

'Make it fun'

It's the truth: Kids can have a good time reading — if they're shown how

By **AMY MATTHEW**
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

We hear it a lot: Today's kids don't read. They'd rather focus their stare on video games and computer screens. The printed word is of little interest.

Well, yes, children do live in a digital age and there are more entertainment options competing for their attention. That's undeniable.

However, it still is possible for parents to raise a kid who — get this — reads because it's fun. Better yet, chances are it won't be as challenging as mom and dad, or grandma and grandpa, may envision.

"We can make books as fun as computers if we play with books," said Michael Cox, the youth services supervisor for the Pueblo City-County Library District.

Simply put: Make books entertaining rather than a chore.

"We recommend parents remove all stresses from reading," said Cox, a father of two. "Make it fun."



Michael Cox

may mean reading "Goodnight Moon" 700 times, but Cox points out there are different ways to interpret your child's favorite stories: Focus on the pictures instead of the words. Ask them what's happening in the story. Ask them to tell you the story, whether they can read it or not.

Most important, have lots of age-appropriate books on hand. That's where libraries become indispensable. Cox said parents routinely check out stacks of books for their kids.

"It's one of kids' favorite

PICTURE BOOKS

(ages 4 and younger)

Sandra Boynton books ("Moo, Baa, La La La," "Pajama Time")

Eric Carle books ("The Very Hungry Caterpillar," "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?")

Mo Willems books ("Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," Knuffle Bunny series)

Kevin Henkes books ("A Good Day," "Old Bear")

Laura Numeroff books ("If You Give a Mouse a Cookie," "If You Give a Moose a Muffin")

Skippyjon Jones books by Judith Byron Schachner

Curious George series by H.A. Rey and Margret Rey

Olivia series by Ian Falconer

Llama Llama series by Anna Dewdney

"**Goodnight Moon**" by Margaret Wise Brown

"**The Cow Loves Cookies**" by Karma Wilson

"**The Monster at the End of This Book**" by Jon Stone

Dino series by Lisa Wheeler

("Dino-Hockey," "Dino-Baseball")

BEGINNING READERS

(ages 5-7)

Dr. Seuss

Beverly Cleary books ("Beezus and Ramona," "Henry and Ribsy")

Maurice Sendak books ("Where the Wild Things Are," "In the Night Kitchen")

Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park

Winnie-the-Pooh books by A.A. Milne

"**Ivy and Bean**" series by Annie Barrows

Frog and Toad books by Arnold Lobel

CHAPTER BOOKS

(ages 8-12)

Roald Dahl books ("James and the Giant Peach," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory")

"**Chronicles of Narnia**" by C.S. Lewis

"**Babymouse**" graphic novels by Matthew Holm and Jennifer Holm

Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan

Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey

"**Diary of a Wimpy Kid**" series by Jeff Kinney

Big Nate series by Lincoln Peirce

"**Dork Diaries**" series by Rachel Renee Russell

Shel Silverstein books ("Where the Sidewalk Ends," "Falling Up")

"**Magic Tree House**" series by Mary Pope

There are many ways to do that, depending on the age of the child, but there's one piece of advice the library staff will always give: Read out loud to them. If they're beginning readers, you can become their personal storyteller. If an older child needs reading help, reading aloud will get them more engaged. Just sit in the library, bookstore or on your couch and start reading.

"It's modeling," said Cox. "It's a perfect way to make reading fun and you're giving them skills they may not realize."

Repetition is the key to building a reader. Yes, that

It's one of kids' favorite places because they get to hear 'yes.' Yes, you can look at that. Yes, you can take it home. Yes, we can read it.

Michael Cox
Youth services supervisor
Pueblo City-County Library District

places because they get to hear 'yes,' he said. "Yes, you can look at that. Yes, you can take it home. Yes, we can read it."

The library also has a reader's advisory, which gathers information about what a child likes and selects books based on those responses. It's particularly useful for reluctant readers.

"We recommend people take home three to five books," said Cox. "If they don't like the first one, move on to the next."

The bottom line is that reading, while invaluable, should also be something children look forward to — and maybe, maybe, it can even compete with the video game controller.

"Books can become toys," said Cox. "They'll be motivated to read."

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SOME OF THE CLASSICS

Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling
"Lord of the Rings" trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien
"The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien
"The Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum
"The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton
"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee
"Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott
"Anne of Green Gables" by Lucy Maud Montgomery
"Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson
"The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett
"A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle
"Lord of the Flies" by William Golding
"Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens
"Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck
"Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen
"Black Beauty" by Anna Sewell
Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Osborne

"A Series of Unfortunate Events" books by Lemony Snicket/Daniel Handler
Neil Gaiman novels ("The Graveyard Book," "Coraline")
"Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl"
"Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing" by Judy Blume
"Zorgamazoo" by Robert Paul Weston

TEEN

Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins
"Twilight" series by Stephenie Meyer
Judy Blume books ("Blubber," "Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret")
"The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" series by Ann Brashares
Maze Runner trilogy by James Dashner
Veronica Roth books ("Divergent," "Insurgent")
Scott Pilgrim graphic novels

HOW TO RAISE A READER

● **Read aloud to them.** There's no substitute for this, no matter a child's age — especially if they need help improving their reading skills.

● **Create a special place in your house for reading.** If you child likes to make forts or has a favorite beanbag chair, take advantage of it.

● **Make reading part of your routine.** Whether it's weekly trips to the library or bookstore, or a bedtime story every night, build books into your child's everyday life.

● **Take advantage of**

technology. Tablets such as the iPad have great apps geared toward reading and e-readers provide a different way to consume stories.

● **Find books about subjects your kids love.** It doesn't matter if it's sports, animals or jokes — there's a book that will appeal to them.

● **Embrace repetition.** Even if it means reading the same book more than any parent wants to, repetition is the key to creating a good reader.

● **Be a storyteller.** You may think you're no good at it, but

your kid will think otherwise. If you'd like tips about how to make storytime more interesting for both of you, visit storyblocks.org, a site that shares songs and rhymes designed to create better readers.

● **Get kids hooked on a series or author.** That way you know they'll keep reading.

● **Remove stresses from reading.** Keep it fun; don't make it a task that has to be completed.

● **Give positive feedback.** Don't spend all your time

correcting reading mistakes; make sure children know what they're doing right, too.

● **When you're at the library, let kids check out several books.** If one doesn't interest them, they'll be able to move on to another.

● **Make use of storytimes for little ones.** The Pueblo City-County Library District, for example, has several storytimes each week, all age-appropriate, as do bookstores.

— Amy Matthew
Sources: The Pueblo City-County Library District, Common Sense Media

PEOPLE SPEAK

How will the Broncos do this season? Will they make the playoffs?



Roger Vercruyse
Engineer
Colorado Springs
"I believe the Broncos will make the playoffs mostly because of Peyton Manning."



John Holcomb
Geologist
Pueblo
"The Broncos probably are not going to make the playoffs. They've basically let us down the last five years."



Richard Rudy
Retired
Pueblo
"I really don't follow the Broncos that much."



Marty Schlink
Nursing home administrator
Walsenburg
"The Broncos will have a fabulous season. We're so excited that we got this great team and I think their season record will be 14 wins and two losses."



Risa Berry
Nurse
Walsenburg
"(They'll finish) 12-4, go to the playoffs, and it's all because of Peyton Manning."



Nancy Corsentino
Nursing director
Walsenburg
"I'm calling for a perfect season, 16-0. Broncos are No. 1!"



Brandon Torres
Shipping
Pueblo
"I think the Broncos will be 1-15 because Peyton Manning is very overrated."



Brittany Renfrow
Food service worker
Pueblo
"My opinion on the Broncos is that I don't really follow them but I do support them, and I do hope they win this season."

Poll was taken Friday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

BOOK REVIEW

Reflective road trip takes readers for ride

By **MIKE FISCHER**
McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Who among us wouldn't like to put the car in reverse, hurtling back past some long-vanished stretch where we somehow swerved from the road, forever changing life's scenery through all the miles to come?

Benjamin Benjamin, the 39-year-old narrator of Jonathan Evison's "The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving," knows the feeling. As Evison's novel opens, Ben has endured two rocky years reliving an accident — which may have been his fault — that killed his kids, ended his marriage, cost him his house and left him contemplating suicide.

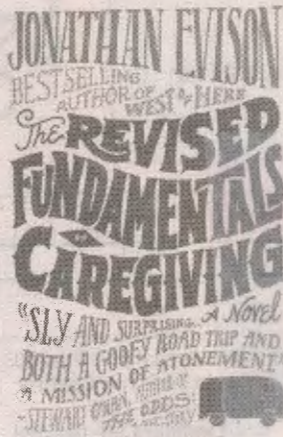
Did I mention that "Caregiving" can be really funny?

Much of the humor and heart in Evison's story arrive courtesy of the low-paying job that saves Ben — returning to the workplace after a decade as a stay-at-home dad — from himself: Having taken a night course on rudimentary caregiving, he lands an assignment attending 19-year-old Trevor Conklin, who has Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

"Trev may not see twenty-five," Ben tells us of his wheelchair-bound charge, whose rigid and contorted limbs remind Ben of a pretzel. "At twenty, he's aging in reverse," Ben continues. "It's only a matter of time before he's helpless as an infant once more, and slicing his waffles into thirty-six pieces will no longer be enough."

"And yet," Ben asks, "what choice does he have but to mark the time?"

Good question — one applicable to both Ben and



"The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving"

by Jonathan Evison,
Algonquin Books, \$23.95

the first third of Evison's novel, which chronicles our hero's fogbound life of false starts and blind alleys, involving broad characters and thin subplots. Like Ben's car, which "stalls at every intersection," this early portion of "Caregiving" seems stuck — wanting to move forward but unable to shift into drive.

Then Ben and Trev hit the road, and "Caregiving" takes off with them.

The ostensible reason for their trek across the Pacific Northwest is a visit to Trev's cartoonish dad — one of several men in "Caregiving" who counterpoint Ben's own reflections on being a father. But like all road novels, the real point of this excellent adventure is the trip itself.

Before our duo reach the end of the trail, they'll be a foursome, joined by a teenage runaway and a pregnant young woman.

What Ben learns from his ensuing reflections on things past is that at some point, one must move on.

EYE-OPENERS

● **InfoZone News Museum,**
Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

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● **Hose Co. No. 3 - Fire**

BOOK REVIEW

Hitchens on dying days: reporting and reflection

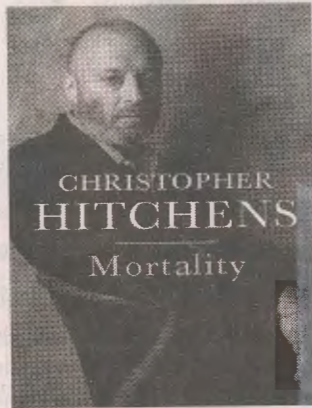
McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

For all that literature is an art of self-exposure, writers tend to back away from impending death. The shelf of firsthand looks at what Janet Hobhouse called "this dying business" is a short one — Hobhouse's searing posthumous novel "The Furies"; Raymond Carver's final collection of poetry, "A New Path to the Waterfall"; John Updike's "Endpoint and Other Poems."

I'm not sure why this is, exactly, other than that dying is a lot of work. I'm not trying to be glib here, just to suggest that in the face of annihilation, things get elemental quickly, leaving little room for the luxury of writing it all out. As T.S. Eliot observes, in "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock": "I have seen the moment of my greatness flicker, / And I have seen the eternal Footman hold my coat, and snicker, / And in short, I was afraid."

Those lines of Eliot's appear in Christopher Hitchens' "Mortality," the latest addition to the library of the dying — although to read it on such terms exclusively is to miss the point. That's because "Mortality" is not so much reflection as reportage, a set of dispatches from "Tumortown," where the author found himself exiled in mid-2010.

Hitchens, who died of esophageal cancer in December 2011, sets the scene in the first sentences: "I have more than once in my time woken up feeling like death. But nothing prepared me for the early morning in June when I came to consciousness feeling as if I were actually shackled to my own



"Mortality"

by Christopher Hitchens, Twelve, \$22.99

corpse. The whole cave of my chest and thorax seemed to have been hollowed out and then refilled with slow-drying cement." He was 61.

All that makes for a peculiar set of tensions, which have as much to do with Hitchens as they do with death. Unlike Carver or even Updike, he reveled in his status as a larger-than-life figure, a character in his own drama, so to speak.

A prodigious smoker and drinker, Hitchens was also an outspoken contrarian who would not willingly walk away from a fight. He was never particularly emotional, preferring to rely on rhetoric instead.

Yet if that gives "Mortality" a certain clear-headed aversion to the banal, it also keeps us at a distance, even when Hitchens is speaking from the heart.

"Mortality" closes with a collection of observations left unconnected at the time of Hitchens' death. It's a vivid metaphor for where death leaves us, in a state of incompleteness, deserted by logic and intention, no matter how fierce.

BOOK REVIEW

Author continues her quest for happiness

By BROOKE LEFFERTS FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gretchen Rubin tapped into something with her best-selling book, "The Happiness Project," about finding ways to feel more satisfied with the life you have. Her new sequel, "Happier at Home," takes a closer look at how to improve areas that usually mean the most — bonding with family, creating a comfortable living space and utilizing time management.

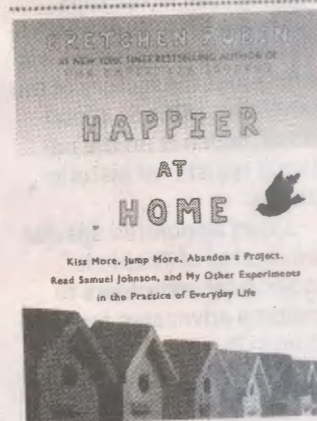
Fans of Rubin's first book should enjoy "Happier at Home," which offers some new solutions for old problems and useful tips to make changes that cultivate quality of life.

Her latest project spanned nine months, with each chapter focusing on a different goal. Rubin rejects vague platitudes like "love yourself" or "be optimistic." The book offers concrete actions to elevate moods and behavior. Suggestions like singing in the morning, acting the way you want to feel, or mentally making the positive argument instead of dwelling on the negative are small remedies that could reap big results.

Some fixes are so simple they seem obvious — like breathing in a favorite smell or knocking before entering a room — yet most people are too busy to take the time.

Rubin advocates decluttering and encourages ways to incorporate enjoyable objects into living and working environments to increase productivity. She concludes that it isn't the amount of possessions she has, but whether she's engaged with the objects that counts.

To create closer bonds



"Happier at Home: Kiss More, Jump More, Abandon a Project, Read Samuel Johnson, and My Other Experiments in the Practice of Everyday Life"

by Gretchen Rubin, Crown Archetype, \$26

with family, she started traditions like holiday breakfasts, special outings with her daughter, and developed a project with her sister. But not all experiments were successful. When Rubin tried to plan monthly adventures with her husband, he wasn't interested.

Those stories make Rubin more relatable. Her thoughts on the hard work necessary to keep a marriage happy may also move readers. "It isn't enough to love; we must prove it," says Rubin.

The book makes valuable points about how technology has created new work that's never done. There will always be another email or social media post, and smartphones and laptops have made it possible to work anywhere, anytime. Rubin warns the Internet can be a constant distraction, a dangerous form of procrastination, and can hinder your flow of ideas and leech contentment.

PEOPLE SPEAK

What brought you to the library today? What library services do you use?



Cyanna Montes
Student
Pueblo

"I use the books here. I'm writing a paper about the 1950s and '60s so that's what brought me here and they have some pretty cool books."



Domenic Valdez
Student
Pueblo

"I got on the computer to check Facebook pages and all that stuff. I'm going to PCC, so I looked up some stuff on welding technology."



Justin Holloway
Student/Rapper
Pueblo

"I wanted to look at some books, use the Internet, check out some music and try to work on my lyrics for my raps."



Susan Andrew
Traffic Manager
Pueblo

"I like to listen to audio books because I drive everyday, so I'm returning my current audio book and going to check out some more."



Ruth Miller
Audiologist
Pueblo

"I had to bring books back and I had to get more books out so I use the library all the time for that. I used to use it for computers too."



Brittany Taylor
Student
Pueblo

"I decided I'd come to the library and give my kids a good educational experience."



Edward Hollingsworth
Student
Pueblo

"I came to the library today to use the Internet and to check out some books."



Dennis Garn
Retired
Pueblo

"I'm returning three movies that I got here and I'm going to a library volunteer meeting."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

PEOPLE SPEAK

Do you prefer green chile or red chile? Why? Where is your favorite place to get it?



Paula Loseke
Teacher
Pueblo

"I love green chile, it isn't as hot, it's better for the palate and probably the best green chile in the city is at Coors with the famous sloppers."



Deidre Flemmer
Student
Pueblo

"I really prefer green chile over red chile. I like it because for me it has more flavor and my favorite place to get green chile is Cactus Flower over by the CSU-Pueblo campus."



Norm Wiedrick
Retired
Pueblo

"I like both. I like the red chile slopper at Coors. Pueblo has the best green chile in the country."



Joseph Blodgett
Student
Pueblo

"I'd have to say I like green chile best just because it's what I grew up with and it's something I really like and enjoy."



John Volk
Oil field worker
Pueblo

"I like green chile at the Coors Tavern. Green chile tastes way better than red chile."



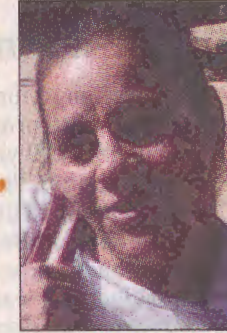
Christopher
Student
Pueblo

"My favorite type of green chile is green chile at Papa Jose's."



Kelly Meldrum-Brude
Social Worker
Pueblo

"I prefer green chile, I like taste of it and I like to get it at Jorge's."



Terry Moya
Country Buffet worker
Pueblo

"I like green chile, it tastes better and I usually get it out in Blende."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

Pueblo City-County Library District Presents

All Pueblo READS

Sept. 28 to Oct. 28

Plainsong
by Kent Haruf



PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY
LIBRARY
Ideas • Imagination • Information

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Friday, September 28, 2012 Page 7A

VIP reception, sale

A VIP reception and art sale will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. today at the Pueblo West Library, 298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd. The event is sponsored by Pueblo City-County Library for All Pueblo Reads.

A portion of all sales benefits the Pueblo Library Foundation. Featured artists include Lynn Stenzel, Nathan Solano, John Wark, Janet Garoutte, Cathy Valenzuela and Jean Latka.

The event is free and music will be provided by the Fireweed bluegrass band.

Sunday, September 23, 2012 Page 5E

Community corner

GUIDELINES

The Pueblo Chieftain invites local organizations to share photos and information about their recent events of community-wide interest. The free Community Corner feature appears in the Life section on Sundays.

Community Corner information forms are available online at www.chieftain.com or at the newspaper's front desk, 825 W. Sixth St.

Photos must be high-resolution and of good quality, with complete caption information; they may be posed or candid but should in-

clude no more than five individuals. Digital or computer photos should be emailed to Shirley Whittmore at shirleyw@chieftain.com. A maximum of four photos per event will be printed. The Chieftain reserves the right to determine if a photo is suitable for publication.

All photos and information must be submitted by noon Monday in order to appear the following Sunday. All photos and info forms must include at least one daytime contact phone number.

BOOK REVIEW

Vietnam War's origins worthy of reflection

By **JIM LANDERS**
McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

In the winter of 1954-55, State Department intelligence analyst Paul Kattenburg was in Saigon puzzling over the wisest course for U.S. policymakers.

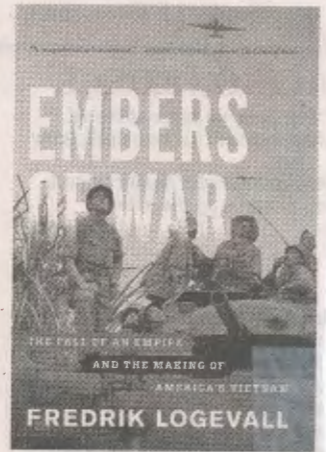
France, with its army defeated at Dien Bien Phu and colonial ambitions in Asia at an end, was preparing to leave. The Eisenhower administration was stoking the ambitions of Ngo Dinh Diem to become president of an independent Republic of Vietnam in the area south of an armistice line drawn at the 17th parallel.

Kattenberg recommended that the U.S. give Ho Chi Minh's communist government in Hanoi \$500 million to rebuild and forget about holding the line.

Kattenberg guessed the amount would be enough to win Ho's friendship, prying him away from China and the Soviet Union. Ho had looked for support from the U.S. starting in 1919, when he went to Paris hoping to see President Woodrow Wilson so he could argue the case for Vietnamese independence.

It was one of those moments that offered a fork in the road. They crop up many times in Fredrik Logevall's "Embers of War." Hindsight makes them tantalizing.

In their own time, American policymakers dismissed them as unwise or crazy. Vietnam was subordinate to concerns about peace in Europe in 1919. In 1955, Ho Chi Minh was too bound up in communism during a global Cold War to win favor in Washing-



"Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam"

by Fredrik Logevall,
Random House, \$40

ton.

There are thousands of books about the Vietnam War. Amazon.com lists 3,443. A lot of them render harsh judgments on former presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon and the military leadership they chose to lead the American war effort. Logevall offers "Embers of War" as a history of how it all began. The how takes some telling — nearly 800 pages. It is very much worth the read, though, both for the story and the writing.

"Embers of War" has the balance and heft to hold hindsight's swift verdicts at bay. French and Vietnamese sources and accounts help inform the story, including some that describe how close Ho's forces came to defeat and how badly and cruelly they governed once they'd taken over in the north.

This is an excellent, valuable book.

Free 'Soldanos' screening

A free viewing of "Soldados: Chicanos in Viet Nam" will be held 7 p.m., Oct. 4, at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library. Based on the book by the same title, there will be a meet-and-greet with the author, Charley Trujillo, following the screening. The event corresponds with Hispanic Heritage Month.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

CULTURE

Now, let's all get to reading

All Pueblo Reads kicks off with many more events to come

By **GIANNA LISAC**
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

The Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library played host to the 8th annual All Pueblo Reads program Saturday afternoon and launched the month-long community literary project.

The "Family Fun Kickoff" event began with a song and dance performance from Pueblo's Okolitza Tamburitzans group. Based in Pueblo, children and adults performed to traditional Croatian music and dance routines.

Later, Liz "Songbird of the Sage" Masterson, a longtime western singer, entertained the crowd with original tunes.

Both acts illustrated the diversity of cultures in the Pueblo region. After the performances, library officials announced this year's book selection and detailed the upcoming correlating events.

The annual four-week program begins with the announcement of a predetermined book

This year's selection is "Plainsong," a novel by Kent Haruf, which chronicles the various facets of Colorado life and will serve as the basis for each of the upcoming library sponsored events.

that the library proposes the entire community reads. There are then 85 events and activities that correlate with the reading material. The goal is to create a community dialogue that encompasses various themes within the book.

This year's selection is "Plainsong," a novel by Kent Haruf, which chronicles the various facets of Colorado life and will serve as the basis for each of the upcoming library sponsored events.

SEE READ, 3B

More on the web >>>
chieftain.com/links



Navaeh Williams, 5, a member of the Okolitza Tamburitzans, sings a song Saturday during the All Pueblo Reads 'Family Fun Kickoff' event.

CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/JOHN JAQUES

PEOPLE SPEAK

Should prayer be a part of public meetings?



Christine Alonzo
Community Organizer
Pueblo

"I think that City Council should continue to have prayer before each work session. I believe that it would be conducive and helpful to them making decisions that affect everybody."



Isaac Arellano
Musician
Pueblo

"Yes I think it should. On our money it says 'one nation under God' and prayer helped found our country, it's always been part of lives in America so yes I think it should."



Bill Calhoun
Retired
Pueblo

"It should be offered at public meetings but it should be an optional thing by the members who are participating."



Rosielynn Harris
Student
Pueblo

"Yes because we need prayer in our life because the world is ending and everyone is going crazy and maybe if we prayed more and got together by praying it might help solve a lot of problems."



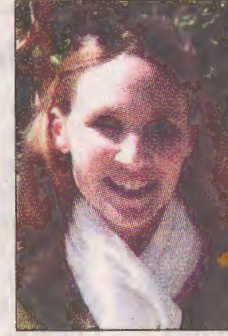
Ryan Smith
Student
Pueblo

"No I don't think prayer should be a part of any public meetings. As long as the government is involved it's a simple separation of church and state."



Damon Suttles
Stay-at-home dad
Pueblo

"I believe that it should stay separate just because you don't want to offend anybody. If that's your thing it's good but I think it should stay separate."



Allison Becky
Mother
Pueblo

"Yes. I think it should for guidance in their decisions."



Penny King
Retired
Pueblo

"I think that we should have prayer. That's what our nation was based on. I think non-denominational prayers are what we need."

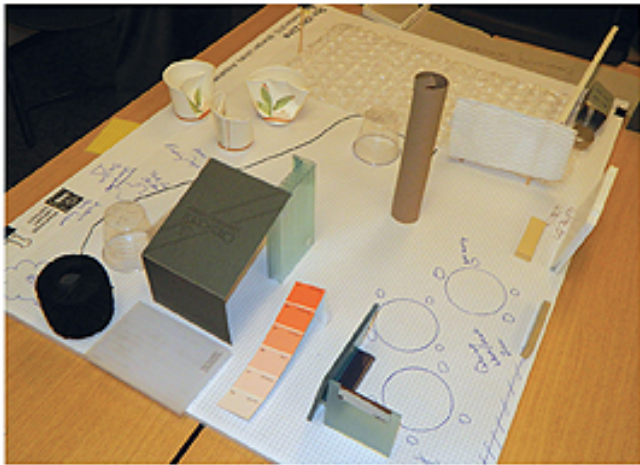
Asked Wednesday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

The Six Space Challenges Librarians and Architects Tackled at Design Institute Denver | Library by Design

By [LJ](#) on September 24, 2012 [Leave a Comment](#)

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Sheridan Public Library, Arapahoe Library District CO Architect Humphries Poli Architects
THE CHALLENGE Sheridan Public Library must leave its decades-long home in the local high school and construct a new building nearby. This new facility needs more room for teens as



Top challenge photo by Kevin Henegan; bottom challenge photo by Patricia Barry Levy/Getty Images

well as resources for the large Spanish-speaking and elderly constituencies, and the mandate for a “green” facility must be reconciled with a budget set at much less per square foot than is normally allotted.

THE BRAINSTORM Dennis Humphries (standing) of Humphries Poli Architects split the group into three parts and each went to the drawing board, literally, using sharpies, string, and a variety of other props to visualize three aspects of the challenge: site selection, general layout, and designing the creative space. The site group balanced ecological concerns with aesthetics; mobility issues for the elderly, who need easy access from the parking lot; and safety concerns for the heavy after-school foot traffic across the high school parking lot, where the shortest path crosses school bus routes as well as cars. It recommended a long, rectangular building with a solar-ready roof for energy efficiency but cutting the corner to set the entrance diagonally facing the main intersection. The overall library group balanced the desire for flexible space and privacy for programs that might have a stigma, such as a bankruptcy workshop, and ultimately decided to make the creative space truly the centerpiece of a largely open plan, showcasing a 3-D printer and using pods to provide privacy and quiet for patrons.—*Meredith Schwartz*

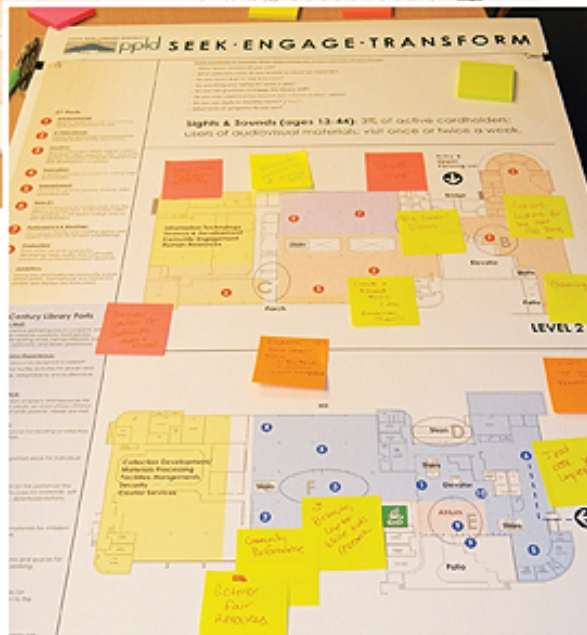
Omaha Public Library Architect MS&R Ltd.



Challenge photos by Kevin Henegan

THE CHALLENGE Omaha Public Library (OPL) is the beneficiary of a master plan that will tear down a 1960s-era shopping center and turn it into a mixed-use development with stores, restaurants, college apartments for nearby University of Nebraska students—only a mile away—and a library. “We’re starting fresh in a great part of the city,” said Mary Griffin (seated), senior manager of facilities at OPL.

THE BRAINSTORM Once again, as it did in many venues at the Design Institute, discussion centered on the role of a central library and what goes into a library today. For this particular library, the expectation that University of Nebraska students will be using it even more than the current downtown library—since parking on campus is a challenge—helps focus direction. Participants who had experienced redevelopment threw in some caveats, including negotiating a beneficial lease agreement to protect against huge rent hikes and other rights and responsibilities to avoid future conflict. MS&R’s Jack Poling (bottom right) warned against putting up a building that doesn’t have a civic presence. “You can’t have a building that gets lost,” he said. His firm unveiled a new urbanist approach: the design is a small town, and the library is the town center.—*Francine Fialkoff*



Top challenge photo by Patricia Barry Levy/Getty Images; bottom challenge photo by Kevin Hensgan

Pikes Peak Library District Colorado Springs **Architect** Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture
THE CHALLENGE Program the public spaces for a “library of the future” in a 112,000 square foot repurposed call center. Do it in a way that responds to the needs of “clusters” of users developed with OrangeBoy, a consulting firm based in Portland, OR. The project goals, according to Pikes Peak executive director Paula Miller, are dynamic and ambitious. They are looking to be that “third place” in the community, where connections are made and innovation is supported (think maker space, coined as “c-cubed” here for creative computer commons). It also should be “Ez4u” (convenient), relevant, and happening, and “all in.” Inherent in the challenge is to build in flexibility, since the clusters will change over time. No worries!



Challenge photos by Patricia Barry Levy/Getty Images

THE BRAINSTORM Work in small teams around boards dedicated to each cluster, Bruce Flynn of Barker Rinker Seacat Architecture, charged the participants. “Avatar yourself into the types from what you know in your own library.” Use Post-its® and colored pens to identify characteristics, what they might need, and potential activities in the space. The group got to work and returned vast perspective for Pikes Peak to employ, for example, entrepreneurs were described as mobile executives who want coffee and food, access to tech for video conferencing and meetings, and a Kinko’s-like capacity. The “16 apps” (12- to 18-year-olds), reported participant Aspen Walker, do not want to be cooped up, and they want to alter their space. They will ask for adult support if they trust them and will use study rooms—but maybe not for study (think gaming!). Libraries need to support variety in types of family uses and draw them into all the library has to offer with marketing that finds them where they use the library. Also, meet Miller’s goal of being a discovery zone, with a variety of spaces that embrace the library as kitchen rather than grocery store, such as meeting spaces, an AV creation café, and an impromptu stage for performance. As participant Matt Hamilton put it, “Teens love open mics!”—*Rebecca T. Miller*



Challenge photos by Kevin Henegan

San Antonio Public Library Architect HBM Architects

THE CHALLENGE How to transform a mid-1990s landmark central library—though not centrally located—into a draw for residents as well as a tourist destination without impacting its architectural integrity. Immediate impediments include a dark entry that leads to the main lobby with its 100' main circulation desk; only 40 public access computers in total on two floors (soon to increase to 64); poor, or nonexistent, signage both inside and out; and elevator access only to the fourth and fifth floors. Beyond these, specific needs include creating a new teen services department, repurposing wasted space, and expanding the small business and jobs, media, and retail spaces. One plus: the second floor will become the library for a school of arts across the



Challenge photos by Kevin Henegan