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**InfoZone News Museum open and ready for new year**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PUEBLO** – The InfoZone News Museum is welcoming visitors and planning interactive programs for the upcoming year at the new Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library. The InfoZone is an interactive museum highlighting Southern Colorado and the history of Pueblo as seen through the eyes of *The Star-Journal* and *The Pueblo Chieftain*.

The museum has been open since Oct. 25, 2003 when the library held its Grand Opening celebration. Admission is free and the museum is open the same hours as the library, Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

The current theme is water and its importance to Pueblo and the Southern Colorado region. The theme will change in the future, once more videos are produced. Future themes will include: Southern Colorado sports, education, transportation, the Steel Mill and many others.

Visitors learn about the newspaper industry by getting up close to real printing machines from the 1920s and watching a behind the scenes video on how a newspaper is put together. Interactive, touch-screen kiosks bring the reporting experience to life as visitors become the reporter and go on assignment to cover a breaking story. After interviewing people close to the action and getting quotes, they see the story on the front page! Visitors also enjoy the live Associated Press wire feed, animatronic Newsie, and historic building replicas.

The main attraction is the 10' by 18' multi-media projection screen showing our feature presentation, a film about the importance of water in Southern Colorado. The InfoZone will be hosting movie nights for small groups at least once a month. The first presentations will feature award-winning, first run, independent and foreign films from the top film festivals including Sundance, Cannes and Toronto. A new film will be shown each month with titles including: *He Died with a Falafel in His Hand*, *Light of My Eyes* and *Hop*. The screen can also be rented for business, school and nonprofit presentations. The large room accommodates up to 100 people.

Flanking the projection screen, the Community Gallery is a home for print art and photographs in our community. Visitors can experience Southern Colorado life with photos taken by The Pueblo Chieftain's photographers in our premier exhibition. Special collections from community members and contest winners will also be showcased periodically. Contests will be sponsored community wide and in area schools for print art and photography.

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Visitors can purchase books, collectables and postcards from the gift shop at the reception counter outside the museum. Some items for sale include: aprons and umbrellas with comics on them, books about architect Antoine Predock, the story of *The Star-Journal* and *The Pueblo Chieftain* and Joanne Dodd's pictorial history of Pueblo and items from the library such as pens, pencils, book covers and canvas library bags.

Schools, organizations and businesses can schedule tours of the library and the museum. There are also many volunteering opportunities both with the library and the InfoZone. Volunteers can donate time for special functions or on a regular basis.

For more information about scheduling a tour or volunteering, call Kristin Taylor at 562-5656. For information about upcoming programs at the InfoZone News Museum call Ashleigh Wilson at 562-5604.

The Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library is located at 100 E. Abriendo Ave. in the heart of Pueblo's Mesa Junction area. To get there from north I -25, take the 98B/First Street Exit. Turn right onto First Street, left on Union Avenue. Travel through the Historic Union Avenue District, turn left on Abriendo Avenue and left on Bates Lane. From south I-25, take the 98B/First Street exit. Turn left onto First Street, left on Union Avenue, left on Abriendo Avenue and left on Bates Lane.

***The InfoZone's goal is to increase knowledge about the freedom of speech and press, the history of Pueblo and the newspapers who have served our community.***

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