



# Butte County Library

## County Librarian's Report

January & February, 2016

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### Administration – Mel Lightbody, County Librarian

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This is the County budget season here at administration so we've been busy crunching numbers which looks to be status quo at this point.

- Our biggest news is also Chico Library's. **Oliver Allen** has re-joined the Chico branch staff to lead the RFID conversion and to do branch outreach. Until we have a permanent solution **Lindsey Lipski** will be helping with countywide outreach and publicity. Thank you, Lindsey.
- RFID tours down to Roseville were held in January and February. **Heidi Mitchell** and **Caroline Payne** from Admin both attended tours and **Sarah Vantrease** led one.
- The Library's program on mental wellness continues to garner favor statewide, thanks to the hared.

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### Paradise Branch – Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian

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**Rhoda Boyd** and **Karen Rigby-Alexander** worked on the Love Your Library **Blind Date with a Book** Display. Boyd designed a writing contest for people to write a book review of their book date in creative phrases. Three winners will receive a \$20.00 gift card thanks to the PFOL. All month Patrons can check-out books specially covered by Rigby-Alexander (hiding the title) of their "blind date" until opening it to read after checkout. A fun way to celebrate February!



Paradise Big Band played a special Valentine's Day Concert in the Paradise Library with over 100 people attending. Thanks to PFOL for funding this special concert event.



The new hours for Paradise are Tuesday and Wednesdays 11-7pm and we were able to advertise on the Paradise Recreation and Park Districts electronic board for the first time. We hope to also use this board to advertise for our Summer Reading Program in June and July. Patrons are excited for evening hours on the Ridge.



Last year the PFOL joined the Paradise Chocolate Fest as a beneficiary and raised money for this year's Summer Reading Program. With that money we have purchased new paperback books to give to children and teens who participate this summer as well as books for the collection.

PFOL is also a beneficiary for 2016 and will be raising money for next year's Summer Reading Program too!

### **Chico Branch – Brenda Crotts, Branch Librarian**

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#### **January 2016:**

- New year started with a switch in hours between Tuesday and Thursday; now open at 10am on Tuesday and 11am on Thursday.

Tuesday has been our busiest day and now it has one more open hour for the public. Of course a couple of weeks were needed for our public to learn the change.

- Senior Library Assistant **Ricardo Ramirez** graduated from San Jose State Library School with a Master's degree.

- Staff throughout BCL are receiving training from the BC Auditor to clean up library money handling procedures.

- **Leslie Botsford**, Senior Library Assistant for teen services resigned to take a position with CSUC library handling Lending and reserves.

## February:

- Branch staff and CFOL took part in two tours of the Martha Riley branch library in Roseville to see their automated check in system and self-check stations. We are getting ready for a similar improvement in Butte County libraries by late summer/early fall of this year.

- Staff, volunteers and CFOL enjoyed and learned from the presentation Each Mind Matters program from BC BH department.

- The grant between the library and BH provided branches with needed new materials to help our patrons and their families with mental health concerns. Displays are in various areas of the library to highlight the additions to the collection. Materials started to circulate as we were placing the items for display. A very good sign!

- **Oliver Allen**, Senior Library Assistant, serving in the capacity of outreach coordinator is filling the position vacated by Botsford. Allen, with his previous experience coordinating branch volunteers, circulation and reference slipped back into his work tasks at the branch with ease. Allen will continue outreach for Chico along with children's branch staff.

- **Brenda Crotts** attended the TriCounty Veteran Resources Collaborative meeting in Marysville. Shared information about work study opportunity at Chico branch and soliciting photos of area veterans for our thank you video loop.

Crotts returned with new informational brochures for area veterans.

- **Ramirez** resigned from BCL to accept a Youth Services Position with Sacramento Public Library.

- Staff throughout the branch are looking carefully at materials as we prepare for a migration to an automated system. We do not want to RFID items which are outdated, worn out, or sit on the shelf with no interest from area citizens.

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## Oroville Branch – Sarah Vantrease, Branch Librarian

Thanks to the Butte County Board of Supervisors, a small but significant change to the schedule is allowing the Oroville Branch to serve more people than ever! Added at the first of the year, two weekday morning hours (10-11 am on Tuesdays and Wednesdays) have already brought many additional visitors in January and February, about a 20% increase in visits per day compared to the same time period last year.

From the beginning, the new hours have been popular: folks were eagerly waiting at the door at 10 am and the library served 31 people that first hour. Now, close to 100 people are coming to the library before 11 am each Tuesday and Wednesday morning. The change increased available computer time by about 5%--and, of course, computer use is up accordingly.

In Oroville staff changes, the branch had sort of a staff swap with Literacy. **Siobhan O'Neil**, our brand-new Senior Library Assistant, moved to full-time with Library Literacy, while **Thu Tran**, a long-time extra help member of the Literacy team, has joined the branch staff part-time. Meanwhile, **Nicole Kazena** has resigned from the Library after some time away.

Other highlights:

- **Laura-Lyn Burch**, Senior Library Assistant, organized a soup & salad luncheon to honor Oroville branch volunteers
- Public Health educator Lori Hungerford started a series of free cooking classes for the public
- We added an additional “Reading HERO” volunteer who shares books with kids in the library
- Staff attended a training for the “Your Mind Matters” grant program, learning about mental health and wellness, common stereotypes, local resources, and tips for handling unusual behavior
- Staff visited the Roseville Library to see RFID technology in action, to prepare for the branch’s upcoming transition later this year

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**Gridley – Biggs – Durham – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian**

**Biggs –**

- WiFi access continues to be very infrequent, patrons no longer ask about it
- One public station has reached end-of-life, IS looking for replacement
- Most regularly visiting patrons are middle school-aged students, especially Saturdays
- **Pat Nohrberg** attended Children’s Services Committee meeting
- Valentine Craft Day – drop-in participation, students made Valentine cards and refrigerator magnets

**Durham –**

- Story Time continues to be well-attended. A couple of new families are coming
- **Christy Cooke-Williford** attended Children’s Services Committee meeting.
- Valentine Craft Day – drop-in participation, families made Valentine cards, refrigerator magnets, worked on coloring pages, mazes and word searches
- Working with DFOL for the selection of Durham Library Honors books

**Gridley –**

- **Aiko Hori**, new half-time employee, has started working with us. In addition to Circ desk duties, Aiko will be doing elementary and middle school programs and outreach, and will help plan Summer Reading for Gridley, Durham and Biggs
- Hori & **Cynthia Pustejovsky** attended Children’s Services Committee meeting
- A Wellness Roundtable for Gridley area family services providers was held at the library and hosted by Northern Valley Catholic Social Services. Group is working to identify and meet community needs for social, behavioral and mental health services, and to develop a networking system. Pustejovsky is part of the group.

- Valentine After-school Craft – drop-in participation, families made Valentine cards and decorations, worked on coloring pages, mazes and word searches
- In addition to her regular pre-school programs at the Labor Camp, **Meybel VanWagenen** had a Valentine Craft Time at the Camp.
- Gridley has started a Family Activity Time Saturday afternoons. Each week the two-hour drop-in program will offer a different activity – cards, board games, building with magnet tiles, dominoes, chess/checkers

### **Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Specialist**

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- January 9<sup>th</sup> we had Tutor Training and trained 13 volunteer tutors. Next Tutor Training will be April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- We are excited to welcome new Senior Library Assistant, **Siobhan O’Neil** to our Literacy Services team.
- February 19<sup>th</sup> Literacy Services hosted the Northern California Literacy Coalition meeting in Chico and enjoyed one guest speaker who shared details about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) as it related to adult learners and another speaker who gave an update on the Adult Education Block Grants.
- Literacy Coach visited 26 different preschools in Butte County in January/February even though the Coach was off the road and in the shop for over two weeks in February.
- February 18<sup>th</sup> Literacy Services with the help of our Champion of Literacy, **Doug Freidrich** gave a presentation to the Chico Republican Women’s Club.
- Literacy Services is happy to begin coordinating Jim Gill’s return visit to Butte County. Watch for billboards advertising musician Jim Gill’s return tour thanks to our local First5