
Press and Publicity Report

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NEWS

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Tracy Harmon The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 11:22 a.m. MT Nov. 17, 2020

In response to Pueblo County's move to a high-risk status due to the spread of COVID-19, all Pueblo City- County Library District buildings are closed to the public starting today.

The move is a voluntary action by the district in an effort to ensure the continued safety of library patrons and staff.

"This roll back in library services is not the change we want to make, but we must do this now to help stem community spread of this dangerous virus at a critical time," said Jon Walker, library district executive director. "We understand people rely on the library and, while the public will not be able to enter our buildings for now," curbside service will continue.

Current hours of operation remain the same for all library branches for curbside service.

Members of the public can continue to checkout traditional materials like books as well as Internet hotspots and tablets. Maintaining its commitment to increasing digital access for Pueblo County residents, the district has tablets, Chromebooks and internet hotspots available for check out.

Tablets have a one month loan limit, while Chromebooks and internet hotspots may be checked out for up to three months. All are available for free with a valid Pueblo library district card.

For those without a card, sign up online by going to the library district website and clicking the "Get a Library Card" tab.

Patrons can still browse for and check out library materials through the online catalog by going to <https://www.pueblolibrary.org>. Curbside pickup times can be scheduled through the library's website or by calling 719-562-5600.

Mail delivery also is available.

Chieftain and Pueblo West View reporter Tracy Harmon can be reached by email at tharmon@chieftain.com or via Twitter at twitter.com/tracywumps.

Pueblo Library District closing all buildings but will still offer library services



(Station)

By [Lindsey Grewe](#)

Published: Nov. 17, 2020 at 9:22 AM MST | Updated: 22 hours ago

PUEBLO, Colo. (KKTU) - Effective Wednesday, Pueblo City-County Library District is closing all of its buildings to the public.

The move comes as the county [experiences a steep spike in cases](#), resulting in new restrictions and inching closer to a stay-at-home order on the state's COVID-19 dial. The county is seeing significantly higher rates of infection than El Paso County -- and El Paso County itself has a high infection rate.

"This rollback in library services is not the change we want to make, but we must do this now to help stem community spread of this dangerous virus at a critical time," said Jon Walker, the library district's executive director, in a statement Tuesday.

Patrons will not be left without library services. The branches will all offer curbside pickup, online services and mail delivery. Curbside services will also now include the option of checking out books, tablets, internet hotspots, etc.

To browse library materials online, schedule a curbside pickup time, sign up to receive items by mail, or to get a library card, visit pueblolibrary.org.

Library branches will keep their current hours of operation.



By: [Jovana Simic](#)

Posted at 10:58 AM, Nov 17, 2020

and last updated 2020-11-17 12:58:13-05

COLORADO SPRINGS — The Pikes Peak Library District and the Pueblo Library District are adjusting their services to keep everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting on Nov. 18, the Pikes Peak Library District will [temporarily limit access inside all libraries](#). Libraries will only allow people inside if they have a [reservation to use a computer](#).

While people won't be able to browse the physical collection, curbside services will be available at all libraries.

"We're working closely with El Paso County Public Health officials to find the essential balance between safety and accessibility of our services," says Chief Librarian and CEO John Spears. "We know the computer and internet access we provide are critical services and needed by many in our community. This new service model will allow us to continue to provide that access while keeping our staff and patrons safe."

Library users can continue to browse the collection using the [online catalog](#) or the [PPLD mobile app](#), pick up their holders using [curbside service](#), and return materials 24/7 outside all libraries. Anyone can make a reservation by calling (719) 389-8968.

[Online resources](#) like eBooks, movies, music, magazines, [virtual library programs](#), and more will continue to be available around the clock. WiFi should be accessible outside most library facilities for anyone to use, day or night.

For more information, [click here](#).

In response to Pueblo County's move to high-risk status, all Pueblo City-County Library District's buildings are closed to the public starting Nov. 18.

"This rollback in library services is not the change we want to make, but we must do this now to help stem community spread of this dangerous virus at a critical time. We understand people rely on the library and, while the public will not be able to enter our buildings, for now, we are pleased the library's curbside service will include the ability for members of the public to check out traditional materials like books and, also, Internet hotspots and tablets," said Jon Walker, the library district's executive director.

At this time, the current hours of operation will remain the same for all libraries. You can still browse and check out library materials through the [online catalog](#) as well as browse the available e-services.

Curbside pickup is still available at all Pueblo library locations and you can now easily schedule your own pick up time through the library's website or by calling (719) 562-5600. Mail delivery is also available.

The Pueblo City-County Library District has tablets, Chromebooks, and internet hotspots available for check out. Tablets have a one month loan limit, Chromebooks and internet hotspots may be checked out for three months. All of those are available for free with a valid PCCLD library card.

For the latest information, [click here](#).

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COVID-19 spike halts Columbus protests

The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 6:59 p.m. MT Nov. 20, 2020 | Updated 9:34 a.m. MT Nov. 22, 2020

Anti-Columbus organizers are calling for a moratorium on the protests demanding the removal of Pueblo's Christopher Columbus statue in light of spiking COVID cases.

"We are calling off our Sunday protests at the statue until further notice," spokesperson Rita J. Martinez said. "The statue is not worth someone getting sick, or worse."

For the past 22 Sundays, a coalition of groups have protested at the Mesa Junction site of the Columbus statue. The protest grew out of several Black Lives Matter marches that took place in Pueblo in late May and early June.

Martinez emphasized that the anti-Columbus activists will continue to press city government to do the right thing and remove the bust.

"It's the right thing to do — Columbus has become a symbol of white supremacy, genocide, and slavery," she said.

The group noted that it's ironic that the pandemic is the event that has done what the city has not been able to do — stop the protests.

"Indigenous people of this continent have been fighting pandemics since 1492," Martinez said, alluding to the role Columbus' voyages played in introducing diseases the natives had no immunities against.

She said putting the weekly protests on pause was not a popular option for all the activists, but most agreed it was the responsible thing to do. Throughout the 22 weeks, participants in the protests have worn masks, and tried to keep safe distances. They also have endured record-breaking heat and sub-freezing temperatures.

The moratorium comes as a welcome relief to the city's pocketbook. The weekly protest have cost the city between \$10,000 and \$17,000 a day for barrier rental, and police overtime. To date, the cost to the city may be as high as \$374,000.

In August, the city incurred additional expenses when it hired a mediator in hopes of negotiating a solution. The city proposed a plan that would leave the Columbus bust intact, but could include new statue representing Black Live Matter and indigenous movements. The statues would become a museum of sorts under the umbrella of the Robert Hoag Rawlings Library.

The talks stalled when the anti-Columbus panel said they would agree to discuss the framework if the bust was covered in the interim. The pro-Columbus side declined to have the statue shrouded. The proposal died when the library district said it was not interested in assuming responsibility for the statue.



Virtual Tour of Bent's Old Fort Planned

Russ Baldwin | Nov 26, 2020 | Comments 0

La Junta, CO – Although the Traditional Holiday Celebration at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site was cancelled this year due to precautionary measures, the park staff wanted to reach out to our community and share the experience of one of the park's most popular annual events.

On Wednesday, December 2, 2020, at 6:00 pm MST the park is partnering with the Pueblo Library and the Pueblo Archeological and Historical Society to provide an exciting opportunity to "virtually" tour the fort and learn from the staff and volunteers the ways residents of the fort would have celebrated the holidays on the southwestern frontier in 1846.

The event will be aired on the following sites:

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NPSBentsFort>

Rawlings Library Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Rawlings-Branch-Pueblo-Library-108443612545884>

Rawlings Library YouTube Page: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1sEz_g6htQAVISp9S-1cHA

Pueblo City-County Library District YouTube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PuebloLibrary>


(Here guests can find links to all the branch YouTube pages by looking under the "Channels" tab.)

Pueblo City-County Library District Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pueblolibrary>

Other virtual tours of Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site can be viewed at <https://www.nps.gov/beol/learn/photosmultimedia/index.htm>.

Videos are also available on the park's YouTube site <https://www.youtube.com/user/bentsfortnps>, and the park's Junior Ranger page, <https://www.nps.gov/beol/learn/kidsyouth/self-guided-activity-book.htm>, offers activities.

Details and updates on park operations will continue to be posted on the park website <https://www.nps.gov/beol/index.htm> and social media channels: <https://www.facebook.com/NPSBentsFort>.

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