

The Roundup

Cal Farley's
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"You may give out, but never give up."

January/February 2008

Boys Ranch Community Supports Production of "The Wizard of Oz"

The Boys Ranch High School production of "The Wizard of Oz" was a huge success. The show featured 117 talented actors that included young children, teenagers and several adults.

After eight weeks of grueling rehearsal, the cast and crew were ready for opening night. Backstage before the curtain was raised, some actors were touching up their makeup while others were pacing nervously. Munchkins were everywhere. The adrenaline was definitely pumping.

"It was awesome to see how all students helped each other out," said Jackie Selman, BRHS theater instructor. "High school students helped put on makeup for the elementary age children; the middle school actors helped the high school kids; and the boys were grateful for the expertise of the girls."

As the curtain went up and the voices filled the auditorium, the audience was wrapped in the spell of the production. They were transported to a little farm in Kansas and then tossed to the magical land of Oz. During the show's many movements, the audience laughed, they cried, they cheered and then finally applauded the talents of each and every member of the production.

According to Mrs. Selman, audience members came up to her after the show and said that they forgot they were watching a school musical because of the production's professional quality.

For Justin, a seasoned high school actor who played Scarecrow, this was his first attempt at a musical. "I like singing to my showerhead, not to an audience," he said. "I was really nervous about it. I never thought musical theater and theater would be so different, but they are. It was fun, but it was harder and more challenging."

"This was an experience I will always treasure," said Hailey, a senior who portrayed Dorothy.

One of the biggest surprises, according to Mrs. Selman, was the actress who stepped in at the last minute to fill an important role.

"Natalie was so scared when she auditioned for Dorothy. She handled not being selected as Dorothy with such class. But then the part of Mrs. Gulch came open and Natalie took on that role. She did such a great job. She blossomed. Now she is a whole new person. She has self-confidence. She has courage. She has everything she needs to be successful."

The show also featured an incredible backstage crew.

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A Capitol Christmas



State Capitols throughout the country mark the beginning of the Christmas season with unique Capitol Christmas tree lighting traditions. On Saturday, December 1, twelve girls involved in Girlstown's Transitional Living Program traveled with several sponsors to the Texas state capitol in Austin to participate in the annual Texas Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. State Representative Joe Heflin, of Crosbyton, invited the girls to attend the special event.

The invitation was the result of a special relationship with a Girlstown staff member. "Joe is my brother," said Mrs. Miki Warren, a Girlstown house parent.

The busy day began at 9:30 a.m. as the girls participated in a breathtaking tour of the Capitol building. The tour guide was extremely knowledgeable and he shared a wealth of historical information with the girls. After a quick lunch, the girls attended the 2:00 p.m. lighting of the Texas House of Representatives Christmas tree in the House Chamber.

"Speaker Tom Craddick welcomed the Girlstown delegation, one of only two groups invited to sit in the gallery during the festivities," said Mrs. Warren. The audience was entertained by the Texas Tech Troubadours, as well as by members of Ballet Austin's Nutcracker and the Gospel Stars Christmas Medley.

Later in the evening, the girls attended the public outdoor Christmas Tree Lighting event at the south entrance to the State Capitol.

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Girlstown Honors December Graduates

President's Message
By Dan Adams



As with any family, graduation ceremonies at Cal Farley's are celebrated with grand fanfare. The entire Girlstown community attended the Senior Banquet to honor Felicia, Leticia and Tayla and commemorate their achievements. For the three December 2007 graduates, the ceremony was an early Christmas present.

It is with a great sense of pride that we recognize the significance of their accomplishments. It is safe to say that this opportunity for celebration could easily have been missed had the girls not joined our Girlstown family. This important milestone was made possible through the support of dedicated donors, family members, house parents, teachers, administrators, other caring staff members, and our board of directors.

It is important to note that the three graduates have staked out significant plans for their futures. All three are determined to attend college next year. Felicia wants to become a cosmetologist and hopes to have her own business in five years. Leticia plans to enter college in the fall to study mortuary science. In five years she hopes to own her own funeral home in the Dallas area. Tayla has set her sights on becoming a registered nurse. In five years her goal is to have a degree in her chosen field and to be employed as a nurse.

Following are several illuminating comments shared during the banquet:

"I echo the prayer that there is a challenge there for you to commit your lives in everything you do, to God, to yourself, and to other people. There are a lot of people here who think you are worth that, and they've done that for you. God bless you. Be a servant and have a servant's heart."

-- *Elbert Wutbrich, Whiteface CISD Superintendent*

"The night of the gift exchange I got a card and surprisingly it said, 'There were many doubts you had that you would not be able to see this day. You made it!' It's true. When I came here, I never thought I'd have as much help as I did. I did not think I was going to make it. And I did. I had so much help, from staff, the girls, people who don't even work here. Amazing! I can't thank you enough. I'm speechless. Now that's a first."

-- *Leticia, graduating senior*

"Wow is this really happening? I've always dreamed about graduating. Thank you Ms. Lynne. I don't know very many people who would drop what they're doing to come talk to me at school when I'm having a bad day."

-- *Tayla, graduating senior*

"Even though I don't show it, I am grateful for what I have been given and what I have been taught."

-- *Felicia, graduating senior*

"You need to think about what these girls said. These girls have been right where you're at. Whether you got here today or whether you've been here a couple of years, they know what it's like. They made it. You can do it too. We're all here to help you whether you know it or not. Today, for the first time, I think they completely realize it. Take advantage of your time here at Girlstown."

-- *Robert Marshall, Girlstown's Campus Administrator*

"God, you have not promised flowers strewn all the way through (life), but you have promised strength for the day, rest from the labor, and a reward at the end. God, as we send them out to walk down that tree line, as we celebrate their accomplishments tonight and look toward their future, we just place them in your hands and ask you to walk with them every step of the way."

-- *Mike McClung, Girlstown Chaplain*



Members of the 2007 Cross Country Team celebrate their second place finish at state.

Runners Earn Silver Medal at State

The Boys Ranch High School cross country team has a long-standing tradition of success. In many ways, that tradition of excellence motivates each new member of the team to focus on continuing the high level of achievement. This year is no exception.

The team placed first at several meets throughout the season and ended as district and regional champions.

"This team, like all the others, had to find itself and take on its own personality," Coach Brown said. "These guys really love each other and care about each other more than themselves. When you can put others first, you are a winner and you have finally gotten the big picture."

At the Regional meet, Anthony, a senior, placed first. It was his first win of the season, and he was the third Boys Ranch runner in three years to win gold at the meet. "I've been working hard all year, and now it's finally paying off," he said.

The regional win gave the team a chance to compete at state once again and the tradition of winning it all was on the line. With nine state championships at its back, this year's team was prepared to make it 10.

"The state course was crowded with our people!" Coach Brown said. "We were impressed with the number of fans that made the long trip."

But the elusive 10th state championship will have to wait until next year. This year's team ran a strong race and earned a well-deserved silver medal. Clay, Donald and Anthony placed 11th, 12th and 13th respectively, earning them all-state recognition. Alec, Sean, Carl and Swasey also contributed to the team's runner-up finish.

"I felt good," said Clay, a freshman runner. "It was a tough challenge, because there were runners who had been there before. As a new runner at state, you don't know what's going to happen. You've got to run your race and be focused on what's going on instead of worrying about what your teammates are doing."

Next year's team will almost assuredly continue the winning tradition, especially if the returning runners have anything to say about it.

"Now that I got a piece of the pie this year, I'll know what it's like next year," Clay said. "I will strive to go to state again. I want to do better next year. First place at state is my goal."

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Cal Farley's Children Enjoy Shopping With Volunteers

More than sixty boys and girls served by Cal Farley's participated in the 38th annual Lions Club Coat and Shoe shopping event at Sears. Since 1969, Lions Club members from across the Texas Panhandle have supported the Coat and Shoe shopping trip with the stated purpose of



providing Cal Farley's children with a winter coat and a new pair of dress shoes for chapel. Fortunately, the funds provided by the Lions were sufficient for each shopper to purchase more than just a coat and a pair of shoes.

With shopping lists in hand, the children were paired with volunteer shoppers who guided them through the store to find the needed items. Bob Langhorne, District 2-T1 Governor, 2007-2008, and a member of the Dalhart Lions, remembered a previous shopping experience. "I had a young lady last year that wound me around her finger," he chuckled. "I couldn't make any suggestions that were worth a darn. She knew exactly what she wanted."

Although Cal Farley's provides our residents with clothing and other essentials, the boys and girls who participate in this event truly enjoy the added attention and new clothing provided by the Lions Club volunteers. In a thank you note to one of the volunteer shoppers, young Vidal wrote: "Thank you for helping me find new school clothes. They helped me make new school friends. All my stuff is s-o-o-o nice. I really, really love my hoodie (hooded sweatshirt)!"

According to Randy Neill, Director of Campus Life 1, "This was the best Lions Club shopping trip ever. I know that after the shopping ended, our staff was tired, as were the kids, but everyone did such a super job. And Sears did an excellent job."



Although the children benefit from the additional clothing in their wardrobes, the adult volunteers are not without reward.

"The Lions motto is 'We Serve.' We serve those that are less fortunate than we are," Mr. Langhorne said. "We probably get more out of this than the kids."

"I think it went really well," said Judge James Anderson, the chairman of the coat and shoe fund. "We had more volunteers than ever and the kids had a good time."

Sample thank you letters to volunteer shoppers:

*Thank you for taking your time to shop with me.
Truly,
Shance*

*Thank you very much. I had a great time. I hope y'all had a great time too.
And thank you for walking with me.
Caleb*

*I learned to tie my tie and I also like the shirt.
Thank you for shopping with me.
Matthew*

*Thank you for taking me to Sears and buying me those clothes. The shirts are awesome. The pants fit.
Thank you!!!
Matt*

A Capitol Christmas

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The public ceremony included traditional caroling and a downtown stroll along Congress Avenue where galleries, stores, and restaurants offered live music, entertainment and free food.

"Outside, you could see everything," said Juanita, 17. "You could see the whole building and the statue at the top. My favorite part was driving around and seeing everything. I live in a town that's really small, and compared to my hometown, Austin's really pretty."

The father of one of the girls, who lives in Austin, was excited to serve as host during the Saturday evening meal. He reserved tables at a popular eating establishment overlooking Lake Travis. "He picked up the tab for the meal and presented each girl with a special t-shirt," Mrs. Warren said.

The next day the girls wanted to go shopping in Austin. "Since we did not know Austin very well, we surprised them with a quick shopping trip in Fredericksburg," Mrs. Warren said. The Girlstown sponsors, who wore shirts with Cal Farley's prominently displayed, were stopped by a friendly woman who asked if they were from Girlstown. "She said that she supports Cal Farley's, but that she had never met anyone from Girlstown. We introduced her to all of the girls and she enjoyed talking to them very much," Mrs. Warren said.

According to Celia, 17, "The best part about the trip to Austin is that we got to spend time together as a family."

"I was overjoyed at how well-mannered our girls were during the trip," Mrs. Warren said. "They truly were young ladies. They were complemented everywhere we went."

REMEMBER LOVED ONES

Contributions in memory of a loved one or to honor a birthday, wedding, anniversary or a friend in need of encouragement are appreciated. In times of joy or sadness, others are comforted by gifts that help deserving youngsters. For your convenience, we welcome contributions by cash; American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa credit cards; electronic funds transfer by calling 1-800-687-3722; or through www.calfarley.org.

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Boys Ranch and Girlstown Celebrate Christmas Blessings



The Christmas season is one of celebration and joy, and our children at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Cal Farley's Girlstown, U.S.A. enjoyed the annual Christmas celebrations hosted by the chapel programs. Singers, actors and musicians at each campus entertained the children and adults with special holiday-themed performances.

On Sunday, December 16, the Girlstown Chapel performed an original Christmas musical titled "Christmas in Paradise." The 60-minute musical, featuring 11 cast members, was set in Paradise, Mississippi during the Civil War and Civil Rights eras. Chaplain Mike McClung and Music Chaplain Sandy Pape wrote the play.

"You just can't find Christmas plays with all girls," Mrs. Pape said. "We spent about two weeks writing it. We wanted to show that we all have issues in our lives that make us different; but when we have Jesus in our heart, we can love each other anyway and we don't have to let those differences keep us apart."

During the weeks leading up to the performance, challenges continued to pop up unexpectedly. "The more things that went wrong, the harder the kids worked to make it happen," Mrs. Pape said. "Backstage on opening night, the mood was, 'we're just going to make this work.'"

"I thought it would be easy," Serenah said. "But before we went on stage, we were all a wreck and afraid."

According to Savannah, the experience was fun, but nerve racking. "I didn't think I'd get that nervous. Probably the most fun part was



when we messed up our lines. Everyone said it was really, really funny, and they loved our ad libs, and that it was the best Christmas play Girlstown has had."

The production was a blessing to the audience, but Mrs. Pape and Chaplain McClung were blessed, as well.

"Our favorite thing was to

watch the kids find themselves," Mrs. Pape said. "To see them take the script, that at first seemed overwhelming, and to be able to say, 'I can do this,' then to find within themselves the fortitude and the strength to learn the lines, and to get in character, and to get out there on stage and do it."

On the same day, the Boys Ranch Chapel performed its own Christmas Cantata titled "The Promise of Christmas." The program was conceived by Chapel staff members Ray Martinez and Jennifer Hipp. Two narrators, John and Justin, read the Christmas story from the scriptures. As the story unfolded, a live, on-stage nativity provided a visual account of the story. In addition, 10 ornaments representing the Christmas story from prophecy to the nativity were revealed to the audience by youth actors and the meaning of each was explained.

Music included congregational singing and special performances by Issac, Ernie, Hailey, Daniel and Chaplain Martinez. Chaplain Wilhelm offered a special word from the Gospel of Luke that told the story of Anna, an elderly, godly widow and prophetess who awaited the coming Messiah and met Jesus soon after His birth. The evening concluded with an extraordinary candle lighting ceremony.



The congregation sang Silent Night as the chapel was bathed in candlelight.

"This night was more than a Christmas program," said Chaplain Martinez. "It represented what Christmas is truly about - 'The Promise of Christmas!'"

Wizard of Oz enchants audiences

(Continued from page 1)

"Stage managers Paige and James kept the show moving along," Mrs. Selman said. "And the technical staff enjoyed using a new lighting system which had to be programmed and ready just days before opening night."

"It was a great experience learning to run a state-of-the-art lighting system," Johnathon said.

When asked why she would attempt such a complex production,

Mrs. Selman replied: "Because I have no brain." But her desire to give kids of all ages at Boys Ranch an opportunity to be a star took courage and heart.

"What a challenge it was to put together something of this magnitude when it was said it could not be done! We did it and we did it right. It was incredible," Mrs. Selman said. "And for our kids to see the successful outcome of this show is such a blessing. It lets every single one of them know how extremely talented they are and realize that if they dig deep enough, they will find the talent they have and they can share it with everyone else."

