

# Local News

## Readers still want standards in journalism



**STEVE HENSON**  
Managing Editor

Last weekend, I wrote about how The Chieftain had again followed its policy of not printing the names of individuals arrested for incest or incest-related crimes.

The reason? To protect the victims.

But other media not only released the names, they went into the suspects' neighborhood, showed a street sign where the couple lived, even showed the nearby school.

The Chieftain, on the other hand, wrote the story in detail, but did not name the suspects, did not print their photos, did not print where they lived — not even a neighborhood.

So I asked you, the readers of The Chieftain, to let us know if you think we were wrong, whether we should just resign ourselves to today's "everything goes" age, and just print the news with no regard to consequences.

I received several dozen calls, emails and tweets. The resounding response: Not no, but hell no!

Here are some typical comments:

Thank you for your stand and the paper's policy of not publishing the names of incest victims. Incest victims, even very young ones, are affected by that experience for their whole life.

... I have known several victims of incest. Some have had to experience the disbelief of the other parent and made to believe it is their fault. I have been in Al-Anon for 32 years. I have lost count of the number of victims who have tried to escape their memories with drugs and alcohol. Suicide is not uncommon.

... In 99 percent of those cases, a limited number of people are aware of their situation. When you throw porn and publicity into the mix, the victim is faced with humiliation and finger-pointing. Facebook and Twitter escalates the pain and many times triggers suicide.

Most of the media do not comprehend the meaning of the word integrity.

When words such as integrity, statesman, ethics, the idea of the Golden Rule of treating others as you would expect to be treated if your roles were reversed are viewed as something quaint to be shared on a slow news day, we all lose.

The Information Age has brought us rapidity at the expense of accuracy,

SEE HENSON, 2B

## COMMUNITY



Melissa Alcon serves lunch during the 12th annual Mama's Fun Day at the park in Eastwood Heights on Saturday.

CHIEFTAIN PHOTOS/CHRIS MCLEAN



Dakota Lujan Reyes, 7, munches on nachos Saturday at the fun day.

# 'Mama' just keeps on giving

## 12th annual fun day great for children

BY JON POMPIA  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

For a woman who never wanted to see a child hungry or unhappy, it was a glowing tribute.

Mama's Fun Day, launched by the late Mary "Mama" Jaramillo and her husband Floyd 12 years ago, drew a steady stream of youngsters and their guardians to St. Anne's Park in Eastwood Heights Saturday.

Sponsored by the Jaramillo family with assistance from the Brother and Sisterhood of Bikers and various donors, Mama's Fun Day provided children with most everything needed for an enjoyable afternoon.

There was a meal of hot dogs, nachos, pasta salad and cupcakes, face painting and gunnysack races, a well-occupied bounce house, free books courtesy of the Patrick A. Lucero Library and a visit from Pueblo police and firefighters.

"My mother used to run Mama's Cocina restaurant and she never wanted to see anyone go hungry, especially kids," said Melissa Alcon, Mary's daughter. "Giving free food to the kids was all right with her."

Alcon said the day of fun was started by her mother in 2003 so that the community's children could spend an



*My mother used to run Mama's Cocina restaurant and she never wanted to see anyone go hungry, especially kids.*

MELISSA ALCON,  
MARY'S DAUGHTER

afternoon together and enjoy a meal. After she died in 2009, the family continued the event "because we felt it was important to continue her legacy, which is to give back," Alcon explained.

Pointing out four placards emblazoned with "love," "faith," "hope" and "unity," Floyd Jaramillo said, "This will always be our theme because the world needs more of all these things. My wife and I have always tried to do all we could for the children of the community."

And Saturday's offering was obviously appreciated by the little ones, who bounced from the bounce house to the face painting table to food line to the book giveaway with abandon.

"I'm sure glad we found out about this event," said Eastwood Heights resident Natasha Gehrett, whose seven children eagerly picked out books before

SEE MAMA, 2B

## EILERS

# EPA testing itself with Superfund yard sampling

## Cleanup could change with new CDC lead standard

BY PETER ROPER  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Last month, contractors for the federal Environmental Protection Agency began soil tests in the yards of people living near the old Colorado Smelter site — an initial testing of just 12 yards in what is now a milewide Superfund study area on the South Side.

What the EPA is look-

ing for are yards where the amount of lead in the dirt is above 400 parts per million and arsenic is above 23 ppm. Those are screening levels EPA is using to identify contamination that poses a health risk.

Now that the Colorado Smelter area is on the federal Superfund list for cleaning up, it's almost certain yards with those (or higher) amounts of lead or arsenic will get cleaned, meaning soil

What the EPA is looking for are yards where the amount of lead in the dirt is above 400 parts per million and arsenic is above 23 ppm.

dug out and replaced. While EPA expects to sample yards for several years, there are

1,400 properties within the current Colorado Smelter study zone, the dozen yards they tested in May were a trial run for the agency as well.

Sabrina Forrest, EPA manager for the Colorado Smelter site, said the soil samples taken are being tested and then tested again. One reason is the agency wants to know if the field-testing equipment they are using is as accurate and reliable as sending soil

samples to more traditional laboratories.

Forrest said the multiple testing results can also help the agency streamline the process.

The soil tests are examining more than just lead and arsenic concentrations in dirt. The testing also looks at bio-availability, which means the form the lead and arsenic are in.

Both lead and arsenic

SEE SUPERFUND, 2B

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