

THE FINE PRINT

FRIDAY & THE WEEKEND

Recycle Event

For Las Animas County residents, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Waste Connections, 2600 Freedom Road. Information: ReGroup, 719-845-8218.

Hoehne Schools

District R-3 Kindergarten Screenings are 8:15 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday. Students must be 5 by March 1, 2012. Bring immunization records and birth certificate. Information and appointments: Amy Navarette, 719-846-4457.

Free Men's Breakfast

Bring your sons and meet for fellowship and great food, 8 a.m. Saturday, First Christian Church, 402 E. First St., basement fellowship hall. Information: Tom Berry, 719-846-0879 or 719-846-3843.

Republican Party

The Las Animas County meeting for 6 p.m. Saturday at Trinidad State Junior College HAS BEEN CANCELLED. Information: Tim Peters, 719-680-2101.

Block Party

Support rally for City Manager Ed Gil de Rubio, 1 p.m. Sunday, Quality Inn, 3125 Toupal Drive. The community is invited to join in the free food and music event.

Local Support Groups

*Al-Anon support for families. Information: Sharone Galbraith, 719-846-9999.

*Friday: Narc-Anon meets 7:30-8:30 p.m., United Presbyterian Church, 801 San Pedro. Information: 719-846-0745 or 719-846-9999.

*Sunday: AA meets 10 a.m., Mount San Rafael Hospital second floor boardroom. Information: 719-941-9997.

MONDAY

Education Scholarship

LAST DAY - Available \$1,000 Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship to area female education major. Information: <scholarship .dkg@gmail.com.> Deadline is March 26.

Community Chorale

Rehearsals are 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Broom and State St. No auditions required. New members welcome. Information: 719-845-0855.

PUBLIC SERVICE

RMSER Head Start

Enroll your child now for the Rocky Mountain Service Employment Redevelopment's fall program for developmentally challenged children ages 3-4. For resource and assistance information and applications call: Trinidad, 719-846-4391 or Walsenburg, 719-738-1038.

Call for Artists

TALAS 11th Annual judged all media art show open to Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico artists over age 18, Corazon Gallery, 149 E. Main St. Go to HYPERLINK "mailto:keckarko@hotmail.com" keckarko@hotmail.com or stop by the gallery by April 4, for prospectus and entry forms

Attention Veterans

Area vets who want their name inscribed on the Veterans Memorial at the Welcome Center for Memorial Day commemorative services need to contact Bob Ling at 719-859-0743 by April 30.

Spring Craft Fair

Third Annual Eckhart Elementary event with food, fun and jumpy house, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 31 at the school, 1021 Pierce. Information: 719-846-6995.

Easter Dinner

Segundo Senior Center annual feast fundraiser is noon - 2 p.m. Saturday, March 31, off Highway 12 behind Ringo's Grocery in Segundo. Information: 719-846-9675.

"Vintage Vegas"

Annual Peacock Ball, 6 p.m. March 31, Mitchell Museum, 150 E. Main St. Tickets and information: 719-859-1802. All proceeds benefit Noah's Ark Animal Shelter.

9Health Fair

Annual event includes free screenings, 7:30 a.m.- noon April 14, Mount San Rafael Hospital, 410 Benedicta Ave. Information: Lynda Pachelli, 719-846-9213.

Travel to Branson

"Branson Show Extravaganza," Sayre Senior Center fundraiser and exciting travel opportunity, June 24-30. Information and reservations: Anna Risley, 719-846-3336.

Veteran Fundraiser

RIVER CALL

Purgatoire river call as of 03/22/12
Chillili ditch priority #7 --
Appropriation date: 04/30/1862

Trinidad Reservoir accounting
Release 0.10 AF
Inflow 41.43 AF
Evaporation 5.33 AF
Content 16,596 AF
Elevation 6,178.58
Precipitation 0
Downstream river call
Highland Canal -- Appropriation
date: 05/31/1866



Owner seeking opera house investors

Plan calls for investment team to make repairs to stabilize building

By Mike Albanese
The Chronicle-News

The owner of the troubled Trinidad Opera House is trying to assemble an investment team to assume ownership of the building.

Steve Larson is looking to gather a group of investors to form a limited liability company that could raise funds to make necessary repairs to ensure the building's stability and safety.

While Larson's plans are good

news to Public Works Director Mike Valentine, he said the city needs to resolve issues with the Opera House quickly.

"(The city) doesn't want to see the building come down, but something has to be done," Valentine said.

Valentine said Larson is expected to report back to the city by next week about his progress. He said Larson would be a part of any investment team he forms to take over the building.

Chief Building Inspector Chris Kelley's notice is still posted on the downtown building saying it is unsafe, but Valentine said Larson has assured the city he is talking to a company about placing a covered walkway on Main Street.

Right now the city has barricades blocking one lane of Main Street in front of the Opera House and an alleyway along the side of the building to protect pedestrians and drivers because of the

threat of falling bricks.

Valentine said Larson, through his own insurance carrier, is looking to bring a public adjuster in to survey the building in an effort to see how much it would cost to bring the building up to code.

"He's doing what he can to get money out of his insurance to get the building up to code," Valentine said.

The public works director said repairing the building and getting

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THE COWBOY WAY



Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Darien Brown does a headcount as he and his crew prepare to brand calves on the Brown Ranch, in the Dry Cimarron Valley east of Branson and Folsom.

Branding time returns, the old-fashioned way

By Tim Keller

Special to The Chronicle-News

DRY CIMARRON VALLEY, N.M. — Idling down the deeply rutted, weather-washed red ranch drive to the 140-year-old corrals at Brown Ranch headquarters early Saturday morning, a lone sentry stands watch, a 6-year-old atop his first horse. "Are you Kyle?" the visitor asks. "No, I'm Kade," the boy replies. "But I like John Wayne better: Call me John Wayne." OK, Pilgrim.

Past a long line of large pick-up trucks — many attached to stock-and-horse-trailers, and many of those containing saddled horses — the bumpy drive curves around the old barns built by Irishman Mike Devoy when he established this ranch right after the Civil War. From the Bannon place a mile west up the Dry Cimarron Valley, coming in from Branson, towering plumes of dust were visible rising over the Brown corrals, a sign that the sorting of cattle had already begun.

There they are, in the labyrinthine series of pens and chutes built by Devoy, several hundred cattle, Herefords crossed with Charolais and Angus, punctuated by a dozen men whose ages range

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Tim Keller/Special to The Chronicle-News

Lupe Machuca of Folsom brands a calf while son Jason holds it tight with the help of neighbor Connor Doherty. Brian Brown, right, simultaneously vaccinates the calf.

Trinidad Triggers near sell-out for first game

By Mike Albanese
The Chronicle-News

Trinidad has officially been swept up in baseball fever, with the Trinidad Triggers reporting they are on the verge of selling out their home opener and inaugural game.

Triggers manager Justin Lowery said he expects around 900 to 1,000 people at Central Park when the Triggers take on the Santa Fe Fuego May 8 at 7 p.m.

"It's going to be a big night in Trinidad," Lowery said.

The manager said the grandstands at Central Park seat anywhere from 800 to 900 fans and there will be standing room seats that can accommodate another 100 or so guests.

Lowery said ever since the club arrived in Trinidad last year there has been "huge interest" in the club, and he hopes fans will continue to move through the gates.

"It's a great feeling," Lowery said, "I hope it's a sign of things to come."

Lowery was in Houston scout-

ing prospects for the Pecos League Spring League season, and said fans that make their way to Central Park will see a talented and aggressive team.

Andrew Dunn, commissioner of the Pecos League, said online tickets sales are through the roof. He said one group has already purchased 100 tickets while another group bought 30 tickets.

While excited about the team's ticket sales, Dunn is taking a cautious approach moving forward,

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LOWERY

WEATHER WATCH

becoming calm.
Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 39. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 75. West wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.



Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 38. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. Southwest winds 10 and 15 mph.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Weather Sponsored by:

Inn & Suites
Wellness
Hotel
719-845-0102

Branding

Continued from page 1

from 18 to 80. The set-up renders ropes and cutting horses unnecessary: with a good deal of arm waving, the men sort and guide the cattle through various chutes and gates until all of this spring's calves — almost 200 of them — are separated and penned together by an enclosed run that will be used for branding.

Throughout southeastern Colorado and north-eastern New Mexico, spring is branding season, with each ranch taking its turn as neighbors help neighbors. Generations combine their strengths in coordinated teamwork. Two strong young bucks hold a thrashing calf tight to the ground while their parents' generation applies a scorching brand and the grand-parents' generation uses a vaccine gun to inoculate the young animal, which is also castrated and dehorned while they're at it. The whole process takes just a minute or two. Then the calf walks away like it doesn't know what hit it.

Ranch patriarch Darien Brown oversees the operation. He's the fourth generation of Brown to run this ranch, after his great-grandfather Jay T. Brown bought it at auction after Devoy's death. That was 96 years ago. Darien is assisted by his son Brian, who lives in Branson with wife Laura and sons Cole, Jace, Kade, and Kyle, the sixth generation, all of whom are here to pitch in at the branding — even "John Wayne," whose primary responsibility appears to be, in addition to sentry, learning how to steer his horse, Peanut.

It's men's work, mostly, although while Brent Cruz of Capulin holds down struggling calves, his wife Canda moves deftly between branding groups, jotting down all the required records for the state brand inspector. At the ranch house a mile away, lunch for 24 is being prepared by Darien's wife, Dianne, who doubles as the science teacher at Primero.

The old-timers here are Carlos Cornay, dressed in khaki head to toe, and Bill Burg, dressed entirely in blue denim but for wide bright-red suspenders; they've run their respective ranches at the foot of Johnson Mesa almost since time immemorial. Today they take turns giving shots to the calves with the vaccine gun.



Tim Keller/
Special to
The Chronicle-News

Above, Kade "Call me John Wayne" Brown rides off into the sunset — well, away from the sunrise, anyway — on his trusty steed, Peanut. Kade is the son of Laura and Brian Brown of Branson, grandson of Dianne and Darien Brown of the Dry Cimarron Valley's historic Brown Ranch.

Editor's note: The Brown Ranch was featured in *New Mexico Magazine* last May (web search "Brown Ranch - Home on the Range") and will be a featured stop on this year's annual Dry Cimarron Tour May 12, sponsored by the Folsom Museum (575-278-2122, www.folsom-museum.org)



At left, Brent Cruz and Darien Brown, from left, guide calves into the branding chute Saturday morning, while Brian Brown of Branson sorts animals in the background. The Brown Ranch still uses the corals, pens, and barns built by Mike Devoy shortly after the Civil War.

Standing aside with Cornay during an idle moment, Burg watches cowboys taking advantage of the two cases of water bottles stacked in the shade. "Can you believe," Burg

says to Cornay, "they got people payin' money for a plastic bottle full of water?" They both shake their heads.

As he prepares for his duties as castrator-in-chief,

Rob Pickard of Des Moines asks Darien, "Are you saving the nuts?" Darien replies, "I wasn't going to, but I will if you want 'em. I can't get my wife to cook 'em." They decide against

it. The branding begins with two groups working simultaneously within one long fenced run. With the arrival of Frank Silva from Trinidad, there are enough

hands to run a third group, speeding the work considerably. The calves are brought in waves of two dozen, then switched out of the yard as each wave is completed.

Young Connor Doherty and Jared Bannon, both of ranches near Folsom, work all morning as a hold-down team. Jason Machuca of Folsom does the same, along with brothers Cole Lewis and Jace Brown of Branson. Lupe Machuca teams with Darien Brown all morning, wielding the hot branding irons heated to red over propane-fueled flames. Brian Brown does a little of everything, applying brands, giving shots, moving calves, and helping his dad Darien oversee the whole orchestrated event.

By the time lunch is ready, the day's work is half done. The rutted red ranch road fills with horses and pick-up trucks as the remaining calves wonder in their pen whether they've gotten lucky. The small dusty army makes its coordinated sweep to Dianne Brown's big lunch over at the ranch house under the big trees.

A horse named Peanut would carry his rider to lunch if the rider, Kade Brown, could only figure out how to propel him there. Instead, young John Wayne accepts a ride in a pick-up truck.

EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL FOCUS

Maxed Out on Your IRA and 401(K)? What's the Next Step?

If you are contributing the maximum amount to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan each year, that's good. And if you're also "maxing out" on your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) annually, that's even better. But what then? If you're already fully funding your 401(k) and IRA, can you put away even more for retirement? Should you?

The answer to this last question is almost certainly "yes" — because you could spend a long time in retirement. How long? Consider these statistics from the Society of Actuaries:

- A man who's reached age 65 in good health has a 50% chance of living 20 more years and a 25% chance of living to age 92.
- A 65-year-old woman has a 50% chance of living to age 88 and a 25% chance of living to 94.
- There's a 50% chance that at least one member of a 65-year-old couple will live to 92 — and there's a 25% chance at least one of them will reach age 97.

Because you have a reasonably good chance of spending two, or even three, decades in retirement, you clearly need to accumulate substantial financial resources before you retire. So, if you consistently reach the contribution limits on your 401(k) and IRA, you're making a smart move, as both these vehicles offer the potential for tax-deferred earnings and a variety of investment choices. But if you can still afford to put away more money, or if your income level prevents you from contributing to a Roth IRA, you may want to look at these possibilities:

- Life Insurance Retirement Plan — A Life Insurance Retirement Plan (LIRP) is essentially a life insurance policy that can potentially help you generate tax-advantaged income during your retirement years. Until you begin taking withdrawals, the cash value of your policy has the potential to grow tax-deferred. Then, when you retire, you can take tax-free payouts from your principal. (After the entire principal is paid, payouts are treated as loans against the contract.) And your beneficiaries will receive the balance of the death benefit income tax free, minus any loans or loan interest.
- Annuities — You might find that a fixed annuity can be an appropriate way to supplement your retirement income. Like a LIRP, a fixed annuity's earnings have the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis. Also, fixed annuities generally offer some type of guaranteed rate of return over the life of the annuity contract. And perhaps most importantly, you can structure your annuity to provide you with an income stream you can't outlive. (Keep in mind, though, that annuities are generally more appropriate for investors who are at least 45 years old.)

While you can certainly get some key benefits from a LIRP and a fixed annuity, you need to fully understand all aspects of these investment vehicles and make sure they are suitable for your situation and individual needs. Consequently, before investing, consult with a financial professional.

But don't wait too long. By preparing for your retirement well ahead of time, you can boost your chances of enjoying the type of "golden years" lifestyle that you've envisioned.

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Trinidad Ladies Golf Club 2012 Kick-off Breakfast

Tuesday April 3rd **9am** **Purgatoire on Elm Restaurant 516 E. Elm Street**

Please call Deborah 680-9048 or Sharan 868-2042 with your R.S.V.P. by March 31st
Tuesday mornings are our play days.
Newcomers are welcome and encouraged to join!



My Hero

This account is about a man among men; a man of integrity. This is a snapshot of a soldier who served his country honorably in World War II and about a father who is still serving his family unconditionally today. A beloved husband, who continues to love and cherish his wife of over 63 years of marriage, he is my father; he is my hero.

I was raised with ethical family values, received enduring coaching lessons, and felt the instruction of discipline that improved my personal life journey. My preferred all time fatherly advice; "Being defeated is often only a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent."

His worldview is still expanding at age 90. His contributions to our family are acknowledged and very much appreciated. I am blessed to have such a great father who continues to inspire and motivate me every day with his courage, and zest of life and family. My dad believes nothing in life is so hard that you can't make it easier by the way you take it. My father raised 13 children, 9 boys and 4 girls all of which he loves dearly. Each offspring branches out, but has strong roots that strengthen the foundation of our family. His headship advice; "Your talent is God's gift to you. How you use it is your gift to God."

His family legacy is still growing today with 39 grandchildren 52 great grandchildren, and 2 great, great, grand children. His world experiences helped shape my life and his profound explanation of those events will forever be engraved in my heart. His perspectives are right on target when it comes to the real life challenges of the world today. Thank you dad, for the many heart-felt stories you've shared with me. In every event I was amazed at the experiences you had to endure and how they illustrated your core values and the outcome always defined your extraordinary character. These are the chapters of your life; that encourages me to carry on your memoirs with my children and their children's children.

Mike J Armijo a remarkable human being my father, my hero...

Happy Birthday Dad
Love, Richard L Armijo