

## Navajo County Library District and Member Libraries

Includes fourteen member libraries throughout Navajo County



## Navajo County Librarian's Report

Geneva Durkee, Director

September 13, 2019

### New Branch on Hopi Reservation opened

The Hopi Public Library Program had a rocky year for its mobile services due to many technical problems either with the pickup's engine or the bookmobile's generator, causing it to be off the road at least three months out of the year. Dinah, the library technician, had contacts at the First Mesa Youth Center in Polacca, which had a small room that could be freed up for a public library branch. After an MOU was signed, the room was designated for the library. The road leading up to the Youth Center was terribly rutted and rough. Geneva asked the county manager and the county public works department if the county could assist to improve and fix the road. Some special projects funds were found to get the road improved shortly after opening the branch. Geneva applied for E-rate funding for this new site and all of it was funded. The Center has Internet access, but the public library's E-rate funding will enable the library to have its own internal connections.



By June 3 the Open House was held and the public library branch has held hours from 2-6 pm Mon.-Thurs. The Youth Center has a full-sized gym which has been a great space for library programs this summer.

Woodruff Community Library was in danger of closing in May when the library manager was not able to continue working and felt she couldn't find any replacement. The library was on the brink of closing, when Tom and Tanja Goodman came forward to take over the management. They have full-time jobs however so have found part-time staff to keep the library open.



With the minimum wage increase to \$11/hour and soon to go to \$12/hour, the small unincorporated libraries had great concerns about being able to continue to operate as the Library District's support wasn't enough to cover wages and other expenses. Geneva convinced the County administration to increase the annual allotment this year.

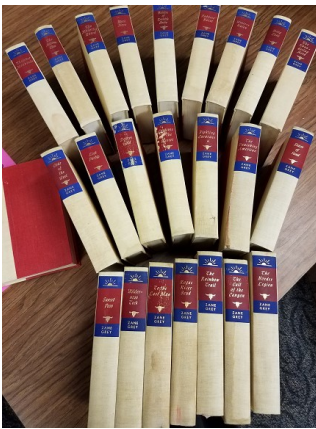
## Update on McNary Community Library



Just a small portion of the many books from the Bookapalooza Grant.



Bookapalooza Grant books still to unpack



The State Grants-in-Aid for Construction was successfully completed by the June 30 deadline to build a new library for McNary on the same site to replace the one that burned down two years ago. The project received donated shelving from Cochise College which was set up before June 30. It has been hugely disappointing that the reopening is presently at a standstill because the only local ISP, Frontier, has not installed the Internet connection even though the order was placed in May. The company informed us it would not be done until October 1st! Very frustrating as the library has enough inventory and furnishings that it could be open now.

### Bookapalooza Grant

A tremendous benefit for the McNary Library was having the Library District's application for a Bookapalooza grant from the Association for Library Service to Children accepted, one of three grants given out annually by this ALA division. 55 large boxes of new, current picture books, juvenile and young adult books were shipped to the Library District for cataloging which we are gradually processing and delivering to McNary. The children's and YA collections will be fabulous.

Some other libraries and patrons have donated new books. At a yard sale in Lake Havasu, the owner had a whole collection of Zane Grey books for sale for \$75. When Geneva inquired about getting them for a library that had burned down, he donated them for free!

The State Library offered four pieces of furniture through surplus and Geneva made visits to State Surplus, purchasing computer tables and other necessary items very reasonably priced.

Navajo County Library District was pleased to co-sponsor with the Arizona State Library the annual Tribal Gathering of tribal librarians in conjunction with the Digital Inclusion Summit at the Hon-Dah Resort and Conference Center on August 5-6, with Darryl Quesada from the Whiteriver Public Library as the host. Attendance was great and there were excellent networking opportunities along with important presentations on digitization, coding, Learn to Discern media literacy, and grant opportunities for tribal libraries.



## STEM Grant Completed

The Library District completed its LSTA grant, "Increasing preschoolers' awareness, knowledge and enthusiasm for STEM" with the primary component of this grant being the Fun with Math and Science curriculum from Scottsdale Public Library. Nine libraries received licenses to hold at least six FWM&S programs. Compiling the kits was quite a challenge, and Library District staff traveled to five of the participating libraries to hold the programs for them – almost 30 trips to complete the 6 programs at each site. The other components of the grant were to purchase STEM books and materials and to create other STEM kits that the libraries could check out from the Library District for additional STEM programming. This was a challenging grant, but the benefits were significant.

The Library District held an Advisory Committee meeting in August and part of the meeting demonstrated the STEM kits that have been created. Three librarians took three kits home that very day to use right away for programming. Mae Ella Flanders, library technician, explains the uses of the kits in the photo below.



The Advisory Committee meeting was held in Pinetop at the White Mountain Nature Center because the Center's director had asked a foundation if it could donate books for the Apache Libraries.

The County Manager, Glenn Kephart and Assistant County Manager Bryan Layton attended the Advisory Committee Meeting.

Mr. Kephart gave a county budget update. The closure of the coal mine near Kayenta at the end of this year has been a great concern due to the potential loss of \$2.5 million in tax revenue for the county. The county attempted to pass a jail district tax to compensate for the expected lost revenue during the November election, but it did not pass. The county held a special election on August 27 once again proposing the formation of a jail district. This time Prop 421 passed by a 2 to 1 margin. This will enable the county to maintain services without having to make deep cuts, even into essential services. Mr. Kephart did not give any assurances that the county would be able to stop taking part of the library district budget to alleviate the general fund, however.



Houghton Mifflin Publisher sent a large palette of books with multiple copies to the Center so the librarians had the chance to get lots of new children's titles for their library. Then Lisa from Show Low library brought over a vanload of boxes of YA books that the library had received from another foundation to share with the other libraries.



The Library District started a Rotating Collection of VOX audiobooks from Library Ideas – picture books with the rechargeable speaker attached to the book. Just about all titles produced so far have been purchased. They were just sent out to eight libraries so no feedback yet.