

**PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**Report of the Executive Director – August**  
**Submitted to the Library Board of Trustees**  
**September 25, 2025**

## **Barkman Library**

August saw the end of the 2025 Summer Reading Year. 1259 Game Boards were returned to the Barkman location and allowing the Branch to reach their goal of a minimum 1,000 boards.

New and Unusual Programming: It was a Dog Themed Month!

Bark Week- Dog themed programs and activities for a full week of August to celebrate our furry friends were implemented for the first time. After having so much fun, staff unanimously voted to make it an August tradition.

Adoption Information with PAWS for Life: PAWS came to do an adoption information program we were hoping for furry friends but they left them at home when the volunteers came to visit.

Bluey and Bingo Crafts! Currently very popular, we had some teen volunteers who dressed as Bluey and Bingo for us and all the kids had such a good time!



Mother and young girl pose in front of Bluey and Bingo

Program and Outreach Specialist Penny Jerman sent the Storytime kids digging for buried treasure and they had a great time exploring under the “sand” to find all of their bits and bobbles.



Young girl showing off her treasure.  
represent sand



Toddlers digging in shredded paper to

### Idea Forge Makerspace shenanigans:

Two big hits with the teens and young adults was making their own soft playdough with cornstarch and hair conditioner. After the dough creation, the kids had van Gogh art mats and could color and press their dough into the mats creating an artistic design based from a painting.

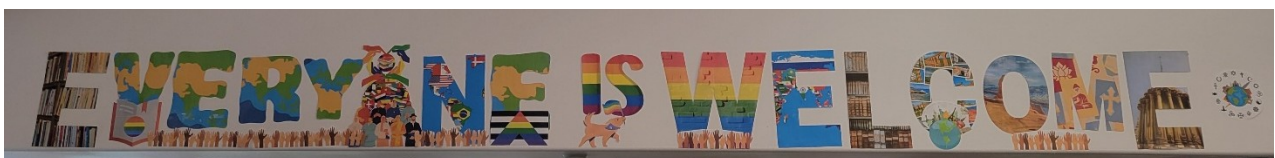
Another program involved young adult and miniatures! A group formed to come together and have fun painting their miniature sculpted figures and compare techniques. CSR Marcus Bower, also taught the proper technique of adding acrylic paint to a slick plastic surface and maintaining its adherence to the smooth plastic.



Teens creating playdough on table  
Miniature Painting



Hand designed sign advertising



Sign "Everyone is Welcome"

We couldn't let all of our colorful cheer go, so we "signed" up for an inclusive welcome!

Barkman received new upgraded gates and showcased every child's favorite thing; a Back to School display. The display was created by CSR Ashleigh Campanella.



Book Display with sign saying back to school and books shown.

## Giodone Library

Giodone Library graciously accepted a donation from the County Girl Scout Troop that regularly uses our meeting room. The Girl Scouts earned their Tree Promise badge by donating and helping to plant two new Crab Apple trees with the help of PCCLD's Facilities Department and matching financial support from PCCLD's Administration.





Our most popular Adult/Family Program was our first ever Godzill-a-thon. 24 people came to celebrate Godzilla fandom, make crafts, and watch Godzilla movies.

Summer Reading came to a close in August. The celebration pizza party, that Youth Services supported, brought in 32 people who enjoyed their reward for all the reading they did over the summer.

Sandy is hosting a weekly citizen preparation class that averages 6 attendees. This is a very meaningful program that will help people attain their American citizenship, and improve their prospects for employment.

Lorena hosted her monthly adult crafting group, and had 15 attendees. She attended McHarg Park's ribbon cutting in Avondale and promoted our free bookshelf that is available in the Recreation Center.

Many of our regular weekly programs are becoming mainstays in people's lives. The Crochet Club averages 8 people every week, and the weekly Tai Chi class had a recorded breaking attendance one week with 25 people.

In total we had 340 in program attendance. We had 12 public meeting room reservations and 37 study room reservations.

## Greenhorn Valley Library

### **Program Highlights:**

August saw our Summer Reading activities slowing down a little, falling back on branch staples with Yoga, Literary D&D and D&D After Dark, Magic the Gathering, Family Friday, Sip n' Stroke, and Story Time. Karaline joined our team and after some training did her first Story Time using the theme of color, and it was a rousing success! She has also added a Story Time Suggestion Box to the children's area and now we all look forward to hearing what the kids want. The first theme request was "Hippos." The finalists from the Tiny Art Show were also selected by popular vote and received their prizes and were displayed with their awards on them until their creators wanted to take them home.



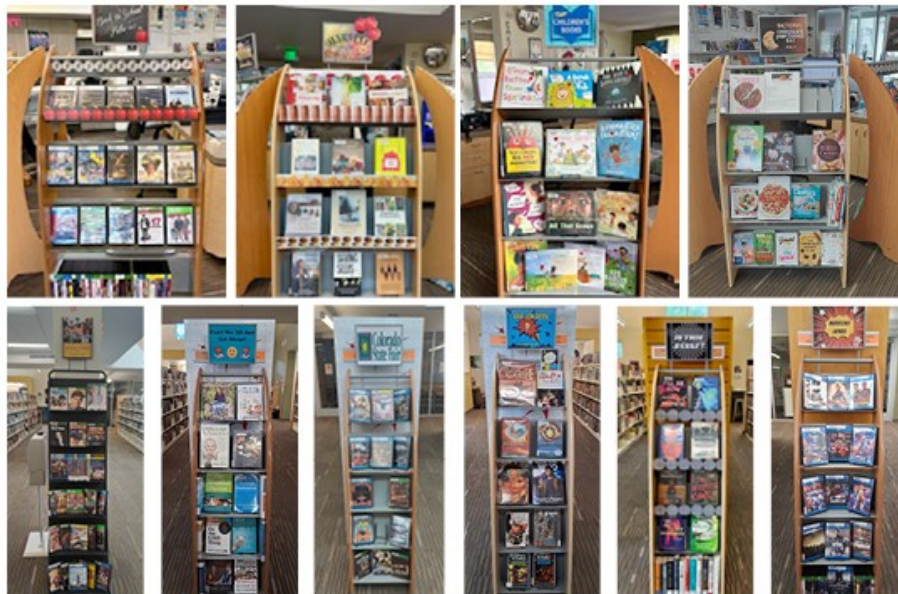
## Outreach:

We stayed closer to home with our outreach opportunities this month, participating in the Back to School Carnival in the adjacent park where Ashley was a sensation making slime and the Rye Town Square Faire in Rye featuring Summer Reading samples and sign up forms. Additionally, now that we are fully staffed Ashley has resumed attending the VFC luncheon at the community center and has expanded the offerings from just a selection of adult books to include donated children's books, marketing, a setup to register new patrons, and a take and make craft. Many attendees have visited the library after these events and cannot stop talking about how much they have enjoyed the new offerings and Ashley's enthusiasm.



## Displays:

August was a mix of summer fun, harvest prep, Adam Sandler, and two displays promoting IdeaCon in hopes that it would build excitement and draw attention to the upcoming event. It led to a month of great variety with everything from costume making and epic adventures to comedy and recipes, and a nod to the State Faire. The Back to School comedy display was a surprise hit as families prepared for summer vacation coming to an end.





### On Deck:

We are now starting our work transitioning into school visits, welcoming our homeschool group back, and preparing to resume suspended programs as Karaline grows more comfortable in her Librarian and Assistant Manager role. We are of course looking forward to IdeaCon and hope we have encouraged our patrons to visit Pueblo to attend.

## Lucero Library

### Tina

**Highlight:** Preparing Storytime Visits

**Description:** Tina met with Ms. Amber and Ms. Gonzales at Eva Baca Elementary to set up a storytime at their location which will be one of our monthly outreaches. This will start in September. D60 is going through funding and scheduling changes that are requiring this preschool class (among others) to have two classes in a day rather than one. This year is going to have a much stricter schedule than last year, but we were committed to make a storytime work. They loved the activities that Tina paired with books last year and appreciated the classroom management that supported their new learners. Tina is looking forward to another wonderful year.

### Jessica

**Highlight Adult Program:** Recovery Solution Visits

**Description:** Recovery Solutions Drop-In Center is a peer specialist-run facility that promotes wellness and recovery to individuals 18 years of age or older with mental health and/or substance use conditions. This fantastic group visits the library twice a month to explore the library collection and participate in a program led by Jessica Blaha, currently held at the Barkman Library. This month, our activities were watermelon garland and air-dry clay creations. The participants truly enjoyed the creative freedom to make several items out of the air-dry clay.

### Chris

**Highlight Youth Program:** Snacks for Facts

**Description:** Chris and other members of the Lucero team, helped the kids with literacy by offering them snacks if they read used facts. Chris led many afternoon crafts and helped Mark Salazar with the chess program. During snacks for facts we have the kids read non-fiction books and sight words according to their grade level. During this process we help them with reading skills and pronunciation of words to build their

reading levels up and learn new words. Chris has had around 13 kids every Monday doing this program.

### **Branch Highlight:**

**Highlight Youth Program:** Back-to-School Night at Fountain International Magnet School

**Description:** On August 27, Jessica Blaha and Chris Rivera attended and tabled at Fountain International Magnet School for their Back-to-School night for students and families. Families and teachers were excited to hear that we will be reopening in October. We were also able to network with some other community partners from the Pueblo Zoo and Eastside Clubhouse (Boys and Girls Club).

## **Lamb Library, Library @ the Y, Beulah Library**

### **Program Highlights**

- Adult Programming

#### *Classic Crafting for Social Seniors - Paint the Midway*

The ladies were feeling nostalgic with our vintage style midway sign craft. Everyone had a blast making their keepsakes and sharing stories about their experiences with the various state and county fairs!



Adult patrons creating nostalgic "Paint the Midway" crafts

- Teen/Tween Programming

#### *Teen/Tween Night - Scoop Science (Make your own Ice Cream)*

We started the month off saying goodbye to summer by bagging up a few simple ingredients, adding in some physical excursion, and some fun toppings and our teens/tweens had their own sweet treat to help combat the summer heat.

#### *Socialite Saturday (Teen Program) - Book Bags and Brushstrokes*



We celebrated national book lover's day by decorating some canvas strapped bags with bookish themes with our Teens for our monthly Socialite Saturday Program!



Teens making their own ice cream for teen/tween night!

- Children's Programming

*Toddler/Preschool Story Time*

Storytime continues to grow and evolve with the season. New families are joining us as school routines begin, while familiar faces age into new stages, keeping our community lively and connected.



Toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers enjoying crafts after story time!

- Children's Programming

This month we started welcoming the new fall preschool classes to the Y which means more songs, sign language, and of course some back to school themed story times. The kiddos all picked up on our welcome songs quickly and were already asking about the next week by the end of storytime!

- Adult Programming



The new YMCA Book Club has gained quite a following already, with 17 people opting to read the August pick “How the Penguins Saved Veronica” by Hazel Prior.

Similarly, the Creative Workshops at the Y program has proven extremely popular with adults creating Book Page Wreaths for the month of August.

## **Outreach Highlights**

The library participated in Riverfest 2025, where staff were able to connect with many new faces. While the event presented some challenges, it also offered opportunities to introduce the library to community members who may not have engaged with us before.

## **Pueblo West Library**

### **Community Display Cases**

Pueblo West Women’s League Membership Drive Display  
Summer Reading Display

### **Art Exhibits, Estimated Attendance TBD**

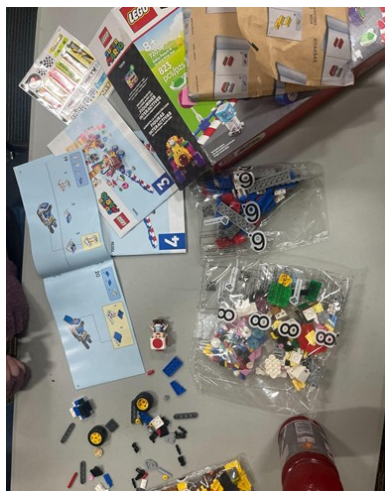
Beth Moore photography exhibit

**Pueblo West Library held a total of 66 programs, outreaches, club meetings, technology training, and Kits2Go with a total attendance of 964.**

## **Program Highlights**

### **Tween Hangout: Legos!**

The kids had a blast building different LEGO creations! They were excited to get to create Mario Kart Characters with LEGOs!



## **Tween Hangout : Clay!**

The kids had fun creating unique clay figures. Each one showcased their creativity and talent!



***The Arkansas River: From Leadville to Lamar*** was a documentary created and shown by film creator Sam Ebersole. After showing the film, Sam facilitated an intense discussion about water rights and the future of the Arkansas River basin.

**Historian George Koros presented his research on General George Custer**, including lesser known facts and photos. The program had a large audience, many of whom said that this presentation was incredibly informative and engaging, and sparked a new historical interest for them. After the presentation, there was an interesting discussion afterwards about the legacy of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

## **Tech Services**

### **DIRECTOR:**

- Jill Kleven and Alyssa Vargas Lopez have organized Corporate Cup events this year. There are 70 staff members participating which is the most in the past few years.

- The gates at both Barkman and Lucero have been installed. Also, the AMH and self-checks at Lucero are operational. The credit card reader on the self-check still needs to be installed.
- All of the collections were unpacked and shelved at Lucero. Opening Day Collections were also sent over and shelved.
- Tech Services has completely taken over Books Alacarte and is making regular deliveries on Tuesdays.
- Jill looked into Message Bee which would replace our phone notification system for Koha. This should get going by October
- Jill hired Brandon Gallegos for the courier position.

#### COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT:

- Danielle Cowles canceled the following databases based on low usage- Morningstar, Chiltons, and Heritage Quest.
- Peggy Bilger and Jill met with Ingram to discuss switching the lease book program from Baker and Taylor to Ingram. This will take place by the end of the year.

#### ACQUISITIONS:

- Adina Vega completed her internship.

#### DEVICES/ILS:

- Theia Bravo sent out the hotspots. Jill, Theia, Amy Nelson, and Thomas Defrates make up a committee of staff who will be determining the CIPA filtering recommendations.

## Local History & Genealogy

### **PROGRAMS**

#### HRC

Bilingual Storytime: 25

Bilingual Storytime @ El Centro:

Beginner English Class: 37

English Conversation Class: 3

Conversation and Reading club: 12

Beginner Spanish Class: 23

Language Hangout: 4

#### Department

Staff participated in a Workplace PERMA profiler survey which consisted of questions that draw out employee perceptions of emotions (positive and negative), engagement,



relationships, meaning, and achievement within the workplace. This survey is a tool to better understand LHG staff concerns and current situations, and engender reflection and further discussion to improve workplace culture.

#### Archives

A tour of the archives for elementary school students was scheduled, which will happen in September.

A 3.5-hour professional development session for D70 Social Studies and History teachers, middle school and high school was scheduled for the end of September. Aaron will lead instruction on primary source literacy instruction and how to incorporate PCCLD materials into their lessons.

#### GEN programs:

- 8/14 Ask a Genealogist! - 3
- 8/30 House Histories - 10

**Total Attendance (in person): 117**

#### **OUTREACH**

8/8 - Aaron met with Pueblo County clerk staff to look over a prospective donation of City Directories. He returned with one volume, but was able to learn about the Clerk's collections and spoke to Clerk staff about what LHG has to offer.

#### **INREACH**

LHG staff participated in District and Rawlings meetings with colleagues, like the RA Manager's meeting, Adult Services Committee meeting, and the Steering Committee meeting. During these meetings, staff promoted the department and provided perspectives on LHG happenings and resources.

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

##### **Shared Memories**

Shared Memories - Blake and Alisha installed a static lab at Lamar Public Library, 8/26  
Aaron met with Heather Maes from the La Junta Public Library about installation of a static lab, 8/29

##### **Genealogy Projects**

- Updated Adoption Information binder
- Volunteer Bob Craig organized Colorado genealogy books by county
- Assisted SECGS in their monthly meeting at Rawlings by printing handouts and bringing LHG books to their meeting related to program topic
- 8/15 genealogy customer appointment
- Relabeled Colorado Vietnam Veterans binders
- 8/19 Met with David Israel of the United Hebrew Center, discussed possible collaborations

- 8/22 - shelved 41 books from bindery + 5 new books
- Prepared next bindery shipment

### **Digital Archives**

- Continuing work on Glen Canyon Rock Art Metadata- 300 images have metadata completed, leaving another 63
- Creating Omeka sites for Shared Memories Projects, including usernames, pages, and collecting forms - This work works towards providing global access to Shared Memories submitted digital content.
- Creating training for Shared Memories projects including editing station manuals and trainings for the public

### **Physical Archives**

- John Korber Business Buildings binders scanned through volume 62. Korber files allow the public with access popular Pueblo topics easily online.
- Have obituary pdf files added to the database through the G's. The obituary index is one of the most used digital resources offered through the Department. The obituary index is a unique service offered to local and remote users.

### **Archival Reference Sessions: 11**

#### **Feedback from Patrons:**

Survey comments from House Histories program (8/30):

- What did you like most about the program?
  - Details to research, information available
  - Learning quite a few records are available than we know about
  - Visuals
  - The explanations about all of the different resources
  - The information!!!

## **Experiential Learning**

### **Artist in Residence**

Kimberly Sewell was an amazing first artist in residence for us! Patrons really enjoyed her work and her classes, and often still talk about it when visiting the Makerspace since! She brought in cyanotype photography, including one partnering with archives to print images from microfiche and other sources, block printing, and her writing workshops, helping people learn black out poetry and how to make writings that are truly haunting. People have been talking endlessly about how cool it has been, and how great it was having her around even for the open studio hours just to talk to her about her work and process! One patron talked about finding her workshops and her talk about her series she's been working on about grief to be very healing for the losses they've been going through, and found Kim's insights super helpful.

## Continuing Programs

While our artist in residence was in house, we did not slow down much for our regular programming. Melissa came back for continuing our yarn making series, Rick returned to fill some gaps with his colored pencil class, ukulele choir is still going strong, and of course needle felting llamas with the few who weren't busy at the state fair that weekend. Our Writers of the Minute this month joined in on the writing workshops with our artist in residence, many enjoying getting to expand some of their thinking about their writing in the process.

## Museum Services Programs:

- **Rick Espinoza Reception - Aug 1:** This event, showcasing local artist Rick Espinoza, brought in new patrons and celebrated the power of community. Rick was not expecting anyone to come and was surprised when friends he hadn't seen in years came to see his work. One of Rick's friends who was indigenous also did a surprise sacred drumming performance to honor him.
- **Screen Print - Aug 13:** This month's screen print designs were fandom themed to prepare for the upcoming Idea Con. Patrons left with Yoda and pin trading bags.
- **Creative Writing - Aug 16:** Kim Sewell taught this class and utilized excerpts to talk about the various ways people can use ghosts to tell stories that are relevant to the authors. One participant said that their view of writing as an art had changed from this process and inspired them to continue expressing themselves in this way.
- **Cyanotype in Archives - Aug 16:** This program allowed patrons to explore the 3rd floor and learn more about what items are in the Local History and Genealogy department. Patrons also learned a new and easy way to make art and were inspired to play with the medium more.

## Exhibits:

- **Expressions of a Native Son:** This is the first exhibit to utilize the new rail system in the Hispanic Resource gallery. Rick Espinoza is a local artist in the early stages of his professional career as an artist and this allowed him to get his name out into the world for future opportunities.
- **Banned...Why?:** This exhibit was created in 2024 and tells the reasoning as to why books are banned in certain areas of the United States. The exhibit allows people to make their own judgements on whether or not they agree with the banning of books and provides context and history to this trend.
- **Artist in Residence: Kim Sewell Solo Show:** Kim Sewell was our inaugural artist for this program. She showcased art that has been in galleries throughout



Pueblo and New Mexico that told her story.. During her residency, Kim worked on a series of pieces documenting her grief related to her father's passing.

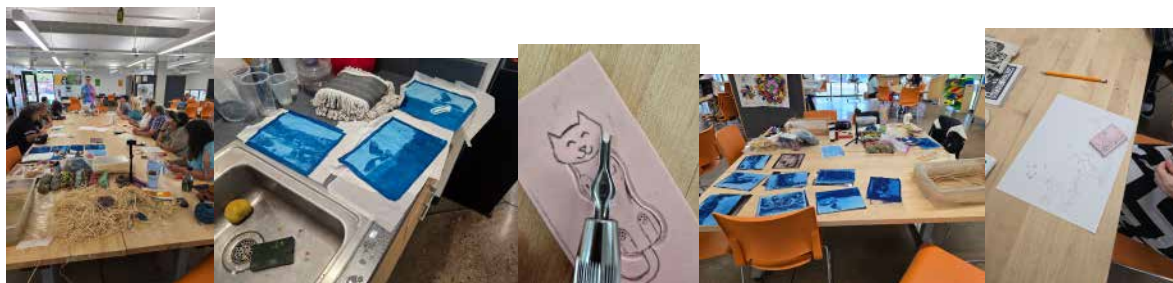
### **Outreach:**

- **Youth Astro Net:** This program provides training to libraries and educators to facilitate online programs for teens inspiring them to explore astrology. This year, I applied to the program and was immediately accepted. After attending training, these programs are projected to debut in December and will be accompanied with a small exhibit.
- **NASA Citizen Science:** This partnership for libraries was pursued to complement the Youth Astro Net programs to expand the audience and provide opportunities for adults. These programs will also debut in December.
- **Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum:** This partnership was pursued to expand museum service offerings by utilizing local entities and resources. During my discussion with the curator, I learned more about the ways they tell stories and began brainstorming future collaborative exhibits.
- **James Madison University:** This partnership stems from my relationship with my mentor, Fawn-Amber Montoya, who helped me create my first exhibit at PCCLD back in 2018. Fawn-Amber is currently a professor of history in Virginia and is always looking for opportunities to teach her students about the Southwest through non-traditional ways of storytelling, such as engaging exhibits.

### **Circulation Services**

We have been working hard as a department to prepare for IdeaCon next month, so August has been quiet here on the first floor. We featured the Adult Literacy Program this month to encourage our returning learners to participate in the program. As always, the meeting rooms are busy and we have welcomed back our many girl scout troops as school is back in session! Sharon is visiting branch and department staff meetings to review library card creation best practices as well as train in some new call center policies, and we are also busy with the new hotspots!

### **Pictures**



## User Services

### YOUTH PROGRAMS:

#### ***Tween/ Teen***



Youth Services collaborated with Local History and Genealogy for a special Back to School Book Binding class for Tweens. We had 10 in attendance. *The image above shows a group of tweens listening to Alicia from LHG explaining how to do the book binding project.*

#### ***Big Events***



Summer Reading finished with a total of 11,489 completed game boards. 5180 game boards came from Rawlings Library! *The image above shows an excited toddler happy to have received his charms for each gameboard entry!*

### ADULT PROGRAMS:

**Reference Services:** The Reference Librarian advanced workforce development efforts through two key initiatives this month.

**Correctional Facility Engagement:** A site visit to Centennial Correctional Facility, guided by Lt. Keith Meeks, included a tour of the institution's two libraries and a meeting with Library Tech/Officer Frank Vidana. The visit provided insight into correctional library operations, including collection management, programming, and resource delivery..

**Job Fair Kits Grant:** The Reference Librarian secured a \$1,300 Friends of the Library grant to develop Job Fair Kits for the community. These kits will equip job seekers with practical tools and resources to support career preparation, aligning with PCCLD's strategic goal of advancing workforce development and increasing community access to employment pathways.

### ***Library to You and Aging Adult Programming***

A presenter from the Nature & Wildlife Discovery Center holds a Great Horned Owl. People of all ages enjoyed seeing the owl and the Turkey Vulture in the Rawlings Makerspace.



### ***Adult Literacy Program***

The Adult Literacy Program was awarded \$5180 from ProLiteracy to fund more seats for Career Online High School students!

In addition, the Adult Storytime program received a shout-out at CALCON, pictured below:



Convention attendees sit facing a screen with the Adult Storytime flyer and details projected onto it.



## **OUTREACH:**



The D60 Bash at Dutch Clark Stadium was a massive success with 1,000 people in attendance, and Youth Services was proud to be part of the crowd! *Picture above PCCLD table set up with swag and information about the library.*

## **Facilities**

### **Work Order Statistics**

- 551 Work Orders Completed

### **Barkman**

- Installed lights for staff desks.

### **Giodone**

- Installed new white boards.

### **Greenhorn**

- Wasp removal.

### **Lamb**

- Repaired sewer.
- Repaired and installed new outlets.

### **Lucero**

- Delivered AMH machine.
- Installed shelving and delivered books.
- Delivered book carts.
- Delivered and installed hanging iPads and TVs.
- Reviewed Lucero HVAC units.

### **Pueblo West**

- Repaired parking lot lights.

- Replaced broken window.
- Completed walk through roof inspection.

### **Rawlings**

- Put Books in the Park stuff away.
- Ran power to Ryals microphone box.
- Worked on upgrading custodial closets.
- Set up 3<sup>rd</sup> floor balcony break table.
- Installed water feature grates.
- Repaired toilets.
- Repaired generator.
- Worked on HVAC unit #4.

### **Other projects/duties – District**

- Storm clean up at all branches.
- Cleaned Book Store storage room
- Trained new courier.
- Replaced windshield.

## **Volunteer Hours**

PCCLD Volunteer estimated hours for the month of August.

<b>ADULTS</b>	219.00 HOURS
<b>TEENS</b>	24.25 HOURS
<b>BOOKS AGAIN</b>	1266.47 HOURS
<b>BOD TRUSTEES</b>	20.00 HOURS
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>1529.72 HOURS</b>
<b>VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>\$53,218.96</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
 Sherri Baca  
 Executive Director

