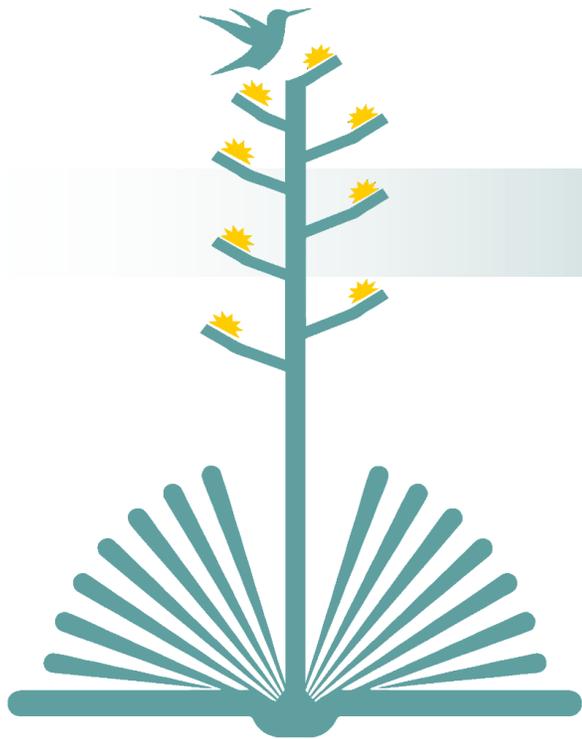


FRIENDS *of the* COCHISE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT



Winter 2021 Newsletter

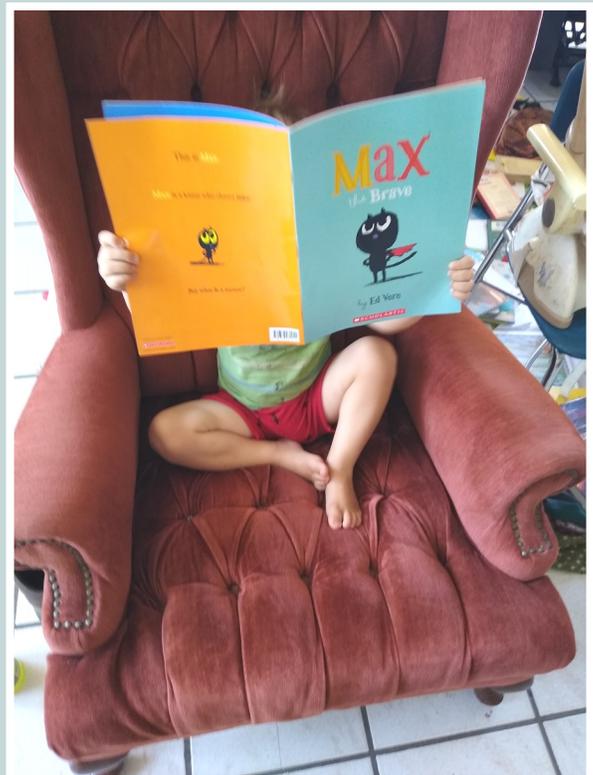
Thank you for being a Friend!

2020 was a difficult year, and the Friends of the Cochise County Library District made a difference by supporting programs for kids and families, adding to the countywide ebook collections, replacing a damaged Free Book Box in Double Adobe, and helping to raise awareness

about library services in Cochise County. Read on for news and highlights from the Library District, a spotlight on some special donations, and more good news from the Friends.

Record readers at the branch libraries

When libraries across the county closed their doors in March due to COVID-19, branch managers at the rural libraries quickly reimagined their summer reading programs to include grab-and-go activities and free books for kids. The Friends contributed \$1,500 to support these programs, and the rural libraries in Bowie, Elfrida,



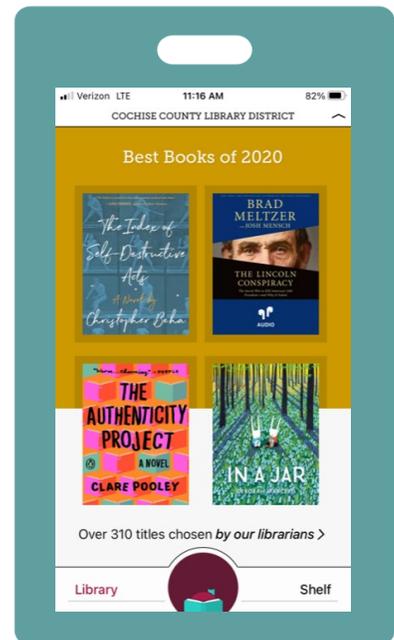
Record Readers, continued...

Portal, Sunizona, and Sunsites signed up more than 100 children and teens to track their reading. The young readers logged more than 2,400 hours of reading in June and July—a new record for the rural branches. With help from the Friends and other funding sources, every participant received a free book each week of the program.

Read more books—in more ways

Demand for ebooks and digital audiobooks grew quickly after library buildings closed their doors in March, and remained strong even as traditional books became available again. There were more than 62,000 digital checkouts in 2020, a 64% increase over the previous year.

Fortunately, the libraries were able to build up the collection to keep up with the increased interest. With support from grant funding and a generous donation to the Friends of the Library District, the collection grew from roughly 4,500 titles in December 2019 to more than 12,000 by the end of 2020.



Another exciting development came in May, when the Library District joined a digital lending agreement with several other Arizona library systems. By the end of the year, this offered Cochise County readers access to more than 150,000 additional titles held by the partner libraries.

You can check out the digital collections at cclد.Overdrive.com, or using the free Libby app for your phone or tablet.

Library District Move



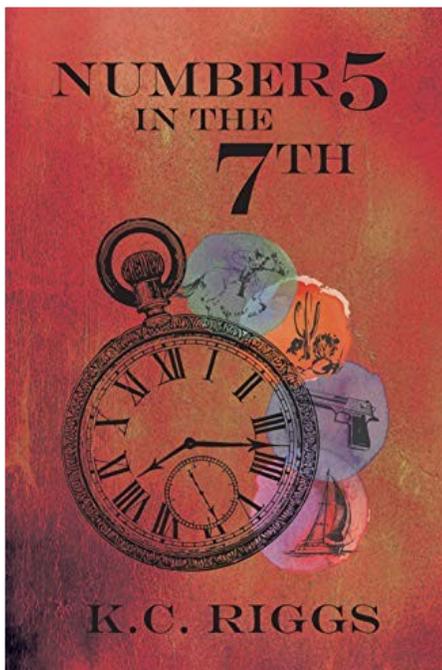
The Library District headquarters has been housed at the Old Bisbee High School since 1982, but over the last couple of years, library staff have been working on plans to move to the Cochise County complex on Melody Lane. They hope to complete the move by late 2021.



Donors' Spotlight

The Friends of the Cochise County Library District are able to support countywide library services because of Friends like you. Your membership dues and donations—big and small—make all the difference. This spotlight highlights two 2020 donations that were particularly meaningful.

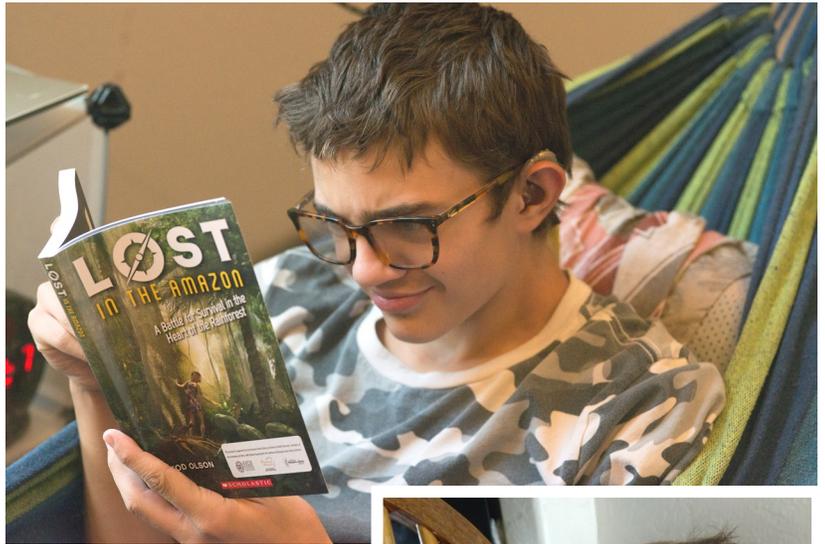
On March 25, as library staff were just starting to reckon with extended closures and service changes, the Friends of the Library received a \$5,000 gift from an anonymous donor who wanted to help expand access to ebooks for Cochise County residents. The Friends gave the green light for Library District staff to start purchasing books right away. Over the next few weeks, the donated funds made it possible to add dozens of high-interest titles just as public interest in ebooks peaked. The donor has maintained their anonymity, but the Friends and everyone at the Library District still deeply appreciate their generous gift to Cochise County readers.



Arizona author KC Riggs joined the Friends of the Cochise County Library District in December, and offered to donate proceeds from an upcoming book signing to the Friends. The signing event celebrated her new suspense novel, *Number 5 in the 7th*, and generated \$30 for the Friends of the Library District.

Number 5 in the 7th, a tale of friendship and danger that starts with a text message, is Riggs' second novel. Her first, book, *The Widows' Circle*, is a fast-paced revenge fantasy. Both books are set in Arizona, and available through local booksellers and online.

A lifelong reader, Riggs wanted to support libraries through her work because they have played an important role in her own life, and because her daughter grew up using rural library services in Cochise County. *The Widows' Circle* is in libraries now, and *Number 5 in the 7th* is coming soon to a library near you!



Cochise County kids enjoying books and take-home activities during the 2020 summer reading program

What's ahead in 2021?

In 2021, the Friends have pledged \$2,000 toward grab-and-go activities and books for children and teens in rural Cochise County. Your membership renewals and donations make these programs possible—thanks again for being a Friend!

Friends of the Cochise County Library District • Membership Renewal or Donation

- _____ \$10 Individual / Family
- _____ \$25 Business / Organization
- _____ Other donation

Interested in working with the Friends or becoming part of the Friends of the Library Board?

Yes No

Name: _____ Email: _____

Mailing address: _____

*Please return this form to Friends of the Cochise County Library District,
P.O. Drawer AK, Bisbee, AZ 85603. Thank you!*