

PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

Report of the Executive Director – APRIL

Submitted to the Library Board of Trustees

May 22, 2025

Barkman Library

New and Unusual Programming:

Pete the Cat came to visit for a very special Storytime! Our CSR Karaline, had her first introduction as a beloved children's character and was thrilled by all the kids' excitement. However, with a football shaped head, it was difficult to get through the doorways.



Pete the Cat costume worn by Karaline

Yarn Birds: One of our highest attended adult programs, was our wonderful Yarn Bird creation programs



Adult woman showing her Yarn Bird Creation



3D Printed Tyrannosaurus skull in red

What's happening in the Makerspace?

Dinosaur Printing! The Barkman staff receives about a request every week to print up something new for our patrons. This time it was a Tyrannosaurus skeleton head! The reference desk also contains a variety of 3D printed fidget toys we share with patrons to show some of the printers capabilities. Marcus Bower, oversees all print requests for patrons.

A weekly Idea Forge program is provided every Wednesday afternoon for teens and families. This programming is a mix of STEAM, STEM, and random good old fun.



Mary Mantini and her Star Wars themed prize basket.

Mary Mantini was our April “May the Fourth Be With You” basket. She got to take home a 2-foot-tall storm trooper.

New Outreach: During the last week of April, staff members Brigitta Myerhofer, Penny Jerman, and Estela Mungaray attended the lunch hours of Centennial and East High School to promote Barkmans’ new and upcoming “Every Teens’ Book Club” that will have its very first meeting in May.

[Giodone Library](#)

To celebrate Poetry month, we displayed books of poetry, a make your own poetry interactive activity from magazine clippings, and we hosted the poet Mark Chartiér that had 14 attendees.

We held outreach activities at Avondale Elementary, Ascension Pre School, and Thatcher Pre-School.

We hosted our first Office Hours with Senator Hickenlooper’s Casework Advocates and 2 constituents utilized the service.

We hosted a very successful program in collaboration with our Local History and Genealogy Department and the Palmer Land Conservancy to show the film Marisol with a question and answer period with local farmers afterwards. The movie was very heart warming and there were many tears in the audience. Afterward people shared some of the struggles of farming and water rights in the area, and it was a great opportunity for the community to connect with each other.



A picture from the event where the producer of the film is standing before a screen with the opening title, and members of the audience waiting to watch.

Greenhorn Valley Library

Program Highlights:

Special Events



A collage of photos of the various events that happened in April 2025 at the Greenhorn Valley Library

This month Greenhorn Valley was lucky enough to host a Pete the Cat craft and Story Time that was attended by an entire elementary school class as a field trip, an egg hunt that moved from the nearby park to in-branch last minute due to weather, and a local rancher's alpaca and llama. Pete the Cat was a runaway hit as always with 75 happy attendees, and the early hours of hiding hundreds of eggs were worth it for the hunt when at least 85 children participated.

Youth and Family



A collage of photos showing the different youth and family events that were held at the Greenhorn Valley Library.

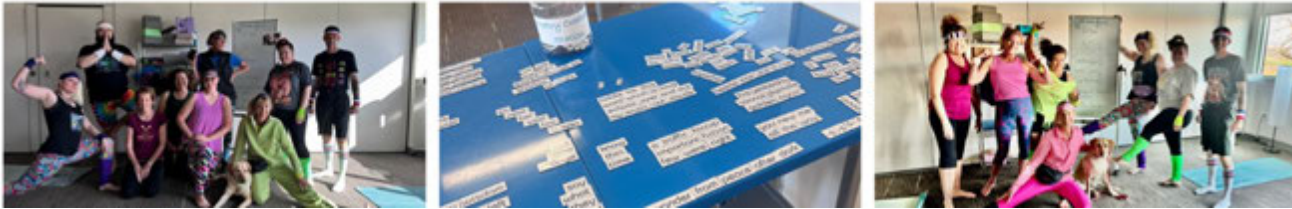
In addition to our regular Wednesday Story Time program and our always popular Family Friday, Ashley Swald hosted a Wild Robot Watch Party and craft activity that had 28 attendees, and Katherine MacLeod's regular bi-weekly group of between 8 and 12 Literary Dungeons and Dragons group attendees ended up having an impromptu D&D movie watch and paint party on one of the off weekends between their regularly scheduled campaign.

Teen+

This month our new CSR Aspen Pounds hosted his first program by running the centralized teen Kokedama program, and the weekly teen and up Saturday Night Magic program welcomed a few new first timers and introduced them to Magic the Gathering.

Adult

This month was Jess Driscoll's first time hosting the Daytime Book Club, discussing the book *Visual Thinking* with our steady group of 16. Participants enjoyed the insight into how different brains work and learning about different thought methods which lead to a healthy discussion that tied in well with April being Neurodivergence Acceptance Month. Meanwhile Book Club After Dark discussed *Bunny*, which our attendees agreed was one of the strangest book experiences they've ever had and no one could decide if they liked it. For National Poetry Month we hosted a Poetry Meditation Beads adult craft which was a great time, and we will be doing it again, and a couple of our regularly scheduled Yoga classes which range from 5-14 attendees had an 80's theme for added fun!



A collage of photos showing people participating in various events at Greenhorn Valley Library.

Displays & Passives:

Our display themes this month included a neurodiversity display and a gardening display from Aspen Pounds, a French movie display and fun poetry display from Matt Mitchell, Several great YA and adult book displays as well as a DVD display from Jess Driscoll, and a refreshed seed collection display and featured actor display and a passive magnetic poetry program from Ashley Swald.

Lucero Library

Tina

Highlight: Earth Day Dirt Cups

Description: Make a yummy chocolate pudding treat with a parent or caregiver. Celebrate Earth Day with a dirt cup!

On Friday, three groups of mentees came in to make delicious chocolate pudding dirt cups, inspired by Earth Day earlier in the week. Two groups of tween/teens came from MiKids, a mentor-mentee program that frequents El Centro and Lucero programming as well as two adults with special needs and a caregiver. Everyone was encouraged to crush up graham cracker-bunnies and hide gummy worms in the mix. After they were finished, we played two rounds of trivia ranging from questions on math, science and history. The games had kids laughing and playing around with staff for longer than we all expected- we went a bit over time and had a blast.

Jessica

Highlight: Seed Starting 101

Description: Adult patrons were invited to come to the Lucero Library at El Centro del Quinto Sol to start planting their own seedlings with Pueblo Food Project. Instruction, materials, and seeds were provided. This program was once again a very successful program, in fact, this collaboration is a yearly recurring program for the last three years. The collaboration is facilitated by Jessica Blaha and Allison Elliot from Pueblo Food Project. We had a total number of thirty participants. Some quotes to share: "Thank you again for providing everything from the tray to organic soil to seeds to get my garden started!" -Bob; "Wow I had no idea that every library has a seed library!" -Trisha; and "I am so excited and nervous to start my garden"-Emily.

Additional programs during the month were: In honor of April being the Arab-American Heritage month, we highlight four unique spices that one can discover in Arabic recipes. In addition to providing easy recipes using these spices.

Fenugreek Powder: Powder from the fenugreek plant has a stronger, more bitter flavor than its seeds—you will find most recipes call for fenugreek seeds versus fenugreek powder. However, you can add the powder to many soups and stews with a Middle Eastern or Indian flavor profile, as the mix of other spices evens out the strong bitter aftertaste.

Saffron: Saffron is the most expensive spice in the world. It is earthy and spicy, with a metallic bitterness, but it can also taste like honey and hay.

Lebanese Za'atar: This is a versatile spice blend typically made from dried herbs (like oregano, thyme, marjoram, etc.), toasted sesame seeds, and sumac powder. Lebanese za'atar will often have dried orange zest in it, as well— giving it more of a citrus flavor.

Tarragon: This is a leafy herb with a sweet licorice/anise-flavor.

Chris

Highlight: Shaving cream Easter eggs

Description: We dyed Easter eggs with shaving cream and food coloring. The kids really had a good time and the eggs came out looking good. We had Kids First come to the program and even their staff members dyed some eggs. After making the eggs the kids stayed around and played with the shaving cream and had lots of fun. I also had a day where we planted Red Clover for earth day. The kids really enjoyed it and we were able to also rub the program with the East side child Care group and they had fun and upon speaking with them a week after most had said that their Red Clover was starting to grow. We made Easter egg wreaths, tissue paper bunnies, and played bingo as well. I made giant bubbles with the kids and had a steam project of making tornados in a jar which was well received.

Highlight: Servicios de la Raza (Dia de ninos)

Description: Outreach event 300 people attended. The branch was asked to attend a community event hosted by servicios de la raza for dia de ninos . The first event was cancelled due to rain. So they postponed the event until 5/09/25. This event was well attended and the branch was able to connect with the community and share library resources and a free book.

Additional programs during the month were:

BALC(Books a la Cart) # 1143 items delivered

7 branches requested items for outreach- 460

Lamb Library, Library @ the Y, Beulah Library

Program Highlights

- Adult Programming

Wine Cork Coasters - Recycling household items has never had so many uses! The ladies in this program loved this craft, getting to pick from corks out of their favorite wines and turn them into functional household items was a hit!

In honor of Arab American Heritage Month, patrons explored the symbolic Hamsa hand by embossing their own designs onto upcycled aluminum cans. One attendee was so inspired she shared photos of additional Hamsa art created at home. Our slow stitching class also celebrated culture and mindfulness by featuring the Algerian eye stitch. For Earth Day, participants screen printed fern designs on old T-shirts, turning closet castoffs into art. Another eco-workshop used upcycled fabric to make reusable beeswax wraps as a sustainable alternative to plastic.



Adult Craft Attendees showing off Earth Day Screen Print Projects!

- Teen/Tween Programming

In honor of our Earth, make a Kokedama! - Kokedamas were a hit with the tweens. There were plenty of smiles and giggles throughout the entire program. The tweens were fully engaged and got to take home their very own living keepsake, a Kokedama—a Japanese moss ball plant.



Teens creating Japanese Moss Ball Plants

- Children's Programming

Preschool Storytime @ the Y - The kiddos are engaged with this month's storytime themes, from Frogs to Easter to Celebrating Earth Day. They are always eager and excited to come in, listen, and interact with the storyteller, and of course, color the book-related coloring pages.



Morris Loves Toddler Storytime!

- Promotions

Lamb promoted the seed library for Earth Day through the month of April. Patrons that checked out five packs of seeds were able to choose a free starter pot with gardening/library decals. The promotion was a hit with over 520 packs of seeds checked out through the month!

Outreach Highlights

We had a blast at Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA! A total of 59 participants joined in the fun, with kids completing short, energizing exercises to earn prizes and free books. It was a great way to get moving, build excitement around reading, and connect with families in the community.

Storytime at Goodnight School was a big hit with the kindergarteners! The clear favorite was Llama Destroys the World, which had everyone laughing and engaged from start to finish. We loved sharing stories and smiles with such an enthusiastic group!



Healthy Kids Day @ the YMCA!

Thank You's for Cynthia's Hamsa Craft

Good morning Cynthia. Thank you for introducing me to all different cultural arts! I'm learning so much! I ended up redoing a hand. Does it look better? I regret not straightening it out before I started. Thank you for introducing me to this class! I hope you have it again. Fingers up stop greed & envy, fingers down invites prosperity and luck? Thanks again!

Thank you for the patterns and material Cynthia! I finished them. What do you think? I loved doing this craft!

Pueblo West Library

Community Display Cases

Pueblo West Women's League Membership Drive Display

Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Display

Art Exhibits, Estimated Attendance TBD

David C. Russell Jr.'s "Seeing A Story" photography exhibit.

Pueblo West Library held a total of 125 programs, outreaches, club meetings, technology training, and Kits2Go with a total attendance of 2501.

Program Highlights

Pete the Cat Party 04/05/25

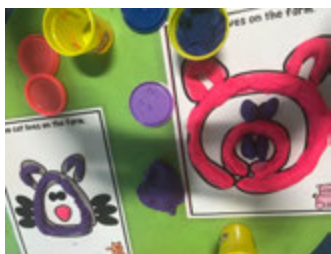
Over 100 attendees had a Petetastic time listening to stories, making crafts and meeting Pete the Cat! A couple of the kids brought drawings they made of Pete to give to him. Everyone wanted to give Pete hugs and high fives! Everyone loves Pete!



Someone dressed in a blue, Pete the Cat costume hugging a young boy.

Cozy Sensory Storytime (New this month!), Every Thursday

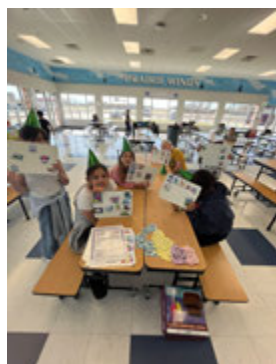
One attendee of Cozy Sensory Storytime told me that the thing he liked best about storytime was all the fun stuff! Including puppets, songs, play doh and bubbles!



Story time craft that uses play-doh to decorate pictures of animal faces such as a pig and a cat.

Prairie Winds Elementary B&GC / Girl Scouts Outreach 04/07/25

I brought one of the financial literacy games we received from an ALA grant. The tweens enjoyed playing Penny Pincher's Party. The tweens stated that the game "was fun and helped us spend our money wisely! We should play it again."



Five, school-age girls in party hats, seated in a school cafeteria, show off their "Penny Pincher's Party" gameboards.

Adult Craft: Mosaic Coasters 04/23/25

The Adults had a blast creating their coasters using glass tiles, glass beads and grout! They mentioned that they had a lot of fun and are very thankful for the amazing crafts we provide monthly!

April Checkout Challenge Drawing

Twenty seven people submitted entry forms for a chance to win the Checkout Basket in April. After checking out 10 items, a participant had to show their receipt at the desk to retrieve an entry form. This month's winner was Peyton, pictured below. The basket was filled with indoor and outdoor springtime activities.



A young girl, in a rainbow hoodie, stands next to a plastic bin filled with colorful, outdoor games and activities.

Essentials of Art Series, April & May

The FOL grant funded Essentials of Art series kicked off in mid-April. During this 6-class series, participants are learning how to use all sorts of art mediums. Everyone says they love the class, and would be thrilled to do something like this again in the future.



Several older adults sit at tables filled with painting supplies. They are painting and receiving instructions from a classroom teacher.

Dungeons and Dragons, Every 3rd Saturday

Our Dungeons and Dragons club had a fun afternoon nerding out over the gaming table. We even had three others that joined us virtually over a discord chat. Our spellcaster is the one in the hat, no doubt contemplating which spell will vanquish the party's enemies.



A group of young men and teen boys are gathered around a table filled with Dungeons & Dragons miniature character figures, castle and game instructions.

Tech Services

DIRECTOR:

- Jill Kleven took over managing the substitutes after Linda Lewis's departure. A training was held for subs on summer reading on April 29th.
- Elizabeth Flores and Jill updated the current bed bug procedures on returned materials. Jill then presented the changes at the PSM meeting and ordered containment kits for each location.
- Jill attended a grant training on the LSTA Early Literacy grant through the Colorado State Library.
- Jill met with Sharon Rice and Kristi Roque to discuss staff waiving patron fines and creating new procedures. This should be rolled out in May.
- Bibliotheca was on site to install the cash/coin boxes and credit card readers on the new Rawlings self checks.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT:

- Danielle Cowles and Elizabeth began ordering opening day collection materials for Lucero.
- Elizabeth and Jill met with Aaron Ramirez and Katalina Loreda to discuss collection development for the Hispanic Resource Center.
- Job Now is one of the databases that has been discontinued.

CATALOGING:

- More seeds have been added to the collection. April was the highest month of seed checkouts ever with 1710 packets being checked out.
- Peggy Bilger and Theia Bravo have been working with IT to streamline the holdings process with OCLC.

ILL:

- The ILL policies and procedures went through the Board Legislative Committee and got updated.
- Training for the new ILL borrowing process will commence in May.

ILS:

- Theia sent out a survey to staff on their level of comfort working within Koha and Discover. She is developing staff training which will begin this summer.

Local History & Genealogy

PROGRAMS

- 4/5 Genealogy Periodicals - 1
- 4/12 Southeastern Colorado Genealogical Society - 13
- 4/22 LHG Open House - 5
- 4/24 Introduction to Family History - 0
- Bilingual Storytime: 19
- English Conversation Class: 6
- Intermediate English Class: 24
- Dia de los Niños y Libros: 106
- The Future of Farming on the Mesa & Mirasol Screening: 40

Total Attendance: 214

OUTREACH

- Joy Oria attended the Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America board meeting (where she holds a seat) on 4/12

INREACH

- Alisha Cunzio taught Personal Archiving Class to the USD staff meeting on 4/2.

SPECIAL PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Shared Memories

- Date set for Installation and initial training at the Trinidad Public Library, May 28.
- Sourced 16/8mm film scanner from Ventura Images, who is replacing originally planned vendor, Kinetta, who dropped communication.

Social Colorado Equity Alliance

Potential donation of SCEA organizational material was evaluated for potential future donation by Alisha C. and Aaron R. Contact was made with SCEA to begin process of donation.

LHG Department staff attended the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivist's Spring Conference in Castle Rock on April 25 where they learned about disaster preparedness and recovery.

Genealogy Projects

- Checked in periodicals - 35
- Pulled kids' books from LHG and placed on lower shelf of display tables
- Prepared 75 items for bindery
- Created updated end cap signs

Digital Archives

- Digitized the Senior Class of 1975 for a patron (~250 images)
- Continued renaming digitized rock art slides
- Digitized a 60-page report for a patron as part of a broader request

Physical Archives

- Vault inventory progressing. Will be complete by end of May.
- John Korber Business Buildings binders scanned through volume 42
- Have obituary pdf files added to database through the 'd's'
- Am proofreading 1960 birth index.

Vault Visits: 58

Feedback from Patrons:

Dear Tabitha,

Thank you so much for taking a look at that. It's so hard knowing where Sears would have advertised something like that in 1947. Or if it was just posted in the store. No internet back then, lol! I truly appreciate you taking a look.

Sincerely,

Richard Trotter

A patron came in asking for information from the Outstanding Women's Awards so she could re-nominate her friend. I was able to get her both the paragraph bio that went into the 2002 program, as well as all her nomination forms. She told me she was so happy that the library kept all of this stuff and was appreciative of our work. - Alisha

Experiential Learning

Tea Cup Crafts

For Afternoon Tea month, we used old China to create jewelry and dice boats! We acquired equipment for creating stained glass for our China Jewelry craft this month, which found our regular crafty patrons using grinders and soldering irons to create their pendants. We also brought out the UV resin with some high-powered UV lamps for filling tea cups with the resin as well as glitter, mica powders, and real tea for creating the fun illusion of a cup of tea, while being perfect rolling dice without losing it off the edge of a table or storing your findings!

Ukulele Choir

This month, our Ukulele Choir (that has been a program twice a month in the Makerspace for some time now) bravely performed at an open mic night at Walter's Brewery! Aside from some technical difficulties, they had a [wonderful performance](#), especially considering that it was their first time performing the songs they had rehearsed in front of a live audience like that. I'm so proud of our Ukulele Choir, and this progress from them is proof of our programs going beyond our Makerspace and into the lives of people in our community, inspiring them to take what they learn from us further into creating opportunities!

New - Knit Along Audio Book Club

This month, to try to attract folks to our Fiber Frenzy concept, we experimented with adding listening to an Audiobook as an Activity. While the turnout was still small on the first one, we saw our numbers double on the

second time we offered it this month and the patrons offered lots of positive feedback on getting to listen to a book while working on their knitting/crocheting/sewing/etc and hanging out with fellow crafters at the library!

Museum Services

April 7: Nature's Palette - This program was in collaboration with the Pollinator poster exhibit from the Smithsonian. Attendees from this program experimented with natural materials in addition to everyday household materials to make watercolor paints. This class was multigenerational and saw people of all ages. One little boy was so excited to mix together steeped flowers, alum, baking soda, amongst other things and made the most amazing colors! Some adults were especially jealous of the green he achieved. This was a great community building event where people asked each other how they got their colors and shared paints with each other. People were grateful that they were able to take their paints with them so they can continue to create.

April 12 and 18: Pretty Plastic - This collaborative program between youth services and ELD was a success! People of all ages enjoyed watching how plastic bottles could magically transform with heat guns. They especially enjoyed making colorful Chihuly inspired bowls which were super easy to achieve. Kids who participated wanted to make more and more throughout the program.

April 16: Screen Printing - This month's designs were Earth Day inspired. Patrons expressed how the designs for this month were even better than the previous month! Since the program, attendees have returned to other programs and have shown us how they have embellished their bags to make them even more unique!

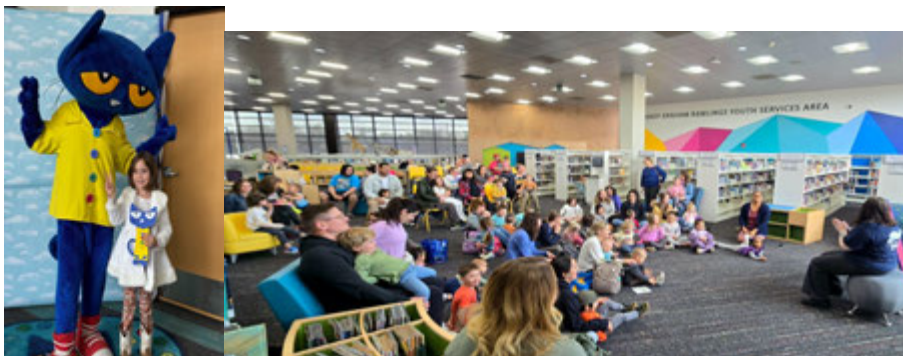
April 24: D60 Art Show Reception - Over the last three years, the D60 Art Show reception has seen a dramatic increase in attendance. In 2023, the reception saw only 185 attendees, in 2025 the reception saw 428 attendees. This event was an amazing opportunity for young artists to celebrate their talents. Year after year the teachers have said that they appreciate having the show at Rawlings.

Circulation Services

We are working hard to revitalize our old call center documents, along with our other call center locations at Giodone, the YMCA, and Greenhorn Valley so that we have a good standard of phone services across the district! We also continue to see record high use of the Rawlings meeting rooms- 220 people and/or organizations used our spaces in April which is the highest number ever. We have been very busy! We celebrated Earth month and our pollinators, April Fools, and spring time with our first floor displays and as always, our regular patrons really enjoyed the pop of color and fun facts.

User Services

YOUTH PROGRAM:



Pictured is Pete with a young girl who is holding the craft she made, as well as a group of people participating in Storytime. Youth Services provided a centralized program across 6 library branches in April. Pete the Cat visited with Storytimes, crafts, games and photo ops with this beloved children's book character.



The image above captures (on the left) author Scott Magoon looking at a student's creative work inspired by his book, and (on the right) 250 students watching Scott Magoon present. Youth Service's annual Read Out Loud Program brought author Scott Magoon to Pueblo County, where 544 fourth-grade students from across the district participated. Prior to the event, students read Magoon's book, *The Extincts: Quest for the Unicorn Horn*.

ALL AGES PROGRAMMING:



A young person stands at a table with her hands on a blue and pink felt flower and button project she is working on as she looks at the camera while attending the all ages Tea & Makes program in the Makerspace. Tea & Makes is a popular crafting program that welcomes community members of all ages to enjoy tea and crafts in the Maker Space.

ADULT PROGRAM:



Above: One egg, on a piece of wood, colored with blue, yellow, and green dye. Egg is from a tie dye egg program at the Rawlings Library, in April. Participants tie dyeing eggs at the Rawlings Library. Tie Dye is also a popular program offered to all ages.

The Adult Literacy program now offers *Adult Learning Sessions* to support adults who want to improve their reading and writing skills or for those who are learning English as a Second Language. Learners recently requested a lesson on relative pronouns. Adult Learning Sessions are well attended.

OUTREACH:



Above: Table with “Pueblo City-County Library District” tablecloth, flyers, and people standing to the right.

In April, Jen Scroggins, the Reference Librarian, attended The 2025 Spring Research Symposium at CSU-Pueblo. Undergraduate and Graduate students from Colorado State University Pueblo presented their original research, and scholarly and creative products to the university and public. Jen promoted PCCLD resources and services to over 200 people who were there for the Symposium, in addition to conducting her “Pop-Up Reference Librarian” program.

Facilities

Work Order Statistics

- 257 work orders completed.
- 21 custodial work orders completed.

Barkman

- Cleaned up grounds.
- Completed gutter installation.

Giodone

- Removed dead tree from grounds.

Greenhorn

- Replaced garbage disposal.
- Repaired trim on meeting room tables.
- Continued to replace lights.

Lamb

- Serviced roof top unit.

Lucero

- Visited construction project.

Pueblo West

- Trimmed trees and cleaned up bushes and weeds.
- Delivered new chairs.

- Serviced roof top unit.
- Continued work with charging station.

Rawlings

- Repaired brominate feeder on the water feature.
- Fixed boiler control.
- Trouble shot chiller pump control and found a bad glycol pump.
- Rebuilt chiller #6.
- Checked fire extinguishers.
- Continued to replace lights in the stairwells, closets, and restrooms.
- Met with fire department for Knox box placement and fence setup for generator area.
- Continued with roofing upgrade.
- Continued work with elevator modernization.

Other duties/projects - District

- Started up and repaired sprinkler systems throughout the district.
- Started Chemway fortifier and weed control.
- Setup tractor for the summer.
- Started districtwide carpet cleaning.
- Turned in PO's for security and access upgrades.

Volunteer Hours

PCCLD Volunteer estimated hours for the month of April.

ADULTS	371.25 HOURS
TEENS	34.50 HOURS
BOOKS AGAIN	1322.91 HOURS
BOD TRUSTEES	20.00 HOURS

TOTAL HOURS	1751.66
VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS	\$60,940.25

(Estimated by Independent Sector's figure of \$33.49/hour for each volunteer hour contributed)

Respectfully submitted,
 Sherri Baca
 Executive Director