

PEOPLE SPEAK

Do you expect a tax refund and, if so, what will you do with the money?



Edmund Vallejo
Retired school
superintendent
Pueblo

"I don't. I pay out four figures every year from my investments."



Nikki Brown
Student
Pueblo

"We already got our tax refund. We ended up spending on the kids."



Henry Ballejos
Construction
Pueblo

"I'm not expecting a tax refund this year."



Mike Sprague
Unemployed
Pueblo

"I'm just collecting unemployment right now."



Theodore McDade
Student
Pueblo

"Yes, I'm going to use it to pay some bills and clear off some debt."



Joyce Von Drehe
Retired
Pueblo

"No, I don't have enough income to pay taxes."



Tina Vigil
Housewife
Aguilar

"No, I'm not expecting a tax refund."



Amber Romero
Restaurant work
Pueblo

"No, I didn't work much last year."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

PEOPLE SPEAK

How will the Colorado Rockies do this baseball season?



Leo Mockerman
Maintenance
technician
Colorado City

"I have no idea. I really don't watch them."



Kirk Williams
Self-employed
Pueblo

"Great! They've got Tulo (Troy Tulowitzki), CarGo (Carlos Gonzalez) and Ubaldo (Jimenez). Those three are the reason."



Blake Cody
Unemployed
Pueblo

"I guess pretty good. It will be nice to see it."



Daniel Gonzales
Retired
electrician
Pueblo

"I hope they do good. I hope they have a winning season."



Joni K. Wilton
Customer
service rep.
Pueblo

"I don't know. I don't follow baseball."



Tip Reed
Retired lawyer
Westcliff

"I think they've got a good shot this year. My brother and his family went to spring training and they saw Ubaldo Jimenez pitch. He was on big time."



Candace Gallegos
CNA (certified
nurses aide)
Pueblo

"I'm hoping for a fabulous season. Their pitching is swell. So let's go Rockies!"



Connie Lucero-Tracy
Retired social
worker
Pueblo

"I don't ever watch baseball. My son loves the Rockies, so I root for them."

Asked Wednesday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

PEOPLE SPEAK

What do you think of U.S. involvement in air strikes over Libya?



Bob Steinke
Retired military
Pueblo

"I feel two different ways. Something needs to be done. But as long as it took us to get into it, I don't know what it will accomplish. We have too many irons in the fire."



Ed Morris
Air traffic
controller
Pueblo West

"As long as everyone else is helping, as long as there's a coalition, I don't see any problem with it."



TinaMarie Rivera
Medical
technician
Pueblo

"I try not to think about it. We should be working on the economy. Given past history, going to war never seems to help the economy."



Walt Blazer
Retired
Pueblo

"From a humanitarian standpoint, I support the intervention over there. However, I don't want any more involvement in what's a civil war that's going to last a long time."



Jan Chase
CPA
Pueblo

"We need to be doing it. We need to be involved."



Cassandra Chase
Mom
Woodland, Calif.

"The biggest issue is once you get in, how do you get out."



Rosendo Robles
Production
worker
Pueblo

"I don't understand why we're there. I think the U.S. ought to stay out of situations like that."



Kim Weiler
Loan officer
Pueblo

"I don't agree with it."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

PEOPLE SPEAK

What can the U.S. do to help Japan recover from the recent natural disaster?



Bob Donovan
Retired
Pueblo

"Probably send humanitarian aid. We have plenty of people who can provide rescue operations and supplies the Japanese need."



Cindy Chavez
Retired
Pueblo

"The Red Cross is helping them out, and President Obama is trying to help."



Jean Rideout
Retired
Rancho Colorado
(north of Pueblo)

"All they can. Send food, water, medical aid."



April Rotonda
Cosmetologist
Pueblo

"Put up more shelters and send money."



Dorothy Vigil
Retired
Walsenburg

"Send them money like we always do."



Brian Rice
Student
Pueblo

"I think we should send as many supplies and people over there as they need."



Jake Young
Student
Pueblo

"They should build better homes, maybe put them on stilts or on structures to balance the buildings during an earthquake."



Terry Madrill
Retired
Pueblo

"Humanitarian and financial aid. And volunteers."

Asked Wednesday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

PEOPLE SPEAK

Seeing the turmoil in Wisconsin, do you think public employees should have union collective bargaining rights?



Larry Alvarado
Veterans
advocate
Pueblo

"Yes. I feel they should be able to bargain to get paid for what they do."



Blake Cody
Cook
Pueblo

"Yes, very much."



Janice Cordova
Housewife
Pueblo

"Yes. They need help and don't get paid enough."



Terry Kokkeler
Retired
Pueblo

"I think they should to a certain extent on pensions and job security. But salaries and such should be adjusted according to the economy and what the government can pay."



James Curliss
Minister
Pueblo

"I don't think so. The unions made Pueblo poor."



Angie Jakuc
Retired
Pueblo

"I think they should."



Yolonda Lawson
CSU-Pueblo
student
Pueblo

"Absolutely. My father worked at the CF&I mill. I was born in a union family. Anybody should have an opportunity to discuss what affects them on the job."



Kelly Carl
Customer service
Durango

"I don't really know. I haven't been paying attention to that situation."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

PEOPLE SPEAK

Does the rising price of gasoline affect your travel habits or family budget?



Rick Betz
Target
Distribution
Center
Vineland

"Yes. It affects us. We don't travel out of town as much as we used to."



Brian Keahey
Unemployed
surveyor
Pueblo

"I'm on walk-about. It's good for my health."



Sue Gurule
Janitorial
Pueblo

"No. I take the bus."



Briarose Sorenson
Student
Pueblo

"Probably my family budget. It takes money out of your pocket for food and other things."



Chris Kochis
Student
Pueblo

"Oh, yeah! I have an old beat-up truck that takes a lot of gas."



David Asch
PCC student
Pueblo

"Very much so. I've got to pay for my gas and it's starting to get real bad."



Kirian Romero
PCC student
Pueblo

"Yes. I can't really go places anymore because gas is so expensive."



Paz Amparo Bernal
Waitress
Pueblo

"Yes, very much. I'll take a ride with someone else if I can. I don't want to be the one to drive."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The Pueblo Medal of Honor Foundation is pleased to announce the winners in their 3rd annual essay contest, this year the theme was "What makes me proud to live in the United States?" Nearly 400 essays were entered in three age categories and the winners received their awards and certificates at the Rawlings Public Library the evening of Wednesday March, 16.



1st, 2nd or 3rd place winners.
L-R back row: Daniel Hernandez, Sarah Allen, Pete Yazzie-Rodriguez, Gabrielle Potter, William Finley
Front row: Tyran Johnson, Jet Chong, Cayla Peaslee (not pictured Molly Lindeman)

Elementary School Level

- 1st Place - Tryan Johnson, Goodnight.
- 2nd Place - Jet Chong, Goodnight
- 3rd Place - Pete Vincente Yazzie-Rodriguez, Columbian Elementary
- Honorable Mention - Emily Eckland, Goodnight School
- Honorable Mention - Sarah Fitel, Cesar Chavez Academy
- Honorable Mention - Tryston Merryman, Cedar Ridge Elementary

Middle School Level

- 1st Place - Sarah Allen, Goodnight
- 2nd Place - Cayla Peaslee, Bessemer Academy
- 3rd Place - Daniel Hernandez, Bessemer Academy
- Honorable Mention - Dontae Runco, Pueblo School for the Arts and Science
- Honorable Mention - Jarrett Schirmer, Skyview in Pueblo West
- Honorable Mention - Adam Mitro, Risley Middle School
- Honorable Mention - Adrian Pacheco, Bessemer Academy.

High School Level

- 1st Place - Molly Lindeman, Centennial High School
- 2nd Place - Gabrielle Potter, Pueblo West High School
- 3rd Place - William Finley, Centennial High School
- Honorable Mention - Kayla Mestas, Centennial High School
- Honorable Mention - Melissa Chavez, Centennial High School

We applaud each student for taking the time to enter this essay contest, for the thoughts behind your messages and your grasp of what makes you proud to live in the United States!

To the teachers and principals who encouraged the students to participate we thank you, for your dedication to our youth.

Parents and grandparents, a special thanks for encouraging your child to compete in this contest.



HOME of HEROES
Pueblo, Colorado

LOOKING FOR DENTS



Kevin Butler, an employee of D&D Monarch Sheet Metal Inc. of Commerce City, works on the roof of the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library recently repairing hail damage to the structure on the Mesa Junction. Opened in 2003, the library features modern architecture with a copper facade and sits at the top of the hill where Union Avenue meets Abriendo Avenue.

CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/JOHN JAQUES



Award Winning Author Barbara Samuel O'Neal

Will be the featured speaker at
Friends of the Library Annual Dinner & Meeting
April 9th - 6:15pm, Rawlings Library, Ryals Room
Tickets \$25.00, available at:
Books Again - 622 S. Union
For more information call: 543-4688



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InfoZone film

"Jaffa," a drama from Israel, will be the InfoZone News Museum's independent film for March.

The movie is about a couple — one Palestinian, one Israeli — who face growing tensions among those around them as they prepare for their wedding. The film will start at 7 p.m. Saturday in the museum, on the fourth floor of Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is free. The movie is unrated but recommended for ages 17 and older.

Adults read to succeed

By JOHN NORTON
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Without readers, Pueblo's libraries wouldn't have much purpose, so a new program that encourages not only reading but also lifelong learning is being offered there.

The Pueblo City-County Library District's Adult Literacy Program, uses a series of classes and individual tutoring for people who want to improve their reading, spelling, writing and comprehension skills. Learners meet with their tutors at least two times a week for one to two hours per session. The tutor and student meet for a minimum of six months.

Amy Nelson, literacy librarian, said, "I'm so passionate about this program because of the confidence it gives adults when they learn

from and finish the Adult Literacy Program." Nelson said that it goes far beyond reading skills. "It gives people their dignity back in a world that is designed for those who not only read, but read well.

"The literacy program is exciting because of the positive impact it's making on Pueblo. While we're working with individuals, this program has a ripple effect throughout the community," Nelson said.

"Program participants are also taking what they're learning home, and reading with their kids much more than they did before. It's amazing, the family bonding that occurs when they learn together," said Nelson.

She explained that students in the program typically have not finished high school, but after working with their

tutors many have the confidence to pursue a GED certificate and even start working toward college.

She said that the National Assessment of Adult Literacy estimates that 11 million Americans are not literate in English — 7 million who are English speakers performing below basic literacy levels and 4 million who have English language barriers.

The Adult Literacy Program is also seeking volunteer tutors. To qualify, volunteers must complete tutor training, volunteer orientation and complete an hour of online training each month.

For more information, to register for classes or to volunteer, contact Amy Nelson at 553-0206 or email at www.amy.nelson@pueblo-library.org norton@chieftain.com

LOCAL BRIEFS

Giron hosting town hall meeting

State Sen. Angela Giron, D-Pueblo, is hosting a town hall meeting at 10 a.m. today at the **Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.**

Speakers invited to the meeting are from nonprofit agencies in the community. They will include Steve Nawrocki, executive director of the Senior Resources Development Agency; Bill Mercer, of the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center; Mary Gunn, from the Packard Foundation; and Joe Mahoney, of Catholic Charities.

Giron hosts town hall meetings at the library on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

— Peter Roper