

# AUGUST 2019

*Press and Publicity Report*



# The Pueblo Chieftain

Pueblo City-County  
Library District

Friday, August 2, 2019

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## Library tax on November ballot

Commissioners support mill levy measure, send it to the voters

By Anthony A. Mestas  
The Pueblo Chieftain

The proposed continuation and slight decrease of a 20-year-old library tax for the Pueblo City-County Library District is in the hands of Pueblo County voters.

The Pueblo County commissioners on Thursday, approved putting the measure on the ballot. They voted unanimously to thunderous applause and a standing ovation from library staff, trustees and leaders.

"We are pretty confident that the voters of Pueblo County will see how important this is. Our libraries serve our community in several important ways," said Doreen Martinez, district board president.

"I think it's a really modest ask that we are coming to the voters for. In essence we really aren't asking for more. We are asking for a slight decrease to continue the taxes that homeowners have already have been paying to maintain library services."

The district board is asking for a 0.6 mill levy to support the growth of the district.

For the past 20 years, most Pueblo County property owners have been paying a 0.603 district mill levy. That is set to expire this year.

"The trustees have determined that reducing this slightly from the 0.603 and asking the citizens to continue the reduced tax at exactly six tenths of a mill will allow our libraries to

See BALLOT, A2



Jon Walker, executive director of the Pueblo City-County Library District, speaks Thursday to Pueblo County commissioners about the proposed library tax. [CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/ANTHONY A. MESTAS]

A2 Friday, August 2, 2019 The Pueblo Chieftain • Pueblo, Colorado

## BALLOT

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continue to be successful, effective and sustainable," said Jon Walker, executive director.

The cost to the homeowner would be \$4.30 per year for every \$100,000 valuation or about 36 cents a month.

"If this expires then our current facilities, operations and services are not sustainable," Walker said.

He said the question has been vetted throughout the community.

"In all of my meetings with individual leaders in our community there has been an overwhelming sentiment to ask the voters to continue the library tax," Walker said.

Walker also pointed out that a live interview telephone poll conducted in February revealed that 85% of respondents would vote to continue the library tax.

This mill levy would allow the money to be used to provide library services and programs, buy new books and other materials, and refresh library buildings, furniture, fixtures and equipment.

And, as no debt will be incurred, there will be no interest payments, ensuring that all generated funds are

spent on the designated purposes. This mill levy would not expire.

In 2018, the Institute of Museum and Library Services recognized the district as one of 10 recipients of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, in recognition of its significant and exceptional contributions to the community. It was selected from a field of 29 national finalists. <https://www.chieftain.com/7df26b8-722c-51e5-b357-d608123ca53a.html>

Also in 2019, Pueblo edged past Williamsburg, Va., to win the Leslie B. Knope Award, named after actress Amy Poehler's character on the NBC show "Parks and Recreation," which distinguishes the winner

the best in the country. <https://www.chieftain.com/8358aadd0-be52-5cb8-8907-0367cccd2e.html>

County Commissioners Garrison Ortiz, Terry Hart and Chris Wiseman said they were excited about the ballot issue and that it is the right thing to do.

"It's part of our cultural basis and because of that it's the cornerstone of our democracy. I very strongly support what you are doing," Hart said.

"You've done a remarkable job of being transparent and thorough with the community... We are possibly looking at a full ballot this year, but I think and I hope that the public recognizes - and I certainly do - that when you have something

An aerial perspective of the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library is seen on Thursday. [CHIEFTAIN DRONE PHOTO/ ZACHARY ALLEN]



that is nationally recognized as the best in the country, you need to protect that. You need to nurture it," Ortiz said.

Wiseman said he would help in whatever way he can in the campaign process.

In order to gauge the public's interest in renewing the funding, a recently formed Vote Pueblo Library Proud collective hosted a series of community engagement forums throughout the county.

"We are starting to work on the campaign. We will be starting to talk to local groups to make decisions on how to move forward," Martinez said.

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# The Pueblo Chieftain

Saturday, August 3, 2019

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## Mayor kicks off series of town hall events

By Ryan Severance  
The Pueblo Chieftain

Mayor Nick Gradisar on Friday hosted the first of a series of town hall forums he's organized to present the city's latest project to residents.

Topics at the forum — which was attended by about 60 people at the Patrick A. Lucero Library on the East Side — included an ongoing project to improve the value of agricultural products in Pueblo County. That project is notable for the East Side because there

hasn't been a grocery store in that area of the city since the late 2017. Gradisar said that part of that project is figuring out what can be done to make healthy, quality food available in places it's not now like the East Side.

Gradisar also spoke about the city's plan to break away from its franchise agreement with Black Hills Energy early in August 2020 and form its own municipal electric utility.

He said that issue has been consuming a lot of his time and that he's been in touch with

Black Hills.

Gradisar said over the next 10 years Black Hills would take \$130 million in profit out of the Pueblo community and that he's been asking officials from the company how much of that they're willing to leave behind by investing in people or reducing rates, among other things.

The residents who attended the town hall got a chance to ask Gradisar questions, and more than 20 participated.

Code enforcement was

See EVENTS, A5



**Mayor Nick Gradisar speaks at his inaugural monthly town hall meeting Friday — this one at Lucero Library in eastern Pueblo.** [CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/ZACHARY ALLEN]

## EVENTS

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brought up when one woman asked the mayor if there are resources in place for people with limited mobility who can't maintain their property.

Gradisar said there is in a fund available that helps people with limited mobility, and that code enforcement presents that options when discussing violations with them.

Another woman asked Gradisar if he's considered having the city centralize trash hauling operations in an effort to curb illegal dumping. Gradisar said no, and that he believes people participating in illegal dumping need to be prosecuted.

"I don't think the city ought to be picking up after people who are throwing stuff illegally because that just encourages them to do that," Gradisar said. "I don't foresee the city getting in the trash business."

Another resident asked Gradisar to look into dealing with the weeds on medians and roadways, saying they've grown a lot with all of the rainfall Pueblo has been

receiving. Gradisar will be holding more town hall meetings going forward.

He plans to have one the first Friday of every month from 9 to 10 a.m.

The next forum is scheduled for Sept. 6 at Solar Roast, 3206 W. Northern Ave.

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**LOCAL BRIEFS**

Park, 843 W Northern Ave. In conjunction with the library program, Pueblo City Councilman Ray Aguilera and the Pueblo Poverty Foundation will have a pizza and cookie lunch for program participants. Aguilera said the event is a celebration marking the season's last Books in the Park session, a program that began in 2004 in the vein of bringing library services to children in a warm atmosphere that includes lunch and reading times.

CHIEFTAIN@COMCAST.NET.

**Books in the Park  
end of summer party**

An end of summer party will close out the Pueblo City - County Library District's Books in the Park program scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in Bessemer

# OPINIONS

## PUEBLO 101

### Rawlings exhibit: Ode to an old school newspaper guy



Blake Fontenay

I never met Bob Rawlings. The former publisher of The Pueblo Chieftain passed away shortly before my job interview here. But

man, have I heard some stories about him. In fact, Steve Henson was telling me one just a few days ago that was tangentially related to an editorial idea we were discussing.

So when I heard an exhibit had been set up that is dedicated to Rawlings' life, I felt like I had to check it out. And where else would it be besides the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, so

named because of his generous contribution to the building's construction?

(Side note: Before I moved here, I asked one of my Colorado friends for her impressions about Pueblo. I can't remember everything she told me, but she did say I really would love the library. And I do.)

I decided to check out the exhibit, titled "Robert Rawlings: A Life in Print,"

during my lunch hour last Friday. It doesn't stick out like a sore thumb, but it isn't hard to find, either. It's located on the first floor of the library building at 100 E. Abriendo Ave., in a corner behind the staircase that leads to the upper floors.

As you might expect, the exhibit has a collection of photos, some of Rawlings with political heavyweights like Bob Dole, Ken Salazar

and George H.W. Bush, along with narratives about different aspects of his life. He's described as a "good old-fashioned newspaperman" and "a warrior for water."

I have a strong affection for good old-fashioned newspaper people because my father was one. As a kid, my dad would take me into the offices of The Tennessean

See FONTENAY, B4

## FONTENAY

From Page B1

in Nashville, back in an era when stories still were typed on carbon paper and reports from the wire services were transmitted by noisy teletype machines.

The "warrior for water" nickname seems to suit Rawlings well, based on the stories I've heard about his passion for protecting Southern Colorado's water rights.

The narratives cover topics such as his rise through the ranks at the family-run newspaper, starting with his time as a delivery boy and continuing through his long tenure as publisher. There's also information about his philanthropic work, including his efforts to revive the Colorado State University-Pueblo football program and, of course, his support of the library.

I learned some tidbits about him that I didn't know, including his athletic career as a baseball player, tennis player and golfer. I also learned about his time in the Navy, which helps me better understand his determination to get the USS Pueblo returned from North Korea. (That's an interest I share, by the

way.)

Still, whether or not you agreed with his words or actions, I have yet to find anyone who's questioned his passion and commitment to making Pueblo a better place.

Part of the exhibit is interactive, so people who wish to can see video footage from the library building's groundbreaking and its grand opening.

In addition to photos and newspaper clippings, there are some other items of interest on display, including his Eagle Scout pin, one of his electric typewriters, a plaque commemorating his induction into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame and a United States flag dedicated to Rawlings that once was flown over the U.S. Capitol building.

Even though I probably spent more time studying the exhibit than most people will, it only took me a few minutes to examine just about everything.

Maybe because I never worked for Rawlings, I have a more favorable view of him than I would have if I did. I know that I'm speaking with great understatement when I say that many people in the community didn't share all of his political views. And, like many

good old-fashioned newspaper people, he sounds like someone who might have been tough to work for at times. Particularly if you happened to be one of those who previously held my position at this newspaper.

Still, whether or not you agreed with his words or actions, I have yet to find anyone who's questioned his passion and commitment to making Pueblo a better place.

Since the Rawlings family no longer owns this newspaper, I was under no obligation to write this column. However, had the Rawlings family not kept this newspaper going for so many decades, it might not have been around for me to get a job here a little more than two years ago.

For that, I feel like I owe Rawlings and his family a certain amount of respect and gratitude. And if you're a reader of this newspaper, maybe you feel that way, too.

Blake Fontenay, The Chieftain's opinion page editor, is new to Pueblo. His column, Pueblo 101, describes what it's like to see the city through the eyes of a newcomer. To make comments or offer suggestions on what he should try next, email him at [bfontenay@chieftain.com](mailto:bfontenay@chieftain.com).

# The Pueblo Chieftain

Thursday, August 8, 2019

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## Kids Parade to close out summer reading program

By Jon Pompia  
The Pueblo Chieftain

At 10 a.m. Saturday, the Pueblo City-County Library District's Summer Reading Program will come to a colorful and spirited close with a youthful march down Abriendo Avenue.

The Kids Parade, which for more than 55 years was tied to the Colorado State Fair, will once again see the Mesa Junction filled with a bevy of little ones proceeding under the cosmic theme "A Universe of Stories," the motif for the summer reading program.

In 2017, the library district was approached by the Mesa Junction Association to take over the Kids Parade and a year later did so.

This year's entries include: Amiah Fields; Juliet and Nicholas ready for takeoff; Connie's School of Dance; Christina, Christian and Michael family; The Howard Feliciano Ohana; Dragon Dojo; The Soley kids; Katie Beeby and kids; Pueblo Parks and Recreation; Sarah Shaw Dance Studio; Miss Pueblo County Scholarship Pageant; Pueblo Children's Chorale; Project Dojo; YMCA of Pueblo; Rocky



Colorful costumes and smiling faces are a trademark of the Kids Day Parade. This year's procession will start at 10 a.m. Saturday. [CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/FILE]

## PROGRAM

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Mountain PBS; Jeannie's Academy of Dance; Juneteenth Organization of Pueblo; Sangre de Cristo Dental Care; St. Therese Catholic School; Halfway Home of Pueblo; Pueblo Catholic Charities HIPPY; Lorrie Gonzalez Torres: autism awareness; Pueblo Rocks!; Pueblo WIC Office; library district; Pueblo

County Sheriff's Office; Grupo Folklórico del Pueblo; Wesley United Methodist Church; and Ascendance Dance Studio.

Trophies will be awarded to the best small, medium and large groups, as well as for best costumes, overall workmanship, choreography, use of music, use of color/props, comedy/humorous entry, dramatic entry, most creative space costume, most spirited group, and most original and best overall parade entries.

Along with Walker, Dustin Hodge (library board of

trustees) and District Attorney Jeff Chostner will serve as judges, with Derek Townley serving as emcee. Erik Segall of the Mesa Junction Association helped organize the parade.

This year's sponsors include: A-1 Barricade and Sign Inc.; Pueblo Police Department; Rocky Mountain PBS; Colorado State Fair; Pueblo Ice Arena; Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center; Buell Children's Museum; Pueblo Parks and Recreation; YMCA of Pueblo; Applebee's; Cold Stone Creamery; Little Caesars

Pizza; Optimist Club of Pueblo; Kiwanis International; Geared Up Auto Care; Solid Earth Civil Constructors; Inc., HUB International; and RP Home Inspections.

In a new offering, a free post-parade party will take place at 10:30 a.m. in Grome Park, on Abriendo Avenue between King and Jewell avenues. There will be crafts, games, a bounce house and more, with the public invited.

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See PROGRAM, A2

# BUSINESS

## Google is coming to Pueblo

**Company hoping to grow economic opportunity across the US**

"Grow with Google." It's Google's initiative to create prosperity. Specifically, the company says it "aims to help create economic opportunity in communities across the United States by training Americans on free Google tools and resources designed to help them find the jobs they want, advance their careers, and grow their businesses."

"Grow with Google" aims to help address the skills gap by preparing Americans for middle-skill jobs, positions that require some skills but not four-year degrees, according to Lauren Lambert, Google's Head of External Affairs for the Southwest US.

According to the National Middle Skills Initiative (nationalskillscoalition.org), middle-skill jobs account to 50% of the Colorado labor force. A recent study by Burning Glass and Capital One found that more than 8 in 10 middle-skill jobs (82%) require digital skills.

Overall, middle-skill jobs average \$20 per hour.

In that aim, Google is partnering with the Pueblo City-County Library District to host a free, one-day event on Aug. 23 to help job seekers, small business owners, students, educators and entrepreneurs improve their digital skills.

Local nonprofits, libraries, government agencies, educational institutions and more also are invited to join the 'Grow with Google' partner program and receive training on the initiatives, free tools and curriculum so that they can continue to share resources with their patrons and customers.

Attendees are welcome to drop in for a few sessions or stay all day and, outside of the specific hands-on workshops, can sign up for one-on-one 20 minute training sessions with Google staff.

"Grow with Google" will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave.

A Google official said the library collaboration here and everywhere is deliberate and crucial.

In recognition that libraries have become centers for digital skills learning, 'Grow with Google' plans to visit libraries in

### Colorado's Forgotten Middle

Middle-skill jobs, which require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree, make up the largest part of America's and Colorado's labor market. Key industries in Colorado are unable to find enough sufficiently trained workers to fill these jobs.

#### Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs is Strong

Fifty percent of all jobs in 2015 were middle-skill.

#### Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs Will Remain Strong

Between 2015-2025, 45 percent of job openings will be middle-skill.

#### A Middle-Skill Gap

Middle-skill jobs account for 50 percent of Colorado's labor market, but only 40 percent of the state's workers are trained to the middle-skill level.

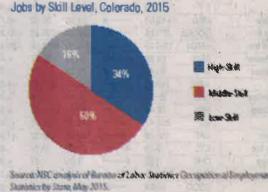
**NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION**  
Every worker. Every industry. A strong economy.

every state, partnering with them to deliver digital skills trainings directly to community job seekers and small businesses, according to Lambert.

She pointed out that the American Library Association, nearly three-quarters of public libraries assist their patrons with job applications and interviewing skills, 90% help their patrons learn basic digital skills, and just

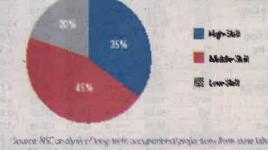
### MIDDLE-SKILL JOBS STATE BY STATE | COLORADO

#### Jobs by Skill Level, Colorado, 2015



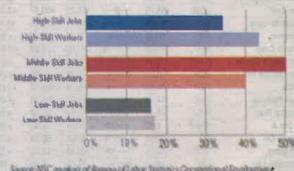
Source: BLS analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics by State, May 2015.

#### Job Openings by Skill Level, Colorado, 2015-2025



Source: BLS analysis of Long-Term Occupational Projections from state labor development agencies.

#### Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, Colorado, 2015



Source: BLS analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics by State, May 2015 and American Community Survey data, 2015.

[nationalskillscoalition.org](http://nationalskillscoalition.org)  
1230 K Street, N.W., Suite 712, Washington, DC 20004 | 202.223.8881

under half provide access and assistance to entrepreneurs looking to start a business of their own.

And in Colorado, Lambert noted, Google is joining with a state that already knows success and is home to its Boulder campus.

"Colorado is ranked as one of the top 10 states for starting a business, and industries such as health care, IT and energy are

growing their Colorado workforce exponentially. We're happy to bring 'Grow with Google' to Colorado, one of our home states and, and to continue helping to develop a skilled workforce to meet the needs of the state's growing economy, while ensuring Colorado remains a great place for entrepreneurs," said Lambert.

See PUEBLO, A6

## PUEBLO

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**Google**

Of course, Google already is helping Coloradans do business.

In its 2018 Economic Impact Report, Google announced that 39,000 businesses in Colorado generated \$4.77 billion in economic activity by using Google's search and advertising tools. The full report details Google's economic impact state-by-state, and features the stories of businesses fueling that growth, creating job opportunities, and transforming their communities.

Jon Walker, executive director of the Pueblo library district, said he and all of the library district staffers "are thrilled to team up with Google in bringing their world-class digital literacy expertise in-person to our community.

"Strong digital skills have never been more important and our local library is well poised to support Grow with Google in Pueblo, he said. "We welcome Google to Pueblo and are grateful for their help in advancing our local workforce and small businesses."

What's even more notable about Google's visit in late August

Google says it "aims to help create economic opportunity in communities across the United States by training Americans on free Google tools and resources designed to help them find the jobs they want, advance their careers, and grow their businesses." (COURTESY IMAGE)

is that the company plans to extend its local presence.

After the one-day session, Google will explore ongoing partnership opportunities with area organizations to help with job training and developing digital skills, according to Lambert.

Class space is limited; registration is recommended in advance.

For more information and to register, go to [gocolorado.org](http://gocolorado.org)

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# LOCAL NEWS

WOMEN &amp; MARKETS

## Pueblo salutes Smokey Bear at 75

By Anthony A. Mestas  
The Pueblo Chieftain

Smokey Bear, the U.S. Forest Service's symbol of fire prevention, turned 75 Friday — and the furry mascot along with the Pueblo City-County Library District celebrated it with fanfare.

Johann Novack, 9, could barely contain his excitement as he approached Smokey for a photo.

"Smokey, Smokey, Smokey," he chanted as he and his little brother Gideon, 6, walked toward the giant bear.

The two boys were with their mother, Tiffany Novack, and Bethany Urban, an Elk Creek firefighter and EMT in Conifer. They traveled from Colorado Springs to see Smokey.

Urban was deployed on fires last year for more than 80 days.

"When I came back, these boys were very excited to meet Smokey. They've asked about Smokey for a year," Urban said.

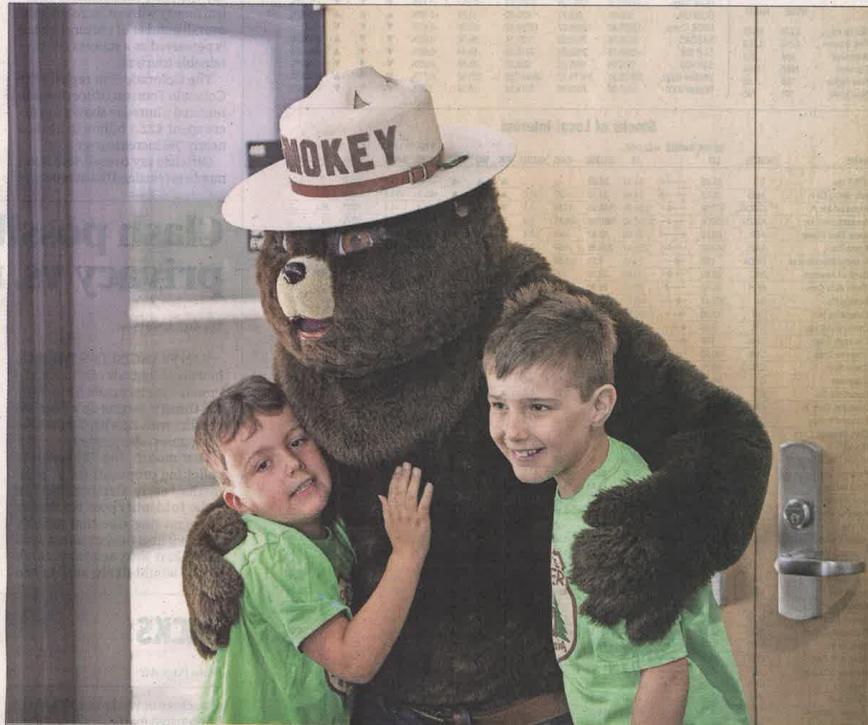
The event was held at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library InfoZone, where kids learned how to help Smokey Bear prevent wildfires and celebrate his birthday with cake and snacks.

Members of local fire departments also brought their fire trucks.

The National Forest Service, the Pueblo Fire Department, the Pueblo West Fire Department and the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office were alongside Smokey for the event.

On camping trips, Urban has talked with the Novacks about fire safety — something young Johann illustrated.

"When we go camping, we have to put the fire out with water. Sometimes, Bethany (Urban) or dad even do it three or four times, just to make sure that it is completely out,"



Gideon Novack, 6, left, and Johann Novack, 9, meet with Smokey Bear as part of Smokey's 75th birthday celebration at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, on Friday. (CHIEFTAIN PHOTOS/ZACHARY ALLEN)

Johann said.

"We make sure there is no smoke burning."

"He prevents forest fires," Gideon chimed in.

"I really like him."

See SMOKEY, A9



Guests take photos with Smokey Bear at his 75th birthday celebration at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, on Friday.



Guests of all ages turned out for Smokey Bear's 75th birthday celebration at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, on Friday.

### SMOKEY

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Urban said it's important for kids to learn about fire safety at a young age.

"We talk about how not to send embers out into the forest and how to take care of fires. I think the younger the better to learn and understand how to take care of the forest and nature and the animals."

Smokey is the longest-running public service ad campaign, first appearing on a poster on Aug. 9, 1944.

Smokey's face appeared on posters with his famous slogan: "Only you can prevent forest fires." In 2001, the slogan was updated to: "Only you can prevent wildfires." Smokey has also appeared on postage stamps, billboards and even a hot-air balloon.

Smokey Bear was created when the U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council agreed that a fictional bear would be the symbol for their joint effort to promote forest fire prevention.

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# LOCALNEWS



The AscenDance Studio earned the nod for Best Overall Entry of the Kids Parade. [COURTESY PHOTO]

## Kids Parade marks end of summer reading program

By Jon Pompia  
The Pueblo Chieftain

The Pueblo City-County Library District's annual summer reading program came to a cute and colorful close Saturday on the Mesa Junction.

Under the cosmic banner "A Universe of Stories," more than 30 entries, and 560 little ones, moved down Abriendo Avenue before hundreds of onlookers and a three-judge panel, who rewarded the following Kids Parade entrants with trophies:

- The Howard Feliciano Ohana (Best Small Group)
- Miss Pueblo County Scholarship Pageant (Best



A young member of the Pueblo Children's Chorale group looks out of her wagon. The entry won the trophy for Most Creative Music/Costumes. [COURTESY PHOTO]

### Medium Group

- Connie's School of Dance (Best Large Group)
- Grupo Folklorico (Best Costumes)
- Pueblo County Sheriff's Office (Best Overall Workmanship)
- Sarah Shaw Dancers (Best Choreography)
- Dragon Dojo (Best Use of "Space" Theme)
- Pueblo Fire Department (Best Use of Color or Props)
- Pueblo Children's Chorale (Most Creative Music/

Costumes)

- 3,2,1: Juliet and Nicholas Ready for Takeoff! (Best Comedy/Humor Entry)

- Lorrie Gonzales Torres-Autism Awareness (Most Spirited Group)
- Katie Beeby and Kids (Most Original Overall)
- Magnificent Miniatures (Best Dramatic Entry)
- AscenDance Dance Studio (Best Overall Entry of the Parade)

The morning was concluded with a free post-parade party in Grome Park, with crafts, games, a bounce house and more.

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## Pueblo libraries could close if mill levy gets voted down

By:

[Dan Beedie](https://www.krdo.com/meet-the-team/dan-beedie/766165044) (<https://www.krdo.com/meet-the-team/dan-beedie/766165044>)  (<mailto:dan.beedie@krdo.com>)

Posted: Aug 13, 2019 06:27 PM MDT

Updated: Aug 13, 2019 06:32 PM MDT

Pueblo, Colo. -- Libraries in Pueblo could be on the chopping block if voters don't choose to keep an existing mill levy this November.

The Pueblo City-County Library District is asking for a continuation on a mill levy that's funded libraries in the area for twenty years.

However, if voters turn it down Pueblo could potentially see up to two of the seven libraries close their doors.

Here's how a mill levy works: If you own a home worth \$100,000 you would pay \$4.30 cents annually in property taxes. Commercial property owners pay nearly 4 times more.

"If this tax is allowed to expire, the library, its operations, the programming, and facilities themselves are not sustainable," said John Walker, the Executive Director of the Pueblo-Pueblo County Library District.

That could lead to big changes to a library system that served 1.8 million people in 2018. Hours could be reduced at multiple branches or even permanently close some locations.

"We are not asking people to give additional money, we are just asking to keep what people are already giving," said Stephanie Garcia, Library Board Trustee's Vice President. "If you go into any of our branches they are important pieces of this community and would want to keep those doors open."

"You go to any of our libraries -- they are jam packed," said Pueblo City Council Member Ray Aguilera.

Aguilera and the rest of Pueblo City Council unanimously approved the proposed referendum to continue the mill levy Monday night.

"All the computers, all the chairs, everything is full," said Aguilera. "Not just at Rawlings Library, but at all the other libraries as well."

Last year the Pueblo City-County Library District was voted America's best public library, thanks in large part to the people in Pueblo. However, getting votes in November remains to be seen.

# LOCAL NEWS

## City backs library mill levy continuation



Patrons browse for books at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library earlier this week. [CHIEFTAIN PHOTOS / STEPHEN SWOFFORD]

### Issue will be on the November ballot

By Ryan Severance  
The Pueblo Chieftain

The Pueblo City-County Library District mill levy that's been used as funding for the district for 20 years expires at the end of this year, and the city is urging residents to vote to continue the levy so library services can continue uninterrupted.

City Council this week unanimously passed a resolution in support of the ballot measure that voters will decide on this November to continue the mill levy at a slight decrease.

A 0.603 mill rate for the



**Tamara Jackson** works on her computer at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library earlier this week.

library district expires this year and the district is asking voters to continue the property taxes for library services at slightly less than the current overall rate.

Jon Walker, the executive director of the library district, said the mill levy

equates to about \$4.30 a year per \$100,000 of valuation of a property. So a property valued at \$200,000 would pay \$8.60 annually and so on.

Library officials said if the mill levy expires, its facilities, operations and services are not sustainable.

"I cannot think of another institution in any community that serves every single citizen. We serve everybody from every socioeconomic background, from every ethnic background, from every part of the city," said Doreen Martinez, president of the library board of trustees. "I feel very strongly about this. I dedicate a lot of my time to promoting what the library stands for in our community. I'm hopeful and very confident that once we get the message out to the citizens of Pueblo County that they will come together to approve a continuation of what I believe to be a very modest tax to continue

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## LIBRARY

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services to all of the citizens in our county."

In 2018, the library

district had more than 1 million visitors who checked out nearly 2.4 million books and logged onto library computers and digital resources such as e-books about 2.5 million times, according to the

city. And about 428,000 residents participated in library-sponsored cultural and educational events and programs last year.

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# Pueblo City-County Libraries, Google and local economic vitality



**Jon Walker**

Our local libraries are a key resource for our community. Libraries serve a myriad of purposes aligned with literacy and learning, including books and computers for reading and research. Today, our libraries are places to build economic opportunity. People come into our libraries regularly to search for jobs and learn about running a business.

Changes in modern workforce requirements focus ever

more on digital skill sets, which means more people use our local libraries to prepare for the workplace. Pueblo City-County libraries offer free Wi-Fi, assist patrons with job applications and interviewing skills, and help with online skills such as using search engines, email, spreadsheets and similar tools. One growing area of importance is assisting local entrepreneurs looking to start and run businesses of their own.

I personally recall individuals turning to our libraries for help in their professional lives. A successful realtor got started first with the library on the path to master real estate sales, leasing and management. A woman returning to the workforce looked for help from our librarians and library

tools to enhance computer abilities. A man who sought library resources to write a resume and submit online job applications. The list goes on.

This is why we are excited to partner with Google on the Grow with Google initiative. This is the tech company's commitment to deliver digital skills training directly to job seekers, entrepreneurs and others looking to advance careers or grow businesses. On August 23, the Grow with Google nationwide tour will stop in Pueblo at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

Google experts will lead hands-on workshops and one-on-one coaching for anyone looking to improve their digital skills — whether you are a small business

owner, job seeker, student or just someone looking to better understand how to work a computer or access the internet. Moving forward, our library will become an official Grow with Google partner — meaning that we will have access to Google's free curriculum and resources to continue these training programs for the members of our community in the future.

The relationship between libraries and the business and tech communities has never been more important. This is why we are honored to be a part of Google's initiative to increase economic opportunity. Teaming up with Google means bringing world-class digital literacy expertise to the greater Pueblo community.

What could be better than this? Pueblo is "on the move" and Google's decision to come here adds to the momentum for an even brighter economic future.

The Pueblo City-County Library District shares Google's belief that technology should not be a barrier to finding a good job and digital tools should help, not hurt, your business. We are committed to providing the necessary skills needed for people to thrive in our ever-changing economy and we are doing this with partners like Google. To learn more about the Grow with Google event and to register, visit [g.co/growcolorado](http://g.co/growcolorado).

*Jon Walker is the executive director of Pueblo City-County Library District.*

# LOCAL NEWS

## Google visits Pueblo

**Workshop held to hone digital skills**

By Ryan Severance  
The Pueblo Chieftain

A large sign of Google's famous logo sat in front of the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library as the mega technology company made its way to the city on Friday.

Google representatives came to Pueblo to host a free "Grow with Google" workshop at the main library that went from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The workshop is aimed at helping job seekers and small businesses learn the digital skills they need to succeed through onsite instructional training led by visiting Google teams, presenters and coaches.

Google officials said the stop in Pueblo on Friday is part of a broader "Grow with Google" national effort to partner with America's libraries. The plan is for the workshop to be held at libraries in all 50 states over time.

The workshops were broken up into three different sections: nonprofits, small businesses, and job seekers. The workshop participants were instructed on a number of different Google tools related to the skills they were seeking.

The early afternoon session for small business owners was packed with people looking to hone their digital skills and better represent their businesses online.

The group was instructed on how well they're using Google ads, how they're showing up in Google searches, what their Google reviews look like, and if their businesses' Google Maps page is accurate, among other lessons.



**Mayor Nick Gradisar jokes with attendees before the start of a free Google workshop hosted by Google on Friday.** [CHIEFTAIN PHOTO / STEPHEN SWOFFORD]

Lauren Lambert, head of external affairs for the southwest U.S. for Google, said the company was excited to be in Pueblo.

"Pueblo is great. It's a really exciting community and it has a pretty active nonprofit community, which is interesting to us," Lambert said. "It also has a lot of small businesses. We want to make sure we're bringing Google tools to those folks."

Jon Walker, the executive director of the Pueblo City-County Library District, said the workshop was a rare opportunity for the library to have a world-class company like Google bring its technology expertise to the community.

"To bring it to the Rawlings Library for us, it's a lot of fun. It's super exciting and I think

it's going to be super impactful," Walker said.

The fact that Google is partnering with libraries across the country for this initiative is something that excites Walker.

"Google picked the library, the library didn't pick Google," he said. "I think that tells you a lot right there. Google sees that public libraries are public information spaces and places people naturally go to access information and to learn. One of our missions is lifelong learning and so I think they see that and recognize that and I think one of the reasons that Google picked libraries is for that very reason."

Walker said a workshop like the one Google hosted in Pueblo can only better the city.

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**Attendees talk with one another before the start of a free Google workshop hosted by Google at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library on Friday.** [CHIEFTAIN PHOTO / STEPHEN SWOFFORD]

### GOOGLE

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"We know our country is based on economic competitiveness and economic opportunity and I think what Google is doing with this is great for our community and helps raise the bar in our community to make us more competitive and make the individuals of our community more economically competitive as well," Walker said.

In the lead up to the "Grow with Google" workshop in Pueblo, Google announced a \$1 million impact challenge to create economic opportunity

across Colorado as part of the "Grow with Google" initiative.

As part of the challenge, five Colorado nonprofits will receive grants and training to complete innovative projects.

The Google.org Colorado Impact Challenge invites nonprofits throughout the state to submit proposals for bold ideas to generate economic opportunity in their local communities.

Colorado nonprofits are invited to submit their proposals for their most innovative ideas to grow economic opportunity in their community. Together with a panel of local judges, Google will review the applications and choose five winners who

will receive \$175,000 in grant funding and training from Google. After the five winners are announced, Coloradans will be invited to vote on which project they believe will have the

greatest economic impact.

The winner of that public vote will receive an additional \$125,000 in funding.

In total, Google.org will grant \$1 million to local

nonprofit organizations.

Colorado nonprofit organizations can find more information on the Google.org Impact Challenge and submit their applications by visiting [g.co/coloradochallenge](http://g.co/coloradochallenge). The deadline

for submissions is Sept. 20 at 11:59 p.m. The five winners are expected to be named in early December.

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### Grow with Google

Colorado



**Lauren Lambert, Google's head of external affairs for Southwest US, talks with attendees during a free Google workshop hosted by Google at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library on Friday.** [CHIEFTAIN PHOTO / STEPHEN SWOFFORD]

**AT THE LIBRARY****New Books****From the Pueblo City-County Library District****Fiction**

1. The Escape Room – Megan Goldin\*
2. The Gifted School – Bruce Holsinger\*
3. Never Have I Ever – Joshilyn Jackson\*
4. The Chain – Adrian McKinty\*
5. The Golden Hour – Beatriz Williams\*
6. Thrown: Treason (Star Wars) – Timothy Zahn\*

**Non-Fiction**

1. American Carnage: On the Front Lines of the Republican Civil War and the Rise of President Trump – Tim Alberta\*
2. The Coffee Bean: A Simple Lesson to Create Positive Change – Jon Gordon\*
3. Archaeology from Space: How the Future Shapes Our Past – Sarah H. Parcak\*
4. Crisis in the Red Zone: The Story of the Deadliest Ebola Outbreak in History, and the Outbreaks to Come – Richard Preston\*
5. The Man Who Sold America: Trump and the Unraveling of the American Story – Joy Ann Reid\*
6. George Marshall: Defender of the Republic – David L. Roll\*

\*Titles are either available or can be recommended in the eBook format through PCCLD's Cloud Library Collection

**AT THE LIBRARY****New Books****From the Pueblo City-County Library District****Fiction**

1. One Good Deed – David Baldacci\*
2. Outfox – Sandra Brown\*
3. A Dangerous Man – Robert Crais\*
4. The Perfect Wife – JP Delaney\*
5. Ellie and the Harpmaker – Hazel Prior\*
6. The Turn of the Key – Ruth Ware\*

**Non-Fiction**

1. Talking to Robots: Tales from Our Human-Robot Futures – David Ewing Duncan\*
2. Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law – Haben Girma\*
3. The Family Next Door: The Heartbreaking Imprisonment of the Thirteen Turpin Siblings and Their Extraordinary Rescue – John Glatt\*
4. This is Not Propaganda: Adventures in the War Against Reality – Peter Pomerantsev\*
5. Alone at Dawn: Medal of Honor Recipient John Chapman and the Untold Story of the World's Deadliest Special Operations Force – Dan Schilling\*
6. Barnum: An American Life – Robert Wilson\*

\*Titles are either available or can be recommended in the eBook format through PCCLD's Cloud Library Collection.

**AT THE LIBRARY****New Books****From the Pueblo City-County Library District****Fiction**

1. The Bitterroots – C.J. Box\*
2. Things You Save in a Fire – Katherine Center\*
3. The Swallows – Lisa Lutz\*
4. Costalegre – Courtney Maum\*
5. Dragonfly – Leila Meacham\*
6. Inland – Téa Obreht\*

and Corporate Power in America – Christopher Leonard\*

3. Stronghold: One Man's Quest to Save the World's Wild Salmon – Tucker Malarkey\*
4. After the Fall: The Remarkable Comeback of Richard Nixon – Kasey S. Pipes\*
5. My Friend Anna: The True Story of a Fake Heiress – Rachel DeLoache Williams\*
6. Elvis in Vegas: How the King Reinvented the Las Vegas Show – Richard Zoglin\*

**Non-Fiction**

1. How to Be an Antiracist – Ibram X. Kendi\*
2. Kochland: The Secret History of Koch Industries

\*Titles are either available or can be recommended in the eBook format through PCCLD's Cloud Library Collection.

**AT THE LIBRARY****New Books****From the Pueblo City-County Library District****Fiction**

1. The Arrangement – Robyn Harding\*
2. The Warehouse – Rob Hart\*
3. The Whisper Man – Alex North\*
4. Old Bones – Douglas Preston\*
5. Chances Are... – Richard Russo\*
6. The Last Widow – Karin Slaughter\*

**Non-Fiction**

1. Inseparable: How Family and Sacrifice Forged a Path to the NFL – Shaquem Griffin\*
2. This is Not a T-Shirt: A Brand, a Culture, a Community – A Life in

Streetwear – Bobby Hundreds\*

3. Gods of the Upper Air: How a Circle of Renegade Anthropologists Reinvented Race, Sex, and Gender in the Twentieth Century – Charles King\*
4. The Assault on American Excellence – Anthony T. Kronman\*
5. Sudden Courage: Youth in France Confront the Germans, 1940-1945 – Ronald C. Rosbottom\*
6. The Outlaw Ocean: Journeys Across the Last Untamed Frontier – Ian Urbina\*

\*Titles are either available or can be recommended in the eBook format through PCCLD's Cloud Library Collection.