

Apache County Library District March – August 2019

When Doyel Shamley was an Apache County Supervisor, he asked that each department send a report of their weekly highlights. I passed this task onto each of the managers in the Library District, asking them to send me their weekly highlights which I then edited and compiled to send to the Board. I have edited some of those reports to create this one.

LeRoy Nosker Tanner has been wearing two hats: Manager of the St. Johns Public Library and Head of Technical Services for the entire District. This arrangement was made when we were not able to find a suitable library manager after an extended recruitment. LeRoy has done a great job, but he has been stretched thin. Michelle Jones has been the manager at the Sanders Public Library for almost three years now. Previously, she was a floater for the District and has also worked in the St. Johns and Round Valley Public Libraries. She has been with the District for almost 9 years. Michelle will become the new manager at the St. Johns Library. LeRoy will come back to the District Office full time. Lucinda Baloo, who has worked at the Sanders Library for over four years will become the new manager there. Berni Joe, who has worked at Sanders as a Library Specialist I (19 hours) will take Lucinda's place as a Library Specialist I (32 hours).

Book clubs are popular throughout the nation, and they are quite popular in our Library District. Alpine Library's book club meets during the summer and averages about 8 attendees. Greer Memorial Library shares the book club responsibilities with the Greer Library Friends. Book clubs at Round Valley, St. Johns, and Vernon Public Libraries are well attended (with an average of about 14 attending) with membership increasing. The Alpine and Greer Friends groups purchase the books read by their groups. The Alpine Friends then donate the books to the District and other groups often use them. Each year the District budgets for the purchasing of books for the other groups.

Author Nancy E. Turner came to the Vernon Public Library to discuss her book *My Name is Resolute*. Ms. Turner spent over an hour with the 30 people who were in attendance. She shared many interesting facts about the book, her research for it, and her writing process.

Ms. Turner's other books include *These Is My Words*, *Sarah's Quilt*, and *Star Garden* which are historical fiction based on the life of her great-grandmother who settled in the Arizona territory. Her upcoming book, out in January of 2020, entitled *Light Changes Everything*, is a continuation of her novels set in Arizona.



Author Anne Hillerman filled the large meeting room to fire marshal capacity (75) at the Round Valley Public Library. She had a great sense of humor and told entertaining stories of her father, author Tony Hillerman, and about her own writing experiences. She focused her presentation of her works around the settings featured in her books, showing slides of numerous locations in Apache County and the Navajo Nation. The evening truly was a literary treat.

Ms. Hillerman wanted to know from where we imported all of the people who attended. We told her that the patrons of the Round Valley Public Library were amazing supporters of programs there.

We're excited about some of the new programs presented at various libraries: Open Mic night, Hometown Authors, Digital App class for seniors, English classes for Spanish speakers (partnership with Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints), Beginning Sewing, and Beginning Quilting. Some were a one-time event, and others are ongoing.

Alpine Library Manager, Anne MacGregor, and Sanders Library Manager, Michelle Jones, attended the week-long library institute sponsored by the Arizona State Library and held at Yavapai College in Prescott. They reported that they learned a great deal and have ideas to share with the rest of the District.



Michelle Jones, Manager of the Sanders Public Library, helped participants learn about the phases of the moon, and Library Specialist I, Wichtaw Busby helped participants learn about gravity as part of the summer reading program.



Four of our libraries have regular volunteers who are quite helpful. At the Alpine Public Library, "The Story Lady" – Sherry French – has volunteered for approximately 10 years. She takes her role as "The Story Lady" quite seriously, and dresses in wonderful costumes as well as bringing baked treats for the children on holidays. Dan Gerald volunteers in the Concho Library. Originally from Texas, he lived in San Francisco for many years and has retired to the Concho area. He has a vivacious personality, and having previously worked in the telecommunications field, he is very helpful to patrons who need assistance on the computers. Breanna Olmstead, Jacque Safley, Reta Farr, and Deanna Morgan volunteer at the Round Valley Public Library. They help with story hour and programming. At St. Johns Public Library, teen, Sam Newman helps with circulation and shoveling snow when needed. Genevieve Begay is also volunteering at St. Johns and is learning about shelving and shelf reading.

The Alpine Library also partners with the Alpine School District to offer story time to the Kindergarten through second grade classes. Twenty-two children attended and got to make these cool masks.



Due to vandalism and in the interest of public and staff safety, our Free WiFi Access will now be available on the following schedule at all Apache County Libraries:

Beginning Monday, July 15th



Mon, Wed, & Fri: 6:00 am—6:30 pm

Tue and Thur: 6:00 am—7:30 pm

Sat and Sun: 8:00 am—5:00 pm

Library hours will remain unchanged.