

Triad's Barrino one of 32 in Idol finals

BY AMY WOLFFORD
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Once again, the Triad will be represented on one of the season's top reality shows.

Fantasia Barrino — a High Point native now living in Greensboro — made it through several agonizing cuts and is among the 32 finalists on Fox's "American Idol 3."

She left Wednesday for Hollywood and is scheduled to perform on the next show at 8 p.m. Tuesday on WGHP (Channel 8).

Her grandmother, Addie Col-

lins of High Point, said she knew Barrino had a future singing the first time she appeared before a church crowd at age 5.

"She's having a good time and experiencing things she's never experienced," said Collins, pastor at Mercy Outreach Church of Deliverance in Archdale. "I think she'll go all the way."

More than 70,000 people auditioned to be on the popular talent show.

One-hundred-seventeen went to Hollywood for the final cut before the public voting begins.

Two other Piedmont resi-

dents — Steven Potts of Haw River and Frances Nicole Day of Burlington — made it to Hollywood, but were not among the 32 finalists.

Potts, who focuses on contemporary Christian music, and his family were not allowed to comment, but friends said he's a great performer who will still go far.

"I've known that since the first time I saw him sing about four years ago," said Angela Partin, who has done graphic design work for Potts. "I've never seen anybody sing the way he did."



Sandra Lewis knows Potts through Integrity Community Church, where he serves as worship leader.

"I don't think this is the end for Steven. I prayed to God he

would give him all kinds of opportunities and he has. In no way is there a sense of loss or it's over," said Lewis, the pastor's secretary.

Neither Day nor her family could be located for comment Wednesday.

More than a dozen people with Triad ties have been featured on reality shows such as "Survivor," "Temptation Island," "Big Brother" and "Fear Factor."

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