

COMMUNITY

THE ARTS

Traditional Cinco de Mayo-style festivities brighten the Shuler Theater — benefit Raton MainStreet

By Tim Keller
Correspondant / The Chronicle-News

The "Mexico Vive" Pre-Cinco de Mayo Celebration concert was at the Shuler Theater

after Saturday night, April 26, 2014. The exciting event was produced by and benefitted Raton MainStreet.

The dancers, below right, are Ballet Folkorico Paso del Norte, from El Paso, Texas. The Mariachi band, below center, is

Mariachi Raices de America with members from El Paso all the way across to Silver City, N.M., where three members are music professors at Western New Mexico University. The featured singing act was Antonio Reyna, at left and below left, of Gallup, N.M.



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Two more wins for TSJC Robotics Team

By Greg Boyce
Special to The Chronicle-News

After conquering all the challenges at the NASA and Colorado Space Grant Consortium Robotics Challenge earlier this month at Great Sand Dunes National Park, the Trinidad State Robotics Team brought home two more awards from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The team gave a 15-minute presentation in front of academics and representatives from the space industry on April 19. The Colorado Undergraduate Space Research Symposium was sponsored by NASA and the Colorado Space Grant Consortium. This year's robot was designed to use the strengths of all of the previous Trinidad State robots while improving on their various design flaws. The students named it A.L.L.E.N. (Autonomous Logical Land-based Electronic Navigator). Using PowerPoint, they showed how they had tackled weaknesses and conquered challenges. They

took first place for that presentation. The team also took home the People's Choice Award for its display, which showed the design and build of A.L.L.E.N. They had already taken first place at the Great Sand Dunes National Park, in the robot category greater than 1.5 kg on April 5, when A.L.L.E.N. conquered all six Mars-type outdoor challenges.

"This year's team did a supreme job of overcoming difficulties to get to the Research Symposium and do an excellent presentation," said Cindy Clements, head of the robotics effort at Trinidad State. "In fact, one judge scored them a perfect score, something no other presentation received."

Trinidad State's Robotics Team is made up of Andres Leyva, Eric Perry, Hayden Alworth, Mary Carpenter and Camille Arnn. Leyva, Perry and Arnn will move on to four-year

schools next year. Freshman Carpenter plans to return, as well as programmer Alworth, a home-schooled 15-year-old from Ludlow. He was accepted into the robotics program after an interview with Faculty Advisor Clements last summer.

Trinidad State's award-winning robotics team, from left to right, are Andres Leyva, Eric Perry, Hayden Alworth, Mary Carpenter and Camille Arnn with their display that won the People's Choice Award at a recent symposium at the University of Colorado in Boulder.



Photo courtesy of Greg Boyce / TSJC

ROUGHNECK'S SALOON
214 E. MAIN ST. AGUILAR, CO / 719-941-4001

Saturday, May 3rd
Cinco De Mayo Celebration
The New Grupo Vive Band
\$ 5.00 Cover & Potluck
8:00 p.m.- 12:00 a.m.

LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEW REMODEL
AND EXPANDED DANCE FLOOR!!



LA CONFEDERACION
La Casa In Jansen

Monthly Breakfast
Saturday, May 3rd

The new hours are from 7-11 am.

All you can eat for \$8.00 for adults and children 12 and over

\$3.00 for children 4 to 11 years of age
Free for children 3 and under

Join us at Hoehne School
For an evening of Fine Arts and BBQ Brisket Dinner

Friday, May 9, 2014
at 6:00 p.m.

\$5 for adults
\$3 for students K-12

SPANISH PEAKS INN
TAVERN GRILL R.V. PARK GULNARE CO.

Wiskey Creek
Saturday, May 3rd
8 PM - 12 AM • \$5 Cover
Must be 21

Sunday, May 4th
Dance 4pm - 8pm

Sam Bachicha
Potluck
\$5 charge w/ food • \$10 w/o Food

SPANISH PEAKS INN
TAVERN GRILL R.V. PARK GULNARE CO.

Cinco De Mayo
Tuesday, May 6th

Serving 4pm - 8pm

Chips & Salsa, Chile Rellenos Smothered in Green Chili,
Refried Beans & Rice. \$8.75 per plate • \$4 Margaritas

EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL FOCUS

Observe Tax Freedom Day by Making Tax-smart Investments

You didn't see it on your calendar, but Tax Freedom Day fell on April 21 this year. So, why not mark the occasion by beginning to look for ways to become a "tax-smart" investor?

Tax Freedom Day, calculated annually by the Tax Foundation, is the day on which Americans have earned enough money to pay this year's federal, state and local taxes. Of course, Tax Freedom Day is something of a fiction, because most people pay their taxes throughout the year, via their paychecks. Furthermore, as famed Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., said: "Taxes are what we pay for civilized society." When you pay taxes, you help fund public education, the police, the fire department, food inspection, college scholarships and many other elements of society. Nonetheless, you may want to use the concept of Tax Freedom Day to find ways to reduce the taxes associated with your investments.

Here are some suggestions:

- Boost your 401(k) contributions. Your 401(k) contributions are typically made with pre-tax dollars, so the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. (Some employers allow a "Roth" option, under which you can make post-tax contributions.) In 2014, you can put in up to \$17,500 to a 401(k) or similar plan, such as a 403(b) or 457(b), and if you are 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$5,500.
- Fully fund your IRA. No matter which type of IRA you have — traditional or Roth — you will gain some valuable tax benefits. With a Roth IRA, your contributions are not deductible, but your earnings can grow tax free, provided you

don't start taking withdrawals until you are 59-1/2 and you've had your IRA for at least five years. If you own a traditional IRA, your earnings can grow tax-deferred, and your contributions may be deductible, depending on your income level. So, similar to a 401(k), the more you put in to your traditional IRA, the lower your taxable income may be. In 2014, you can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA, or \$6,500 if you are 50 or older.

- Contribute to a college savings plan. Many college savings plans offer some type of tax advantage. For example, if you contribute to a 529 plan, your earnings can grow tax free, provided all withdrawals are only used to help pay qualified higher education expenses. (529 plan distributions not used for qualified expenses may be subject to federal and state income tax and a 10% IRS penalty.) Furthermore, your 529 plan contributions may be deductible from your state taxes.

- Avoid excessive buying and selling. If you are constantly buying and selling investments, you may find it "taxing," because short-term gains (gains on assets owned for less than one year) will be taxed at your ordinary income tax rate, which could be as high as 39.6% (and you may also be subject to a 3.8% Medicare surtax). However, if you hold your investments longer than a year before selling them, you'll pay the more favorable long-term capital gains rate, which will likely be 15% or 20%, depending on your income, though you might still be assessed the Medicare surtax.

Tax Freedom Day is here, and then it's gone. But by taking the steps described above, you may be able to brighten your tax picture for years to come.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Honor Flight of Southern Colorado

Days of Glory

Dinner and A Movie

Saturday, June 7, 2014
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mt. Carmel Health & Wellness Center

Your choice of
Tenderloin Tips & Shrimp or
Chicken Marsala with Mushrooms & Wine Sauce

Tickets \$50.00 each
Purchase at The First National Bank
or call 719-680-0560

Enjoy a 1940s themed evening of dinner, complete with live music, spontaneous entertainment, D-Day invasion memorabilia, local WWII veterans and ... "Honor Flight - One Last Mission" on the silver screen.

1940s era dress is encouraged but not required.
Shop at Vintage Treasures at 108 N. Commercial Street in Trinidad to find just the right authentic 40s styles.

A fundraising event to send local WWII Veterans on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.
Sponsored by Las Animas County Veterans Memorial Committee.