

COMMUNITY EVENT

# Family Fun Days starts today

The family-friendly event is in its third year in Trinidad



COURTESY PHOTOS/TOM DAVIS

The midway at the annual Trinidad Family Fun Days offers carnival rides and games. The event is set to kick off today and run through Sunday.

BY ANTHONY A. MESTAS  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

TRINIDAD — Food, folks, entertainment, carnival rides, rodeo and fun.

The Trinidad Family Fun Days is set for today through Sunday at the fairgrounds in Trinidad.

The event kicks off at 5 p.m. today. The carnival opens at 6 p.m.

The event was established in 2013 as a family-friendly, alcohol-free community festival.

“We promote fundraising efforts for nonprofit groups including the American Cancer Society’s Las Animas County Relay for Life Chapter and the Holy Trinity Academy,” said Tom Davis, founder of the now-popular event. Davis said live entertainment

is scheduled every night, all free to attend.

“We do not charge any sort of attendance fees for any of the events, concerts or general admission to the festival. Over the last two years, it has developed not only into an exciting weekend for the community, but also a tourism draw with attendees coming from northern New Mexico, Eastern Colorado, the San Luis Valley and the (Interstate 25) corridor,” Davis said.

“This year we have added a Little Britches rodeo, horse-shoe tournament and the annual Car and Bike Show produced by the Fantasy Kruizers Car and Bike Club of Trinidad.”

Davis said the event also will have performances from the two local dance studios — Dance Connection and

K(INspire) Pre-Professional Dance Studio.

He said there will be about 40 vendors at the event, selling everything from funnel cakes to fine jewelry.

“The purpose and focus of the event is to promote family togetherness and activity to anyone who wants to attend, no matter their race, creed or financial status,” Davis said.

The Trinidad Family Fun Days is produced by Tommy D Productions Company of Trinidad.

“This year, there are a few corporate sponsors helping to support the event, in spite of the recent layoffs within our largest industry, natural gas,” Davis said.

For more information and a list of events, call Davis at 719-680-4677. [anthonym@chieftain.com](mailto:anthonym@chieftain.com)

EILERS/BESSEMER NEIGHBORHOODS

# Fun fair to focus on Superfund, lead

EPA, health officials to help public at Benedict Park get-together on Saturday

BY PETER ROPER  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Wash your hands before eating. Leave your shoes by the door. Wash your yard-work clothes separate from the rest.

Simple rules but some of the best ways people can protect themselves from toxic lead dust in their yards or homes.

State and local health officials are hosting an Eilers and Bessemer Neighborhood Fun Fair

this Saturday in Benedict Park, but the gathering will have a serious purpose: teaching local residents about lead safety and how the federal Superfund process will work in cleaning up yards in the South Side area that have higher levels of lead or arsenic.

“One of the things we’re emphasizing is how people can protect themselves from lead in common-sense ways,” said Sarah Joseph, spokeswoman for

the Pueblo City-County Health Department.

The department will also have a lead-testing machine at the park so residents can bring toys, paint samples, jewelry and anything else they want tested for lead content.

“If you’ve got pots or pans you want tested — bring ‘em,” Joseph said.

Saturday’s free event will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Agencies involved in the Superfund process will be there including

the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the local health department.

Pueblo police and firefighters will also take part along with Colorado Legal Services, AMR ambulance service and Catholic Charities.

Currently, EPA is looking at a milewide circle around the Eilers neighborhood for yards and areas that could have high levels of lead and arse-

nic contamination. The center of the circle is the old Colorado Smelter site near Benedict Park, but the study zone extends west and south into Bessemer, north to the Grove neighborhood and east toward Salt Creek.

The process of testing yards for contamination is likely to take several years, with the cleanup to follow. It’s complicated and residents at every community meeting about the Superfund process have had questions

about the time involved and testing.

That’s why all the agency officials will be in Benedict Park again Saturday — to answer questions from residents.

For more detailed information on how to keep lead dust out of your house and body, go to the local health department’s site at <http://pueblohealth-dept.org/dirtalert> or watch a video at <https://youtube/71pcqiyv08w> [proper@chieftain.com](mailto:proper@chieftain.com)

PENROSE

# Package concern proves unfounded

BY TRACY HARMON  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

PENROSE — A suspicious package found Wednesday morning at the Estes-Cox model rocket plant on U.S. 50 prompted officials to evacuate a 1-mile radius and close U.S. 50 while the Pueblo Metro Bomb unit investigated.

According to Fremont

County Sheriff James Becker, a call about the package came in at 10:32 a.m. As a precaution a reverse 911 call was issued, initially to homes within a 3-mile radius of the plant but that was scaled back to 1 mile, Becker said.

“The Pueblo Metro Bomb Unit arrived about noon to investigate” Becker said.

The team later deemed the package to be safe, so the evacuations and road closures were lifted shortly after 1 p.m.

It was discovered that the package contained poorly packaged electronic items that had turned on during transit, causing a ticking noise, according to Detective Megan Richards. [tharmon@chieftain.com](mailto:tharmon@chieftain.com)

LOCAL BRIEFS

## Second-half taxes due soon

The deadline for property owners to make the second-half tax payment for their 2014 property taxes, due in 2015, is Monday.

Property owners who choose to mail their payments must also ensure that their payment is postmarked by June 15 and mailed to Pueblo County Treasurer, 215 W. 10th St., Room 110, Pueblo, CO 81003. Taxpayers making their payment in person may do so at the treasurer’s office at the same address. Payments for second half taxes made after Monday will be assessed a penalty interest charge. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Taxpayers also may pay their property taxes via the Internet using the credit card or e-check method. There is a fee for this method of paying property taxes. To use the online payment method, go to the Pueblo County home page at [co.pueblo.co.us](http://co.pueblo.co.us). The site directs taxpayers step-by-step to complete the tax payment process. Also, online payments for second-half taxes due must be made on or before midnight on Monday to avoid the additional interest charge.

For more information,

call the treasurer’s office at 583-6015.

## Ride to benefit care center

Pueblo Brothers United will sponsor a Pueblo Cooperative Care Center Benefit Run at 10 a.m. June 20. Entry fee is \$10 per person, \$15 per couple, plus one bag of perishables (peanut butter, jelly, canned goods, rice, etc.)

The ride will travel to Ordway before returning to 424 Venita Place. There will be a poker draw, raffle, food, music and more. Call 225-0312 for more information.

## South seeking hall candidates

The South High School Alumni Foundation is seeking nominations for induction into its Hall of Fame.

The foundation is seeking candidates who have made significant achievements in academics, business, health care, education, nonprofit, government, the arts, music, entertainment or other legitimate areas as recognized on a local, statewide, nationwide or worldwide basis. Candidates must also have contributed to service in

the community.

All nominations must be submitted or post-marked by June 25. Nominations may be submitted online through the foundation’s website, SHSAF.org, or a nomination form may be downloaded from the website and submitted by mail to SHSAF, P.O. Box 1065, Pueblo, CO 81002.

Nomination forms may also be obtained by calling the foundation at 242-5620 or at the South office.

## D70 offers free summer lunches

Three Pueblo County District 70 schools will be serving free lunch this summer for children ages 19 and younger.

Lunches will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at Avondale Elementary, 213 U.S. 50 East; Vineland Middle, 1132 36th Lane and Liberty Point International, 484 S. Maher Drive in Pueblo West.

The lunch program will go through July 31. Lunch will not be served on July 3.

Adults can eat at a cost of \$2.50 per meal.

For more information contact the District 70 food service at 295-6535.

PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

# Music added to summer ‘Escape’

Measured stage notes add to the tales of reading program

BY JON POMPIA  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

This year, there will be fun sounds to accompany the Adult Summer Reading Program “Escape the Ordinary” at Pueblo City-County Library District.

Four musical events are scheduled, starting with today’s Celtic Music Festival beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the InfoZone at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

Ken Willson and Kim McKee, who perform as Willson & McKee, are an internationally touring duo who specialize in traditional Irish/Scottish music as well as original acoustic tunes.

“The combination of Celtic heritage plus Mon-

tana and Colorado roots gives audiences a distinct musical experience with original compositions and an ancient sound,” said Midori Clark, director of community relations for the library district.

Listeners can expect to hear music from the duo’s 11 recordings spanning 25 years.

Also on tap:

- Night of Guitars, 7 p.m. June 25 at the InfoZone. Enjoy classic Santana plus Spanish favorites with a touch of Flamenco as Jacob Fernandez, Bob Martinez and Thad Stelter bring their guitars to musical life.
- Improvised Music Workshop, 6 to 8 p.m. on July 8 at the Pueblo West

Library. A program open to musicians as well as nonmusicians, participants are invited to bring an instrument and join the Pueblo Improvisers Community Orchestra, which creates unique music from everyday objects.

● Pete Seeger: A Musical Portrait, 7 p.m. July 9, at the InfoZone. Colorado author and performer Dan Blegen will present the life and music of folk music legend Pete Seeger in this docu-concert. Learn about Seeger, his music and the stories behind his songs.

All four music events are free and open to the public. Call 562-5600 to learn more.

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**FLY PUEBLO**  
PAPER AIRPLANE CONTEST

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
♦♦ 2015 ♦♦

**IT'S FREE!**  
But a donation for the museum is encouraged. Bring a paper airplane or two!  
(We'll have extra paper!)

**For the Kids at Heart!**  
**SATURDAY | JUNE 13 | 10AM**  
**PUEBLO WEISBROD AIRCRAFT MUSEUM**  
(FLIGHT PRACTICE - 9AM)

For more information call  
**719-948-9219**

**CONTEST FOR:**

- DISTANCE
- ACCURACY
- DESIGN
- ACROBATICS

**Bunches of Prizes!**

Sponsored By: The Pueblo Chieftain | The Mel Harmon Chapter 128 Air Force Association | The Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society & The City of Pueblo