



Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report
For the Library Advisory Board

Administration – Mel Lightbody, County Librarian

Administration spent March and April working on grants, calling substitutes, wrestling paperwork and preparing the budget.

- **Mel Lightbody** attended several meetings on library budgeting statewide. The governor is budgeting an additional 3 million for libraries across the state.
- Assistant Director **Sarah Vantrease** and Mel met with the County's safety officer work on making libraries an even more safe and welcoming place for all.
- Interim Outreach Specialist, **Lindsey Lipski** initiated an-online calendar and a new email newsletter specific to each branch. There will no longer be a printed newsletter effective immediately.
- **Caroline Payne** worked on streamlining paperwork and accounting for the office.
- The Digital Literacy Van project became active. Funded through a CBDG grant the van will be at the labor camp through April 2017. **Heidi Mitchell** assisted with the budget and **Katy Acevedo** will become the new project lead.
- The library will soon be interviewing final candidates for the countywide children's librarian and hope to have someone in place by July 1st.

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Paradise Branch – Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian

Special Programs and Improvements

- **Paula Tarrant** organized a special celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd with special stories, displays and crafts
- **Rhoda Boyd** has increased our Movie showings and selections to 3 per month
- The Seed Lending Library is gearing up for their Seed Swap event May 21st at Bille Park
- **Karen Rigby-Alexander** and Paula hosted the biannual Teen Shopping Spree at Barnes and Noble for National Library week
We offered cookies to patrons on Patron Appreciation Day (which lasted 2 days)
- We hosted special storytellers from Oregon in place of a Friday Storytime

Outreach

- Visited Vista Preschool during their Family Fun event and promoted the library
- **Susie Serrano** & Katie Stecher promoted the Library and the Summer Reading Program at the Paradise Rotary lunch April 7th as Susie is running for Paradise Chocolate Queen sponsored by Rotary and representing Paradise Friends of the Library
- Received a National Library Week Proclamation from the Town of Paradise
- Received 2 proclamations endorsing our Summer Reading program from Paradise Unified and Achieve Charter
- Susie promoted the library at the Paradise Hospice Support Group breakfast at Cozy Diner April 15th

Gridley – Biggs – Durham – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Biggs:

- Adult volunteer is playing chess with elementary students
- Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration for preschoolers – crafts and activities
- **Pat Nohrnberg** attended the Saroj Ghoting workshop
- National Library Week Activities:
 - Preschool Spring craft time
 - Patron Appreciation Day
 - Family drop-in craft

Durham:

- Volunteer tax assistance one day a week
- **Christy Cooke-Williford** attended the Saroj Ghoting workshop
- National Library Week Activities:
 - Patron Appreciation Day
 - Family drop-in craft
- Durham Library Honors – 6 Durham community members were honored for their many years of involvement and support of the library and community

Gridley:

- Gridley Library Centennial Celebration – Formal library service started March 5, 2013 in a Carnegie Library
- Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration – crafts and activities
- **Aiko Hori** attended the Saroj Ghoting workshop
- National Library Week Activities:
 - Patron Appreciation Day

- Family drop-in craft
- Movies for adults and teens
- Started weekly “What’s Going On Wednesdays” activity day for elementary & middle school students – activities vary from week to week – crafts, games, movies
- **Meybel Van Wagenen** had a craft booth at the Labor Camp’s Family Day
- **Cynthia Pustejovsky** had a craft booth in the children’s area at Gridley’s Relay for Life

Oroville Branch – Sarah Vantrease, Branch Librarian

- March and April were steady, busy months, with a full lineup of regularly scheduled programs.
- Several partner programs in the library also helped the community: Free Tax Help, offered by AARP; cooking/nutrition classes presented by Butte County Public Health; and small business support workshops led by the Butte County Business Incubator Program.
- We welcomed several school classes to the library (preschool, elementary, and high school) and staff **Sarah Vantrease** and **Meybel Van Wagenen** participated in a Read Across America event by visiting classrooms at Ophir Elementary.
- Sarah Vantrease interacted with over 100 families at the Wildflower Festival, taking both the Book Bike and the LEGO program to draw interest to the Library.
- In April, the number of registered patrons broke 26,000, a new record for Oroville; visits were over 13,000, also a first; the average number of patrons served per hour was 75 (yes, that’s a record, too!). With a regular staff member on leave, the branch relied on subs and automation technology to effectively serve customers. Oroville branch self-check usage went from 46% in November to 60% by the end of March, and 66% by the end of April. Along the way, staff had good conversations with the public about the role of automation vs. the role of staff. A sign at self-check proclaiming “I’m friendly and I won’t take someone’s job” went a long way in increasing patron confidence with the process. In addition, some previously-technophobic patrons found that they could successfully use the automation technology and expressed interest in “trying out” library computers as well.

Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Specialist

- March 14th thanks to funds provided by First5, Literacy Services hosted 37 participants for a training with noted author and early literacy expert Saroj Ghoting
- March 22nd attending as a member of the Local Childcare Planning Council

- April 16th we held a Tutor Training at the Oroville Branch Library
- April 29-May 1st staff attend the Adult Learner Leadership Institute in the Bay Area.
- April 1st billboards advertising the County-wide Jim Gill concerts are in place!

Chico Branch – Brenda Crotts, Branch Librarian

March

- Started the month speaking to Chico Breakfast Lions about Butte County Library - not the library of your youth
- Met with our project manager from General Services for RFID review
- Attended several Health Committee meetings in the attempt to bring all bargaining units together in the search for affordable health care for county employees
- Weeding to be ready for RFID

April

- Attended BOS meeting for presentation of National Library Week Resolution
- Attended Bryan Stevenson's talk about his book - Just Mercy for Book in Common culmination
- Participated in review of bids for RFID
- Attended police community meeting for business & individuals in our area to hear about improved statistics on crime and new steps police are taking in our area
- Presented for BH Drug & Alcohol Unit & YMM what the library has to offer staff and clients
- Participated in ranking interviews for librarian applicants to BCL
- Weeding for RFID