

COLORADO LEGISLATURE

Legislative session ends this week

Only three days remain; numerous important items still on agenda

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — Colorado state lawmakers have only three more days to get things done during their 120-day session. And, like the perpetual slacker college student before finals, they have a lot of things to finish before the final gavel hits before midnight Wednesday.

Before they wrap up for the year, lawmakers still have to pass one of the most crucial pieces of legislation they decide annually: How to fund public schools. This year, with extra tax revenue on hand, lawmakers are not only passing the yearly School Finance Act, they're also voting on a piecemeal attempt

to implement reforms that failed as a result of voters rejecting a \$1 billion tax increase last year. That includes a measure to require more transparency in how districts spend their money, more funds for English-language learners and dollars for charter schools. It's safe to say marijuana is an issue Colo-

rado lawmakers will be dealing with routinely for the foreseeable future — and this year is a perfect example of that. Before they go home, lawmakers still have to decide on whether to allow a banking co-op for recreational marijuana businesses, and if there should be a study on new regulations for pot edibles and purchasing

limits on the drug in its concentrated form. They also are debating how to spend new recreational marijuana tax revenues. A \$23 million spending plan has been proposed by the Joint Budget Committee and is making its way through both chambers of the Legislature. Last year's destructive wildfires and historic flooding meant lawmakers

had to come up with ways to address the consequences. Two big-ticket items include a nearly \$20 million proposal to fund a state-owned fire-fighting fleet to spot and attack fires faster, and a measure to forgive the property taxes of people who lost their homes because of floods and wildfires.

ENVIRONMENT

Feds to attend Eilers meeting

BY PETER ROPER
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Federal housing officials will be at a special meeting Tuesday to discuss what impact putting the Eilers neighborhood on the national Superfund list will have on the ability of property owners to buy or sell their homes and businesses.

mental Protection Agency is expected to put the Eilers neighborhood on the National Priorities List later this year. That list is commonly called Superfund and its purpose is to clean up areas that have toxic contamination problems from current or previous industries.

er, which closed nearly a century ago. High lead levels also have been found in several yards in the Eilers area, prompting the EPA's push to have the neighborhood listed for clean up.

The public meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. at NeighborWorks, 1241 E. Rott Ave.

In the Eilers case, high levels of lead and arsenic contamination have been found in the extensive slag pile left behind by the old Colorado Smelt-

Residents and business owners have questioned what impact the listing will have on their ability to buy or sell property and officials from the Department of Housing and Urban Development will attend the meeting. proper@chieftain.com

The federal Environ-

CRIME

Chase results in two arrests Canon deputy suffers pit bull bite

BY TRACY HARMON
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

CANON CITY — Two alleged attempted burglars were arrested after a foot chase during which a pit bull dog bit a Fremont County sheriff's deputy.

male with a pit bull on a leash. After a short foot chase, the deputy was able to apprehend Shane A. Eacker, 34, but the dog bit the deputy's leg during a struggle.

tigated for numerous charges including possession of a controlled substance, dangerous weapon, dangerous dog and resisting arrest charges. He is being held at the Fremont County jail on \$12,000 bail.

Deputies were called to the 800 block of Ridgewood Court shortly before 11 p.m. Friday on a report that a male and female were trying to break into a parked car, said Capt. Don Pinover of the Fremont County Sheriff's Office.

The female subject, Jaylene Ratliff, 20, of Canon City, ran into a nearby residence, which was occupied by a lone elderly woman whom she did not know. Another deputy pursued Ratliff and took her into custody after a struggle in the residence.

Ratliff is being held on an unrelated drug warrant, as well as for investigation of burglary of a dwelling, possession of a controlled substance, dangerous weapon, resisting arrest and introduction of contraband for allegedly having marijuana at the jail. She is being held on \$25,000 bail. tharmon@chieftain.com

The first deputy to arrive tried to stop the couple but both subjects took off running, the

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mock events to provide training Chem depot problem will be one scenario

BY RYAN SEVERANCE
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

A Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program will be held Tuesday at several locations in Pueblo County.

ing injury makeup. The majority of the publicly visible activity will be in the southwest corner of City Park, but additional emergency

equipment and vehicles will be deployed to other sites including the Chemical Depot and Central High School. ryans@chieftain.com

The exercise is scheduled to start at about 3 p.m. and conclude at 6 p.m., according to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office.

The exercise scenario will involve a simulated chemical incident at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot and another non-related emergency within the city limits of Pueblo.

The mock events will be large enough to require the activation of the new Pueblo County Emergency Operations Center, the Pueblo Community Joint Information Center, field decontamination and treatment facilities, as well as shelters for displaced citizens and their household pets.

The exercise may appear very realistic as responders will be dressed in full protective equipment and some actors who will be playing accident victims will receive realistic look-

The public will see exercise-related activity at several locations but should not be alarmed, the sheriff's office said.

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EDUCATION

D60, D70 each to honor 3 outstanding teachers

BY GAYLE PEREZ
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Six local educators will be honored this week for their work with students as recipients of the 2014 Colorado Teacher Awards.

honor three teachers. D60 will recognize Emeteria "Mitty" Solano, Ronda Gettel and Vivian Jesik at a ceremony scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Arapahoe Room of the Administration Building, 315 W. 11th St.

land Park Elementary. District 70 will honor Sherry Buffalo, Anna Roman and Todd Seip at a reception scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the Administration Building, 301 28th Lane.

The annual awards are presented to teachers or school staff members based on recommendations from other teachers, parents and students.

Solano is a third- and fourth-grade teacher at Irving Elementary.

Buffalo teachers third grade at Rye Elementary. Roman is the primary years program coordinator for second, third and fourth grades at Desert Sage Elementary School.

Pueblo City Schools (D60) and Pueblo County District 70 will each

Gettel is a media/library technology teacher and Jesik is a kindergarten teacher. Both Gettel and Jesik teach at High-

Seip teaches STEM courses at Skyview Middle School.

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