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Monday - Saturday
10am - 4pm

EYE-OPENERS

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

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briefly | PUEBLO WEST & AREA

Pueblo West Library

The Pueblo West Library, 208 S. Joe Martinez Blvd., will host two upcoming events:

• **College Access-FAFSA workshop, 4 to 8 p.m. April 19.** This workshop will assist students and families with completion of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), conducted by Derrick Padilla, College Access coordinator for Southern Colorado, Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Padilla is with the College Access Team (formerly Collegelvest Outreach Team), dedicated to serving and helping Colorado families break down the financial barriers to college.

Students who will enter college in the fall and/or parents of students are invited to attend and receive assistance in completion of the FAFSA. It is not necessary to attend the full session, but persons may come and go as their schedule allows. Attendees are welcome to bring their laptop computers or computers will be available in the library.

In order to successfully complete a FAFSA, the following items are needed: Social Security number and driver's license number; W-2s, 2010 taxes (if filed, or if not much changed from 2009 for estimation purposes), records of any untaxed income such as: Social Security, child support, worker's compensation, non-educational veteran's benefits, TANF; farm records (if the farm is not the primary residence); investment records such as stocks, bonds and rental property; names of colleges that you wish to receive this information; PIN numbers — the student and one parent (if the student is under 23 years of age) need a PIN number to sign the FAFSA electronically.

They can obtain this number by visiting pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp. This can be done at the workshop.

This presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, call 719-562-5667.

• **First-time homebuyers need-to-know presentation, April 26.** The Pueblo City-County Library District, in conjunction with Money Smart Colorado, will host a presentation on home buying. Three speakers will discuss homebuying finances, mortgage options and the current real estate market.

Rita Godfrey from Neighborworks will discuss the importance of financial education when purchasing a home. Godfrey will provide information on programs in Colorado that assist with down payment and closing costs. This presentation will also outline sources for low-interest mortgage loans.

Local realtor Rhonda Carlson will demonstrate why the current real estate market is ideal for the first-time home buyer and discuss current market trends in Pueblo. She will also provide information on selecting the right home and help develop a "shopping plan" to help choose the perfect home.

LoVanne Morrissey from Pueblo Bank & Trust will provide information on the advantages and disadvantages of home ownership, and discuss the mortgage options currently available.

She will illustrate monthly mortgage payment calculations. Morrissey will outline the steps you must take to purchase a home and the process of mortgage loan closing.

This presentation is free and open to the public. For more information, call 719-562-5667.



Kevin McGrath,
Custom Home Builder,

Remodels Anything

(719) 547-4812

Gardening experts ready to share expertise

The 2011 growing season has begun and Colorado State University Extension staff and Colorado Master Gardener volunteers are ready to answer questions about local gardening problems. Colorado Master Gardeners assist extension staff and serve their communities by answering gardening and plant health questions over the phone, via email, or in person in local extension offices and at events. In Pueblo County, we also offer a quarterly gardening newsletter, *From the Ground Up*, and maintain a horticulture website, <http://pueblo.colostate.edu/hort>, with weekly focus topics and links to some of my favorite gardening websites.

CMGs are available in the local extension office on Monday and Thursday mornings, plus at the Pueblo West Library on the second Saturday morning of each month during the growing season.

Beginning in July, CMGs will be available to answer questions at the farmers market at Midtown Shopping Center on Tuesday and Friday mornings during regular market hours.

Please mark your calendar for the annual Colorado Master Gardener/Pueblo Zoo plant sale at the Pueblo Zoo from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 7. Plant selections at the sale will include xeric, native and Plant Select perennials, rock-garden plants, ornamental grasses, hanging baskets, mixed container gardens, and xeric shrubs and annuals. We also will have assorted vegetable cultivars and heirloom tomatoes for sale. All plants are locally grown.

Colorado Master Gardeners will be available at



LINDA McMULKIN

the sale to help you choose plants that will thrive in your garden. We can help you find plants to fill gaps in existing flower beds and, if you bring the dimension of new beds, we can help you put together a design on site.

Because the sale is the day before Mother's Day, we are offering some additional services this year (a small fee will be charged for each).

- Add a bow to "gift wrap" hanging baskets or perennials.

- CMGs have been making hypertufa (artificial stone) troughs and will have a selection of these containers for sale. Troughs can be used for rock-garden or other low-growing plants, cactus or herb gardens.

- We will have potting soil available and will help you plant your container. Bring your own container and we will help you choose plants and pot them for you. Please make sure that any containers

you bring can be easily transported between your car and the sale.

Come early for the best selection. Proceeds benefit both the CMG program and the zoo's operating fund. For more information, call the CSU Extension-Pueblo County office at 583-6566 or the Pueblo Zoo at 561-1452.

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We are currently taking applications for our summer CSU Extension horticulture program, Native Plant Master. This is a fun way to spend time in the field, getting to know the plants of Colorado. Participants learn plant identification, ecology and ecological relationships, and human uses of selected Colorado plants. NPM courses emphasize the use of native plants to build sustainable landscapes and the control of invasive weeds.

The courses will be offered in three Colorado life zones; we will exam-

ine native and non-native plants in the prairie (May at Lake Pueblo), foothills (June at Pueblo Mountain Park), and montane (July at Camp Jackson) life zones and follow the blooming season as it moves from east to west in Pueblo County.

Each 12½-hour NPM course is made up of three Saturday morning sessions; applicants may choose the volunteer option or the non-volunteer option for a higher fee. For more information, visit the Pueblo County Extension website, call the office at 583-6566, or email me at linda.mcmulkin@colostate.edu.

Linda McMulkin is the horticulture coordinator at the Colorado State University Extension office for Pueblo County. For additional information, contact the office or e-mail linda.mcmulkin@colostate.edu.

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PEOPLE SPEAK

What do you think about a four-day school week for Pueblo City Schools?

**Pasquale Ferri**
Walmart greeter
Pueblo

"I think it's a great idea. It would save money. The state needs to do that to get the (budget) deficit down."

**Sharon Moody**
Disabled
Pueblo

"It would be great. I also would like to see our kids go (to school) year-round. Taking three months off sets them behind."

**Carla Clerkin**
Retired
Colorado City

"I live in District 70 (which is on a four-day school week) and they seem to be doing fairly well. The teachers like it and the students like it. The only downside I've heard is from parents. (District 70) seems seem to be adjusting."

**Larae Miller**
Health care
Pueblo

"My son goes to District 70 and it makes for long days for the kids. They (school district) claim to be saving in food service and transportation, and there hasn't been a dropoff in academics. They seem to be adjusting."

**Albert Lucero**
Unemployed
Trinidad

"It's not beneficial. It causes stress on both parents and students. A five-day week benefits both. Students need to learn as much as possible."

**Arch Brooks**
Plumber
Pueblo

"I like it. I have kids in District 60 and I think it would be fine."

**Judi Hamlin**
Community
Health Center
Pueblo

"There have not been many qualms about District 70. It would make for longer days for the kids, but also a longer weekend to chill. It also would help teachers get caught up with their grading and some relief from the stress."

**Scott Limardo**
Audio
programmer
Colorado Springs

"It sucks to go to school as a child, so four (days) would be better than five."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

PEOPLE SPEAK

Would you be concerned if a medical marijuana shop opened in your neighborhood?

**Linda Lazzarini**
Puppet maker
Pueblo

"Probably. It would be a target for people to rob."

**Ashley Hernandez**
Cosmetology
Pueblo

"Sort of. There's a school nearby and people can take advantage of you in the worst way."

**Camas Worm**
Mother & student
Pueblo

"I don't have a reaction at all. It's a competitive market. I think we've made great strides on these issues."

**Mike Baker**
Steelworker
Avondale

"No. I live way out in the county."

**Shannon Daugherty**
Nurse
Pueblo

"I live out in Pueblo West. They have 21 medical marijuana shops. I was a cancer survivor in 2004. We need more regulated treatment for cancer."

**Eric Allres**
Vestas worker
Pueblo

"I wouldn't necessarily be concerned unless it was close to schools. A 1,000-foot limit would be appropriate."

**John Cordova Jr.**
Unemployed
Pueblo

"I don't concern me as long as they're out of the drug-free zone."

**David Holman**
General laborer
Pueblo

"I don't agree with them being nearby."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

PEOPLE SPEAK

What, if any, spring cleaning do you do?

**Alice Vigil**
Recent Intellitec
College graduate
Pueblo

"We get rid of the old stuff that we don't need anymore — old clothes, toys, dishes — and put in the new."

**Steven Nurre**
Cowboy Church
Avondale

"We live in the country, so the biggest thing is the dust (on) shelves, books and things like that."

**Pat Chapman**
Retired
Pueblo

"I clean windows, strip the wax from the floors, clean our carpets. Our furniture is leather, so we treat the leather."

**April Kirby**
Housewife
Pueblo

"Every year we clean the closets, pantry, windows, wash the curtains and blankets. All the nooks and crannies ... that's what spring cleaning is about."

**Joan Mace**
Retired teacher
Pueblo

"We just moved into a new house and it's pretty clean. I usually try to keep up with my cleaning all year. The (spring cleaning) tradition started with wood burning stoves."

**Robert Burr**
College student
Pueblo

"No. When things get dirty and you clean, it's usually dirty two days later. Once in a while when you try to clean, you'll find something you have been missing. I recently found my favorite pen."

**Bill Peacock**
Honeywell
employee
Pueblo

"I clean all the time."

**Jacob Stice**
Student
Pueblo

"No, but my mom does, usually in June or July. But it does happen."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.