Grupo Atrevido's Adam Garcia Jr. (front) rocks out a local show. Also pictured is bassist Eric Garcia (left). For more photos of the rest of the band, visit www.brownfieldonline.com.

Rising Tejano stars pay Brownfield visit

By JOSIE MUSICO
Staff Writer

Grupo Atrevido's drummer and vocalist says he can sum up his musical inspiration in "three little words."

Rick Torres, one-fifth of the Lubbock-based Tejano band who spent Saturday in Brownfield for a show at Bottletops night club, describes himself as a longtime fan of fellow star David Lee Garza. And while growing up with other musical influences such as Grupo Vida, Albert Zamora and the Hometown Boys - not to mention musical families - Grupo Atrevido's five musicians picked up microphones and instruments as soon as they could. They were pretty much always attracted to their conjunto style of Tejano music.

"It's got a drive - it's intense," Torres told the *News* in a backstage interview.

After a few replacements in recent years, the rest of Grupo Atrevido currently consists of Adam Garcia Jr., lead vocalist and accordion player; Eric Garcia on bass; Jody Serna, banjo and vocalist and Guillermo Licon on percussion.

They formed in 2000, but can trace their musical roots much further. By rocking the stage, most can even say they're keeping it all in the family.

"We've always been around music growing up," original member Adam Garcia Jr. said. "Our dads were musicians, so they pretty much inspired us."

Licon, the most recent addition to the group since he joined about a year ago, comes from a similarly musical family. Originally a drummer, he switched to percussion - or "congas," as his instrument is known in their genre - while performing with a previous Tejano band, Grupo los Reyes.

"I just picked it up," he said. "I learned as I went."

The quintet of musicians combines their skills on the stage to pump up their audience with both cover songs and their original work. Some of their best-known songs are "Chica Sexy," inspired by a female dancer, and "Cumbia Atrevido," the lyrics of which can best sum up their mission and purpose.

"That's our theme song," Adam Garcia Jr. said. "It's saying, 'Everybody come out and dance with us.'"

And they mean what they say. Their crowd's dancing and cheering feeds them back the positive energy that makes an even more upbeat show, and even better memories for the concert-goers on both sides of the stage.

"It's a great feeling just watching everybody enjoy the music - it makes you play better," vocalist Serna said.

My Little Playhouse's after-school program recently made 14 care packages to send to local soldiers. Staff and students included (top row, left to right) facility manager Erin Garcia, Jonathan Ledesma, Adam Soto, Isaac Garcia, Jeremy Galvan, Noah Garcia, teacher Shelbe Salazar, (middle row) Aspen Rigdon, Ian Durham, (front row) Sabre Carouth, Kadden Galvan, Nayely Nunez, Luke Scifres and Olivia Wilson. Not pictured are Azariah Moroles, Rhianna Miranda, Damian Ussery, Dominique Ussery, Lavantae Richardson, Nicholas Lira, Cemmiyah Richardson and Andrew Lira. Some of the care packages were also donated by Brownfield Middle School's chapter of the National Honor Society.

News Briefs

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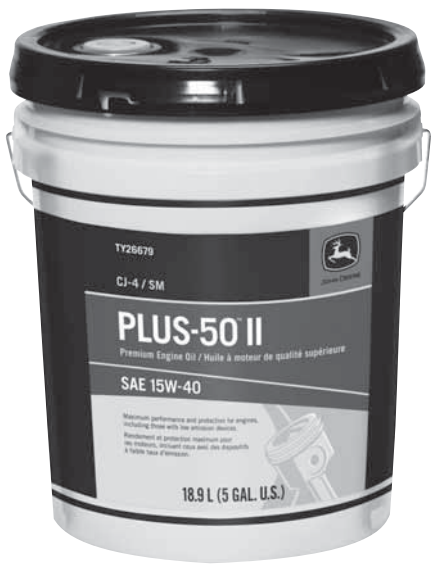

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