



Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report
For the Library Advisory Board
July, August, September 2020

Library Administration – Narinder Sufi, County Librarian

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Few updates from the library are as below:

Recruitment and Staff Updates

- We have two (2) new Library Assistant joining us last month. **Katy Anderson** at Oroville branch. **Hannah Williford** at Chico and Paradise branch. Both are already working on some exciting programs for the library.
- We were able to get two new positions approved by the Board- Adult Services Librarian and Senior Library Assistant- Literacy (grant funded and fixed term). We will be hiring shortly.
- While I am working on Assistant Director Recruitment, in the interim **Heather Tovey** has agreed to take that role for short period. Heather has already done that in the past so it is great to have her assist us.
- As you may know, our two brilliant managers have now traded their locations- **Misty Wright** works at Chico branch and **Janae Kambestad** is now at Oroville branch.
- Our longtime staff member (23 plus years) **Rhonda Werner**- Technical services specialist, has left the library to join her family in Indiana.
- We also have **Dale Wangberg** retired after long service.

COVID- 19 (Library Services)

We had to revert to curbside service only when the County moved onto State monitoring list in July. However, with extreme heatwave event affecting the County library was asked to open in building operations by Aug 16. Since then we have continued to provide in branch services and curbside services. Library and Literacy staff are being very innovative in providing programs virtually. To meet the technology needs after North Complex West Zone Fire all branches made computers available to the residents who were affected by the fire. We will continue to explore ways to increase services in coming months.

New Services

- **ProQuest**- databases (Diverse content types needed by researchers, providing the world's largest collection of scholarly journals, books, videos & audio, dissertations & theses, newspapers and more.)

- **JobNow** and **VetNow**- Brainfuse JobNow & VetNow is an all-in-one suite of services designed for a wide range of career or veteran needs: whether it is tackling a resume, writing a cover letter, navigating the VA system, or adjusting to a civilian career. JobNow & VetNow services include expert coaching and self-study tools. Users may access live, on-demand assistance from expert Job Coaches or Veteran Navigators. The Brainfuse full-service test center offers practice tests for all levels in math, reading, and writing as well as college preparatory tests, career certifications, AP Tests, SAT, GRE, GED, ACT and more.
- **Grants and Funding**- Work is continuing towards our new Library/Literacy mobile coach. We have received another good news that USDA will fund \$162,900 towards it- thanks to Mel Lightbody for working tirelessly to get this grant. We are nearly there to sign a contract with the company called Summit who will build our new hybrid vehicle. We are going to submit an agenda item to the Board on Oct 27 to execute this contract.

Durham Branch - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Programs

- Patrons are happy Crafternoon has returned. DFOL prepare the grab 'n go kits for the biweekly program. It is mainly for kids, but a few adults have liked the craft and taken a kit. 42 kits were picked up in September.

Biggs Branch, Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Programs

- Teens are starting to visit, browse and check out items
- Weeded adult non-fiction, mysteries, westerns, science fiction, young adult, large type and DVD collections. Reorganized shelves to create inviting areas for Spanish language and Literacy collections
- Offering Fall and CalFire fire safety themed packets for pre-school and elementary students that include word searches, crossword puzzles, mazes and coloring pages

Gridley Branch – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Programs

- Katy Azevedo, Senior Library Assistant, is in Gridley Wednesday through Saturday, continues to be part of Paradise staff on Tuesday
- Number of patrons choosing to use the lockers to pick up holds has increased
- Weeded the adult non-fiction collection
- Offering Fall and CalFire fire safety themed packets

Paradise Branch - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Programs

- Kenny Abramowitz, Outreach Librarian, and Hannah Williford, new Library Assistant, are the Paradise staff. Kenny is in the branch Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, Hannah Thursday and Saturday. She is also part of Chico's staff Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Katy Azevedo works Tuesday.

Chico Branch – Janae Kambestad, Branch Librarian

Library Performance

- Curbside pickup continued to be popular as more community members heard about the service, demand increase, at times overwhelming staff. The implementation of Communico, allowing patrons to self-schedule their pick up appointment online, provided some relief for staff.
- A few volunteers have permission to help at the Library again. Though only a few volunteers have elected to return, their assistance is tremendously helpful to keeping up with the re-shelving and searching of r newly placed holds providing relief for staff.

Programs

- Andrea Liao and Joe Rodgers hold weekly Instagram Live events for teens
- Maureen Jeffers continues to host the Chico Book Club; since June, the club has discussed *Becoming* by Michelle Obama, *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, and are in the middle of reading *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing* by Hank Green
- Kimberlee Wheeler posts a well-received weekly virtual baby storytime on Facebook

Oroville Branch – Misty Wright, Branch Librarian

Library Performance-

- Borrowing – 4,523 items checked out for July, August, September
- Library Cards – 49 new library cards issued from July-Sept 2020. Total number 21,632.
- Curbside pickups – July 66, August 91, Sept 36. We were able to set up online self-scheduling for patrons with Communico for curbside pickup which alleviated some of the phone calls coming into the call center.
- Materials – The budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year includes a book budget, in addition to the money we receive from our Friends. Materials purchased through Mental Health Grant were made available to public and staff created a display.
- Visits: 4,242 people have come through the door from July-Sept 2020.

Library Programs - Virtual

- Staff from Oroville participated in programming for adults and children during the month of July. Thu had a very successful cooking program,

going live for the last one, and she also conducted a weekly story time for children.

- Adult programming is being planned with a committee of staff representing all branches.

Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator and Interim Assistant Director

Performance

- Literacy Mondays! Chico volunteer tutoring hours 3-5:00 and Oroville 9-11:00. Safety measures according to Public Health are being taken.
- Tutor Training July 10th followed up with another session September 25th.
- Literacy through Conversations every Thursday 5:00-6:00 practice speaking English in this friendly group setting. All levels welcome.
- Sending our easy reading News for You current event newspaper to each Literacy Student.
- Virtual Literacy Coach bilingual storytimes from Julissa
- Literacy Coach is parking at Lakeside Market in Oroville providing hot spot/internet access for those who may have been affected by the fire. Every Thursday 9-12 through October 17th.

Heartwarming story

On September 14th we welcomed a very small number of volunteer tutors and their adult learners back into the library. This was a good, good day. The additional safety measures put in place for their protection did not deter these pairs from reuniting at their library to work together on their literacy goals. The joy and warmth of seeing one another again could be recognized through the masks and the desire to stay beyond their 1 hour limit.

What is coming up in next 3 months

- October 10th is Tutor Training via Zoom
- Celebrating Trivia Bee for Literacy 2020 in October
- The Literacy Coach will be reaching out to the 90 preschool service sites County-wide with Let's Keep Bookin' Family Literacy Services.



Children's Services – Avery Campbell, Children's Librarian

Programs

- Wrapping-up the LSTA-funded Grab-'n'-Read! Kits grant project. Many of the 100 are in circulation (and receiving great reviews and feedback from patrons and staff) and many are waiting for me to add them to the catalog.
- The LAB-funded Oroville Discovery Zone is still waiting for the current situation to allow in-person programming, but the board books purchased as part of this grant have been out in the library in their new shelving cart and are being requested and checked out by patrons.
- At the end of September, Avery and Kimberlee went to Oakdale Heights Elementary to pass out grab-n-go activity kits at their lunch distribution. These were partially funded as part of Lunch at the Library and we passed out all 63 kits to very enthusiastic parents.

Since the last LAB meeting, we also wrapped up SRP2020. COVID and our resulting closure definitely affected signups and participation this year. Here are the statistics on Summer Reading 2020.

This year, we had 137 participants (45 adults, 10 teens, 82 juvenile).

They logged:

- 1,263 books
- 25,883 minutes (431 hours or 17 24-hour days)
- Completed 677 activities

Virtual Programming highlights:

- Storytimes and Literacy Storytelling (Thanks to Julissa, David, Thu, Sheryl, and Kathy!) – on Facebook
 - 17,791 accounts reached
 - 253 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 60 shares
- Babies Love Books (Thanks to Kimberlee!) – on Facebook
 - 3,067 accounts reached
 - 37 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 5 shares
- Agent P (thanks to Avery!) – on Facebook
 - 3,862 accounts reached
 - 58 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 1 share
- Who's that Pokémon? (Thanks to Joe! and Andrea!) – on Instagram
 - 874 engagements
- Virtual Escape Room Fridays (Thanks for Joe! and Andrea!) – on Instagram
 - 1,404 engagements
- Escape from Disneyland (Thanks to Joe! and Andrea!) – on Google
 - 12 completions!
- Book Discussions/Book Clubs (thanks to Mel, Aiko, and Oliver!) – on Zoom (with events advertised on Facebook)
 - 2,683 accounts reached

- 14 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 30 attendance
- Cooking with Thu (with Thu!) – on Facebook
 - 3,168 accounts reached
 - 148 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 26 shares
- Mental Health Discussion with Matthew Reddick (thanks to Misty!) – on Zoom (with events advertised on Facebook)
 - 3,300 accounts reached
 - 13 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 23 attendance
- Bike Repair (thanks to Katy!)
 - 739 unique accounts reached
 - 5 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 26 shares
- Open Mic (thanks to Katy!) – on Zoom (with events advertised on Facebook)
 - 668 accounts reached
 - 21 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 15 attendance
- Microbrewery Tour (thanks to Misty and Katy!) – on Facebook
 - 140 unique accounts reached
 - 1 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
- Altered Books (thanks to Katy!) – on Zoom (with events advertised on Facebook)
 - 781 unique accounts reached
 - 8 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 10 attendance
- '90s Movie Trivia (thanks to Misty!) – on Zoom (with events advertised on Facebook)
 - 315 unique accounts reached
 - 3 reacted (like, laugh, love, etc.)
 - 11 attended

Public Participation: It is the policy of the Library Advisory Board, and a requirement of the California Open Meetings Law, to allow members of the public the opportunity to comment on all matters before the Board. Public participation is limited to matters within the subject matter presented pursuant to The Brown Act.