

briefly | PUEBLO WEST & AREA

Master Gardeners

Having problems with your vegetables, lawns and/or trees? Colorado Master Gardeners will help you find the answers at a diagnostics clinic at the Pueblo West Library, 298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd., from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the second Saturday of every month.

For more information, contact the Colorado State University Extension-Pueblo County office at 719-583-6566.

PEOPLE SPEAK

What do you do to beat the heat?



Chris Armijo
Unemployed
Pueblo

"Go to a pool and swim."



Stephen Lawson
Unemployed
Pueblo

"Drink lots of water."



Megan Gordon
Dance school
instructor
Pueblo

"Is that possible?"



Ron Olson
Truck driver
Pueblo

"I've just been cruisin' on my bike until I get home and turn on the air conditioner."



Andrea Garrett
Theatre company
director
Pueblo

"I just bought a second air conditioner yesterday to add to the one I already have."



Chris Hernandez
Fisherman
Pueblo

"I stay inside with the air conditioning or fish with shorts on."



Josh Porter
Street magician
Pueblo

"Go to a swimming pool."



Mary Therese Anstey
Architectural
historian
Denver

"Sit in the air conditioning or go to movies."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

AT THE LIBRARY**Fiction**

"Split Second," by Catherine Coulter
 "Hotwire: A Maggie O'Dell Novel," by Alex Kava
 "Burnt Mountain: A Novel," by Anne Rivers Siddons
 "Portrait of a Spy," by Daniel Silva
 "Private Life," by Jane Smiley
 "Robert Ludlum's the Bourne Dominion," by Eric Van Lustbader

Nonfiction

"The Original Argument," by Glenn Beck
 "Fire Monks: Zen Mind Meets Wildfire at the Gates of Tassajara," by Colleen Morton Busch
 "Paris to the Past: Traveling through French History by Train," by Ina Caro
 "The Three of Us: Growing Up with Tammy and George," by Georgette Jones
 "Shaped by War," by Don McCullin
 "Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West," by Dorothy Wickenden

Health exchange forum at library

Puebloans will be asked their opinions about the new health care exchanges at a forum Wednesday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

"We are looking for people from specific income levels to participate," said Graham Smith of JSI, which is coordinating the event.

Those selected for the focus group will receive \$25 for their time.

To participate or for more information, call 1-877-892-099.

• 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.

AT THE LIBRARY

Fiction

"From Barcelona, with Love," by Elizabeth Adler
"The Secret Mistress," by Mary Balough
"Split Second: An FBI Thriller," by Catherine Coulter
"Quinn: A Novel," by Iris Johansen
"Dragon's Time: Dragonriders of Pern," by Anne McCaffrey
"Then Came You," by Jennifer Weiner

Nonfiction

"The Seven Spiritual Laws of Superheroes," by Deepak Chopra
"The Natural Mystics: Marley, Tosh, and Wailer," by Colin Grant
"Reading with the Stars: A Celebration of Books and Libraries," by Leonard Kniffel
"Warren Buffett Invests Like a Girl: And Why You Should, Too," by Louann Lofton
"William & Catherine: Their Story," by Andrew Morton
"Not Afraid of Life: My Journey So Far," by Bristol Palin

543-4688

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Sports, Arts & Craft Books
An additional 50% off
our extremely low prices.
As an example: a \$25 book on this sale
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Bring in this ad and get a

FREE PAPERBACK NOVEL
of your choice
with any \$10 or more purchase.
Most of our books are 75% off the original price.
www.booksagain-pueblo.com

All profits used to benefit the Pueblo Library District.

AT THE LIBRARY

Fiction

"Escape: A Novel," by Barbara Delinsky

"Orchard of Hope: A Novel," by Ann H. Gabhart

"Betrayal of Trust," by J.A. Jance

"When Passion Rules: A Novel," by Johanna Lindsey

"Stagestruck: a Peter Diamond Investigation," by Peter Lovesey

"The Dog Who Came in from the Cold," by Alexander McCall Smith

Nonfiction

"They Came for Me: A Family's Story of Love, Captivity, and Survival," by Maziar Bahari

"The Cave Painters: Probing the Mysteries of the World's First Artists," by Gregory Curtis

"Has Modernism Failed?," by Suzi Gablik

"What's Next: Unconventional Wisdom on the Future of the World Economy," by David Hale

"Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis," by Kim Todd

"The House in France: A Memoir," by Gully Wells

543-4688

BOOKS
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Monday -
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Bios, Memoirs & True Life Books
An additional 50% off
our extremely low prices.
As an example: a \$25 book on this sale
will cost only \$3.25 (sale ends August 31th)

Bring in this ad and get a

FREE PAPERBACK
NOVEL
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Most of our books are 75% off the original price.

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The Pueblo Chieftain

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May vary outside Pueblo

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

PUEBLO, COLORADO

Ballot drive targets Urban Renewal

City schools' board president launches campaign to gain voice in decisions.

By CHRIS WOODKA
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

A city ballot issue could challenge how Tax Increment Financing, the major funding source for

the Urban Renewal Authority of Pueblo, is applied to projects.

"What we're asking for is representation," Pueblo City Schools President Stephanie Garcia told the authority's board Tuesday.



Stephanie Garcia

Garcia wants the school districts, county and other taxing entities to have a say in Urban Renewal projects.

Garcia shared a copy of a petition for a city ordinance she has begun circulating this week through the Committee for Transparency in TIF. The ordinance would require the city to furnish written notice to other taxing entities affected by TIF collections and to

negotiate in good faith with other groups to share property tax revenues related to updated plans.

It also would require approval of other taxing entities to create or enlarge a TIF district.

Garcia intends to meet with City Council to discuss whether it would consider adopting an ordinance without an initiative, but noted that a similar proposal was rejected by council in the

past.

She contends TIF collections deprived Pueblo County, city schools, District 70, the Pueblo City County Library District and water conservancy districts of \$4.3 million in property tax revenues last year. The length of the TIF payments and whether they are being applied to blighted areas also are issues.

SEE BALLOT, 2A

BALLOT / from page 1A

"In 25 years, two generations of students have gone through the schools before they see any benefits," Garcia said. "We want the jobs and other benefits, but we are losing teachers and not seeing other benefits."

Some members of the Urban Renewal Authority disagreed.

"Her arguments are full of holes. The improvements wouldn't happen without Urban Renewal, so I don't see the argument that they're losing tax revenue," said City Councilman Larry Atencio. "Also, what if one of the taxing agencies doesn't go along with it. Does it kill the project?"

TIF funding applies property or sales taxes to improvements in specific

areas as new businesses develop. Taxes above a baseline value are earmarked for public improvements within a taxing district.

The Urban Renewal Authority has used the funding for projects such as the Pueblo Convention Center, the South Main Street parking garage or for a Vestas reimbursement agreement that helped bring 400 jobs to Pueblo.

Current Urban Renewal projects include the Lake Avenue redevelopment, a ramp off Interstate 25 at Pueblo Crossings on the North Side and the renovation of Memorial Hall.

Garcia doesn't dispute the value of the improvements, but said the other taxing entities should have

a say in how the public money is spent.

"No matter how well-intentioned, city officials will always be tempted to use TIF as a vehicle for certain developers," she said. "This puts many developers at a competitive disadvantage, as it distributes public funds from other governmental entities to only a few private companies."

Former City Councilman Al Gurule attended the meeting as well, and said he feels that Urban Renewal has strayed from its mission of addressing blight. He said pouring more money in the Downtown area, shopping centers or projects such as Thunder Village near Colorado State

University-Pueblo takes resources away from more needy areas.

"Dillon Drive? How does that compare to East Fourth Street?" Gurule asked. "I expanded my own business (Pueblo Community Corrections Services) and put in my own infrastructure."

He said there already is another agency for economic development, so Urban Renewal should concentrate on blighted areas.

John Batey, director of the Urban Renewal Authority, said the agency addresses blight under state guidelines, and protects the property tax base in affected neighborhoods by keeping the money close to home.

The TIF focus is on new commercial development, so doesn't impact residential or existing business taxes that are the foundation of revenues to other

districts. The exception is on the East Side corridor, which has a high proportion of rental units, he said.

Batey isn't sure Garcia's figures about the impacts of TIF on other taxing district are accurate. He said the baseline for calculating TIF is adjusted every two years to make sure the proper amount of taxes are collected.

The length of time for a TIF district, typically 25 years, is also appropriate, he said.

"I understand their perspective, but what they're failing to recognize is that redevelopment takes time. Bonding takes time, and there's a difference between repaying a bond in 10 years vs. 15 years," Batey said. "The most important thing is that revenue is going back into the community."

cwoodka@chieftain.com

briefly | PUEBLO WEST & AREA

DM/Donna L. Moore

For more information, call 719-562-5660.

going into business for yourself. These experts will guide you if you are considering going into business for yourself. The panel for this seminar includes business attorney Doug Cradison, franchise expert Cindy Ray, field and business advisor Caroline Parsons, accountant David A. Shephard, banker Chad Heberly, and attorney Doug Cradison. The seminar includes business path. The panel for this seminar includes business attorney Doug Cradison, franchise expert Cindy Ray, field and business advisor Caroline Parsons, accountant David A. Shephard, banker Chad Heberly, and attorney Doug Cradison.

Y.O.B. seminar

The "Get a Y.O.B." (Your Own Business) seminar will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. July 26.

This seminar will aid

AT THE LIBRARY

Fiction

"Randy Lopez Goes Home: A Novel," by Rudolfo Anaya

"Dead Dogs and Englishmen," by Elizabeth Kane Buzzelli

"Whatever Gets You Through the Night: A Story of Sheherazade and the Arabian Entertainments," by Andrei Codrescu

"Buzz Aldrin, What Happened to You in All the Confusion?: A Novel," by Johan Harsstad

"Dreams of Joy," by Lisa See

"Stone Arabia: A Novel," by Dana Spiotta

Nonfiction

"The Boy in the Moon," by Ian Brown

"Industrial Utopia: The History and Architecture of South Pueblo," by Jeffrey DeHerrera and others

"To Die in Mexico: Dispatches from Inside the Drug War," by John Gilder

"Starting Over," by LaToya Jackson

"Ancient Secret of the Fountain of Youth," by Peter Kelder

"God Behaving Badly: Is the God of the Old Testament Angry, Sexist and Racist?," by David Lamb

PEOPLE SPEAK

How has the poor economy affected you?



Penny King, Pueblo, retired teacher

"I sell craft items that are not selling, and my husband is unemployed."



Cathy Lopez, Pueblo West, health care provider and teacher aide

"It is bad, because of the low employment and no job opportunities."



Shanda Kersten, Pueblo, unemployed

"I have to go out and get a job now, I can't stay home with my baby anymore."



Becky Bregar, Pueblo, homemaker

"We have had to make more conscious decisions on spending limits and cut back, just learning to accommodate the change in economy."



Scott Bean, Pueblo, unemployed

"I've been looking for a job so I can get my own place, but I have been living with my girlfriend."



David Kochis, Pueblo, retired

"I have traveled less, and am staying home more."



Richard Montano, Pueblo, artist

"It really hasn't."



Derek Voll, Pueblo, unemployed

"It has put me in tremendous poverty for years, and it is not fun."

Asked Thursday at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

The past is present

Second chautauqua festival brings historical figures to life



Brian 'Fox' Ellis



Kevin Radaker

Four of the western world's great thinkers and writers will be part of the second Voices of the Valley Chautauqua Festival in Pueblo.

The festival will take place July 29 and 30 under a tent on the west lawn at Colorado State University-Pueblo. Kevin Radaker and Brian "Fox" Ellis will perform.

On July 29, Radaker will portray author Henry David Thoreau at 6 p.m. and Ellis will play naturalist Charles Darwin at 7 p.m. The schedule will repeat on July 30, with Radaker playing Christian writer C.S. Lewis and Ellis taking on the role of poet Walt Whitman.

Radaker is a professor and chair of the English department at Anderson University in Indiana; he is a Thoreau scholar. Ellis, an Illinois native, has toured around the world since 1980 portraying multiple characters, including

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Voices of the Valley Chautauqua Festival

WHEN: 6 p.m. July 29-30

WHERE: Colorado State University-Pueblo, west lawn

ADMISSION: Free

INFO:

www.pueblolibrary.org

Witch and the Wardrobe" (rated PG); Wednesday, "Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" (PG); Thursday, "Creation: The True Story of Charles Darwin" (PG-13).

The festival is sponsored by the Pueblo City-County Library District, CSU-Pueblo and Colorado Humanities.

There is no charge for admission and visitors are welcome to bring their own picnic dinner, organizers said.

— Amy Matthew

Meriwether Lewis, John James Audubon and Edgar Allan Poe.

Following the performances, Radaker and Ellis will answer questions from the audience — first in character, then as themselves.

The InfoZone News Museum in Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., will show the following films leading up to the chautauqua festival. Show time is 6:30 p.m.: Monday, "Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the

Museum salutes work of Hispanics at mill

'All of us are related to CF&I,' says librarian who coordinated ethnic series.

By ADRIAN GARCIA
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN



Former steelworker Elmer Espinoza recalls his days at the mill and laments that 'a lot of the old guys are gone.'

CF&I steel mill workers "didn't look like much, but we were a proud bunch," Elmer Espinoza told some 50 people Saturday at the Steelworks Museum. "There was a good work force in Pueblo due to ethnic

origins of all nationalities," Espinoza said.

Hispanic Heritage Day was the fourth and final one to recognize the ethnicities that contributed to steel and Pueblo. Greeks, Germans and Italians had their days, too.

Espinoza, who worked for more than 30 years at the Bessemer mill, got a little choked up as he reflected. "It's kind of sad when you think of all the years, a lot of the old guys are gone," he said.

SEE MUSEUM, 5B

MUSEUM / from page 1B

He recalled things that former workers and their families know well: the mill whistle that sounded at 12 p.m., the bars in the Bessemer area where many workers would take their lunch, and the nickname "Pew town" because of the smell the mill gave off.

"You look at all the pictures and it kind of overwhelms you because there is a legacy of history," Espinoza said.

Charlene Garcia-Simms, the Pueblo City Library genealogy and special collections librarian, coordinated the event, which was sponsored in part by the Fray Angélico Chavez Chapter of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America.

"All of us are related to CF&I," the librarian said. "We have become a part of Pueblo history."

Alfie Salazar had the look of history. Dressed in a period costume, the poetry writer read a brief history of Hispanics' role

in Pueblo's past and the founding of neighborhoods such as Salt Creek, where she was raised. Her brother and other relatives worked at the mill.

Joe Sandoval, who began working at the mill in 1959, read from his book "Hearts of Gold" and touched on his experiences working in the part of the mill that produced wire.

The Heritage Center, 201 W. B St., displayed antiques of Hispanic culture from its "Legacy Trunk," and Ben Guerrero and Virginia Vigil spoke about people who came from New Mexico to Pueblo because of the mill.

The pair then closed the day with some Hispanic dances.

city@chieftain.com

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CONCERT STARTS AT 7:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM

El Pueblo Ensemble: Tom Murch, Johnny Watson, Linda Amman and Dave Enke

El Pueblo History Museum
301 N. Union Avenue
Pueblo, Colorado 81003
719/583-0453

HISTORY Colorado
El Pueblo History Museum
www.historycolorado.org

PEOPLE SPEAK

What is your favorite summer activity?



George Lott
Sales Manager
Pueblo
 "Chili cook-offs."



Diane Wigner
Sales Assistant
Pueblo
 "Going to our cabin in Pitkin."



Scott Chaussee
Advertising Executive
San Francisco
 "Just biking and playing tennis."



Rick Sindeband
Owner of Skystone & Silver LLC
Pueblo
 "Traveling."



Gabby Riggsbee
Unemployed
Pueblo
 "Hanging out with friends."



Alex Albrecht
Student
Canon City
 "Singing."



Domenique Roush
Teacher
Pueblo
 "Golf."



Nancy Cornell
Teacher
Pueblo
 "Gardening."

Asked Thursday at Mesa Junction.