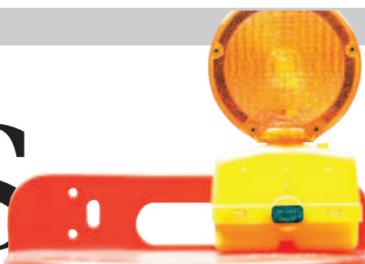


# Business



## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### NOTES

#### Store adds plus-sizes

Women's clothing retailer Christopher & Banks recently announced the addition of plus-size clothing at its store at The Pueblo Mall. The store also plans a Spring Fashion Show on April 18.

"We are thrilled to bring our ('Missy, Petite, Women') concept to Pueblo. It allows women to find what is most flattering for their figure, regardless of size," Christopher & Banks chief executive LuAnn Via said in a statement.

#### Mozart offers weekend dinners

The Mozart restaurant at 1120 N. Main St. has reopened for weekend dinners from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, owner Paul Pachino said. The menu features the restaurant's signature prime rib and a nightly special. The restaurant also continues to offer catering.

For more information or reservations, call 250-8098.

The restaurant had suspended its daily restaurant service in August to focus on its catering business.

#### 'Money Smart' events offered

Aventa Credit Union will host six financial literacy seminars in Pueblo this week in recognition of Money Smart Week.

The credit union will offer budgeting and identity theft seminars at several Pueblo City-County library branches and a budgeting seminar at Pueblo Community College. For event times, visit [aventa.com](http://aventa.com).

#### Fair housing seminar set

CANON CITY -- Central Colorado Housing will celebrate Fair Housing Month in April with a free public seminar on fair housing at 6 p.m. April 29 at the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments building at 3224-A Independence Road in Canon City. The program will provide information on federal and state fair housing laws.

For more information, call 269-7687 ext. 110.

#### Sunflower Bank aids Make-A-Wish

Sunflower Bank branches in Colorado will participate in the bank's campaign to donate up to \$50,000 for local Make-A-Wish organizations. Sunflower will donate 5 cents toward the goal for every swipe of a Sunflower Bank debit card through June 30, the bank said.

## CALENDAR

### Wednesday

• Latino Chamber "Brown Bag" seminar, noon, 215 S. Victoria Ave.

### Thursday

• Pueblo Chamber "Business After Hours," 5 p.m., Podiatry Associates, 1513 Moore Ave.

### Saturday

• Pueblo Chamber Legislative Breakfast, 8 a.m., convention center.

### April 23

• Downtown Association, 11:45 a.m., All Season's Catering, 112 W. Second St.

### April 24

• Latino Chamber luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Colorado State Fairgrounds

*Business Brief items, including information about promotions and new employees, may be submitted to [ddarrow@chieftain.com](mailto:ddarrow@chieftain.com). The deadline for publication in Sunday's edition is 5 p.m. Tuesday. For more information, contact The Pueblo Chieftain business desk at 544-3520 x. 422.*

## INTERSTATE 25 RECONSTRUCTION

# Ready to roll on I-25

### State details projects, timeline for City Center Drive-Ilex phase

BY DENNIS DARROW  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Say farewell to Ilex Street. The short road off of Santa Fe Avenue will cease to exist as a result of the project that bears its name, the Interstate 25-Ilex Street interchange and bridge replacement. The new interchange will begin a little to the north, at D Street.

At the same time, say hello to the addition of a long acceleration lane on southbound Interstate 25 at City Center Drive — sure to bring relief to drivers whose nerves are shot using the existing short, steep ramp.

After years of study, state highway planners are revealing final design plans and construction timelines for the 30-month, \$69 million project to rebuild the stretch of the interstate from City Center Drive to Ilex Street.

Construction is set to begin in June on the first phase in the state's decades-long plan to reconstruct much of the interstate through Pueblo. City Center Drive is the former First Street.

On Wednesday, the state Department of Transportation and Flatiron, the Broomfield-based contractor hired to design and build the improvements, will give a preview of the project at a public open house from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Pueblo Convention Center.

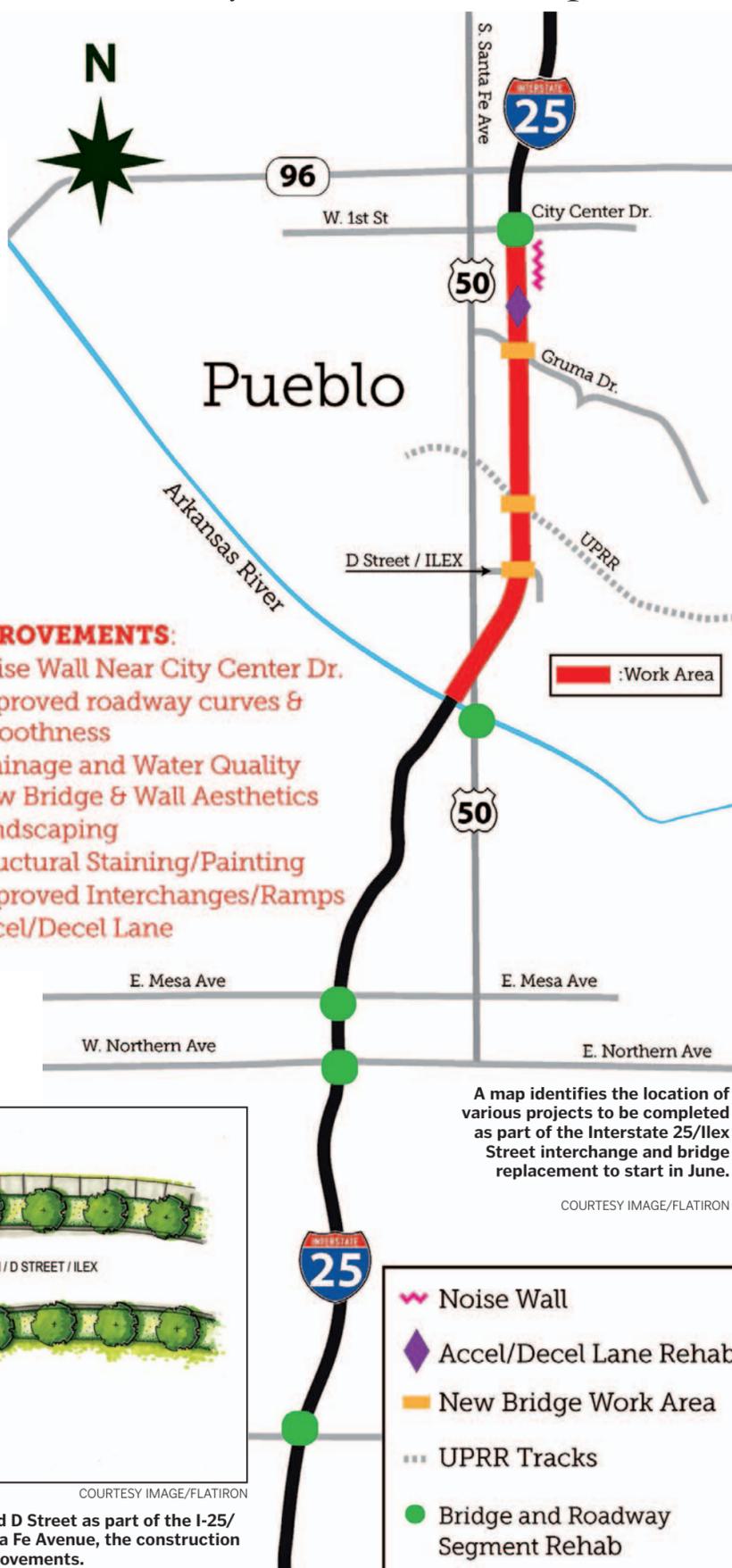
Ahead of the open house, CDOT project manager Scott Dalton, other CDOT planners and Flatiron spokesman and assistant project manager Stephen Cordts discussed the latest design plans and construction timelines with *The Pueblo Chieftain*.

The improvements go beyond the main project area.

They include several bridge rehabilitations elsewhere on I-25 and also the rehabilitation of the so-called Green Truss Bridge on Santa Fe Avenue that spans the Arkansas River south of the Ilex interchange, the group noted.

The scope of the overall project largely is

SEE ROLL, 4F

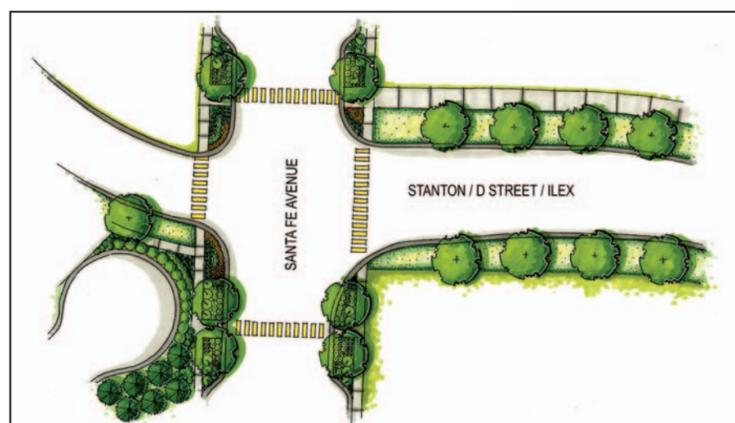


#### IMPROVEMENTS:

- Noise Wall Near City Center Dr.
- Improved roadway curves & smoothness
- Drainage and Water Quality
- New Bridge & Wall Aesthetics
- Landscaping
- Structural Staining/Painting
- Improved Interchanges/Ramps
- Accel/Decel Lane

A map identifies the location of various projects to be completed as part of the Interstate 25/Ilex Street interchange and bridge replacement to start in June.

COURTESY IMAGE/FLATIRON



COURTESY IMAGE/FLATIRON

An artist's drawing shows planned projects around D Street as part of the I-25/Ilex project: the extension of D Street east of Santa Fe Avenue, the construction of a cul-de-sac at Clark Street and landscape improvements.

## LOCAL

# Cone zones to multiply

### Four major highway projects to be underway by summer

BY DENNIS DARROW  
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Six years ago, Pueblo felt ignored after getting little highway stimulus money following the Great Recession. By this summer, the community may feel overwhelmed by all of the cone zones.

Major projects will be underway at four sites on Interstate 25 and U.S. 50 West/Colorado 47.

The projects carry a combined price tag of about \$103.5 million.

The projects:

- The \$69 million replacement of the I-25/Ilex Street interchange and the long I-25 viaduct from City Center Drive to Ilex, set to launch in June.
- The recently started \$13 million widening and improvement of eastbound U.S. 50 West from Pueblo West

to Wills Boulevard in Pueblo

- The \$6.5 million repaving and upgrade of Colorado 47 from the interstate to Colorado State University-Pueblo, to include the summertime replacement of the bridge deck at Colorado 47 and Bonforte Boulevard. The project started last week.
- The \$15 million construction of an I-25 overpass bridge at Dillon Drive near the Pueblo Crossing Shopping Center, begun in late February.

Also scheduled are a variety of smaller road improvements. Meanwhile, the state Department of Transportation confirms that it has identified available funding for the widening and improvement of westbound U.S. 50 West. Originally, that phase of the U.S. 50



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/CHRIS McLEAN

Construction crews perform infrastructure work last week in the area of the U.S. 50 West widening project, one of four major highway construction projects that will be underway in Pueblo by summer. Highway officials urge motorists to reduce their speeds and show patience in the work zones.

West widening project was not expected to receive immediate funding.

Joe DeHeart, a resident engineer in the CDOT Pueblo office, said the timing of the

projects are largely coincidental. The state

SEE ZONES, 4F

**Ask the Fool**

**Bonds for Kids?**

Q Should I invest in savings bonds or CDs for my kids? — *M.T., Salt Creek, Colorado*

A It depends. Less-volatile investments such as savings bonds, money market accounts and CDs can seem “safer,” and thus best. But with many of them yielding only 1 or 2 percent, money in them will likely lose purchasing power over time just due to inflation.

In the long run, stocks have generally outperformed those safer investments. We can't know how the stock market will fare in the next few months or years, but the longer you leave your money in healthy and growing companies, the more likely you'll be to do well.

With stocks, it's best to invest only money you won't need for at least five years (or 10, to be more conservative). If your child is 16, it can be risky to put college money in stocks. But if she's 6, it's a good choice.

Perhaps start with an inexpensive index fund, such as one based on the S&P 500. You might also invest in the stocks of a few companies that your children know and like, and then follow them together.

Learn more at [treasurydirect.gov](http://treasurydirect.gov), [investopedia.com/university/indexes](http://investopedia.com/university/indexes) and [fool.com](http://fool.com).

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Q Where online can I look up the rate of home value appreciation in a region? — *S.D., Pumpkin Center, North Carolina*

A One good resource is mortgage giant Freddie Mac. At [freddiemac.com/finance/fmhpi](http://freddiemac.com/finance/fmhpi), it provides its Freddie Mac House Price Index (FMHPI), measuring typical price inflation for houses nationally and within each state. Or look up data on 20 metropolitan regions via the S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price Indices at [us.spindices.com](http://us.spindices.com). Realtor.com offers local market conditions, too, and you can also get lots of information from good real estate agents in your area.

Please send mail to: Universal Press Syndicate 2000 Duke St. 4th Floor Alexandria, VA 22314



# The Motley Fool

To Educate, Amuse & Enrich

**Fool's School**

**A Dividend Primer**

If you're thinking that dividends are chiefly for retirees, think again. They're powerful portfolio builders for investors of all ages.

Consider this: Between January 1926 and December 2014, fully 43 percent of the S&P 500's total return was due not to the increase in the prices of the stocks in the index, but to the dividends those companies paid out.

Here are some tips to help you be a successful dividend investor:

- Don't go just for the highest dividend yields you can find. They're sometimes tied to struggling companies. (Yields rise when stock prices fall, and vice versa.) Instead, seek healthy and growing companies.

- Check out a candidate's payout ratio, which reflects the percentage of its earnings paid out in dividends. If a company is paying out 95 percent or 150 percent of its income, the dividend might not be sustainable and might get reduced. High payout ratios can be just a temporary glitch or a sign of a significant problem. Favor lower

ratios, such as below 60 percent.

- Seek strong dividend growth. A company paying a 3 percent yield today with a record of hiking its dividends by about 10 percent annually can be more attractive than a company paying 4 percent with a 2 percent growth rate.

- A long track record is a plus, too, instilling confidence. ExxonMobil has been paying dividends since 1908, and McDonald's has been paying dividends since 1976. Procter & Gamble and General Mills, respectively, have been paying them since 1890 and 1899! (The Motley Fool owns shares of ExxonMobil and has recommended Procter & Gamble and McDonald's.)

The bigger the yield, the better, but assess a company's big picture. Seek high-quality businesses with sustainable competitive advantages, strong profit margins and growth rates, healthy balance sheets, significant dividends, manageable payout ratios and solid dividend growth rates.

Don't ignore the power of dividends. For a list of recommended dividend-paying stocks, try our Motley Fool Income Investor newsletter for free at [fool.com/shop/newsletters](http://fool.com/shop/newsletters).

**My Dumbest Investment**

**Bought High, Not Low**

The first dumb thing I did was to buy Akamai Technologies when it was a new IPO for \$179 a share. The second dumbest thing was not buying more shares when it was trading for less than a dollar per share. — *M.B.M., Eugene, Oregon*

**The Fool Responds:** Wow — that's quite a range of prices! It's risky to buy any stock when it debuts via an initial public offering (IPO). Typically, it's mainly insiders who get to buy at the low initial prices, leaving the rest of us to grab shares as the stock quickly zooms up — if it's a much-anticipated and hyped debut. A year or two post-IPO, many stocks trade well below their IPO levels, reinforcing the idea that it's usually best to wait a few years for an IPO to cool down.

Akamai, a cloud computing specialist, debuted in 1999, a bit before the Internet bubble burst, and then it crashed hard, along with many other companies. Those who believed in the company and hung on now have a company worth more than \$12 billion, with a stock price recently above \$70 per share.

Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to The Motley Fool c/o My Dumbest Investment. Got one that worked? Submit to My Smartest Investment. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

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**The Motley Fool Take**

**Furnish Your Portfolio**

Ethan Allen Interiors (NYSE: ETH), the home-furnishing and interior design specialist, relies on a healthy U.S. economy and low lending rates to push its business higher — and these days, both of those factors are present.

In the fourth quarter, U.S. GDP advanced 2.6 percent, and interest rates are still near record lows. This can nudge home prices higher and help homeowners redesign or add value to their new or existing homes.

Ethan Allen did take a bit of a hit recently, though, after announcing quarterly results that lagged expectations. However, higher expenses tied to freshening up its stores' interiors, launching a new and updated website, introducing new product offerings, and investing in new technology, both on the manufacturing and logistics side of the business, hampered results.

These costs are unlikely to last beyond 12 to 18 months, and they're critical to maintaining Ethan Allen's long-term growth strategy, which includes expanding abroad, such as in China. Meanwhile, the stock recently sported a price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio near 18, and a forward-looking one near 14, both well below its five-year average of 20.

Long-term believers in Ethan Allen can collect a dividend that recently yielded 1.7 percent. Better still, its dividend, though slashed during the market ugliness of 2009, has been hiked significantly in recent years. Ethan Allen may not grow quickly, but it can reward patient investors.

**Name That Company**

I trace my history back to the 1940s and an orthopedic surgeon in Kalamazoo, Michigan, who invented better medical products than the ones available to him. Early items include a turning frame to rotate immobile patients and an oscillating saw to cut casts. Today I'm a global leader in medical technology, with products that include spinal implants, waste management systems, endoscopy cameras, hospital beds, ambulance cots, replacement hips and knees, and robotic surgery systems. I hold more than 5,000 patents and employ more than 25,000 people worldwide. My revenue has been growing for 34 consecutive years. Who am I?

Know the answer? Send it to us with Foolish Trivia on the top and you'll be entered into a drawing for a nifty prize!



**LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER**

I trace my roots back to a single contract in 1980. Today I'm the world's largest medical air transportation company. Based in Englewood, Colorado, I sport a fleet of more than 450 helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft and serve 48 states, via more than 300 bases of operations from Alaska to Florida. I also design and make aeromedical and aerospace technology, and my tourism division operates helicopter tours and charter flights, too. My stock has grown by more than an annual average of 25 percent over the past 15 years. I consider myself a defender of tomorrow. Who am I? (Answer: Air Methods)

Write to Us! Send questions for Ask the Fool, Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments (up to 100 words), and your Trivia entries to [Fool@fool.com](mailto:Fool@fool.com) or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: The Motley Fool. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

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**ROLL/**from page 1F

unchanged from CDOT's most recent plans, the group said.

**Few traffic disruptions**

Two northbound and two southbound lanes of I-25 will stay open throughout the project.

“Through construction phasing and very innovative approaches by Flatiron on how to build it they can phase it and keep those number of lanes open always,” CDOT resident engineer Joe DeHeart said.

Dalton offered more details.

“By shifting the alignment a little bit further to the east they are able to construct two lanes prior to doing anything on the existing interstate. Once that's built, they can shift two lanes northbound onto it ... while leaving southbound in the same configuration it is now,” he said.

The construction of the new southbound lanes would follow.

Said DeHeart, “People's fears shouldn't be great because we are keeping two lanes open during the daytime. We might see a lane closure (periodically) at night but we never close down the interstate.”

“We might see some (temporary) ramp closures. We could see some closures on Santa Fe around the work area but those would be just normal (intermittent) closures.”

**Timeline**

Cordts, of Flatiron, said a fleet of cranes, earth movers and other heavy equipment will come to the project area and, once the work starts, crews will go full tilt. In the

main work area, “We will be building through 2017,” he said.

Flatiron's project timeline:

- Summer 2015 through summer 2016: Construction of the northbound I-25 lanes, starting with the Ilex street bridge section (to finish by the end of 2015) and then followed by the Gruma Street and railroad crossing bridge sections (to finish by spring 2016.)

- Summer 2015 through 2016: I-25 bridge rehabilitations starting with Mesa Avenue and Northern Avenue followed by Indiana Avenue (to start in the fall.) The rehabilitation of the Santa Fe Avenue “green truss bridge” over the Arkansas River will also take place during this period.

- Summer 2016 through 2017: Construction of the southbound lanes, starting with the Ilex Street bridge section (to finish by the end of 2016) and then the Gruma Street and railroad crossing bridge sections (to finish by summer 2017.)

**Motorist safety**

The projects will tick off a lot of other items on Pueblo and the state's wish list for the area.

They include “softening” the dangerously sharp curve on I-25 near Ilex and using the whole project to add landscaping and streetscaping

improvements.

“The ‘softening’ of the curve means that the radius of the curve will be increased, allowing for wider shoulders and increased design speed on that portion of I-25,” Dalton said.

“The existing condition does pose a higher risk to the traveling public. One of the goals of the project was to improve the safety of the curve, Flatiron's design and construction will accomplish that goal.”

Improved motorist safety also is the motivation for the third southbound I-25 lane, which will run all the way from City Center Drive to the Ilex area. It will serve as a long acceleration lane for southbound drivers coming onto the interstate and a long deceleration lane for those getting off in the Ilex area.

The current ramp is so short it often leads to abrupt starts and stops as motorists struggle to merge with oncoming I-25 traffic.

The streetscaping will include the addition of a section of noise wall southeast of the City Center Drive.

**Street changes**

As for Ilex Street, it will give way to an all-new, short extension of D Street — which is just north of Ilex — as a link

to the new interchange and also the entryway into the Runyon Field Sports Complex.

Currently, D Street exists only on the west side of where it intersects with Santa Fe Avenue in the area, adjacent to a Sonic Drive-In restaurant. The addition will extend D Street a short distance on the east side of Santa Fe Avenue.

Meanwhile, Clark Street, a street that ends in the same intersection at Santa Fe as D Street, will be closed off at Santa Fe and converted into a cul-de-sac. [ddarrow@chieftain.com](mailto:ddarrow@chieftain.com)

**ZONES/**from page 1F

prioritizes its highway projects based on need and funding availability, he said. As for the Dillon Drive overpass bridge, the city of Pueblo, a major partner in the project, sought to start it as soon as funding and design work was finalized.

In an effort to keep motorists on the move, all of the projects will proceed in such a way as to minimize traffic disruptions, he said.

The I-25 work will be phased in such a way to maintain two lanes of both northbound and southbound traffic, he said.

This summer's replacement of the decking on the Bonforte Boulevard bridge at Colorado 47 will result in the temporary closure of Bonforte Boulevard entrance into Colorado State University-Pueblo but the Colorado 47 ramp into Belmont will stay open, he said.

State highway officials urge motorists to reduce their speed and show patience as they travel through the construction cone zones or come across intermittent lane closures and detours, DeHeart said. [ddarrow@chieftain.com](mailto:ddarrow@chieftain.com)

**AGENT HONORS**

RE/MAX of Pueblo's agents of the month for March are

**Jim Valdez**, first place; Rosalind Saucedo, second place; and The McEvoy Team, third place.

RE/MAX Pueblo West's agents of the month for March are **Jami Baker-Orr**, first place; Glenn Knutson, second place; and Kent Shelman, third place.

RE/MAX Associates'



**Jim Valdez**



**Jami Baker-Orr**



**Kristy Chavez**



**Cheryl Hindsley**



**Jerry Burns**

agents of the month for March are **Kristy Chavez**, first place; Britany Martinez, second place; and Raean Herick, third place.

Berkshire Hathaway Platinum's agents of the month for March are **Cheryl Hindsley**, first place; Cris Salerno,

second place; Ammie Thomas, third place and lister; and Teena Dodson, highest gross closed.

**Jerry Burns** is 5 Star's agent of the month for March.

Real estate agencies may submit agent honors to [ddarrow@chieftain.com](mailto:ddarrow@chieftain.com).

**THIS WEEK AT THE CONVENTION CENTER**

<b>Monday</b>	Pueblo Rotary Club No. 43
<b>Tuesday</b>	Colorado Connections Academy Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority
<b>Wednesday</b>	Colorado Connections Academy Bankruptcy hearings Pueblo Chamber/Colorado Impact Fund Colorado Dept. of Transportation
<b>Thursday</b>	Transportation Security Administration St. Mary Corwin Medical Center
<b>Friday-April 19</b>	Colorado Federation of Republican Women
<b>Friday</b>	Junior League of Pueblo Girls' Night Out Colorado State University-Pueblo
<b>Saturday</b>	Pueblo Chamber Legislative Breakfast Private wedding reception Minnequa Works Credit Union annual banquet

**THIS WEEK AT THE STATE FAIRGROUNDS**

<b>Today</b>	4-H training
<b>Monday-Tuesday</b>	4-H
<b>Sat.-April 19</b>	High school rodeo

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