

# LOCAL NEWS



Left: TSJC Auto Service Technology class with Instructor Jim Brunelli.



Right: TSJC Diesel Mechanics class with Instructor Robert Miller.

Photos courtesy of TSJC

## Car culture makes automotive and diesel repair training a good option at Trinidad State Junior College

Special to The Chronicle-News

Despite recent news of economic problems in the automotive manufacturing sector, Americans love their cars, and the future is bright for skilled automotive service technicians.

We live in a car culture. Our memories are permeated with images of family road trips, our own first car, riding in a limo to our prom or wedding, the rush to the hospital for the birth of our children. Cars are interwoven in our pop culture. We remember cars in songs, cars in movies.

Sometimes we are defined by our taste in cars: muscle cars, collector cars, sports cars, hybrids, SUVs, classic cars, vintage cars, luxury cars, economy cars.

We go to the drive-thru, the car wash, the drive-in theater, auto races, and car shows.

We are drivers and passengers, bumping along a country road in a 20 year old pick-up, car pooling with the neighborhood soccer moms, jockeying 18-wheelers over mountain passes, and listening to 'the evening drive' as we commute in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

As long as there are cars and drivers we will need automotive service technicians. For individuals who are interested in cars and trucks, have mechanical aptitude and manual dexterity, there will be a high demand, competitive wages and good job security for jobs in automotive repair services.

The Bureau of Labor

Statistics reports a shortage of about 60,000 automotive technicians nationwide today, and according to the U.S. Department of Labor, service careers in the automotive industry are expected to grow at around 16 percent through 2016. In addition, a recent industry trend study by Motor Age found that up to 37 percent of automotive technicians will retire within the next five years.

Another promising area of specialization for automotive service workers is in diesel engine repair and service. The Department of Labor reports that jobs for diesel engine technicians are expected to grow at a rate of approximately 11 percent through 2016.

Securing the right training is important as computers now control almost all automotive systems and automotive service technicians must be able to effectively identify, test, and repair these systems. Employment prospects are best for those who have received this training and completed a technical degree.

Trinidad State Junior College offers certificate and degree programs in both Auto Service Technology, and Diesel Mechanics, as well as small class sizes and affordable tuition. Fall semester classes start August 24th. To register, or for more information, call Lynette Bates, TSJC Career and Technical Education Counselor, at 846-5650.

## New food packages for WIC

Courtesy of Las Animas County Health Department  
Special to The Chronicle-News

After several years in the making WIC (Women, Infants and Children) is pleased to announce that the new food packages are here. This nutrition program is a federal program for low-income families located in every state; and is governed by the U.S. Dept of Agriculture. WIC's goal is to help keep pregnant and postpartum women and children under 5 healthy. One of the ways it does this is by offering good packages. The free, healthy food includes dairy products, juice, peanut butter,

beans, and infant formula. WIC checks will now offer fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables; whole grains-bread, brown rice, corn tortillas; and jars of baby food along with bananas for infants at six months of age. There is even tofu and soy beverage for those who want this food package. Breastfeeding mothers will see that cans of salmon and sardines have been added to their food package. Call the WIC program here at Las Animas County Health Dept. to make an appointment at 846-2213.



Melissa Mincic

## Mincic earns Ph.D. in psychology

Special to The Chronicle-News

Trinidad native Melissa Mincic has earned a Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Psychology from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. While a student at George Mason, Mincic studied social-emotional development throughout childhood, and particularly during the preschool years, under Dr. Susanne Denham. For her dissertation research, Mincic worked with teachers, families and children in the Rocky Mountain SER Head Start Program in Pueblo to complete her research project, entitled Dialogic Reading with Emotion-Laden Storybooks: Intervention Methods to Enhance Children's Emergent Literacy and Social-Emotional Skills. Mincic is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Early Childhood Special Education Leadership Program in the University of Colorado Denver's School of Education and Human Development, where she is conducting research on administrative

support for social-emotional intervention programs for preschool-aged children. She hopes to continue conducting research related to her dissertation and administrative support for intervention programs in order to prepare Colorado's preschoolers for academic and social-emotional success in kindergarten and beyond.

Melissa is the daughter of Charles and Carol Mincic and the granddaughter of Lee and Louise Mincic and of Alex and Frances Cirone, all of Trinidad. She graduated from Trinidad High School in 1998, from Trinidad State Junior College in 2000, and from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in 2002.

Mincic would like to thank the Rocky Mountain SER Head Start Program for their participation in her research, and she would also like to thank her family and friends for their love and support throughout her graduate school career and her life.



Photo courtesy of Steve Karspeck Hoehne FFA Advisor

Top left: Hoehne FFA members that attended the State FFA Convention. Top right: Tyrell Barry winning the State FFA Sheep Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award Bottom left: Rhonda Roberts at her new State FFA Officer station Bottom right: Tyrell Barry with his parents and Advisor receiving his State FFA Sheep Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award

# State FFA Convention 2009

BY MEGAN RUSCETTI

Hoehne FFA Reporter

Special to The Chronicle-News

Seventeen members of the Hoehne FFA chapter attended the State FFA Convention in Greeley, Colorado on June 2-5, 2009. The chapter and its members brought home many awards.

The chapter received the Silver Emblem award in the National Chapter Awards Program. The National Chapter Awards Program is designed to recognize chapters that have excelled in all areas of chapter

operation. The chapter was recognized as a Bronze sponsor of the Sharing with Pride Program through the Colorado FFA Foundation. The chapter also received a 120% membership award.

One of the highlights of the convention for the Hoehne FFA Chapter was when Rhonda Roberts was elected to a State FFA office. She was elected to the office of FFA Executive Committee Member for the Colorado FFA Association for the 2009 - 2010 year. This year she will be traveling all over the state of Colorado representing the

Colorado FFA Association.

Kyra Aubuchon was awarded the State FFA Degree. The State FFA Degree is awarded only to the top FFA members in the state. Rhonda Roberts was recognized as one of Colorado's FFA members that will be receiving the American FFA Degree in Indianapolis next October.

Many other awards were also given to the Hoehne FFA members at the State FFA Convention. Amanda Antista received a Bronze Award in Beef Production Entrepreneurship. She also received a Silver Award on her Ag IV notebook. Kimmi

Walter received a Bronze Award in Beef Production Entrepreneurship. She also received a Gold Award on her Vo-Ag II record book and a Bronze Award on the Chapter's Scrapbook. Kyra Aubuchon received a Bronze Award in Beef Production Entrepreneurship. She also received a Silver Award on her Vo-Ag III record book. Kyra earned a Gold Award on the Chapter's Secretary's book.

Tyrell Barry-Mincic received a Gold Award and was the State Winner in Sheep Production Entrepreneurship. He will represent Colorado in National com-

petition for this award area. Tyrell also received a Gold Award on his Vo-Ag IV record book. Tyrell was also a State officer candidate.

Megan Ruscetti received a Silver Award in Sheep Production Entrepreneurship. Rachel Valenchich received a Bronze Award for Specialty Animal Production Entrepreneurship. She also received a Silver Award on her Vo-Ag III notebook. Chantel Brunelli received a Silver Award in Swine Production Entrepreneurship. She also received a Gold Award on her Chapter's Treasurer's book. Candice Iuppa received a Silver Award in Swine Production Entrepreneurship. Mariah Garlutzo received a Gold Award on her Vo-Ag I notebook. Garrett Keller received Silver Award on his Vo-Ag II notebook. Danielle Cordova received a Gold Award on her Vo-Ag I record book.

Chantel Brunelli and Kimmi Walter were the voting delegates representing the Hoehne FFA at

the convention. Both served on state level committees. Jamie Montoya and Dallas Duran served on the FFA Courtesy Corps.

Chapter members attended sessions where business of the state association was transacted, awards were presented and degrees were conferred. Chapter members also attended several leadership training sessions. Chapter members also enjoyed a concert by Emerson Drive and attended a hypnotist show by Dr. Al Snyder.

Attending the State Convention from the Hoehne FFA was: Rhonda Roberts, Amanda Antista, Kyra Aubuchon, Patrick DuRan, Tyrell Barry-Mincic, Daniel Howell, Kimmi Walter, Chantel Brunelli, Megan Ruscetti, Garrett Keller, Dallas Duran John Shehorn, Holden Philpot, Chelsey Martin, Taylor Hiss, Jamie Montoya and Mariah Garlutzo. Also in attendance were Mr. Marvin Price Mrs. JoAnn Karspeck and Mr. Steve Karspeck, Hoehne FFA Advisor.