

Posted: Feb 17, 2016 3:32 PM MST Updated: Feb 17, 2016 5:47 PM MST

Pueblo library takes stand against gangs

PUEBLO - A library in the heart of Pueblo's east side is taking a stand against gangs by working with both young kids and gang members themselves.

Last year the Patrick Lucero library was in the news for having to hire a Pueblo police officer just to keep gang members from trying to recruit children reading and doing homework after school. Things have changed a lot in the past few months, though, with a hands-on approach that is truly changing lives.



Former gang member-turnedcertified addiction counselor Mark Salazar talks to kids at the Lucero library

You can find Mark Salazar, a former gang member-turned-certified addiction counselor, at the Lucero library every afternoon, giving local kids his own account of the gang lifestyle and its negative impacts. He learned the hard way after recovering from five bullet wounds and spending more than eight years in prison.

"We're reaching to them at a very young age trying to prevent those that are exposed to gangs from getting involved in gangs," says Salazar.

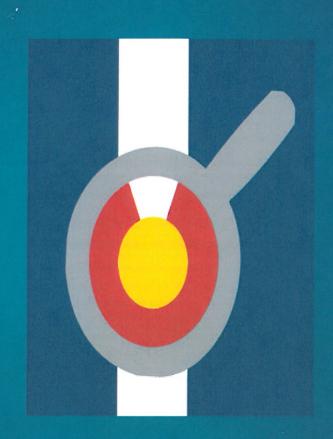
Salazar is not the only new person the library brought on board. Tobias Martinez recently joined the staff as a Community Resource Specialist, a social worker-type role. Martinez came to Pueblo to make a difference after growing up in Denver among family and friends who were in gangs. His life changed during the Summer of Violence in 1993 after a cousin in prison wrote him an eye-opening letter. He recalls, "There's a lot of things he warned me about that was not good, and he was like 'you need to get your education because education is going to take you forward."

The first in his family to graduate from college, now Martinez hopes to impart his insight on the kids at the library. "Seeing people get shot in the community that you know, and then you go to their funeral. They're six feet under," he says. "Seeing those things really makes you open your eyes and makes you look and say 'I need to change my life."

The library's staff members say they have seen significantly fewer gang members flaunting their colors around the youngsters these days. Attacking the east side gang problem is not an overnight project, however. The library still employs a Pueblo police officer, and is in the process of developing an educational program about non-violence.

This story airs Thursday, Feb. 25 at 10 p.m. Text will be updated with more details.

FindIT Colorado PCCLD Board Meeting February 25, 2016



What is it?

- FindIT Colorado is a mobile app that connects you to your library's online resources.
- The project is sponsored through the Colorado State Library and developed through Boopsie for Libraries, the industry leader in mobile apps for libraries.
- ► Coming April 1st!

What can YOU do with FindIT Coloradoss

- ▶ **Discover** the nearest participating libraries
- Search and reserve library materials from the online catalog with your library card
- Access the digital resources that your library offers
- Connect with your library on social media
- View your library account and reserves
- Check the library calendar for special events and programs
- Find your library's location, hours, and contact info

Promotions and Events

- Get library hours and phone numbers
- Map library locations and directions
- Discover library events
- Search for events at any or all libraries
- Search by audience, language, or type of event
- Browse featured programs

Library Catalog

- Access the online library catalog
- Search for Books, movies and more
- Place holds with a library card
- With a library card, patrons can manage their account
- Check status of holds
- Cancel holds
- Check due dates
- Renew items
- ▼ View account balance

Online Resources

- Current downloadable services available include Hoopla, OverDrive, Ebsco, ContentDM, Mango, and Freegal
- ► More vendors will be working with Boopsie in the near future

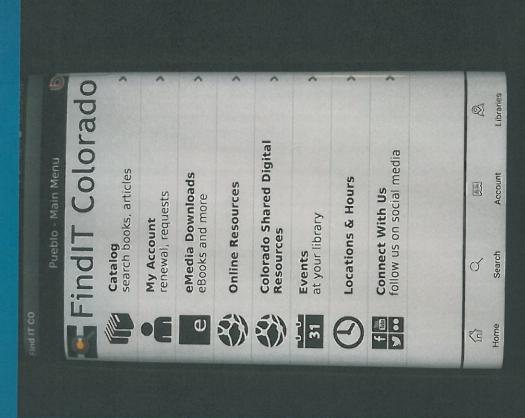
Get the App

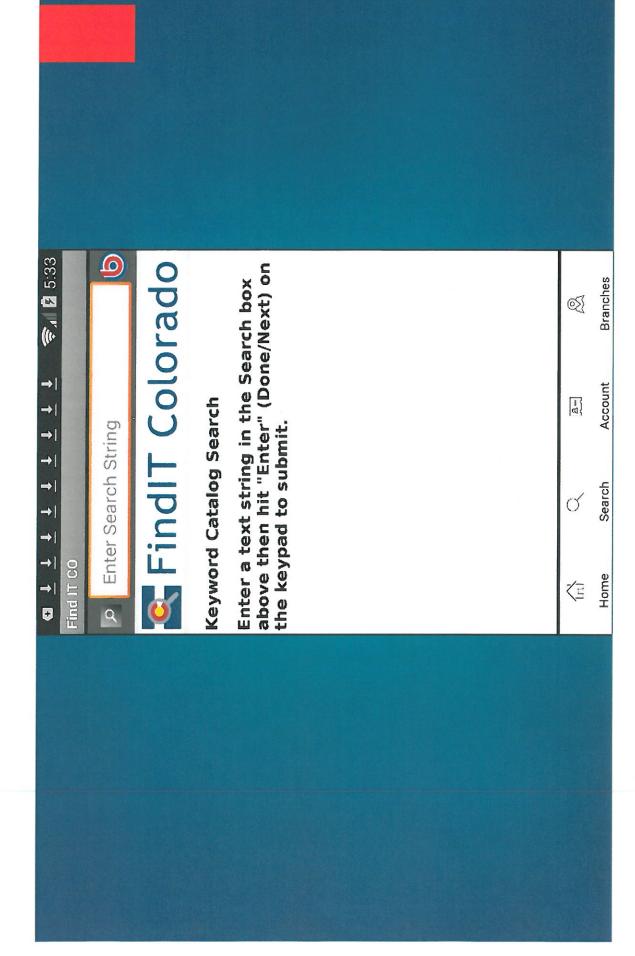
- The FindIT Colorado app is available for Android and iOS (iPhone/iPad).
- Android users can also download FindIT Colorado from the Google Tunes App Store or you can visit co.boopsie.com from your mobile Play Store app, and iPhone/iPad users can download it from the
- Must type in FindIT CO

Participating Libraries

Alamosa Public Library
Bemis Publis Library
Berthoud Community Library District
Clear Creek County Library District
Clearview Library District (Windsor-Severance)
Colorado State Publications Office
Colorado Talking Book Library
Delta County Libraries
Denver Public Library
Gunnison County Library
Jefferson County Public Library

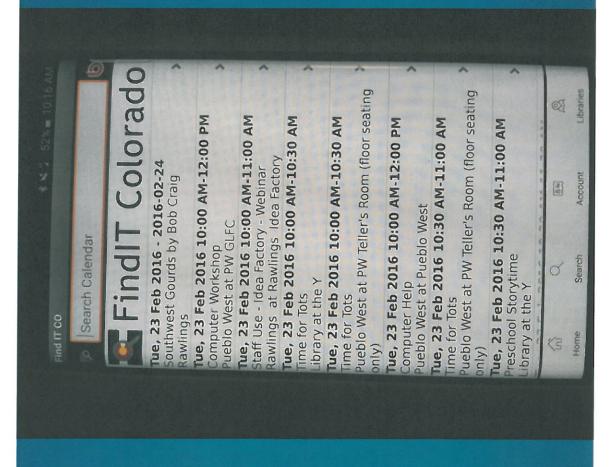
Las Animas-Bent County Library
District
Louisville Public Library
Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public
Library (Broomfield)
Montrose Regional Library District
Norwood Public Library
Pine River Library
Pueblo City-County Library
District
Red Feather Lakes Community
Library
Sterling Public Library
Of La Lunta











Any questions?

Limited tickets on sale Monday, Feb. 22!

TEMPTING TREATS & CIVIL WAR FEATS

Friday, March 25, 7 p.m. Rawlings Library, Ryals Room-4th floor

Grab a sassy girlfriend or two for a unique evening of scandalous history, smart conversation, unlimited dessert buffet and complimentary champagne/bubbly beverage bar!

Karen Abbott, author of Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy, makes her Pueblo debut and reveals four untold stories of gutsy Civil War women who were chock-full of political conviction.

All this value for only \$30 a ticket! Log on to www.pueblolibrary.org/togetherweread or call (719) 553-0220 to buy your ticket today! This event will sell out—don't miss it!

Pueblo City-County Library District 100 E. Abriendo Ave. Pueblo, CO 81004

Author

Karen Abbott

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