

LOCAL BRIEFS

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Posted Wednesday, January 5, 2011 12:00 am

Calvary MOPS group to meet Friday

Calvary Mothers of Preschoolers have scheduled a meeting at 9 a.m. Friday and every other Friday thereafter at Calvary Church, 5 Tulane St. For more information, call 561-4173.

Free radon kits to be given at PW library

To mark National Radon Action Month, Pueblo Cares will be distributing free radon testing kits on Jan. 13 at the Pueblo West Library, 298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd.

Pueblo West radon levels are among the highest on the Front Range but it's possible to clear the radioactive, cancer-causing gas through a number of processes.

City schools have dozen choir, jazz band picks

Pueblo City Schools has 12 students who have been selected to participate in the All-State choir ensembles and the All-State jazz band.

The jazz band will rehearse Jan. 27-29 in Colorado Springs and will present a concert at 2 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Broadmoor International Center North.

The All-State choir will rehearse Feb. 6-8 in Denver and will present a concert at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Wells Fargo Theater.

City Schools' students participating in the jazz band are Josh Dorland, trumpet, East High School; Caleb Sankey, percussion; Anthony Settipani, trumpet and Jeremy Smith, alternate trumpet from Centennial High School.

Students selected for the All-State women's choir are Megan Bell, Brittney Galli and Ashley Minnich from South High School and Maxine Dimarco, East.

Michael DePalma of Centennial and Austyn Simpson of South were selected for the All-State men's choir and South students Brittany Vigil and J.T. Garrett will

Employers, job seekers struggle to find match

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Posted: Thursday, January 6, 2011 12:00 am

By JOHN NORTON | norton@chieftain.com |

From coffee shops and fast food restaurants to call centers, Pueblo offers job openings.

Yet the area continues to report the state's highest unemployment rate: a recession high of 10.3 percent as of November.

John Martinez, director of the Pueblo Workforce Center, said openings can persist in part due to an abundance of either non-qualified or overqualified job seekers.

"One (problem) is that we're not seeing individuals who have really great work histories. Employers say, 'Send me someone who has a history of holding the job and work readiness,'" Martinez said.

Elsewhere, people with good work records may not qualify because they lack sufficient education, he said.

"They can't apply for some of these jobs because they don't have a high school diploma or even a GED or some college. That's part of the Catch-22," he said.

Others are considered overqualified. For educated workers, entry-level fast food work may not appeal to them so their job search continues.

Finances and whether a person is still receiving unemployment benefits also play a role.

"When a person goes to work they have a lot of expenses: child care, transportation, meals. All of those issues you have to look at," Martinez said.

"A person will say, 'I can get a job at \$9 but then I have to pay for gas, child care, meals or take a lunch. Right now, I'm receiving unemployment. If I take the job I'd actually go into the hole.' That is a challenge for some people," Martinez said.

Youth job seekers face additional challenges, Martinez said.

Library expands access to research files

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Posted: Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:00 am

By JOHN NORTON | norton@chieftain.com |

The Pueblo City-County Library District has combined its special collections under one manager with plans to increase access to many historical documents and records.

With the retirement of longtime special collections librarian Noreen Riffe, the library has merged special collections with the InfoZone News Museum, both now under the direction of Maria Tucker.

The special collections area is best known for its Western Research Department and heavily used genealogy resources.

Access to material in the collections is controlled and research has to be done in the area, located on the third floor of the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library. More of the historic records located in special collections will be digitized and incorporated into future temporary exhibitions. With more material being digitized, it will be easier for researchers to access it.

Inquiries are fielded from visitors to the library and via e-mail. Last year, 10,278 inquiries were received. In 2009, that figure was 11,175.

"The library has a very significant Western research and genealogy collection that is an important resource for historians and genealogists," Tucker said. She said there are plans to expand the fourth-floor InfoZone this year, including an Interactive Newsroom exhibit and space for temporary exhibitions.

Before joining the library three years ago to manage the InfoZone, Tucker was executive director of the Bessemer Historical Society and managed one of the largest collections of historic corporate archives in the country.

The library has hired Charlene Garcia-Simms, who is taking on a full-time role as special collections and genealogy librarian. Garcia-Simms is a genealogy expert, known particularly for her extensive work with the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America. She has been the Hispanic resources librarian at the district for the past three years.

El Pomar Foundation awards grants to 13 regional nonprofits

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Posted: Wednesday, January 12, 2011 12:00 am

By LORETTA SWORD | lorettas@chieftain.com |

Representatives of El Pomar Foundation's Southeast Regional Council on Tuesday awarded grants totaling \$89,000 to 13 Southern Colorado nonprofit organizations.

The awards recognize outstanding youth and work force development services and community services of the recipients.

The organizations receiving funds were:

- The Boys and Girls Clubs of Pueblo County, \$10,000
- Crowley County Substance Abuse Coalition, \$5,000
- Kim Equine Pavilion and Education Center, \$20,000
- La Junta Primary School, \$8,000
- Pueblo African American Concern Organization, \$10,000
- Rocky Mountain Council Boy Scouts of America, \$11,000
- Southeast Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction, \$15,000

The Boys and Girls Clubs grant will help support the organization's innovative partnership with the Mountain Park Environmental Center's Birds and Bees program. The collaborative program provides pregnancy prevention programming using nature as a catalyst for discussions about sexuality. The funding also will provide general operating support to continue the agency's in-house pregnancy prevention program.

Southeast Business, Retention, Expansion and Attraction is an organization that helps area businesses within six counties to find financial resources.

The Kim Equine Pavilion and Education Center's award is a matching grant for the final stages of the organization's pavilion, which attracts regional and even national events such as the Little Britches Rodeo.

The awards also recognize nonprofits that provide valuable services to their communities. Those recipients were:

- Kiwanis of Trinidad, \$1,500
- La Junta Middle School, \$1,500
- Mountain Park Environmental Center, \$2,500
- Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County, \$1,500
- Spanish Peaks Library District, \$1,500

Jan. 12, 2011 Greenhorn Valley View

Local Libraries Offer New Hours and Programs for Seniors

by Sarah Hite
Greenhorn Valley View

Pueblo City-County Library District, in cooperation with Pueblo School District #70, has two satellite libraries in the Greenhorn Valley. These satellites are located at Craver Middle School in Colorado City, and at Rye Elementary School. Both libraries have books available for all ages, as well as computer access.

Both locations have new hours for the Spring semester. The satellite library at Rye Elementary School is now open Mondays and

Tuesdays, 4pm-7pm, and Wednesdays, 4pm-6pm.

The satellite library at Craver Middle School is open Fridays, 8am-4:30pm. It is closed for a half-hour lunch break at noon.

On the second Friday of every month, Craver's satellite library will be having a "Senior Invite" from 1-3pm. All seniors are invited to enjoy coffee and cookies, as well as the opportunity to receive individualized computer help with internet, email, etc. The first "Senior Invite" will be Friday, January 14th.

Diversions

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Posted: Friday, January 14, 2011 12:00 am

Visual artists

El Pueblo Art Alliance presents a Visual Artists Pueblo show through March 1 at the High Vista Gallery in El Pueblo History Museum, 301 N. Union Ave.

Admission to the gallery is free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For information, visit www.visualartistspueblo.com.

Art guild

The Pueblo Art Guild will meet at 7:30 p.m. today in the gallery in Mineral Palace Park. Bruce Wagner will give a demonstration on watercolor lifting. The public is welcome.

Art show

FLORENCE — The Blue Spruce Gallery, 205 W. Main St., will host an artists' reception with light refreshments from 5 to 7 p.m. today.

Works ranging from paintings and sculptures to jewelry and glass will be on display through Feb. 14. The show features work of the gallery's 15 existing members as well as new members Coleen Bobinac, Ed Penner, Nard Claar, Diane DelDuca, Maryann Harper and Kathy McGregor.

Call 719-784-1339.

InfoZone film

The Brazilian documentary "Only When I Dance" is the InfoZone News Museum's independent film for January.

The inspiring story follows two teenagers from the violent favelas of Rio de Janeiro as they pursue their dreams of becoming professional ballet dancers. It's a film about

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to dance, and the price one must pay for talent, ambition and success.

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Show time is 7 p.m. Saturday in the museum, located on the fourth floor of Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave. Doors to the library open for movie attendees at 6:30 p.m.

For information, call 553-0205.

Dance network

Dance Network of Southern Colorado will hold an all-day tap and jazz workshop Jan. 23 with instructor Aaron Cash at the Occhiato Center at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

Beginning and intermediate classes begin at 9 a.m., with musical theater at 11 a.m. Intermediate classes begin at 12:45 p.m. Cost is \$15 for one class and ranges up to \$45 for five classes. Dance Network members will pay \$10 for the entire day. Observer's fees range from \$3 to \$7.50.

For information, call 369-6812 or 564-3352.

Historic talk

CANON CITY — The Fremont/Custer Historical Society will host a historic program at 2 p.m. Sunday at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 801 Sheridan Ave.

Fremont County Commissioner Ed Norden will portray former Colorado Gov. James Peabody of Canon City. Peabody held office in 1903-04.

The historical group is working to restore its dwindling membership; yearly dues are \$15 per person or \$20 for a family. Call Beverly Harris at 784-4263 or e-mail beverlyk2@earthlink.net.

SPACe show

LA VETA — The Spanish Peaks Arts Council, 132 W. Ryus Ave., announces the opening reception for the 2011 SPACe Members' Show "This Is Our SPACe" from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday.

There is no admission fee and the show will be on display until Feb. 19.

Winter workshops

WESTCLIFFE — Sangres Art Guild will hold a series of winter workshops at 3rd St. Gallery, 59000 N. Colorado 69. A number of area artists will share their talents and knowledge through the season.

Some of the topics will include life drawing and painting sessions, portraits, wood sculpture and digital photography. For a complete schedule, visit www.SangresArtGuild.org/news/events.htm.

Imp auditions

Eye Openers

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Posted: Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:00 am

- 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.
- Hose Co. No. 3 — Fire Museum, 116 Broadway Ave., is open by appointment only. There are artifacts and photographs, including the 1882 hand-pulled Orman Hose Co. hose cart. Admission is by donation. Call Gary Micheli, 821-1273, or Mark Pickeral, 564-2794, to schedule a tour or for more information.
- Pueblo Railway Museum, 132 B St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and other times by appointment. The Colorado & Wyoming GP7 locomotive, The Patriot, is now on display. For information or appointments, call 251-5024.
- Steelworks Museum of Industry and Culture, 215 Canal St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 4-12 and free for children younger than 4 and museum members. Admission includes tours of the CF&I Mine Rescue Car No. 1. The museum's main exhibit is the Story of Steel: 1915-1936. There also are photographic displays of mills and mines owned by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., a medical display in the former company dispensary and a company-store gift shop, carrying many CF&I-related items. For information, call 564-9086 or visit www.steelworks.us.
- Gornick Slovenian Library and Museum and St. Mary's Genealogy Center, 211 E. Mesa Ave., is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday or by appointment. Free library/museum tours are available by calling 564-6779. Genealogy research is available through sacramental records of all churches in the Pueblo Diocese from the 1800s through 1957, and naturalization, census, cemetery and Internet-immigration records. There is a minimal research fee. For information, call 564-1539.
- Lincoln Home, 2713 Grand Ave., is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and by appointment Saturday and Sunday.
- The Gallery of the Spanish Peaks Arts Council (SPACe), 132 W. Ryus Ave., La Veta, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, featuring original art by local artists. For information, call 719-742-3074 during regular hours.
- Pueblo Art Guild and Gallery, 1500 N. Santa Fe Ave., Mineral Palace Park., is open from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, showing a variety of works by local artists. 543-2455 or www.puebloartguild.com.
- Southeastern Colorado Heritage Center, 201 W. B St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and younger and center members. The museum features an extensive saddle collection, the Carlile piano, railroad exhibit, Depression Era parlor and kitchen pictographs from western Pueblo county, Hispanic genealogy and more. Tours are available by calling 295-1517.
- Trinidad History Museum, 312 E. Main St., Trinidad, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, May 1 to Sept. 30. The complex consists of the Baca House, Bloom Mansion, Santa Fe Trail Museum, Heritage Gardens, book and gift shop, and a Tourist and State Byways Information Center located in El Corazon de Trinidad National Historic District. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors 65 and older, \$3 for children 6-16, and free for children 5 and younger and History Colorado members. For information, call 719-846-7217 or visit www.historycolorado.org.
- El Pueblo History Museum, 301 N. Union Ave., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12, military and seniors. Colorado Historical Society members and children 5 and younger are free. Saturdays are Family Days with free admission for children younger than 12. Docent-led tours are available for 10 or more people by calling a week in advance. For information or to book a tour, call 583-0453.
- Rosemount Museum, 419 W. 14th St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. 545-5290.
- Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center's gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. 295-7200.
- Buell Children's Museum's hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. 295-7200.

Partyers enjoy Dutch treats, banish winter blues



SANDY
STEIN

Life's slower pace provides party fodder to liven up the dismal "daze." A themed mid-January party "to chase the winter blahs away" has been hosted by Elnola Hance at her home for nearly a decade and home-made rolls, topped off with a Dutch apple pie smothered in whipped cream.

home for nearly a decade. This year's "Dutch lunch" on Jan. 12 upheld the traditional celebration.

national certification. Guests Berna Rizer, Bev Corder, Dorothy Martin and Leotus Seybold were among guests who received handmade windmill-shaped invitations following Elinola's research on the Netherlands. The luncheon began with appetizers of veggie and cheese kabobs, edamame and eggning served upon a glass-topped cocktail table near the fireplace in the

A windmill and tulips decorated the area before partygoers dined in the country kitchen at a table clothed with delft blue to match the napkins and hand-painted porcelain fea-

MORE THAN 50 came to the Royals Room at Robert Hoag Rawlings Library on the evening of Jan. 7 to celebrate the retirement of seven longtime employees

who have dedicated a combined 227 years of service at the Pueblo city-county facility. Food and drinks, with a smattering of parting thoughts, memories, gifts and warm wishes fulfilled the bittersweet evening.

Evening. Special collections supervisor Noreen Riffe, hired as a shelver in 1967; special collections assistant Shirley Cline, employed for 39 years; collection development librarian for youth materials Isobel Drysdale, who began work there in 1974; and Richard Tucey, special collections grant writer and librarian who also has served in finance, reader's advisory, human relations, etc. since 1977 were some of the honorees. Finance securities specialist Darla Diaz, employed for 29 years; associate director for public services Kathy Knox, who was hired in 1987; and 21-year employee Pat McClelland, technical service assistant, were others recognized.

were owners recognized with individualized photos placed in live plants on the dining tables.

Stuart and Herald Acosta were among partyers who wrote special comments for those they knew. Phil Mancha, John Korber, Wanda and Biff Gettel, Diane Forgie and Ellen and Luke Nelson perused the slide-show overview of life.

since show of review or library events that included the Corporate Cup, summer reading programs, the Union Avenue bed race, holiday gatherings, etc. A chocolate-and-white sheet cake decorated with flowers and the retirees' names topped off an appetizer buffet. There was a mixture of smiles of relief and tears of uncertainty from the honorees, who have been a close-knit "family" for decades. Each was given personalized bookends of "The Thinker."

As Cline commented: "Old librarians never die; they just turn over a new leaf." Tukey is the one who truly depicts this statement, as he begins part-time work in two areas: a

compliance officer for the Colorado State Library and work on special projects at Rawlings Library.



(From left) Joanna Green, Kathy Engelbertson, Ehola Hance and Shirley Abram gather for their annual mid-January party.



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/MIKE SWEENEY

(From left) Longtime library employees Richard Tucey, Noreen Riffe, Shirley Cline and Kathy Knox celebrate at a recent retirement party.

attitude, loyalty and sacrifice will be difficult to replace. On to their next page in the book of life. Sandy Stein may be reached at 566-1441.



Rye Coffee

By Gale Valois



Photo by Gale Valois

Rye Coffee crowd gets an opportunity to learn about **satellite library services**.

Such modesty coming from the "Liar's" Table this morning. And I will leave it to you to get that one figured out.

We had a visitor this morning at the coffee. She is Renee Montano, and she is the Outreach Assistant from the Pueblo County Library. Renee was telling us about the Satellite libraries in the area. She gave us some flyers that told of the local school's reading programs. The Satellite programs partner with the schools to promote reading, and with this program you also get the use of the computers. Rye Elementary and Craver Middle Schools are the satellite libraries for the valley. Craver also has a senior program that includes a "coffee break". On Feb 11, March 11, and April 8, seniors may get help with the internet, along with getting some great books to read. That is from 1:00-3:00 p.m. You can also request a book from the Pueblo Library to be sent here to the satellite libraries, so you can save the trip to town. What a wonderful way to introduce our children to the enjoyment of reading.

For more information, go to their website or call 553-0233.

Suddenly there was an outburst from the "other" table. Seems some politics were brought up and someone really got riled up. I guess we don't want certain subjects discussed, not even at our friendly little coffee group. Just what did you say Pastor?????

In answer to Gordy about desserts. I eat my pies and cakes from the pointed end, (working up to the best and biggest part of them). I'm also a firm believer in the fact that "life is short, eat dessert first". So, come join us on any Tuesday at the Rye Methodist church and eat some dessert with the rest of us. Who needs breakfast when all those cakes and cookies and doughnuts are available to expand our waistlines. See you next week around 9:00 a.m.

METRO

AND THE REGION

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The members of the Club Filarmonico Mexicano band are pictured in this undated photo.

COURTESY PHOTO/ROBERT HOAG RAWLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY

St. Isidore, patron saint of agriculture, is celebrated at a church south of Boone in this undated photo.

Root sleuths

Hispanic genealogy society traces hidden family bloodlines

By PABLO CARLOS MORA
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

What might have been a dry presentation on the forgotten history of a Huerfano County ghost town held the rapt attention of 75 people recently at the Southern Colorado Heritage Center.

Virginia Sanchez, author of "The Forgotten Cuchareños of the Lower Valley," had the crowd entranced with her book readings and slides depicting the early settlers of the Walsenburg area.

"The town of Cuchars, which was northeast of Walsenburg, was established in 1866," Sanchez said. "Antonio Jose Vallejos, who drove sheep, was one of the eight founders of the community."

The name Vallejos struck a chord with several people, who later would stand and say they were related to the founders of Cuchars. Descendants of the Bustos, Quintana and other clans stood up to be recognized for their family ties to Cuchars.

"I had to dig out the history," Sanchez said. "That's why I wrote the book."

The occasion was the monthly meeting of the Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter-Pueblo of the Genealogical

Society of Hispanic America, which since 1989 has been uncovering the rich legacy of Hispanics in the Southwest.

The chapter is named for a New Mexico priest whose 1954 book, "Origins of New Mexico Families: A Genealogy of the Spanish Colonial Period," is considered a must-read for budding genealogists.

Charlene Garcia Simms has been involved in the chapter since the get-go.

"The Colorado" organization was formed in Denver by David Salazar and held a meeting in Pueblo in 1989 to see if there was any interest here in a similar group," Garcia Simms said.

The response was overwhelming, she said.

"At one point the organization grew to more than 400 members," she said. "That was too big, so new organizations were spun off to keep it a manageable size."

The chapter is concerned first and foremost with helping people research their family history.

"We provide a basic chart for writing a family tree. We also help people find the resources available to help trace their family origins," Garcia Simms said.

Garcia Simms recently was named special collections and genealogical librarian at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, a job that dovetails nicely with her quest for information about heritage and ancestry.

"This is the history we were not taught in schools," she said. "You have to make an effort to find out your roots."

"The library has a solid assortment of Internet genealogy resources. We also have historic documents that cannot be checked out but are available for research," she said.

DNA analysis offers a precise tool for determining ancestry. Garcia Simms said, but was warned: Results may not jibe with what you were told is gospel on the family tree.

"You might find out that you are a Duran instead of a Martinez. There was a lot of fence-jumping, a lot of chaos in New Mexico back then," she said.

Heraldo Acosta, the new president of Fray Angelico chapter and a 15-year group member, said he first delved into genealogy because of his thirst for knowledge about himself.

"I joined the chapter to find my family roots. My mom was born in the U.S. and my dad in Mexico, very common ancestry," Acosta said.

"I grew up in Pueblo and graduated from Central High School. I was in the Air Force for four years and then went to California," Acosta said. "At the time, there was great interest in Mexican-American studies and black studies."

"As a Chicano, I was surprised to know that we do have a history."

Acosta began tracing his ancestry in earnest and discovered as do many Hispanics, Latinos and Chicanos that the information is not always readily available.

"I believe I am part Apache, although I can't officially document that. Also part French."

Wanting to act on his newly acquired knowledge of history and genealogy, Acosta led a successful drive to have the historic names of Pueblo streets paired with their current names.

Plaques attached to existing street signs now sport their names before the city changed them in 1887 from Chihuahua to Union (and now Colorado),



PEOPLE

The subjects of our weekly *Classic Pueblo* stories are as varied as our city: longtime businesses, restaurants, interesting people and places that have been a part of the Pueblo scene.

Classic Pueblo stories run on Mondays.

If you have an idea for such a story, send information to: *Classic Pueblo*, The Pueblo Chieftain, P.O. Box 36, Pueblo, CO 81002.

Zotula to Washington and Moctezuma to Jefferson, among others.

The time to ask questions is now, he said.

"If you don't talk to your grandmother and she passes away, it's like a library burning down. It's gone," Acosta said.

Yearly chapter dues are \$25 for individuals; \$30 for families; \$22 for seniors 62 or older; senior family \$27; library and institutions \$25; and students are \$20.

The national genealogical society sponsors a yearly conference held the last weekend in June at such spots as Taos and Santa Fe, N.M.

The conference this year tentatively is set for Las Vegas, N.M., June 26-28.

For more information, call 542-2209.

pmora@chieftain.com



Heraldo Acosta, president of the Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America, led a successful drive to add historic names of Pueblo streets to their current names.



Virginia Sanchez found a receptive audience Jan. 8 among the genealogy buffs of the Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter.



COURTESY PHOTO/ROBERT HOAG RAWLINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY



Charlene Garcia Simms has parlayed her love of genealogical research into a full-time career at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

ON THE NET

Genealogy resources
Genealogical Society of Hispanic America: www.gsha.net
Olimbara Lopez Tushar Hispanic Legacy Research Center: www.hispaniclegacy.org/
Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico: www.hgrc-nm.org/
Colorado Society of Hispanic Genealogy: www.hispanicgen.org/