

Ranching, horses part of Zadina's life

■ Editor's note: This is one in a series of feature stories about people who have returned with their families to their hometown of Imperial, after living and working in other communities.

By CAROLYN LEE
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It was so quiet. A deer ran across the lawn. A bird chirped. Then, the hunting dogs howled at a barn cat.

Penny and Brandon Zadina love the country. They have lived near her parents, Susan and Dave Spicer, since 2003, and have an Enders address.

Penny is a 1996 Chase County High School graduate. Brandon graduated from Paxton High School in 1999.

Penny, who has owned Bella Salon since 2003, worked in Sidney, then for Antoine Duchez in Denver. Brandon attended LCCC in Cheyenne, Wyo. and graduated with a degree in equine science.

Brandon now sells supplements for cattle through Loomix, and runs, feeds and grazes cattle on the family farm.

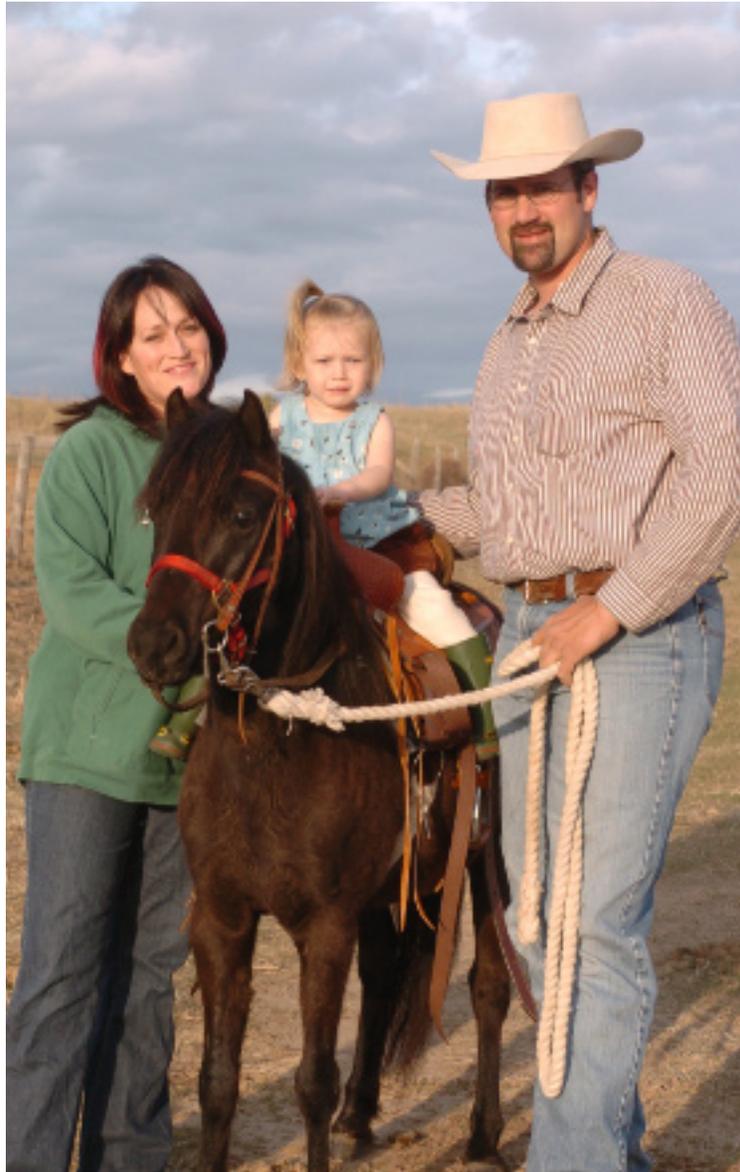
They met at a New Years Eve Party in 2000. Penny showed horses, and Brandon's dad trained them. Penny knew Brandon's sister, and they reconnected.

The couple married Nov. 8, 2002, after Penny had moved back to Imperial. Penny wanted to "be back in a ranch lifestyle," while Brandon moved here because Penny wanted to move back and he also wanted a ranching opportunity.

Living in Chase County, Penny said, is good because it's a good place to raise a family, she likes being near her family and it's a safe place.

Daughter Odessa, 2, could probably agree. She gets to ride her pony, Ish, every day.

Brandon concurred. He knows most of the people around, they're friendly and the small area appeals to him.



Penny and Brandon Zadina help Odessa, 2, ride her pony, Ish. Odessa, decked out in frog-faced boots, has ridden Ish since she was given the pony at eight months of age. (Republican photo)

They don't see many disadvantages to living in a small town, other than stores not staying open into the night.

"I don't feel like we lack anything," Penny said.

Brandon said that when he lived in Cheyenne, he drove on asphalt every day and "missed the dirt kicking up behind my wheels."

The couple attends the Cross-

roads Wesleyan Church, and Penny is a member of the Imperial Chamber of Commerce.

If they would promote Imperial to other young couples, the Zadinass would point to the safe environment, a good place to raise a family and the country lifestyle. Brandon added that it's a good place to start up a business and be self-employed.

