

FEDERAL HOLIDAY

Three days of events to mark Veterans Day

Esteemed Marine leader guest of honor

BY JON POMPIA
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Three days of events will highlight the community's recognition of Veterans Day 2016, anchored by appearances by one of the Marine Corps most esteemed brigadier generals.

In addition to the annual ceremony on the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo and Downtown

parade, this year's slate will include both a student-centered Patriotism and Pride event and the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

On Nov. 10, retired Marine Corps Gen. Thomas V. Draude will make his first appearance of the weekend at a 1:10 p.m. rally in the East High School auditorium, part of a school commemoration of Veterans Day.

At 6 p.m. that evening at Memorial Hall, Pride and Patriotism, sponsored by Pueblo City Schools (D60) in conjunction with the Center for American Values, will see schoolchildren pay tribute to those who served

and are serving.

This second annual event will be highlighted by a keynote address from Draude, with Pueblo Chieftain Managing Editor Steve Henson serving as master of ceremonies.

"District-wide, students were asked to write an essay that focused on one of the Center for American Values' three core values: honor, integrity and patriotism," said Dalton Sprouse, the district's director of commu-

nications. The best of these essays, in several age divisions, will be recognized with awards presented by notable veterans.

In addition to patriotic songs performed by students,

four original art pieces constructed by students will be unveiled.

"The pieces were initially submitted by a student artist at each high school, who worked to design an original art concept demonstrating honor, integrity and patriotism," Sprouse said. The art pieces were broken out into smaller sections, which district students recreated on a large scale using mixed media.

Tickets for the free event are available at the D60 administration building, 315 W. 11th St.

The annual ceremony at



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/JOHN JAQUES

Walter Bedlein, a member of the Pueblo Veterans Ritual Team, fires a gun salute at the start of the Avondale Parade in Avondale on Oct 1. Members of the team will be honored as grand marshals of the 2016 Veterans Day Parade.

SEE VETERANS, 8A

VETERANS/from page 7A

Veterans Bridge on the Riverwalk will commence at 11 a.m. Nov. 11 with the theme “Leave No Veteran Behind.”

In addition to Draude as the honored guest speaker, the Pueblo Veterans Council-hosted gala will include remarks from District Attorney Jeff Chostner, retired Air Force Col. Linda Aldridge, Miguel Elias (Air Force), Army Col. Thomas Duncan II and retired Army CSM Terrance McWilliams.

A Doss flyover, gun salute, the playing of taps and the singing of patriotic songs also are on the agenda.

The ceremony will be followed by a lunch, served at American Legion Post No. 2, 719 W. Ninth St.

The Pueblo Chieftain’s Veterans Day Parade shoves off at 10 a.m. Nov. 12 at the intersection of Union Avenue and B Street. The procession will travel down Union, turning right on City Center Drive and then left on Main Street.

The parade marshal will be the Pueblo Veterans Ritual Team, with retired Col. Dan Gale — a veter-

an of both the Vietnam and Korean wars and a longtime D60 educator — serving as honorary grand marshal.

At Pueblo Community College, the annual Veterans Day ceremony is set to take place at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 11 by the flagpoles in front of the Central Administration Building.

One flag will be re-

tired and three new ones raised. The event is open to the public.

Draude’s final appearance of the weekend will come as guest speaker at the Marine Corps League Home of Heroes Detachment 1376’s 241st Birthday Ball, scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Nov. 12 at the Pueblo Country Club.

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