

# *Apache County Library District*

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## **Highlights**

Our libraries continue to present a variety of children's reading programs for all ages, including programs for homeschooled children. Our libraries provide a variety of exhibits, offer computer and craft classes, host regular book discussion groups, present films, and continue to host various classes in various libraries. Use of our conference/meeting rooms continues to be popular. Semi-annual book sales, and on-going sales are popular with the patrons.

### **Alpine Public Library**

The Alpine Public Library has begun their strategic planning process in an effort to assess how the library can better serve the community. Hopefully, the process will be completed by early spring 2017.

The library was filled with music in early August as fiddlers Harold Keith, Ben Ramirez, and Slim played and entertained. Refreshments were served following.

### **Concho Public Library**

Concho's attendance increased from an average of about 30 visitors per day in August to about 45 in September, with the highest number being 68.

Homeschoolers are welcome in the library, and the staff recently welcomed a new family of homeschoolers with a tour of the library and the resources available to all patrons.

The meeting room continues to offer a comfortable place for groups, like one hoping to incorporate the Concho community, can gather.

### **Greer Memorial Library**

The patrons of the Greer Memorial Library have had numerous opportunities to improve their health by participating in yoga, chair yoga, and Tai Chi classes.

Patron and staff crafts and talents continue to be celebrated through crochet, card stamping, and creative writing classes. Displays included a Greer Celebration quilt, Tea with My Friends quilt, and quilts by Gretchen Collup; as well as an ink and watercolor exhibit by Susan Kulbacki.

The Greer Friends continue to promote the library by placing advertisements in the *Hit the Trails Guide* and in the *Arizona White Mountains Magazine*.

### **Round Valley Public Library**

The book discussion group continues to grow with 19 members attending to discuss *A Man Called Ove*.

The Round Valley Public Library participated in a resource fair sponsored by Springerville Head Start. Brochures outlining different services and programs available at the library were developed and distributed. Library specialist, Wichitaw Busby, created an aquarium carousel as part of a Zoo of Imagination theme. Children returned repeatedly to crank the handle and watch it go round.

TJ McMichael stepped into character as Aldo Leopold and took us on a journey back in time for a personal "visit" with this legendary man. McMichael's performance allowed the audience to interact with "Mr. Leopold" and ask questions about his writings and philosophy of environmental ethics. This was the final program in Round Valley's year-long effort to help celebrate and preserve local area history, which this year focused on the Apache National Forest.

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## **Sanders Public Library**

Sanders Public Library continues to work on its strategic plan by sending staff to Brain Box training and then using the Brain Boxes with parents and infants.

As another part of strategic planning, a creation station is available during public service hours for children of all ages to use in a self-directed manner. The craft materials are changed weekly and more and more children are creating fun projects. Last week's theme was Halloween.

The patrons at Sanders truly appreciate the technology available to them in the Library. Due to high use, the old fax machine was replaced with an upgraded model. The Library is a well-used hub for the community.

## **St. Johns Public Library**

The St. Johns Public Library completed its Summer Reading Program with an impressive amount of minutes read. The children read 22,230 minutes this summer, for a total of 370 hours read!

The Library has begun partnering with the St. Johns High School and their special needs class to provide work experience to students enrolled in their life studies class. We currently have three students volunteering weekly for 30 minutes each.

The Library has also partnered with the National Honor Society at the St. Johns High School to provide tutoring to children in younger grades who are in need of help with their school work.

## **Vernon Public Library**

Since Apache County Board of Supervisors approved Vernon Public Library's Strategic Plan on June 2, 2015, the library has been in the process of implementation. In July 2016, the library started printing and distributing the new Vernon Area Directory which includes general information and a map of the area. To date, 274 copies have been distributed to the community and is having an impact outside the community also --

A couple of travelers who are part of "The Happiness Walk" are creating a documentary on what makes people happy. Paula Francis is walking 3,479 miles across 17 states. She and her companion, Nic, were planning their route through Arizona and found the Vernon Area Directory online and were able to connect with people in the Vernon area which led to meeting with people at the Food Bank and an invite to the Park Fundraiser Navajo Taco Dinner (one of the girls actually served food) and a place to stay for the night. Nic told library manager, Tamara Applegate, about finding the directory and said that the directory "made all the difference in our visit." You can check out their website, [Happineswalk.com](http://Happineswalk.com), to look at their route and note that on October 9th their stop was in Vernon.

The remodel for the community room continues with plans for completion this month. An open house for the "new" community room is being planned as well as an unveiling of a new Vernon Area quilt which is being donated to the library by our local "Pins & Needles" quilt guild. The library manager attended a notary public workshop in September 2016 and is now offering public notary services free of charge to the public. An annual report updating the public on the progress of the Vernon Library's Strategic Plan will be given later this month.

The Library has also agreed to be a donation site for non-perishable food items to help with the Vernon Area Thanksgiving Drive.

Submitted by SueAn Stradling-Collins  
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