
Press and Publicity Report

SEPTEMBER 2022



ENTERTAINMENT

Things to do in Pueblo: Art shows, live music, chile day, B-29 planes and more



Tracy Harmon The Pueblo Chieftain

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Friday, Sept. 2

'Living with Wolves' photographic exhibit at the Pueblo West Library

298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd. | 4 to 6 p.m. | Opening reception with keynote speaker Rain Bear Stands Last and music by flautist Phillip Van Garrick. **Event continues from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday** with a special kids opening day featuring Shaya, wolf ambassador from the Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center, Kids Kit2Go and fun activities.

Former Pueblo resident returns to city to fulfill \$5 promise made to St. Anne's priest



Josue Perez The Pueblo Chieftain

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Candido Marez tours the Patrick A. Lucero Library before making a large donation on Thursday. Zachery Allen/The Pueblo Chieftain

Candido Marez was 10 years old in 1963 when he and two of his friends, during Sunday Mass at Pueblo's St. Anne's Catholic Church, cooked up a scheme to steal \$5 from the church's collection basket.

The trio's plan worked. Marez, an altar boy at the time, took \$5 and the boys went to a local store to buy soda and candy.

"We didn't have much money," Marez said, "and it was rare for us to get a soda."

After the boys finished their sweets, Marez made his way back home but was surprised to see who was inside: Father Bosch, St. Anne's priest at the time.

Marez hid behind a fence for a few hours, unwilling to confront Bosch and his mom, Mary.

"(Father Bosch) knew that we had taken the \$5," Marez said.

Marez came out from hiding, and Mary took him back to St. Anne's so he could speak with Bosch.

"Rather than punish me, Father Bosch just said, 'Look, you're going to come back and pay us back.' So here I am, 50 years later."

More: 'Someone had to be first': Pueblo artist criticized after AI painting wins at Colorado State Fair

Marez, 69, returned to Pueblo from Los Angeles this week and on Sunday, at Mass, planned to donate \$10,000 to St. Anne's Catholic Church, making good (and then some) on the promise from nearly 60 years ago.

On Thursday, Marez signed a check for \$10,000 and donated it to Pueblo City County Library District's Lucero branch. He's also donating \$5,000 to the Catholic Diocese's Poor Clare sisters foundation.

"(Bosch) had enough faith in me to believe that I would come back one day," Marez said. "It was a driving force all throughout my life to succeed so I could fulfill that promise. So many people in Pueblo said I was a loser because I was fighting and stuff. But Father Bosch gave me my first chance."

Marez attended Pueblo East High School and grew up in Eastwood Heights, known by locals in the area as "Dog Patch." He played football at East after playing youth football during middle school.

John "Quail" Aragon, a star athlete and football player, graduated from East in 1965 alongside city councilman Larry Atencio, whose family was close with Aragon's.

Aragon helped form the youth football team Marez played for but also embraced a mentorship role and took younger players and students under his wing, one of whom was Marez.

"It's the story of a kid who is influenced by somebody else — a mentor — and who goes off and wants to give back to the community," Atencio said.

Marez graduated from East in 1972 and moved to Los Angeles in September 1973. He spent decades as an entrepreneur and businessman, buying and selling nearly a dozen businesses. Now a retiree, he wants to give back.

"I've always been a fighter, and it's all about how we can impact kids in our community because I know if somebody just believes in you, it's gonna happen," Marez said. "These kids deserve to see what the rest of the world looks like. It's a beautiful place."

Marez said he wants to involve John Camera and the Knights of Columbus for future fundraising opportunities and make annual financial contributions to Lucero Library and St. Anne's Catholic Church.

"It was meant to happen because here we are all these years later," Marez said.

Chieftain reporter Josue Perez can be reached at JHPerez@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @josuepwrites.

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PJ's Coffee moving from Pueblo West to Rawlings - Pueblo Chieftain, The (CO) - September 12, 2022 - page A1

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A new PJ's Coffee will soon open at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library in downtown Pueblo, bringing the Steel City in line with a national trend among libraries that offer beverages and food as part of their amenities.

Cafe owner Renee Prutch said she and her staff of nine are "very excited" about the new cafe, which should be fully open within a couple of weeks.

"We are super excited about it," said Jon Walker, executive director for the Pueblo City-County Library District. "In today's world people love amenities and it is not uncommon for libraries to be trending toward offering coffee and light refreshments."

The Boulder Public Library and another Denver suburb already offer coffee cafes in their main branches. Walker said when he worked in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the main library had a Starbucks.

In order to run the new location, Prutch decided to close the PJ's Coffee at 922 E. Hailey Lane, Unit D, in Pueblo West. The library coffee shop, located just to the left of the front door at the Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., will offer everything the Pueblo West shop had, from coffee drinks, teas and smoothies to breakfast and lunch sandwiches, croissants, bagels and muffins.

Prutch said she bid for the opportunity to open the library coffee shop back when library staff first started remodeling the Rawlings branch.

"It has been neat and fun to see the whole process. The Rawlings Library is beautiful, and with the new design and layout, to be a part of this amazing facility is so exciting for us," Prutch said.

Cafe patrons will be able to sit in the lobby area adjacent to the cafe, which is set up with tables and chairs.

Walker said the newspapers and magazines have been moved close to the cafe so "it will be really convenient to browse through them or read a book, as you can sort of imagine, and have a coffee."

"There's a lot of comfortable seating and it's just a lovely space for light conversation, studying or sharing information," Walker said.

The library's expansion is about 80% complete, Walker said.

Another part of the remodel will be a brand new InfoZone, which will chronicle the history of the human record, from Indigenous rock art to modern day digital information technology. There also will be new meeting rooms, and PJ's will have the option to cater events like breakfast meetings.

Prutch said it has been a fun experience to help design the cafe, from the equipment to electric and plumbing specifications. An added perk for PJ's is "to be able to take advantage of support from the library's security, information technology and janitorial departments," Prutch said.

In return, the library will collect some lease revenue from the cafe to help cover its costs, Walker said.

Once PJ's Coffee shop opens, its hours will be will be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The coffee shop will open earlier, at 7 a.m., once its staff gets settled in. Prutch said she will have two baristas working each shift.

"I anticipate it's going to be a great location for us," she said, pointing out that a PJ's parking spot near the front door will also allow for quick pick-ups of to-go orders.

Pueblo's downtown library gets an upgrade



By: Ariel Elias
Posted at 6:09 PM, Sep 21, 2022
and last updated 2022-09-21 20:09:24-04

PUEBLO — The Pueblo Library District is showing progress on upgrades thanks to a voter-approved bond from 2019.

So far, the district has made improvements at the Downtown Library which include, a new children's area and info-zone museum, along with creating a mobility plaza outside the library.

"This is really going to be Colorado's coolest library it is a beautiful space with tons to offer and really something that isn't going to be rivaled in the state' said Nick Potter of Pueblo City-County Library District, 'so it is exciting to see people come into the library see what our plans are and that they are coming into fruition and know that is in their community."

So far, more than 10,000,000 dollars has been spent on improvements at the downtown library. Work is expected to be done by the end of the year.

Early next year, the district plans to start work at the east side and Belmont libraries.

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NEWS

Pueblo has spent more than \$23M in American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Here's where it went



Josue Perez The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 6:00 a.m. MT Sept. 27, 2022

The city of Pueblo has spent a little over \$23.1 million of its American Rescue Plan Act Funds since September 2021 and has nearly \$14 million remaining, according to an expense report provided to the Chieftain by the city's finance department.

Several proposed ARPA expenditures are pending approval by city council, according to the report. If approved, the city's remaining ARPA funds would total just under \$11 million.

President Joe Biden in March 2021 signed into law The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The \$1.9 trillion bill included \$350 million for state, local, territorial and tribal governments.

Municipalities have flexibility on how to spend the funds but expenditures must go toward premium pay for essential workers, investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure, the public health and negative economic impacts from the pandemic and revenue lost because of the pandemic.

Pueblo received funds in two tranches: \$18.2 million in May 2021 and the same amount in June 2022. It also accumulated \$137,468 between October 2021 and August 2022 from a local government investment pool called the Colorado Surplus Asset Fund Trust.

The city has spent a portion of its ARPA funds on assistance for nonprofits including Pueblo Food Project, Pueblo Rescue Mission, Pueblo Community Soup Kitchen, Boys and Girls Club and more.

Some of its largest expenditures include over \$280,000 for the co-response program partnership between the Pueblo Police Department and Health Solutions; \$395,000 for Posada of Pueblo and its housing efforts to address homelessness; and \$300,000 towards Habitat for Humanity of Pueblo and its plan to build a home on the lower east side.

The city has approved 46 other ARPA requests from the community for a total north of \$4.7 million.

The city's internal administrative ARPA expenditures include \$132,515 on payroll through Aug. 31, 2022, and an additional \$10,861 on operating supplies. It spent \$53,562 on its estimated payroll through 2022.

More than \$8.2 million has been spent on ARPA proposals to assist the city. The highest expenditures were \$2 million each for wastewater infrastructure at Northern Avenue, West 11th and 21st St. and the Wildhorse Extension located north of the highway at Pueblo Boulevard.

Separate ARPA payments directed for the city include \$1.068 million towards essential pay for the fire and police departments; nearly \$830,000 for Pueblo City-County Library District's summer reading challenge program; and over \$345,000 toward all city employees who took part in the vaccination incentive initiative.

Some of the proposed ARPA expenditures could be approved by city council during its meeting on Monday, including a reimbursement of \$294,121 to the upcoming Fuel & Iron Food Hall for the purchase of restaurant equipment and other fixtures.

Chieftain reporter Josue Perez can be reached at JHPerez@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter [@josuepwrites](https://twitter.com/josuepwrites).
