



Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report For the Library Advisory Board

November – December 2015

Administration

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November and December here in Administration have been focused on Service Analysis and how to implement the findings. Specifically, four tasks:

- Meeting with all regular staff in the Library to discuss the new service plan.
- Meeting with all of the Friends Groups to discuss the new plan.
- Meeting with Human Resources to evaluate how we can use staff more effectively.
- Centralizing scheduling of extra workers.

In other news, **Sarah Vantrease**, began implementation for the Butte County Library's Library Services and Technology Act grant called "Your Mind Matters". The grant is allowing us to work with the Behavioral Health department to destigmatize and welcome those with mental illness into our libraries.

The annual budget process starts in January. Library Admin will be busy at work on it.

Butte County Library, Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator

- November 6th - 9th Annual Trivia Bee for Literacy at the Sierra Nevada Big Room was well attended. 350 folks joined us to celebrate our adult learners, tutors and early literacy adventures in Butte County.

Doug Friedrich Butte County's Champion of Literacy (Doug and his Tutor Linda Lee)



- November 13th Northern California Literacy Coalition meeting in Nevada City where we discussed and viewed online tutoring possibilities.
- December 11th Literacy Services provided a workshop for the Sheriff's Day Reporting Center on Early Literacy (what children know about reading before they are readers) experiences all caregivers, regardless of their own reading skills, are able to offer their young children.
- Thanks to Carla Lehn at the State Library, Butte County Library is one of 20 Literacy Services programs in California to have the opportunity to incorporate an online learning component into our Tutor Training. The course-work is from a partnership between California Library Literacy Services and the Florida Literacy Coalition. We are quite excited!
- In 6 months (July-December 2015) the Literacy Coach has provided 69 storytimes and welcomed a total of 2466 aboard with the intent to deliver the gentle message that their library can help adults who struggle with their reading and writing.

Paradise – Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian

- Author Night wrapped up October 15th with local authors Ken Young, Roger & Helen Ekins, Joan Goodreau and Bob Harrison.
- The Paradise Branch was honored by the Girl Scouts of Northern California with a Community Partner Award.
- The staff created a display for Banned Books Week (Please see picture attached).
- The staff hosted a social volunteer brunch for the Branch volunteers and gave away donated prizes.

- **Rhoda Boyd** attended the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) annual conference in Little Rock Arkansas.
- **Paula Tarrant** visited Pine Ridge Elementary School classes to promote our services for school age children.
- **Karen Rigby-Alexander** and **Susie Serrano** hosted the Teen Shopping Spree at Barnes and Noble in Chico on October 17th for Teen Read Week.
- Tarrant, Serrano, Rigby-Alexander and **Christa Wilder** shifted the children's area to create a space for ages 6-12. (see picture attached)



Newly arranged Children's Area

Banned Books display



[Chico – Brenda Crotts, Branch Librarian](#)

Brenda Crotts attended a CLA preconference in Pasadena for libraries with LSTA funded Veteran Services Centers/Stations. As a result of the new training, Butte County Library VRS has a video loop to honor local veterans. Please email photos of family members who have served or bring in photo & staff will scan to be added to the loop. We

are actively recruiting volunteers to be trained to interview veterans of memories of their service for the Library of Congress Veteran History Project.

- **Kimberlee Wheeler**, branch SLA for Children's Services and **Ricardo Ramirez**, SLA, Children's Services attended and presented during CLA conference.
- General Services continued to work on coordination of RFID, automated check in and CFOL funded reorganization of Teen, public computer, circulation and former reference area.
- Holiday Time Buy the Book was successful for all involved and brought in \$150. In sale of blue stars for new book purchases, 104 books purchased by individuals from our sale table; and 2 new Teen periodicals.
- Book signing & Talk by Nancy Leek & Steve Ferchaud of their new juvenile title: John Bidwell. The event was attended by approx. 20 individuals. Bidwell Assoc. sold books with a % donation going to CFOL.
- Holiday Craft & Bake Sale to benefit Children's room. **Chieko Page**, our volunteer who puts on monthly Japanese story time program, organized and held the sale in library breezeway on 12/12 from 10-1. The sale brought in \$785. (\$500. For materials; \$285. For a new carpet sweeper and electronic keyboard to be used for children's programs).
- Playtime event on December 17 drew a crowd of 125 (75 kids, 50 adults). We did not have resource guests, but were successful overall.
- Teen jewelry workshop had three participants on December 16. It's a start. :)
- Movie stats:
 - Polar Express: 10 kids, 10 adults
 - Frozen: 12 kids, 10 adults
 - Elf: 17 kids, 10 adults (a nice patron brought popcorn to share with all attendees)
 - Winter's Tale: 16 adults (winter-themed love story based on Mark Helprin)

Oroville – Sarah Vantrease, Branch Librarian

- The Oroville branch has been very busy in the fall, serving an average of 64 visitors per hour. Internet access continues to be in high demand—the public Internet stations are at 88% of capacity, with at least 70 different people using them each day, and daily wifi use hovers around 25-30 connections.

- This year's Holidaytime Buy the Book program brought in 39 new books for the children's room, mostly to fill popular requests such as Star Wars, Minecraft, Dork Diaries, and Pinkalicious stories.
- In this new year, we welcome some new staff to the Oroville team on a limited basis. While two full-time staff members are out on long-term leave, we have hired **Siobhan O'Neil** as a part-time Senior Library Assistant and are bringing **Regina Griffiths**, a Chico Library Assistant, over to the branch two days a week to bring consistency to our team and service to our community.
- However, the impact of the branch continues to be hindered by lack of staff. Although we hope to add more programs and outreach this spring to meet community needs, most of the activity will be restricted to passive programming (such as movies or the new "coloring club"), responding to limited outreach requests and bringing in outside program partners (such as AARP tax help). We have been teaching our visitors to use the self-check-out station, in preparation for the RFID project, to some success, but the limitations of the current technology don't free staff significantly to pursue other projects. Currently, about 57% of new loans are handled by the self-check-out, with some staff involvement in the large portion of these transactions that include DVDs.

Biggs, Gridley, Durham – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Biggs –

- In addition to using the Internet stations, students, especially middle school, are using the library to socialize and are enjoying playing card games, building with the magnetic tiles and Legos.
- Chess is very popular in Biggs, two adults and two elementary boys frequently play each other.
- WiFi is unstable. IS has given staff steps to reconnect until a more permanent solution can be installed. Because it is unreliable, patrons are no longer using the WiFi.

Durham –

- With funds from the Durham Friends, their Preservation and Digitization Committee purchased the needed equipment to make Durham newspapers, historical and other documents, and ephemera available and searchable via the Internet in PDF format. Many Durham organizations are contributing materials and supporting the project. The Committee, Rian Farley, Sharon Fisher, and Dale Wangberg, has created a

website, *Durham, California's Preserved and Digitized Media*, to make the materials available. The website, continually updated, went live November 3, 2015 and is supported by DFOL.

<http://durhammediapreserved.org/>

- Eighth graders have been using the library to begin research for their Eight Grade projects on a wide-variety of topics.
- One Saturday, a group of sixth grade students used the computers to access Google docs to complete a project. Several of the students didn't have Google docs available at home.
- The Polar Express visited the library the week before Christmas. Twenty four preschoolers from the Children's Center next door came in their train car cardboard boxes and sang *Jingle Bells* for the patrons and staff.

Gridley –

- Family Art Connection classes were well-attended. Many of the families returned their projects for display in the meeting room. Library hosted two receptions for the exhibits.
- Many college and middle and high school students used the Internet stations to email, print or use Google docs for term papers and semester projects.
- A few days before Christmas & Thanksgiving quite a few patrons on their way to the airport used the computers to print boarding passes.
- During the Christmas break, the Library hosted four family movie matinees. As expected the turnout was low, but those who did attend appreciated the opportunity to have something different for the children to do during the holidays.

Outreach – Oliver Allen, Outreach Coordinator

- Contacted local hospitals to put library pamphlet and hours in new parent packets- Enloe and Oroville Hospital have agreed. Will follow up again with Feather River and Gridley. Also info given at Chico children's clinic.
- 6 visits to assisted living homes to deliver library materials.
- Publicity for Holidaytime Buy the Book and Be a star Buy a star.

- Publicity for new hours in January. New Hours bookmark.
- Tabled at Chico Mall Saturday afternoon.
- Connected with Vince Ornelas Chico State Social Work professor about Social work students working with Butte County Library - to start end of January.
- Agreement with Feather River Recreation District to expand Little Free Library program to Oroville/Forbestown and Berry Creek.
- Represented BCL at Adult services coordinating committee networking extravaganza and the Butte Housing Authority information sharing meeting.