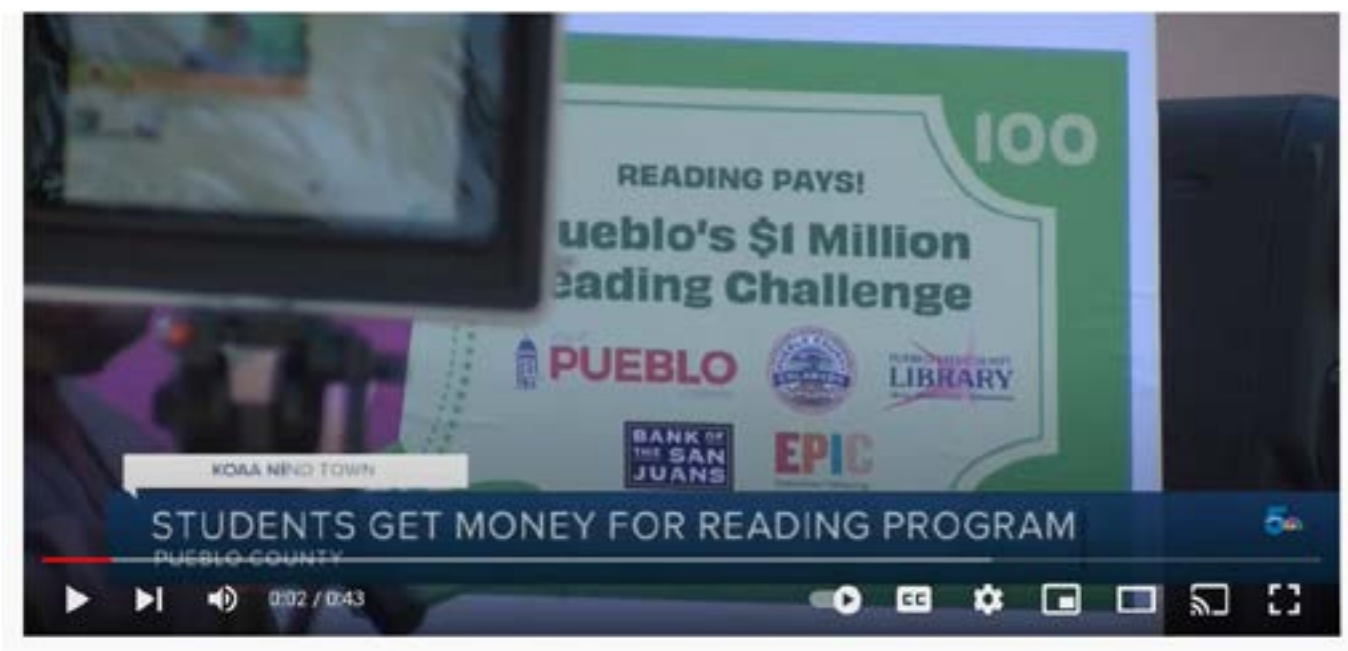

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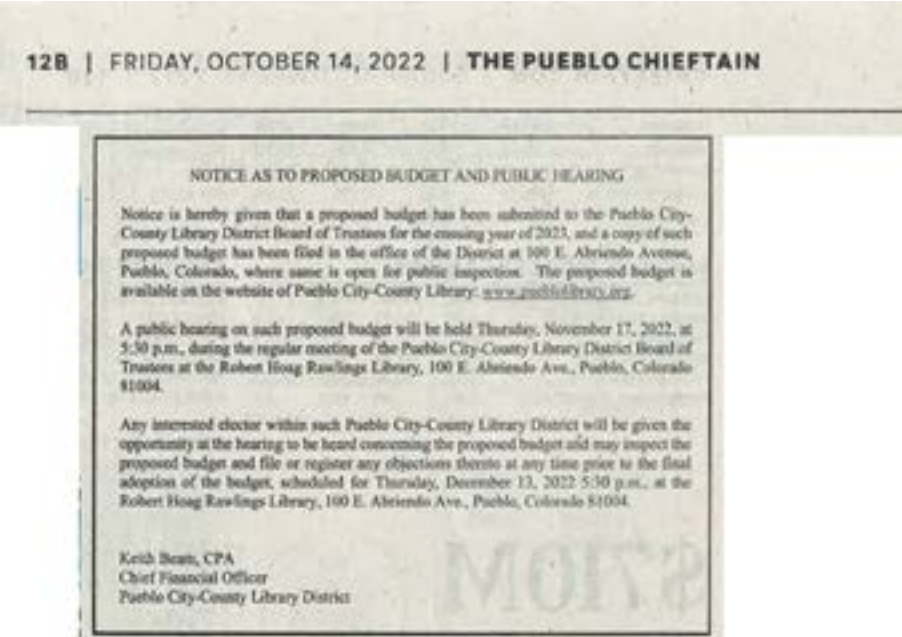
OCTOBER 2022





Pueblo Counties Million Dollar Reading Challenge results

12 views Oct 3, 2022 Following your money tonight thousands of kids are one hundred dollars richer thanks to a library program. The Pueblo Library District says more than eight thousand Pueblo County Students participated in its million dollar summer reading challenge. The program just ended on Friday. The students had to read ten books and provide a report on what they read to receive one hundred dollars.



Bestselling author donates \$20K to Pueblo library district



(KCTV)

By Lindsey Grewe

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PUEBLO, Colo. (KCTV) - The Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) says it's over the moon after a bestselling author donated thousands of dollars to the community.

"When we were contacted by her agent we were initially in disbelief," Director of Community Relations Nick Potter said of when Kristin Hannah's office first called the library district.

Hannah's fiction -- which includes such titles as "The Four Winds," "Firefly Lane," and "The Nightingale" -- has been a fixture on bestsellers list, bookstore shelves and Goodreads for several years. Potter said she has donated \$20,000 to PCCLD to help more Puebloans have access to her books.

"In a statement from her agent, the donation is to ensure that members of the public have a greater opportunity to get a free copy of her books. More than 1,000 books have been purchased, thanks to her donation," PCCLD said.

"Kristin Hannah's generosity is incredibly generous," said Potter.

The library district is hosting a watch party on Nov. 5, where readers can come out and view Hannah's author talk and have a chance to receive a free copy of one of her books. PCCLD provided the following information:

"To receive a free copy of one of her books, the public can attend a special watch party of Hannah's online public author talk at 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave. and at the Pueblo West Library, 298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd. Both events are free and open to the public. Books are available on a first-come, first-served basis and attendees are asked to register beforehand at www.pueblolibrary.org/HannahBooks. Refreshments will be provided. The online author talk will stream on the Pueblo library's main Facebook and YouTube pages."

Hannah will also be the featured guest for Pueblo's annual Booklovers Ball, though due to ongoing construction at Rawlings Library, it will be streamed online at 6 p.m. on Nov. 4. More details can be found [here](#).

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Voter guide | Where your ballot goes

Libraries add museums, tool rentals and job centers to help meet community needs and stay relevant



By Elaine Tassy
Yesterday, 5:24 pm



Harl Van Denburg/CPR News

Children's Librarian Amy Seto Forrester stocks some of the stacks that will be available on main floor of the Denver Public Library's Central Library on Friday, July 17, 2021.

Creating an interactive in-house museum. Renting out saws, cake pans and vegetable seeds. Providing job centers to connect the unemployed to companies with jobs to fill.

These are some of the innovative, mission-expanding ways that libraries are staying relevant around the country and in Colorado, as the internet, smartphones and other technology have overwhelmed their traditional roles of lending books and doing research.

In Pueblo, a new permanent exhibition on the history of communication has recently opened to lure new patrons. In Leadville, a new tool lending program allows patrons to rent miter saws. In Denver, libraries are on the November ballot with a tax that would allow for expanded programming and job centers.

"Libraries right now, especially in the 21st century, are community spaces. We are not just book repositories anymore," said Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, adult services assistant manager for Palos Verdes Library District in southern California, and current president of the American Library Association. "We are vibrant centers that react to the needs of the community."

One feature offered at her library is the chance for patrons to submit their artwork for a juried show that's displayed on a library wall. This kind of innovation is something libraries have needed to do for decades, according to Jim Duncan, Executive Director of the Colorado Library Consortium.

"I think it's important to note that the innovations that have been going on in libraries have been going on in Colorado for thirty years," he said. Around the state, he noted a few examples that make his case.

"The Flagler library in [the] Eastern Plains, they check out cake pans. John C. Fremont Library in Florence, they offer a seed library where community members can come in and exchange their vegetable, flower and plant seeds," he said. "At Denver Public library, people can even learn to make videos. Libraries are hubs for a lot more than reading books."

A museum about the history of communication, from rock art to TikTok

Other non-bookish innovations are happening in places like Pueblo, where the 1,200-square-foot [InfoZone Museum](#) reopened Oct. 2 inside the main branch of the Pueblo City-County Library District. It's a collection of curated stand-up panels that takes viewers through the history of communication from rock art and petroglyphs made in Southern Colorado in the early days, to TikTok and YouTube of today.

It also displays newspapers in languages such as Slovenian and Greek that were once published in Pueblo. There are also places where exhibit-goers can select audio clips to listen to and historical photos to click through.

Curator Nick Potter, 35, said that an earlier iteration of the museum, about one-third the size, focused mainly on the Pueblo Chieftain and its history, without all the interactive features. Called the InfoZone News Museum, it was housed on an upper floor from around 2004 or 2005 until last September. Then it closed for a \$300,000 expansion with funding from the Hoag Rawlings Foundation.



Courtesy of Terri Davis

The InfoZone museum in the Pueblo Library.



Courtesy of Terri Davis

Nick Potter, curator of the InfoZone Museum at the Pueblo Public Library.

When the museum reopened in October, it was set up on the main floor, near the entrance to the part of the library where the books are located, so that people could treat the museum as a destination, which might pull them into the library as well.

"We can bring in mass comm students [from local schools] that normally wouldn't have come to the library, and we can explain the history of information to them," Potter said. "The museum inside the library is a novel thing, so that will bring people inside the library."

Creating the museum on-site was part of an effort to make use of not only the library's space, but also its belongings.

"We wanted to be able to pull items from our local history archives and vaults in a way that hadn't been done before," said Potter, who curated the exhibit over a two-year period. Leading a tour, he compared his encyclopedic knowledge of the museum's features to the grasp of facts by the movie character Rain Man, and said, "If I talk too much, and if I'm a little extra, you can reel me in."

Library cards can check out home and garden tools, too

The passion he conveyed making the museum available was replicated by a librarian 160 miles away in rural Leadville. Brena Smith, 50, the director of the 8,000-member [Lake County Public Library](#) has a master's degree in library science and has been at librarying for several decades. The goal there, she said, is "to serve them in ways that go beyond learning and scholarship."

screwdrivers to a table saw and a miter saw," Smith said. A larger saw is attached to a dolly, and when folded up, it's about five feet tall, making it hard to fit it on a shelf along with the encyclopedias, but that's no deterrent: the bigger items are stored in a shed on the library grounds, and everything else is stowed in closets. Library card-holders needing a tape measure and a level have to get some knowledge before they can take them home, she said.



Courtesy of Jennifer Mamutto

Brena Smith, director of the Lake County Public Library, stands in the organization's tool library, which makes saws, drills and other equipment available to the public.

"We first have people go through an orientation, and I tell people about the grant; I go over all of our policies and procedures and have people sign a liability waiver," Smith said. Then, any cardholder can rent out a tool for free.

The tool-borrowing idea stemmed from a similar project she heard about in the Bay Area, where a library there began renting tools to patrons in the late 1970s. Of the tools for rent, Smith said, "those are the most unusual above and beyond just books, and I'm always looking for ideas."

A Denver ballot initiative would fund new programs via a tax increase

Others are looking for ideas of the best ways to serve patrons, as well.

Denver's library system is now asking voters to approve a tax increase that would be used to provide raises and expand technology and programming, including job centers.

A ballot initiative that could increase property taxes a few dollars a month for Denver homeowners would net the library system millions of dollars annually to "expand hours of service to ensure access at night and on weekends, enhance programs and services for specific communities including children, older adults, immigrants and refugees and job seekers, ensure access to technology, expand collections of linguistically and culturally diverse materials, reduce wait times for materials, increase wages for staff and address a long list of deferred maintenance and capital improvements that are needed," according to [StrongLibraryStrongDenver.org](https://stronglibrarystrongdenver.org), a website supporting the ballot initiative.

If a house were valued at \$585,000, which was the median listing price for September 2022, the increase would be \$5.23 per month.

Making libraries more accessible for non-native English speakers

Whether libraries are meeting needs of the communities they serve is not always clear, especially for non-native English-speaking people in the Hispanic community.

The Colorado chapter of reFORMA, a national organization that makes libraries more accessible to people whose first language is not English, will hold its 10th annual conference on Friday at Loveland Library, where librarians from around the state can exchange ideas.

Slides shared during the conference from sessions including "Building Community Through Mentoring Services," "How To Reach the Latino Community," "Digital Literacy for Spanish Speakers through an Equity Lens," and "Hispanic Students in Academic Libraries," will be posted at reformacolorado.org after the conference, according to Monique Ramos, this year's conference chair.

"We set out the call for different library staff across the state to come to the conference and present on different ideas and different programs and events that they've offered, to connect our libraries in all different areas of the state to Latinos and our Spanish-speaking population," said Monique Ramos, who also works at Loveland Library.

A nationwide study looks to learn more

The nationwide Public Library association is currently studying how — and if — libraries are aiding community needs.

The [2022 Public Library Services for Strong Communities Survey](https://www.pla.org/2022-public-library-services-for-strong-communities-survey), due Dec. 10, asks about how libraries are using unique programs, services and facilities to meet community needs, in response to a demand for data about how libraries help foster resilient communities, according to the survey's webpage.

It's a question that's constantly being asked and debated, said Pelayo-Lozada of the ALA, who noted that some libraries have found value in offering workforce training centers and meeting spaces, among many other features.

"We're not just focused on the traditional form of literacy anymore," she said. "We're looking at digital literacy, financial literacy, all sorts of ways that libraries can play a role. We are constantly evolving as libraries, to be what our communities need them to be."

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