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THURSDAY
JUNE 11, 2015

Vol. 139, No. 116

THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS
TRINIDAD
COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

■ TRINIDAD LAKE

All activities are rain or shine, and are free to the public. All vehicles are required to have a park pass. Info: 719-846-6951.

❖ **SATURDAY (8 p.m.)** Join expert birder Tim Chrisler at the amphitheater for a presentation "The Birds of Trinidad Lake" that will include photos, sounds, facts and much more about our area feathered friends.

❖ **SUNDAY (8 a.m.)** Meet at the Visitor Center to join Tim Chrisler for a hike about the Lake to experience birding and learn the basics of this fun hobby.

■ JUNE 11

COLLEGE FOR KIDS EVERY THURSDAY THRU JULY 9 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) FREE Summer Workshops at TSJC. Limited to 50 students each week (ages 7-11). Register the previous Friday beginning at 8 a.m. Call: 719-846-5475.

FAMILY FUN DAYS THURSDAY-SUNDAY: FREE admission-3rd annual event that will be held at the County Fairgrounds on North Linden St. Info: Tom Davis, 719-680-4677.

AUTISM SUPPORT THURSDAY (6 p.m.) Autism Awareness & Support Group for parents with challenged children in any area will meet at 315 E. Strong Ave. Refreshments will be served. Info: Linda Thompson, 719-680-2638.

SPFD AUXILIARY THURSDAY (6 p.m.) Group meets at the Spanish Peaks Inn, CR 43.7, Gulnare. Info: Marilyn Carlson, 719-680-0688.

CATHOLIC CEMETARY THURSDAY (6:30 p.m.) Association meeting will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 205 S. Commercial St. The public is invited to attend. Information: 719-846-4934.

■ JUNE 12-14

SPBC FIRE DISTRICT FRIDAY (10 a.m.) The Spanish Peaks/Bon Carbo Fire Protection District Board of Directors will meet in Century Financial Group Building, 109 W. Main St. Info: Dana Phillips, 719-846-2080.

FARMERS' MARKET SATURDAY (8 a.m.-Noon) 15th Annual event every Saturday in Cimino Park runs thru mid-October. Information: 719-680-0184.

MEDITATION GROUP SUNDAY (11 a.m.) Free Meditation Group will meet at the Lava Yoga Studio, 828 Arizona. Info: Noah Simpson, 719-680-0109.

GUADALUPE SOCIETY SUNDAY: There will be no meeting after 11 a.m. Mass and Rosary at Holy Trinity Church. Info: Rose Mestas, 719-846-3647.

■ PUBLIC SERVICE

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM THRU AUGUST 14 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) Monday thru Friday all kids (18 and under) can eat a free lunch at the Trinidad High School Cafeteria, 816 West St. Adults can join in for \$3.25. Info: Carol Villa, 719-845-2051 or 719-846-3314.

PUBLIC MEETINGS JUNE 15 & JULY 27 (6 p.m.) City of Trinidad Comprehensive Plan Update & Community Workshops will be held at the Sullivan Center Pioneer Room at TSJC. Refreshments will be provided. Info: Trinidad.mccooldevelopment.com and plantrinidad.mindmixer.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 18-20: Sign up now for event at the Trinidad Church of Christ, 1000 Nevada Ave. All ages are welcome. Info: 719-846-2919.

SUPPER CLUB JUNE 18 (6 p.m.) June's dinner will be held at Buenos on Commercial St. Info: Yvonne Marques, 719-846-3518. Anyone is welcome to join.

SANTA FE TRAIL DAYS JUNE 19-20: Annual 2-day festival will be held at Central Park on Stonewall Ave. Enter Trinidad's soon-to-be World Famous Chili Cook Off Contest. Info: Linda Barron 719-846-8223 or Chamber of Commerce, 719-846-9285. Enter the Pet Parade with Costume Contest (June 20 at 4:30 p.m.). All breeds and all sizes can win trophies and prizes. Info: Kathleen Olguin, 719-680-4629 or Pam Cordova, 719-680-1043.

KIDS' FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE Events are FREE for middle and high school kids. Parents are asked to sign kids in and out of each event. Info: Berni Arrazola, 719-680-8639.

❖ **June 26 (4:00 p.m.)** Field Day at Triggers game at Central Park
❖ **July 10 (7-10 p.m.)** Game Night at Brix
❖ **July 17 (3-6:00 p.m.)** Fun with Water at Cimino Park

The Fine Print feature is NOT an advertisement — it is a courtesy notice used to inform the public of upcoming free public meetings and events. Placement is not guaranteed and is always subject to space available. For contributions please call 719-846-3311 or e-mail cathy@trinidadchroniclenews.com.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of: 06/10/2015. Model Ditch --- Appropriation date: 01/22/1908.

Trinidad Reservoir Accounting:
Release 715.63 AF
Inflow 737.66 AF -- 371.90 CFS
Evaporation 14.03 AF
Content 29,114 AF
Elevation 6,195.20
Precipitation 0

Downstream River Call / JMR Conservation Storage: 12/31/1948.



CORPORATE RETREAT

Pioneer to dump 640K acres in SE Colorado

By Eric John Monson
News Editor
The Chronicle-News

After having laid-off 100 employees last month in Las Animas County, Pioneer Natural Resources Co. is furthering their retreat from Southeast Colorado by putting a block of about 640,000 net acres of mineral rights in this region on the market.

Analysts say Pioneer is monetizing assets to fund further growth in the Permian Basin in West Texas. The energy investment magazine Oil and Gas Investor reported Tuesday that, "The [sale of Colorado assets] follows Pioneer's sale of its Eagle Ford Shale midstream business to Enterprise Products Partners LP on June 1 for \$2.15 billion. The proceeds are planned to be allocated to Pioneer's operations in the Permian Basin."

Pioneer's acreage in Southeast Colorado is located in Bent, Cheyenne, Crowley, Elbert, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Prowers and Washington counties. The company acquired the position in 2013 for about \$75 per acre. Shortly after, the land was going for north of



The Chronicle-News / File Photo

\$300 per acre.

Gabriele Sorbara, Vice President of E&P/energy research at Topeka Capital Markets told Oil and Gas Investor that the package could go for anywhere between \$100-200 an acre, equating to a \$64

million to \$128 million sale. Yet, given the amount of private equity money currently floating around the industry, Sorbara said "There could be a team that wants to really get this asset and could come in and pay a premium for it because

it is a good starter company type package," he said. In this case, the acreage could go for more than \$200 per acre.

Again, analysts expect the pro-

Continued on Page 2 ...



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Sadie Renfro stands outside the bedroom of her girlhood, back when she was Sadie Brown, on the family ranch outside Folsom, New Mexico.

A LIFE WELL LIVED

Sadie Renfro's rearview mirror sees back 92 years

A Dust Bowl childhood taught her the pleasures of ranch life and the necessity of long drives. As she turns 92, Sadie Renfro still puts the big miles on her pickup.

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

The dirt roads went on and on. Sadie Brown didn't care for them. During school years, she had to lodge with town families far from her own on the remote Brown Ranch in Long Canyon, 30 miles northeast of Folsom, NM. "Winters were hell," she says, "and summers at home were heaven."

She spent her first four school years over the ridgeline and across the border in Branson, CO, 20 miles from home. Then she spent six at Folsom School. There was a year with an aunt and uncle at Otto, near Clayton where the Dust Bowl had recently changed everything. Just before her 17th birthday, she graduated with the

class of 1940 at Des Moines School, 38 miles of dirt road from home.

To understand why anyone would keep coming back, you'd have to spend a little time at the ranch. That's where Sadie spends her time. Today (June 11), she turns 92.

Sadie's grandfather, Texas cowboy John Thomas Brown, moved to Long Canyon and built the rock ranch house in the mid-1880s. Sadie grew up in the rock house; today she lives a quarter mile up the road and her daughter Margaret lives in the rock house. Nephew Henry Brown lives a quarter mile the other direction. From any of the three houses, Long Canyon curves elegantly, Red Angus cattle dotting the distant hillsides. For 132 years, this valley has sustained generations of the Brown family.

Sadie left for business school in Albuquerque. "In 1941 I was working at Jordan's Clothing Store when I met my husband. He'd ride by on his motorcycle and whistle at me. I'd whistle back." Sadie married Kenneth Renfro in February 1942. They lived in the city and raised two daughters, Gloria and Margaret, but they all enjoyed extended stays at the ranch.

"We'd come up here for our va-

Continued on Page 3 ...

ACHIEVEMENT

County Board honors area high school track star, local state forestry official

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

It's a rare event when a small school athlete wins a state championship, but it's even more unique when that same athlete wins titles in two events and sets a state record for schools in her classification. That's the story for Zariah Mason, the Kim Mustangs freshman track star who won two Class 1A state sprint championships this



Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Freshman Zariah Mason holds the Certificate of Achievement she received from the County Board of Commissioners Tuesday for her accomplishments with the Kim Mustangs girl's track team. Left to right are, brother Zion, mom Kimberly and Zariah Mason, and Kim track coach Justin Winford.

Continued on Page 2 ...

WEATHER WATCH

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Increasing clouds, with a high near 82. West southwest wind 5

to 10 mph. **Night:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy, with a low around 53. Light and variable wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: A 60 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy, with a high near 63. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. **Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with

a low around 51. East northeast wind 5 mph.

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. Southwest wind around 5 mph. **Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. West southwest wind 5 mph.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 76. West southwest wind 5 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

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Sadie Renfro looks back over 92 years

... Continued from Page 1



Photo courtesy of Chesna Smith

Sadie Renfro still works her ranch brandings at age 92. This photo shows Sadie back when she was only 87.

of her own, even in Albuquerque when she was a bank officer.

Her home is an oasis of green, beautifully landscaped. "I'm pretty independent," she allows. "I don't really have any idle time. I'm not a telephone person." She doesn't do email, either. She does her own grocery shopping and cooking. She's a passionate gardener, tending her vegetable garden and fruit trees. Last year she canned a bumper crop of apricots. She likes taking care of herself. When Margaret tried once to take an armload of firewood from her, Sadie rebelled, saying, "What are you trying to do, kill me? I need my exercise."

She watches some TV but spends more time reading books, especially westerns, Christian books, John Grisham, Danielle Steele, biographies and other non-fiction. "And I love to walk," she says. Each evening she sets off down the road, first crossing the lawn she's no longer allowed to mow. "When Margaret and Danny moved to the rock house three years ago, Danny disabled my mower so only he can mow." He couldn't abide a great great grandmother mowing her own lawn, but Sadie did it herself until she was 89.

There don't appear to be any other concessions to age. She's loved to dance since she "learned all the steps from my Uncle Charlie at the country dances in the basement of the Luna Theater in Clayton when I was a schoolgirl." When Margaret says Sadie is still "cuttin' the rug" at country dances, Sadie scoffs. But she's still dancing. "It's probably one of my most enjoyable things to do," she says.

In 1996, Sadie and daughter Gloria O'Bryant became partners in R.O.P.E.S. Western & Casual Wear in Clayton. Sadie worked as a sales clerk for a spell. She's still the bookkeeper. Every ten days, she drives her 15-year-old 3/4-ton four-wheel-drive Chevy pickup to Clayton to do the store's bookkeeping. She takes the long way so there's only the first eight

cations," Sadie recalls. "I'd help my mother and Kenneth helped with ranch chores. It may have been work, but for us it was vacation, getting out in the country." When the girls were old enough, they'd board the train at Albuquerque to spend summers on the ranch. "Our grandparents would come pick us up at the depot in Raton," Margaret says. "There was no TV out here. We did a lot of reading. I learned to sew and cook and ride horses and drive, all out here."

Sadie built a career in banking, becoming bank vice-president before retiring in 1980 to move with Kenneth back home to the Brown Ranch. They set their house beyond the rock house where they could see the whole valley. Together, they built up the cattle operation, winning awards for their conservation and grazing management practices. Since Kenneth's passing in 1999, Sadie has continued with the help of her nephew Henry Brown and, more recently, daughter and son-in-law Margaret and Danny O'Quinn. "I like to say that we moved home so she could take care of us," Margaret says.

"I had the most wonderful childhood out here," Sadie says from her lush lawn. "We raised red shorthorns. Mom raised chickens and the garden. She canned, and we traded butter and eggs for groceries. Dad would hire hands to help with the hay crop. Mom and I cooked for the crews. We raised hay with just rain and flooding, opening the dams, and we used the team and wagon."

This is the first summer in years that the land has been



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Sadie Brown Renfro enjoys her home garden even at age 92, on the Brown Ranch a quarter mile from her girlhood home.

miles of dirt road. She reaches her mailbox at six miles; mail's delivered three times a week. It's 83 miles to Clayton. She could take the short cut, just 63 miles, but that's dirt road all the way and there's no cell phone service anywhere.

Sometimes she spends a night in Clayton. When she arrives back home in Long Canyon, she takes her evening walk. Deer, elk, and wild turkeys are common companions. Bears and rattlesnakes are more common than she'd like. A bobcat recently killed seven of eight kittens in a litter so now she and Margaret keep a new litter sheltered at night. Keeping cats helps keep the rattlesnake population down, but other wild-

life keeps the cat population down.

It's hard to imagine anything keeping Sadie down. She comes from a long line of nonagenarians. Margaret and Danny are in the rock house, helping with ranch



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Margaret O'Quinn and her 92-year-old mother Sadie Brown Renfro enjoy the shade under the giant elms outside the 1882 ranch house where Margaret now lives and where Sadie grew up.

as green as Sadie's lawn. "Since 2000, it's been heck here, it's been so dry." She feeds her 50 cow-calf pairs daily. "I go out with Henry once a week to check them all. He has his cows and I have mine, but we buy together and ship together. I order my own hay, do all my own business management. I've never missed a branding or shipping. I've always been proud of my cattle. They're my life."

It turns out she's never been without at least a few cows



Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Sadie Brown Renfro, at 92, lives alone near her extended family and the 1882 ranch house where she grew up on the Brown Ranch in Long Canyon, down the Dry Cimarron valley from Folsom, New Mexico.



Photo courtesy of Chesna Smith

Two years ago, Sadie Renfro celebrated her 90th birthday in Folsom with all the generations of her family. Many have returned this week to celebrate Sadie's 92nd. Sadie is seated in the chair, her two daughters are immediately behind her.

operations. Gloria and her husband Jim have always run cattle near Clayton. Asked about the future, Margaret says, "Both daughters will make sure this ranch keeps going. It's been in the family too long not to."

They'll have help, too. Sadie has six grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and one great great granddaughter. Like most 21st century families, they're scattered far and wide, but many are still engaged in various elements of the ranching life.

Two years ago, they all came together, five generations, to celebrate Sadie's 90th birthday. The big party was held at Freedom Outpost, formerly the Folsom Inn and now Margaret and Danny's community center in Folsom. Friends came from near and far. Eloy Gonzales's band came from Clayton to provide the music. The dancing went deep into the night and, more often than not, there was Sadie, at her own birthday party, in the middle of the dance floor, cuttin' the rug.

"Last month," Margaret says, "we had a dance with Sam Bachicha and Mom danced at least half the night away." Sadie's 92nd birthday party today will be a quieter affair, with family members gathering at home to help her celebrate. Her great great granddaughter will be there, and five great grandchildren. After dinner, it's easy to imagine Sadie slipping out for her quiet evening walk. Or maybe instead, for the occasion, she'll dance. Or what the heck, it's her birthday: Maybe she'll do both.

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