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50 CENTS
TRINIDAD, COLORADO

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THE FINE PRINT

Pastor's Text Study

Pastor's Text Study will meet at 9 a.m. at Zion's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall today. All pastors welcome to come and study the texts for Sunday and for support of each other.

Kiwanis luncheon

The next Kiwanis luncheon will begin at 12 p.m. today at Tequila's. The guest speaker will be Kimberly Begano, Girl Scouts of Colorado.

Trinidad- Las Animas County Economic Development

Trinidad- Las Animas County Economic Development Board of Directors meeting has been changed, it will be from 12-2 p.m. today in the TLAC ED conference room, 134 W. Main Street, STE. 12.

Pierian Club

Pierian Club will meet at 12:30 p.m. today at Sabrosa.

Colorado Rho Sorority

Colorado Rho Master Sorority will meet at 1 p.m. today at Chef Lui's.

City Council

Trinidad City Council will meet for their work session at 1:30 p.m. today at the City Hall Council Chambers, third floor, City Hall. There will be a Special Meeting of the City Council following the work session.

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WEATHER WATCH

Today: Sunny, with a high near 84. Breezy, with a west wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph.



Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. Breezy, with a west southwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.



Tomorrow Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire River Call as of 5/11/09. Picketwire priority #95 11/04/1883.

Trinidad Lake accounting:
Release, 434.25 acre ft.;
Inflow, 352.75 acre ft.;
Evaporation, 13.50 acre ft.; Content, 2,7492 acre ft.; Elevation, 6,190.31; Precipitation, 0.

Downstream River Call, Highland 4/1/1884.

(Provided by Division of Water Resources)



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Photos by Noah Simpson and Mike Garrett

Presenting the TSJC Graduating Class of 2009! Friday, May 8, marked the seventy-seventh annual commencement exercises at Trinidad State Junior College. Pride was prevalent and feelings of accomplishment were obvious during the well-attended ceremony.

TSJC 2009 graduating class hears lots of words of wisdom, encouragement

By MICHAEL GARRETT
The Chronicle-News

Amid much pomp and circumstance, appropriate musical fanfare and lots of words of encouragement, wisdom and knowledge, Trinidad State Junior College went all out last Friday to ensure its graduating students would graduate with an unforgettable celebration.

From retiring and outgoing President Ruth Ann Woods, to interim President Felix Lopez, to commencement address speaker Robert Leonetti, Ph.D., to TSJC Educational Foundation Executive Director Toni DeAngelis to alumni representatives of the classes of 1939, '49, '59, '69, '79, '89 and '99, it was a gala, unforgettable performance for a community college whose theme under Woods has always been, "a great place to start (your career education) or to start over."

On hand for the occasion were several hundred distinguished guests and TSJC alumni, including Nancy McCallin, president of Colorado Community College System and Barbara McDonnell, system executive vice president and legal council, Sandy

Veltri, vice president of student and academic affairs and Lopez, who doubles as TSJC executive vice president and chief financial officer, and perhaps Trinidad's most prominent citizen, Judge and former Mayor Harry Sayre.

"You have truly been a class of achievers — resolute in your goals and really driven by determination," said Woods to the graduating students. "We are all so very proud that you chose Trinidad State in building your future, so very proud of your accomplishments, but most importantly be proud of yourselves today, and I encourage you to confront each day with a continued passion for accomplishment, energy and enthusiasm.

"Opportunities aren't going to find you and they may not look exactly as you think they should. Your continued success will be determined by your ability to make your own opportunities. You are successful today because you identified an educational and training opportunity, imagined your potential and followed through until you realized it. Many of you are transferring to universities. Many of you

already have a job.

"Our faculty are truly dedicated to their disciplines. In addition, their one-on-one personal touch makes our college your family. Thank you faculty for your dedication to excellence, your love of education, and your sincerity in everything that you do."

Leonetti dazzled and captivated his audience with his many classroom and student recollections, reminiscing and "psychoanalyzing" his days as a TSJC all-purpose professor of psychology.

"As many of you might know, teaching at this great small college for over three decades was my passion," said Sayre. "I love Trinidad State. And I thoroughly relished the thousands of students I encountered over those years. Each of them was an intriguing challenge and inspiration. So this "honor to be with you" stuff is not just a cliché, it's genuine.

"Last year, the commencement speaker was Gov. Bill Ritter. This year you young folks have a fat, old, ugly retired psych professor. May God bless you."

Leonetti introduced a long list of his many TSJC friends who had

accompanied him to the commencement.

"In your lifetime each of you in this graduating class will encounter thousands of people no matter your choice of vocation, and each of those individuals will be touched by you in some way," he said. "I have had the good fortune to utilize my life's experiences as a teacher and clinician in attempting to help others, to encourage them to think about what is necessary to improve their quality of life, and to think about what we can do for the betterment of humankind. President Ruth Ann Woods, in a recent letter to me, wrote, "Success in life has nothing to do with what we gain or accomplish for ourselves. It's what we do for others." She is a most sagacious lady, isn't she?"

"Much of what I learned about life was modeled by my mom and dad, Joe and Lola. They were genuine, caring people. My dad was a miner most of his life, digging coal with a pick and shovel. He worked long and hard hours in a highly dangerous environment, yet we never seemed to have enough

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Photos by Tim Keller

Sets of blank greeting cards featuring student art work sold briskly.

Des Moines School's spring play is an extravaganza

By TIM KELLER
The Chronicle-News

Des Moines School's spring play combined an original script with a variety of dances to produce an extravaganza called "Spring Flowers for Skinny Horse." Presented Tuesday night in the school gym, the stands were packed as friends and relatives came to see all the students from kindergarten through sixth grade take part in the play.

This year's new art program, "Art

Plays Its Part!", integrated arts lessons and activities into each teacher's regular curriculum. In the case of physical education, students learned a variety of choreographed dances, including the Cotton-Eyed Joe and traditional square dances, to present in the spring production. Each of the regular classes also contributed to the event.

The play's title came from a poem, "Skinny Horse", by student Jenny M. Collins which was adapted and expanded into a script by art program

director Christina Boyce. Many other staff and community members made contributions — from costuming to piano accompaniment, from prop and set design to videography — but the stars were unquestionably the young students who made the show their own.

The night opened with the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by junior Annie Vincent. All the elementary school students combined voices to

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Pioneer Natural Resources loses \$15 million first quarter but some plusses surface

Special to The Chronicle-News

DALLAS—Pioneer Natural Resources Company (NYSE:PXD) announced last week that the company lost \$15 million or .13 cents per diluted share for the first quarter ended March 31, 2009.

On the good news side, Pioneer increased first quarter average daily oil and gas sales 15 percent from the prior year quarter to 127,005 barrels oil equivalent per day (BOEOPD)

■ Amended the Company's unsecured senior credit facility to further strengthen financial flexibility

■ Added oil and gas derivatives for 2010 and 2011 with price upside

■ Continued to successfully implement cost reduction initiatives

■ Well drilling costs were down 25 percent from the third quarter 2008 peak

■ Lease operating expenses down 10 percent from fourth quarter 2008.

The net effect of unusual items (on an after-tax basis) in the first quarter reduced Pioneer's net loss by \$2 million, or \$.02 per diluted share. These after-tax unusual items were comprised of:

■ unrealized mark-to-market derivative gains of \$47 million (\$.41 per diluted share), Alaska PPT credits of \$5 million (\$.04 per diluted share), incremental depletion expense of \$20 million due to low gas prices (\$.17 per

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