

Local News

HEALTH

Governor asks to add Eilers to Superfund

Area could be eligible for funds in September

BY PETER ROPER
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

It's official — Gov. John Hickenlooper has asked the federal Environmental Protection Agency to put the Eilers neighborhood on the national Superfund list for cleaning up areas of lead and arsenic contamination.

The letter, dated Jan. 21, (and available at chieftain.com) is the beginning of a process that will probably end with the neighbor-

hood being added to the national Superfund list in September.

Hickenlooper's letter includes some of the major concerns that Eilers property owners compiled at a neighborhood meeting earlier this month. Those include EPA working closely with the community, cleaning up the old Colorado Smelter slag pile as well as contaminated yards and doing it all quickly.

City Council President

Sandy Daff was one of the council members who resisted putting Eilers on the Superfund list until December. When additional soil and blood tests indicated lead contamination was a continuing problem for some Eilers families, Daff agreed to request the listing.

"I would be happier if the letter put more emphasis on some of our issues, such as educating residents about addressing the health risks, but

it does reflect some of our concerns," she said Tuesday.

Daff noted that residents want the EPA, or another federal agency to be responsible for seeing that lead contamination is removed from both the yards and the interiors of the older homes in the area. The letter doesn't say that.

Sabrina Forrest, EPA's Superfund site coordinator for Colorado, said Hickenlooper's letter

means the Eilers area will be proposed for the national list in April. That will trigger a 60-day public comment period.

Barring unforeseen events, Eilers will be added to the Superfund list — and eligible for cleanup funds — in September.

EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have been urging council to request the listing for nearly two years but it has

SEE EILERS, 3B



John Hickenlooper

SNOW SCRAPE



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/CHRIS MCLEAN

Jake Colletti of Local Motors sweeps snow from cars on his lot on 14th Street and Santa Fe Avenue on Tuesday morning. Several inches of snow fell overnight Tuesday, causing a slippery drive to work.

SCHOOLS

D60 rethinks teacher policy

BY GAYLE PEREZ
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

The Pueblo City Schools (D60) board of education is considering changes to district policy that strictly outlines inappropriate staff and student relationships in light of a recent sexting incident involving a former South High School teacher.

The changes to the staff conduct policy were presented at Tuesday's school board meeting on first reading.

The board must review the changes at least one more time before it can be voted on and implemented.

The amendment to the current policy adds an entire section on maintaining staff and student boundaries.

The changes provide examples of inappropriate boundary invasions by staff members to include such behaviors as inappropriate physical contact with students, showing pornography to a student, singling out students for personal attention and friendship beyond a professional student and staff relationship and contacting students outside of school by phone (including text messages), social network or email without approval of a parent/guardian and appropriate administrator.

"I think this is a fairly good policy. This is something that really is needed," said board member Rose Holloway, who requested in December a new policy be adopted that will allow for the school board to be notified of any instances of child abuse, including sexual abuse by a staff member.

"This will hopefully stop any further behaviors that we as a community think is inappropriate regardless if the police think so or not."

In October, then-South teacher Larisa Oringdolph was placed on paid administrative leave following a police investigation into allegations that she was texting inappropriate photos of herself to male students and that she engaged in kissing another student.

The investigation was prompted after parents notified the school and later the police of concerns about the inap-

More on the web >>>
[CHIEFTAIN.COM/NEWS/EDUCATION](http://chieftain.com/news/education)

SEE POLICY, 3B

CITY

City hoping to lasso Springs Ranch

Council gives landowners three years to annex

BY PETER ROPER
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

As a cliffhanger, it was sort of a dud.

The property owners wanting to develop the 24,000-acre Pueblo Springs Ranch area north of the city were running out of time Monday night.

Back in 2007, City Council agreed to annex a long, narrow "lariat" of land into the city that surrounds the proposed development. The developers need that lifeline so they can annex their property into the city in the future,

but the lariat was set to expire this Friday.

After all, the Pueblo Springs Ranch project has been dormant until just recently.

Monday night, council agreed to keep the lariat in place for another three years, giving the three ownership groups time to develop an annexation plan for council's consideration.

"You're only giving them additional time," acting Planning Director Jeff Bailey told council. "You're not committing any money to this."

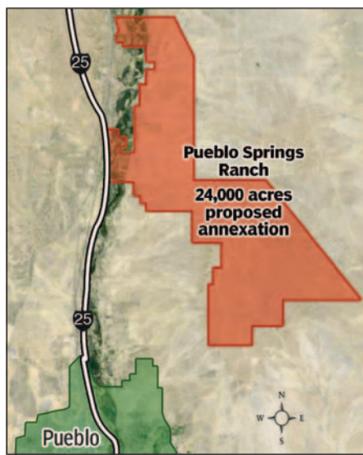
With those assurances,

council agreed to the extension with little discussion.

Pueblo Springs Ranch would increase Pueblo's acreage by nearly 60 percent if annexed in the future. The ownership groups, based in Phoenix and Las Vegas, intend to build a mixture of residential and commercial areas on the property, which is east of Interstate 25 and north of the city.

Bailey told council the landowners had agreed to provide the city with the costs for consultants or other experts

SEE LARIAT, 3B



CHIEFTAIN GRAPHIC/CHARLIE RUYBE



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/FILE

Marley Nahum, from Franktown, shows one of her grand champion market chickens to buyers during the 2013 Colorado State Fair Junior Livestock Sale.

FAIR

Loss not as much as reported

Depreciation helps soften the sting

BY ANTHONY A. MESTAS
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

The Colorado State Fair kicked off its two-day strategic planning meeting Tuesday with budget talks and a clarification of its reported \$2.8 million operating deficit.

Jeff Stalter, director of budget and business operations for the Fair, gave an overall financial breakdown of the Fair and his recommendations to help fix the problem to the Fair's board of commis-

sioners.

Stalter said although some media outlets have reported a multimillion dollar deficit, it's really closer to \$116,000.

Fair General Manager Chris Wiseman said \$714,909 in depreciation has to be subtracted from the actual deficit total.

"The Fair saw a cash loss of \$116,238 before depreciation," Wiseman said.

Stalter said also not included in an audit report released earlier this month was funding

from the Department of Agriculture, interest from unclaimed property, grant funds and Pueblo County and city funds given to the Fair each year.

Pueblo County gives the Fair \$175,000 and the city gives \$100,000 each year.

"They (auditors) don't count that as a revenue whereas from a state perspective we do," Stalter said.

Stalter explained that the deficit is from the entire 365 days the Fair

SEE FAIR, 3B

CRIME BEAT

Fire destroys PW kitchen

BY JEFF TUCKER
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Pueblo West firefighters and deputies from the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office were called to a house fire around 5:30 p.m. Monday.

According to a report by Deputy Charles Roldan, emergency personnel were called to the 200 block of South Reynosa Drive in Pueblo West on reports of a structure fire.

According to the report, homeowner Thomas McDonald told authorities he left his home for a short time and when he came back he found smoke billowing out the back door.

According to the report, McDonald said he thought he had turned on his oven in an attempt to heat his home and cut down on gas bills. But he mistakenly turned on a burner to the stove instead. The burner appeared to catch fire to other items on top of the stove, spreading the blaze into the kitchen.

McDonald was able to put the fire out before firefighters arrived, but the report said damage estimates were at \$35,000.

Arrests

Daniel Jose Leiba, 28, of the 100 block of 30 1/2 Lane, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of second-degree burglary. He is free on \$15,000 bail.

Roberto Marquez-Huerta, 22, homeless, was arrested Sunday on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. He was in Pueblo County jail on \$10,000 bail and on a hold for immigration authorities.

Domonique A. Penny, 19, of the 2200 block of East Seventh Street, was arrested Saturday on a warrant for failure to appear. She was in county jail in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

Richard Smithwick, 20, of the 4100 block of North Elizabeth Street, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of robbery. He was

being held in jail in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

Augustine A. Lujan, 32, of an unspecified address on 28 1/2 Lane, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of intimidating a victim or witness. He was released on \$50,000 bail.

Tara Noel Carrillo, 30, of the 1500 block of Spruce Street was arrested Monday on suspicion of intimidating a victim or witness. She was being held in jail in lieu of \$5,200 bail.

Christopher Esquivel, 20, of the 2000 block of Spruce Street, was arrested Monday on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance and on a warrant for failure to pay. He was being held in jail in lieu of \$2,700 bail.

James David Montez, 55, of the 0-100 block of Penwood Lane, was arrested Monday on suspicion of second degree burglary. He was being held in jail without bail, pending advisement in court.

Caesar Aaron Martinez, 41, homeless, was arrested Monday on a warrant for

failure to appear. He was being held in jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

David James Duran Jr., 47, homeless, was arrested Monday on suspicion of identity theft and on a warrant for failure to appear. He was in jail in lieu of \$75,000 bail.

James Joseph Peabody, 29, of the 2200 block of West 13th Street, was arrested Monday on suspicion of aggravated motor vehicle theft, criminal impersonation, theft, violation of a protection order and numerous counts of contempt. He was being held in jail in lieu of \$31,200 bail.

Anthony Robert Martinez, 26, of the 100 block of Norwood was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of second- and third-degree assault. He was being held in jail without bail pending advisement in court.

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Pueblo Crime Stoppers, 542-STOP. Remember, your call is anonymous.

IN MEMORIAM

**IN MEMORIAM
Pete Duran**



Your First Birthday in Heaven with God and His Angels.
We will celebrate knowing that one day we will be with you.
Love and miss you, Your Wife Viola and Family

**IN MEMORIAM
Helen Gallardo**
5/4/1928 • 1/29/2013



Rest in Peace Mom. Ron, Cindy and Chris

**IN MEMORIAM
Galin Harold Gearhart**
1/29/1935 to 12/30/2013



Happy Birthday! Sadly missed by, Twin Brother Ervin Donald Gearhart

**IN MEMORIAM
Adella A. Guerrero**
1/29/1918 • 4/16/2009



Past president of the Aquilegia Toastmistress Club.
Love always, Adella. Your Family

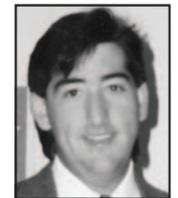
**IN MEMORIAM
Kirk Hall Jr.**
Who Passed Away One Year Ago Today



Death leaves a heartache no one can heal;
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.
Love You, Auntie Donna

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of **Ron Maldonado Jr.**
1968 - 1990



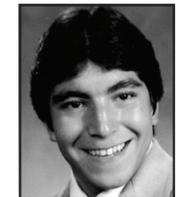
Happy 46th Birthday Son!
We Love You, Dad, Mom, Anne and Family

**IN MEMORIAM
Rebecca Pacheco**
1/29/1978 - 5/4/2013



The wind has taken you, you're free. One in a million, yes you were!
Happy Birthday, Love, Mom, Jeffrey, Alesea, and T.J.

**IN MEMORIAM
Billy Trujillo**
11 Years



January has come again To start a new beginning But, to me, it is just another year To rekindle the pain I am feeling For this is the month you were taken away The month my life ended It was the beginning of an injury That can never, ever be mended It was the coldness of an empty heart The constant weeping of a mother It was a horror that can never be forgotten A pain like no other It is a loss that has built a void That can never be refilled And each January we are reminded On this horrid day you were killed So my son - with the greatest pain I send you all my love Until the day I can see you again In the heavens above Terribly missed by his family

SHOVEL READY



CHEIFTAIN PHOTO/JOHN JAQUES

Fred Pisciotta, 93, takes a break from shoveling his driveway on Dittmer Avenue early Tuesday.

CENTER FOR AMERICAN VALUES

Meet on violence set Thursday

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

The Center for American Values on Thursday has scheduled a community discussion about violence in Pueblo and nationwide.

The free public event, which will begin at 3:30 p.m., will include panelists representing the fields of law enforcement, education and behavioral health.

The gathering will be divided into segments with important focus areas in education, law enforcement and behavioral health, with an opportunity for questions and answers following each segment.

Several local and state-wide experts will discuss violence prevention and

methods of defense while sharing their insights into the growing problem.

The center will film the event, as well as others that will follow, with hopes of producing an educational tool that will be distributed to every school in the country.

"Our goal is to encourage other communities to take a proactive approach to violence in our schools and in our society. We must develop a deeper understanding of the problem and band together in the exploration of solutions necessary to address violence in our homes, communities and country," said Sue Smith, CAV president.

Following the forum, attendees will watch a pre-

view/trailer of "Draw the Line" a movie produced by the center. The film, set in 1879, features two Medal of Honor recipients who help tell the tale of brave men and women who were willing to draw the line on violence and bullying during the development of the Wild West.

The film will be used as an educational module designed to promote the center's core values of honor, integrity and patriotism.

A reception with light refreshments will follow the preview.

The CAV is located on the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo, 101 South Main St., across from the parking structure and a public parking lot.

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LARIAT/
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who would be needed to evaluate any future development plan.

From the city's perspective, having the Pueblo Springs Ranch property within the city limits would be much more desirable than having an independent community spring up there in the future — outside the city's tax base.

Bailey has told council the city's intent to have any future development of the property be paid for by the landowners, meaning the cost of water lines, sewer lines and police or fire service.

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GOT NEWS?
Call 544-3520

FAIR/from page 1B

operates and not just the 11-day run in August.

The Fair employs 23 people year-round and more than 600 during the expo.

"The Fair event itself is profitable," Stalter said.

The 2013 expo made \$418,580.

The planning session, held at the 4-H Dining Hall, was scheduled to develop a five-year plan to improve the expo. The session continues today.

Stalter said tough decisions will need to be made.

"No ideas are too crazy and nothing is outside the box," he said.

"You need to start thinking about your organization as a 12-month operation. There's non-Fair time operations and that is where the Fair really

spends a lot of money it doesn't have."

Stalter said the Fair event is not making enough money to cover the other 50 weeks of expenditures.

"There is no magic bullet that's going to overcome this deficit. As hard as we keep fighting it there is no money fairy that is going to make this problem go away," Stalter said.

"There are a lot of little things that created it and a lot of little things that will change it."

Stalter also urged the board to eliminate the "trap of, that's how we've always done it."

"We can't always do it how we've always done it because we have a deficit," Stalter said.

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POLICY/from page 1B

appropriate relationship between Oringdulph and their son.

The police investigation found no criminal wrongdoing. Oringdulph resigned from the

district Nov. 7.

Holloway expressed frustration in the school board not being notified of the incident until it was made public.

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EILERS/from page 1B

been a contentious fight. Property owners didn't want the stigma of being known as a Superfund area while others, including the Pueblo County commissioners, argued the area needed to be cleaned up while the EPA was willing to do it with federal money.

Council and the commissioners had a stand-off of sorts last fall over the Eilers issue but agreed to jointly send a letter to Hicklenlooper in December.

"This is just the start

of the process," Hart said Tuesday. "We are committed to seeing this is done right and with the close involvement of the community."

Forrest said that Hicklenlooper's letter is a signal the agency can begin its informal work, such as developing a community advisory board. The agency expects that it will take up to two years to test the area to determine the extent of the contaminated soil to be removed.

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VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTH

Duran — Born to Cassandra Duran and Ryann Moreno, Pueblo, a daughter, Jan. 25 at Parkview Medical Center.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Michael Ervin Rall and Celia Ann Rall, both of Pueblo. Remarriage. Ryan Christopher Martinez and Elayna Lynda Cardenas, both of Pueblo.

Alonzo Philip Valdez and Valery Shirley Rodriguez, both of Pueblo. Michael Ethan Frank and Daniela Guadalupe Pimentel, both of Pueblo.

Shane Derek Rutherford and Amber Renee Hall, both of Pueblo.

John Charles Fields and Dorota S. Kaczor, both of Pueblo.

Randy Luke Vallejos and Carol Noel Espinoza, both of Pueblo. John Thomas Sandoval and Heather Lea Thompson, both of Pueblo.

Roy James Marsh and Esther Marie Catherine Catron, both of Avondale.

Steven Andrew Whitehead and Alicia Maria Cabrera, both of Pueblo.

James William Dale and Nicole Ann Powell, both of Pueblo. Joseph Thomas

Paxton and Catherine Marie Baker, both of Pueblo.

Cesar Martin Garces and Jenny Marlene Malca Torres, both of Pueblo.

DEATHS

PUEBLO
Jan. 27
Parker — Betty Parker, 84. Roselawn.
Prado — Elizabeth Prado, 88. T.G. McCarthy.

Jan. 26
Jones — Loretta T. Jones, 82. Davis.

Jan. 25
Gant — Albert E. Gant, 73. Adrian Comer.

Sanchez — Jose M. "Charlie" Sanchez, 78. Romero.

LONE TREE
Langley — Olan "Frenchy" Langley, 93, Lone Tree, formerly of La Junta, Jan. 25. Peacock-Larsen, La Junta.

ROCKY FORD
Crump — Randy Crump, 61, Rocky Ford, Jan. 26. Ford-Ustick, Rocky Ford.

RIVERSIDE, CALIF.
Field — Raymond "Lee" Field, 77, Riverside, Calif., formerly of Pueblo, Jan. 10. Thomas Miller Mortuary, Corona, Calif.