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# Press and Publicity Report

JUNE 2020

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# The Pueblo Chieftain

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## Pueblo library district now livestreaming programs



Ryan Severance [rseverance@chieftain.com](mailto:rseverance@chieftain.com) @RyanSevvy

**Tuesday**

Jun 9, 2020 at 12:04 PM

The Pueblo City-County Library District announced on Tuesday that it is now livestreaming programs, providing patrons a front-row seat to library programs amid the coronavirus pandemic.

During a typical year, nearly 300,000 people attend programs offered throughout the library district, according to library officials. But in an effort to halt the spread of COVID-19, library buildings have been closed to the public since March 13.

The district said the creation of Library On Demand was born from a need to shift from in-person programs and events to an online platform.

Patrons can access Library On demand at this link: [www.pueblolibrary.org/LibraryOnDemand](http://www.pueblolibrary.org/LibraryOnDemand). It is an online viewing guide to both prerecorded and livestreamed programs.

There, individuals can continue to partake in programs such as adult crafts, online book clubs and the library's popular storytimes.

Recently, the library hosted a virtual concert to kick off its annual literacy program, Summer Reading.

The concert, featuring local band Might of Henry, was streamed live on the library's Facebook and YouTube pages.

June and July's Summer Reading programs are virtual as well, combining both live and prerecorded content for ages ranging from youth to adult, according to the district.

New programs are added weekly and a schedule is available at [www.pueblolibrary.org](http://www.pueblolibrary.org) on the Library On Demand page or at the library's online calendar under the tab "Calendar of LIVE Events."

Library updates and resources can also be found on the district's website.

Chieftain reporter Ryan Severance can be reached by email at [ryans@chieftain.com](mailto:ryans@chieftain.com) or on Twitter @RyanSevvy. Help support local journalism by subscribing to the Chieftain at [chieftain.com/subscribe](http://chieftain.com/subscribe)



By: [Brenda Argueta](#)  
Posted at 11:46 AM, Jun 16, 2020  
and last updated 2020-06-16 13:46:23-04

PUEBLO — Libraries in Pueblo will open its doors once again to the public this week as the Pueblo City-County Library District begins its reopening process.

The district announced all libraries will reopen Friday for the first phase, which will allow the public to use library computers for a 45-minute session on a reservation basis.

Computers will be available for use at all branches between noon and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, while visitors can only use the computers from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Reservations can be made up to three days in advance using the library district's [website](#). You can make a reservation by clicking "Library Service" and selecting "Computer Reservations."

The second phase begins one week after that and will allow visitors to "browse for library materials." During this time, library patrons will have to make a reservation and have 30 minutes to look for materials.

A mask will be required to wear at all times and those using the library will be asked to practice social distancing. Anyone who enters a library location will have to provide contact information that state health agencies can use in the event of an outbreak.

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## Pueblo libraries begin to reopen



Books on shelves at Rawlings Library in Pueblo.



By: [Carl Winder](#)  
Posted at 5:51 PM, Jun 19, 2020  
and last updated 2020-06-19 19:57:50-04

PUEBLO — Libraries in Pueblo are reopening as COVID-19 restrictions continue to roll back.

The Pueblo City-county Library District opened their libraries Friday for people to use the computers for 45 minutes.

Reservations have to be made in advance.

"We are a very busy district and it is good to see people back inside the buildings," said Marketing Manager Ann Boyden.

To make a reservation, visit the [Pueblo Library](#) website, select the "Library Service" menu at the top of the page, and click on Computer Reservations.

The next phase of reopening is scheduled for next Friday, where patrons can browse for library materials.

**Rawlings Branch - Pueblo Library**  
about 3 weeks ago



PCCLD to reopen buildings to the public

PUEBLO, Colo. – Starting Friday, June 19 all libraries throughout the Pueblo City-County Library District will begin phase one of a limited reopening plan. This phase allows the public to use library computers. A second reopening phase will commence Friday, June 26 that will allow patrons to browse for library materials.

To read more, click the link below.

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## Story time with 'Miss Rachel' moves online



Tracy Harmon Pueblo West, Fremont, Custer counties @tracywumps

**Wednesday**

Jun 17, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Pueblo West youth who are craving "Miss Rachel" and their favorite story time adventures with the librarian can see her again online thanks to the library's new on demand program offerings.

The online programs are ensuring safe story times for families and children despite the coronavirus pandemic. Miss Rachel Salazar kicks off her story times with the singing of, "If your ready for a story clap you hands," which encourages children to clap their hands and stomp their feet along with her.

"In an effort to halt the spread of the novel coronavirus, library buildings have been closed to the public since March 13. The need to shift from in-person programs and events to online resulted in the creation of Library On Demand," according to a library press release.

Patrons can continue to enjoy programs such as adult crafts, online book clubs and the library's popular story times. Miss Rachel's family story time is streamed live from the Pueblo West library at 7:30 p.m. Thursday via the library district's Facebook page.

Story times also can be viewed on the district's YouTube channel at a time that works with viewers schedules.

A guide to all the programs can be seen at [www.pueblolibrary.org/LibraryOnDemand](http://www.pueblolibrary.org/LibraryOnDemand). The viewing guide lists both prerecorded and live streamed programs.

New programs are added weekly. A schedule is available [www.pueblolibrary.org](http://www.pueblolibrary.org) via the library's online calendar under the tab "Calendar of LIVE Events."

Chieftain and Pueblo West View reporter Tracy Harmon can be reached by email at [tharmon@chieftain.com](mailto:tharmon@chieftain.com) or at [twitter.com/@tracywumps](https://twitter.com/tracywumps). Help support local journalism by subscribing to the Chieftain at [chieftain.com/subscribe](http://chieftain.com/subscribe) now

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## Pueblo libraries set to reopen Friday on limited basis



Anthony A. Mestas @mestas3517

Wednesday

Jun 17, 2020 at 2:49 PM

For the first time since libraries closed on March 13 because of the statewide COVID-19 Stay At Home order, all libraries throughout the Pueblo City-County Library District on Friday will begin a limited reopening plan.

Jon Walker executive director of the district said the libraries will offer computer-by-appointment service Friday followed by browsing-by-appointment on June 26.

“We are adding these to our current curbside and online services for now, and look forward to opening up even further as the COVID-19 problem subsides and health authorities allow,” he said.

These limited reopening phases come after Pueblo County’s successful variance approval to Gov. Jared Polis’ Safer At Home Public Health Order.

The library district’s administration worked closely with the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment to ensure that normal library operations can take place safely while maintaining limited contact standards set forth during the state orders.

During phase one Friday, patrons will be able to use the district’s public computers for a single 45-minute, reservation-only daily session. Computer use will be available at all branches throughout the district, starting at noon until 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays at Robert Hoag Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave.

Reservations must be made up to three days in advance and can be made by going to the district’s website, [www.pueblolibrary.org](http://www.pueblolibrary.org), select the pull-down menu “Library Service” at the top of the page and click on “Computer Reservations.”

Those with a reservation are required to arrive 15 minutes before their scheduled time. Library patrons as well as staff are required to wear face masks at all times. Masks will be provided for those who do not have them. Children 4 years old and younger are exempt.

Those who attend are required to submit to a verbal health screening and sanitize their hands. At maximum there may only be one family per computer station. No food or drink will be allowed inside the building. Public bathrooms will be locked and only opened by staff upon request.

Everyone inside is required to maintain the social distancing standard of six feet at all times.

Those who enter a library location must also provide their contact information – first and last name, address and a phone number – as required by state health agencies for COVID-19 contact tracing.

For those without a library card who are using a visitor's pass are required to fill out a registration form, reservations made with a library card are already set.

Library security staff will allow people to access to the front desk for assistance with computer reservations, copier use as well as those wanting to obtain a library card.

After each 45-minute session is complete, library staff will then commence sanitizing all high-touch surface areas.

Curbside pickup and mail delivery of library materials will continue during the limited reopening phases. Those wanting to checkout library materials may select items via the online catalog and arrange for curbside pickup.

The next phase will consist of a 30-minute reservation-only session and will require patrons to follow similar protocols as set forth during the computer-use only phase.

In the meantime, those who miss browsing for materials are encouraged to use the new service Build Your Own Bundle. Available online at [www.pueblolibrary.org/checkoutbundles](http://www.pueblolibrary.org/checkoutbundles), patrons can submit the online form of the materials they are interested in – books, magazines, DVDs, etc. – a staff member will then create a custom bundle of those items for curbside pickup.

Chieftain reporter Anthony A. Mestas can be reached by email at [amestas@chieftain.com](mailto:amestas@chieftain.com) or at [twitter.com/mestas3517](https://twitter.com/mestas3517). Help support local journalism with a subscription to the Chieftain at [chieftain.com/subscribenow](http://chieftain.com/subscribenow).

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## Pueblo resident overjoyed at libraries' reopening



Anthony A. Mestas @mestas3517

**Tuesday**

Jun 23, 2020 at 2:20 PM

Theresa Kosak called the executive director of the Pueblo City-County Library District soon after she learned that libraries were opening up again.

"I told Mr. (Jon) Walker to hold the phone away from his ear and then I let out a huge, 'Yippie.' I went, 'WooHoo' and did the happy dance. I was so happy to hear the news," Kosak said Tuesday waiting to get her reserved 30 minutes on a computer at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

All of the district's libraries were shuttered for the past three months because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They opened to limited access Friday.

Kosak, like many people in Pueblo, doesn't own a computer nor a cellphone. They are in a sense, disconnected at times.

"Libraries are more than just books. It's really been hard without the libraries open... To look anything up was nearly impossible," Kosak said.

"I've been to the Rawlings Library twice and the Lucero Library once since the district reopened and they have the process down really well."

Kosak explained that the library is a lifeline for people who don't have the internet at home or access to a computer.



"It's not just the computers and the other technology either. It's the friendship you have with everyone there. It's something we really missed out on," Kosak said.

"That's the one thing about COVID-19, you realize what you took for granted and how important that really is."

Kosak said she relies on the library and The Pueblo Chieftain to get most of her news.

"That's how I knew what was going on," Kosak a library regular visitor said.

She said others rely on the library district more than she does.

"There's a young man with special needs at the Lucero Library. He was there last time I went and he was so excited and he was there for hours. People were excited to see him," Kosak said.

"I thought about how much I thought I needed the library, but I saw what a need that young man has there. The staff at all the libraries is great."

Kosak said she feels safe at the library, too because of all the precautions staff are taking.

Even returned books are under quarantine.

"We put these books in our meeting rooms for 72 hours before they can be checked out again," said Nick Potter, director of community relations with the library district.

Staff also cleans and disinfects areas after patrons undergo their reserved time. There are signs for social distancing everywhere and certain areas are roped off.

Those visiting also are required to answer health questions and sanitize their hands before entering the building. They also are required to wear masks at all times.

Potter said the libraries have been a little slower than he thought they would be, but that once the word gets out more, more people will return.

Visitors will be able to use the district's public computers for a single 45-minute, reservation-only daily session. Computer use will be available at all branches throughout the district, starting at noon until 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays at Robert Hoag Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave.

Reservations must be made up to three days in advance and can be made by going to the district's website, [www.pueblolibrary.org](http://www.pueblolibrary.org), selecting the pull-down menu "Library Service" at the top of the page and clicking on "Computer Reservations."

Those with a reservation are required to arrive 15 minutes before their scheduled time.

On Friday, the district will begin browsing services.

"People on a first-come-first-serve basis can come into the library. Each library has its own capacity so that we can maintain social distancing measures," Potter said.

Visitors will be able to use the library for 30 minutes to browse and check out materials.

"It will be the library, but on a modified basis. We will have a lot of social distancing signs and other precautions," Potter said.

Chieftain reporter Anthony A. Mestas can be reached by email at [amestas@chieftain.com](mailto:amestas@chieftain.com) or at [twitter.com/mestas3517](https://twitter.com/mestas3517). Help support local journalism with a subscription to the Chieftain at [chieftain.com/subscribe](https://chieftain.com/subscribe).

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