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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 (BOEPD)

■ 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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Photos by Mike Garrett and Noah Simpson

A Welcome by Honor Graduate Shannon Ortiz, to all who attended the Trinidad State Junior College Graduation.



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

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 money. Mom supplemented the meager family wages by cleaning motel rooms. They nurtured five of us with minimal income. Dad had a 6th grade education. Mom went to the 9th grade. She was so proud of that. We didn't have much in material things, but we had a lot of loving caring and nurturing. They not only took care of us, they took care of their friends too.
 "And from the very get-go, they preached to me and my siblings the importance of education. They didn't want any of us to work in a coal mine, or to survive by doing menial labor. Fortunately dad was an avid and proficient reader, and would often sit me on his lap as a child and read Zane Grey novels to me. So early on I became a lover of books. To them I owe everything. And so, armed with my reading skills, and my genuine curiosity about life, I began my journey into the world of academia.
 "Way back in 1961, as a student at TSJC, I learned history from Morrie Taylor, a charismatic educator who further inspired my love for teaching and learning. Subsequently, as I moved on in my studies and continued to attempt to quench my natural curiosities about becoming a person, I studied theories of the human psyche. I

personally believe that psychology is the most important discipline of all."
 Leonetti used lots of facetious humor to get his points across.
 "Teaching for me was truly joyous. In lieu of the fact that I met a lot of 'ugly' male students over the years. Some who were extremely ugly, like UUGLY, I looked forward to coming to work every day. Mark Twain once wrote: "Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now I have to withdraw that statement." I have to disagree with Mr. Twain, who wasn't so pretty himself. Personally, I have never encountered an unsightly female student. Just the guys.
 Leonetti then humorously described how he related his teaching philosophies and psychoanalyzing to his students.
 "In introducing my students to psychology, I began my lecture with the theory of Psychoanalysis. Sigmund Freud's theory suggests that the basic nature of humans is to be aggressive, chaotic, and by temper, naturally destructive and sexually driven.
 "In the Id, so says Dr. Freud, we have Thanatos, libido, and, by golly, eros. The superego, that part of our consciousness that is shaped by the mores of

society, essentially has to superimpose on the dangerous and volatile powers of the Id to allow one to interact in a socially acceptable manner. Interestingly, the undergirding suggestion of his philosophy is that, by nature, we are born basically "bad."
 "I would tell my students about Thanatos and libido, and definitively, I would assure them that Dr. Freud was genuinely obsessed with the idea of lust as a motivation for behavior: Did that get their full attention!
 "I had another attention getter for my kids. In explaining the normal distribution curve (Bell Curve), we could calculate a number of abnormal in any sample of a population. So, in a class of 60, there were unquestionably a statistically specific number of schizophrenics (at least 3 or 4), and at least 3 or 4 perverts. Several weeks into the semester, after carefully scrutinizing their dossiers, and in a most confidential manner, of course, I would disclose the culprits. In class!
 "The Behaviorists, Ivan Pavlov and B.F. Skinner, suggest that we are born in a neutral state, a tabula rasa, and as we meander through life, myriad environmental forces will condition and shape our personality. According to the behaviorists, we are environ-

mentally conditioned to become a good person or a bad person.
 "Then came the humanists, led by Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow. Humanists believe that we are born with the innate capacity to be "good."
 "These theories effect the chicken or the egg question. Just what is our basic nature? I am an eclectic; I believe each of their ideas have some merit, but in the long run, I lean more toward the thinking of the humanists. I truly believe the basic nature of most people is to be good, and helpful, and caring. All we have to do is help them escape the ravages of anxiety, and fear of threat."
 Leonetti then described the basic human needs of safety, freedom from chaos, strength of a protector, need for love and belongingness, self-esteem needs: dignity, self-respect, recognition and self-actualization defined as ethical awareness, freedom, trust and honesty.
 He related lots of other personal anecdotes and "wonderments" too numerous to mention here but summarized by why are so many people 'bad' in our society when the choice to be 'good' is a whole lot easier and much more rewarding from a psychoanalysis point of view. But he recalled a story that Woods related to him of

her personal philosophies:
 "If we can all get our act together, we can inspire others to learn more, to care more, to think more critically, to become more. Possibly, just possibly, it can become contagious. Absorb the concept of self-learning and wisdom. Then, and only then, can you consider yourself a real person and a leader.
 "And you, graduates, are the vanguard of our next generation. We need you so badly. Never stop caring, never stop learning, never stop becoming. It's a lifetime proposition.
 "Always remember, too, that knowledge alone is not wisdom! Wisdom is the APPLICATION of knowledge and facts. Wisdom is realizing you know nothing. Wisdom is saying, "My mind is open. Whenever I am, I'm just beginning. There is more to be realized by a hundred-fold than what I know." That is the beginning of wisdom. That is the beginning of living fully. KNOWLEDGE IS STRENGTH, EMBRACE IT; KNOWLEDGE CAN BE WISDOM. GO FOR IT! MAKE A DIFFERENCE!"
 DeAngelis introduced TSJC's distinguished alumni from previous "9" decades in 10-year increments: Robert Fabec Sr., class of 1939, Paul Cordova, class of 1949, David Michael Hadad, class of 1959, Mark

Hellenschmidt, class of 1959, David Groubert, class of 1979, Carrie DiOrio Hughes, class of 1989 and Jim Gagliardi, class of 1999.
 DeAngelis related how each of these alumni had distinguished themselves in their chosen careers and many accomplishments and how well they had represented and reflected the best interests of TSJC and used their education there as a springboard to their career successes.
 Perhaps Gagliardi best summed up what the 2009 commencement exercises were all about: "It may take time to find a path that you're passionate about. But one is out there. It might not be the path you're presently taking. But don't be discouraged from giving something your all, only to realize you need to change course midway and give your all to something completely new.
 "Remember, in 10, 20, even 70 years like Mr. Fabec, one of you may represent the class of 2009 as you celebrate your life's journey — so wherever you go, go with all your heart."
 Class of 2009 highest honors graduate Shannon Ortiz then echoed much of what Gagliardi had said in saying, "don't ever be discouraged, and wherever you go, go with all of your heart."