
Press and Publicity Report

J U N E 2 0 2 3



ENTERTAINMENT

Looking for things to do in Pueblo? Try art walk events, Paranormal Cirque and more

Tracy Harmon The Pueblo Chieftain

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Friday, June 2

Summer reading program kickoff events at local libraries

Greenhorn Valley Library, 4801 Cibola Drive in Colorado City, noon to 4 p.m. Friday | Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., 4-7 p.m. Friday
| The event will feature food, fun and a special meet and greet with the popular cartoon character Bluey in Pueblo. A bounce house, snow cones and activities are planned in Colorado City. Both events are **free and open to all ages**. For details, visit pueblolibrary.org.

Colorado Natives Animal Ambassador Visit at Pueblo West Library

298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd. | 10 a.m. to noon | Nature's Educators will give an hourlong presentation with Colorado native animal **ambassadors, including a raptor, rabbit, snake, salamander and tarantula**. There will be **snow cones, face painting, balloon animals and crafts**. Participants can receive an animal-themed Early Literacy Kit2go while supplies last. This event is **free**.
Find out more at pueblolibrary.org

BUSINESS

Let's talk business: Pueblo West chamber director departing; PJ's closes at the library

Tracy Harmon The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 12:00 p.m. MT June 11, 2023

PJ's Coffee closes at Rawlings Library

PJ's Coffee at the Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo, closed May 31 due to unforeseen circumstances.

Library staff will be seeking new vendors to operate the cafe space and anyone who is interested can submit a proposal when a Request for Proposals is issued. In the meantime, the library will serve free coffee, tea and hot cocoa at a self-serve station from 9-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, said Ann Boyden, library public information officer.

Pueblo bicyclists ditch four wheels for two during annual Bike to Work Day

James Bartolo The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 3:16 p.m. MT June 28, 2023

Michell Smith, an employee of the Colorado Mental Health Hospital in Pueblo, has been biking to and from work for about a year and a half.

Smith was among 17 bicycle enthusiasts who got up early Wednesday morning to celebrate "Bike to Work Day" in Pueblo.

The Pueblo event was just one of its kind held throughout the state for Colorado's annual Bike to Work Day — a free event that encourages employees to leave their cars at home and ride their bicycles to work. Tens of thousands of commuters participate each year, according to the state, which helps improve air quality, reduce gas emissions and reduce traffic congestion.

Participating bicyclists in Pueblo left the Big Book Plaza at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library around 6:30 a.m. to ride north along Union Avenue before stopping at several refreshment stations in Downtown Pueblo and the Mesa Junction.

"My goal is to bike everywhere within a 5-mile radius," Smith said. "I'm about 80% to 90% good on that. There's definitely lazy days where I don't feel like biking my dirty laundry out to the laundromat, but for the most part ... if it's within 5 miles, I bike."

Smith moved to Pueblo from Denver in 2022. While Denver may be a larger city with more bicycle infrastructure, she said its weather restricted her bike riding to three months out of the year. However, she has found Pueblo to be suitable for cycling year-round. She sees commuting via bike as an effective way to save on gas money, practice mindfulness and fit exercise into a busy work schedule.

James Wyatt, another participant in Bike to Work Day's morning ride, lived in Fort Collins before moving to Pueblo three years ago. Fort Collins is home to over 200 miles of bike lanes and has earned a platinum rating from the League of American Bicyclists. However, it is easier to meet new friends enthusiastic about cycling in Pueblo's close-knit community, Wyatt said.

Wyatt has met fellow bicyclists through various fundraisers and events like *Cruisin' Pueblo*'s Thursday night rides outside Walter's Brewery & Taproom. Like Smith, he sees value in Pueblo's year-round warm weather and believes it gives Pueblo "every excuse" to spend time and money on improving bicycle infrastructure.

Pueblo Area Council of Governments manager Eva Cosyleon also sees the benefits of making Pueblo more bike accessible. An avid cyclist herself, she joined Thursday morning's ride and has been working with the local governments in allocating funds for upcoming bike infrastructure, including a connection from Pueblo West to the city, a trail near Lake Minnequa, and a trail connecting West 18th Street near Wildhorse Creek to West 24th Street.

The Bike to Work Day morning ride in Pueblo included refreshment stations hosted by Pueblo Active Community Environments (PACE), the Rawlings Library, Pueblo Fuel & Iron Food Hall, Pueblo Police Department, City of Pueblo Public Works, Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment and the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce.

Businesses like Solar Roast Coffee, Diavolo Pueblo Hot Chicken, Walter's Brewery & Taproom, Bingo Burger and the Pueblo Bulls Hockey Store offered discounts and specials for additional bicyclists throughout the afternoon and evening. More information about bicycling and bicycle infrastructure in Pueblo can be found on the PACE website, activepueblo.net.

Pueblo Chieftain reporter James Bartolo can be reached at JBartolo@gannett.com. Support local news, subscribe to *The Pueblo Chieftain* at atsubscribe.chieftain.com.