stabbed Phillips and then fled the scene.

Romero, 32, of Trinidad, was formally charged in October with first degree murder after he went into hiding and was arrested on Sept. 4 by the Las Animas County Sheriff's Office at his parents' home on East Main Street in Trinidad.

Las Animas County District Attorney Frank Ruybalid is not seeking the death

penalty. Romero is charged with first-degree murder, a Class 1 felony, which carries a sentence of life without parole.

The documents given to defense attorneys on Thursday concern the actual death of Phillips. Judge Gerbracht said the court would give Ruybalid and his office time to review the documents.

The defense made another motion before the court to ask the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for its findings in this case as soon as possible, and not 30 days prior to trial. The defense added, "Time is of the essence." Judge Gerbracht asked Ruybalid to call CBI and ask for the information, that the defense requested back in September. The CBI's overloaded workload and recent budget cuts could be part of the delay, the judge said.

Judge Gerbracht is scheduled to rule on today's motions on March 23.

Romero remains in custody at the Garcia Justice Center on bond in the amount of \$250,000.

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City of Trinidad
Wayfinding Sign Plan Workshops

The City of Trinidad would like to invite you to attend a series of workshops designed to help facilitate the development of a wayfinding signage plan for the City. Upon completion, the plan will serve as a framework for implementing an attractive and effective sign system that directs drivers and pedestrians to key destinations within Trinidad. The workshops will serve as a forum for discussing the establishment of achievable goals, strategic objectives and design principles and will include the compilation of a list of significant local destinations and the selection of a preferred design concept.

The workshops will be held in the City Council Chambers following the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings on February 8th, March 8th, April 12th and possibly May 10th if required. They will be facilitated by the City of Trinidad Planning Commission, the City of Trinidad Tourism Board and representatives from Plan Tools, LLC. Each workshop will begin at approximately 6:00 PM.

If you would like to attend one or more of the workshops, please contact Louis Fineberg at (719) 846-9843 (extension 130), or by email at louis.fineberg@trinidad.co.gov.

Thank you and we look forward to your participation

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IN MEMORIAM



MANUEL LUJAN

Manuel Lujan passed away unexpectedly on February 3, 2011 at Mt San Rafael Hospital. Arrangements are pending. Arrangements under direction of the Comi Funeral Home

MICHAEL "BUDDIE" AVALOS

Michael Buddie Avalos, former Trinidad resident, passed away on January 27, 2011 at the University Hospital in Aurora, Co. He was 45. Visitation will be Thursday, from 2 PM- 6 PM at the Comi Funeral Home Chapel. Rosary will be Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 7 PM at Holy Trinity Church. Funeral Mass will be Friday, February 4, 2011 at 10 AM at Holy Trinity Church. Interment will follow at the Trinidad Catholic Cemetery. Arrangements made under the direction of the Comi Funeral Home.

In Loving Memory of "LITTLE CID" TAPIA

On His 39th Birthday today
February 4, 2011

"Happy Birthday, Little Cid" Your not forgotten, Nephew, Cousin, Friend, Nor ever shall you be. As long as life and memory last we shall remember thee always.

Sadly missed and forever loved,
From your family,
Aunt Pat and Reuben,
Richard, Damon and Louise Bradley,
Shawn Bazanele, and Family

IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of **LITTLE CID**
Happy Birthday to you -
Happy Birthday on your 39th Birthday
February 4th

Love you,
Mom, Marcus, Jim, Andrea,
Michael, Anthony, and
Grandma Mary

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of **JIMMY DEGARBO**
Who passed away one year ago
February 4, 2010

Just one year ago, Dear one, Since you quietly slipped away To a place among the angels Where, we hope, we'll meet someday. But our hearts are lonely And we miss your loving face. We cannot forget you, dear one,

None can ever take your place. And while you sleep a peaceful sleep, Your memory we shall always keep.

Sadly missed by His wife, children, grandchildren, Orlando Baca, Brother Joe

Basic training for man's best friend

Spotlight on inter-species relationships

What do a French Poodle, a Japanese Akita, an American Bulldog, a French Bulldog, a Scottish Border Collie, and a Trinidad homegrown rescue pup have in common? These members of a four-legged League of Nations (and their owners) are undergoing basic training by our own local Dog Whisperer, Eric Nava.



Cynthia Berresse Ploski
Special to The Chronicle-News

Every Saturday at 11 a.m. they gather together in Roundup Park, just inside the gates of our County Fairgrounds, to learn to heel, sit, and stay. That's the "basic" part. When they get that down perfectly, within the next couple of weeks, they will start learning the fancy stuff. Like how to behave in traffic, cross streets, and become socialized with strangers, both human and canine. The owners will polish their own skills as well. They will become more aware of their pets' needs, how to control their dogs in many unusual situations, how to groom them, how to bark....

Oh no! I slipped over the edge. Well-trained owners do not need to bark. My empathetic husband, Ted, carries on intelligent conversations with our Noah's Ark founding, and the dog understands every word he's saying. It's that kind of connection and love between the species of man and dog that is the emotional basis of Eric's teaching. The structure of the teaching is gentle, firm, rewarded, repetition of tasks.

No drill sergeant kind of barking in these basic training exercises, just a love and heart connection between mankind and their best friends.

No food treats, either. Not a single cookie or chewy showed up in the hour and a half the dogs and their owners were practicing to sit and stay in a circular track around end-to-end picnic tables. The rewards were, "Good boy," quick play and settling down again.

And it works! Before my eyes, previously irascible pups became models of good behavior. But practice makes perfect, and the owners were charged with plenty of homework with their pets during the week between training sessions.

The training is ongoing, and people are encouraged to enroll their pets at any time. Eric maintains that he will soon be starting another class, a puppy training class, so new pup owners can start their pets off on the right foot. And the left foot, and right and left rear ones, too.

Not every dog is a well-behaved angel when he starts training. Sharon Pavletich's rambunctious American Bulldog, Jake, got off on the wrong paw in the first session, when he tried to sample Eric's arm. By the second session I saw him behaving docilely while Eric was demonstrating Jake's improved obedience and socialization to his owner. To get Jake accustomed to the distraction of other dogs, Eric practiced taking Jake past another dog being walked in the opposite direction. Both dogs, intent upon maintaining the "heel" position, took only passing notice of each other as they repeatedly trotted by.

Jim Schatzman's French Bulldog, "Sarge," plopped his powerful haunches down and remained sitting on the "stay" commands - until his short attention span made jumping and dancing more interesting. But the basis for this training is patient, loving repetition, which Jim employed with good results.

The grand lord of the dog circle was Marie Sciacca's Standard Poodle, 18-month-old Stuart. With his glossy, curly black coat and elegant demeanor, Stuart looked like he would be totally comfortable wowing the judges in a show ring.

Tony Diego brought two pets—his Akita, Yoloto, and his two-year-old daughter, Matzeli. Both the Akita and



Photos by Cynthia Berresse Ploski

Trainer Eric Nava encourages "Sarge," Jim Schatzman's French Bulldog, to remain sitting in the "Stay" position while Jim observes the technique.



Instructor Eric Nava demonstrates Jake's obedient cooperation to owner Sharon Pavletich.

the charming little princess exhibited what Dog Whisperer Eric is trying to accomplish - good manners and geniality based on mutual respect and love.

This is the basis for all good relationships, whether they may be between species, between members of society, or between nations of the world.

The Scoop

Feb. 5 and subsequent Saturdays - Dog Basic training, Roundup Park, 11 a.m. Call Eric Nava, (719) 680 8681.

Feb. 6 and subsequent Sundays - Trinidad Community Chorale rehearsals for spring concerts. New members invited, no auditions. United Methodist Church, 2 p.m.

Feb. 11 and subsequent Fridays - free TAAC art classes for school children, Trinidad Community Center Call (719) 846-1441 for information.

Feb. 19 - Write Now Workshop, "Visual Journaling" facilitated by Lori Holdread. 1-3 p.m., TSJC Berg Building, room 309. Call Chelo Ludden, (719) 846-5491, to register.



Tony Diego brought two family members: Akita "Yoloto," and his delightful daughter, Matzeli.



Yoloto, Omar and Laci socialize as part of their training.

And here in Roundup Park, Sharon, Jim, Marie and Tony, along with Trish Keck and "Belle," Lora Nava and "Omar," and Lynn Roberts and "Laci" (who happens to be something quite unusual, a Catahoula, or Louisiana Leopard Dog) are working on those good relationships at the very grass roots level.

It is gratifying to witness this interaction; because the way human beings relate to the animals that also call our world home is a good indicator of the way we relate to each other. And the better that goes - well, you know the rest.

Eric Nava is just as firm, loving, kind and talented as a groomer of pets. Nava can be reached at (719) 680-8681 to set up grooming appointments or to enroll in training classes. He calls his grooming business "Oh, My Dog!", but has yet to name the basic training classes.

I thought "Heart to Paw" might be a good name. If you have any ideas, let Eric know. Hmmm. "Heart to Heart?" Or "Love that Dog?"

Or maybe, "Sit, Stay, Love." I think I like that one.

...Your turn.

Hunter Schoonover is a superhero

Continued from page 1

His droll, deadpan delivery added to the speech's effectiveness.

A seventh grader at Raton Middle School, he credits the teacher of his Advanced English class, Kathy Honeyfield, with telling him about the contest - and forcing him to enter. He spreads the credit around when it comes to his being a good writer. "I feel that all of my teachers, as well as my parents, have helped me in one way or another."

His mother is Shelby Padilla of Raton, his father, Mike Schoonover of Folsom. Hunter has one sibling, brother Noah Schoonover, an 11-year-old Raton fifth grader.

Once he had his assignment, Hunter says he spent about seven hours altogether - writing, editing, and practicing the speech. "My dad, brother, and I were sitting around making up silly stories. I took parts of the stories and created my speech. I chose to be humorous because I like to make people laugh."

In fact, asked his goals in life, he says, "My goal is to entertain people, and be the best I can be, whether I win or not."

He doesn't get nervous speaking in front of 200 people, either. "I don't even think about being nervous," he says. "I like being on stage and the response from the audience encourages me to do better."

In addition to writing and speeches, his long list of hobbies includes computers, stop-motion animation, cartooning, reading, art, working out, and riding his RipStik. He maintains his own website, www.yaboosh.com, where he regularly posts his writings, photographs, animations, drawings, humor, and other features. He even offers online computer tech support.

For those who missed Thursday night's winning speech, here is Hunter Schoonover's "Welcome to My World," reprinted with permission:

"Everyone in my world is nice, kind, and caring. Yeah... right, and I'm Superman. No, not really - more like Batman. I don't have any super powers, just some really cool gadgets. I may not be as good-looking as Batman, but I do have a way cooler cape. I have one arch nemesis in my world: he calls himself Mighty Boy but I call him The Worm. His real name is Eugene or something like that - nobody really cares.

"The Worm is a super villain. I call him The Worm because he's wormed his way out of every trap I've set for him. He does

the worst things! I remember there was this one time - at band camp - he put peanut butter in my flute! To get back at him, I tried to fill his tuba with peanut butter. Do you have any idea how much peanut butter it takes to fill a tuba? I even threw in the jelly and that didn't even fill the darn thing! I ended up getting in trouble for it. Everyone knew it was me because I was the only one who had crunchy peanut butter at band camp. Not to mention... my banana jelly.

"Most people think that it's easy to be a superhero; you get all the girls and everyone likes you. Well, they are wrong! Being a superhero can be very challenging. It's not always easy to pick a cool name like Batman or Superman - sometimes this can be very stressing. People never seem to like the names I try to give myself, such as Duckman, Superduck, Headless Chicken, and some other names that I probably shouldn't mention. As of right now, I am trying the nickname Mondo. Getting the girls is not all that easy either. I thought that all the girls would want a superhero... unfortunately, no. How come Spiderman got a girl when he wears that stupid mask? My world can be pretty confusing most of the time, which brings me to another bad thing about being a superhero.

"Do you know what it's like to fight crime? Well... obviously not, because if you did, then you wouldn't be imagining yourself as a superhero right now. You see, there's normally only one superhero, which is you, and there's what seems like a kajillion bad dudes. Trying out new gadgets when you are trying to defeat a mastermind makes your life as a superhero even harder: I once invented a gadget called "The Net-O-Matic." My new invention was supposed to shoot nets that wrap around the victim. Unfortunately, there was a miscalculation on my part and things went horribly wrong. All that I will say is that it involved an angry lunch lady and a food fight in the cafeteria.

"So, I hope you have learned a valuable lesson - it's not as fun as you might think to be a superhero. But one day, after The Worm is defeated, I might get a girl. But there'll probably be a lot of time from now until then to work on my pickup lines. The girls aren't responding to "Hey I'm a superhero - and I fight crime." Or "Hey - I like rubber duckies." Well, I suppose I should go back to knitting my superhero outfit, because that's what superheroes do! Right?"

"In the end, whether you are big, or small, we are all superheroes. It's all about

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