



# Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report  
For the Library Advisory Board

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## Library Administration – Mel Lightbody, County Librarian

Personnel changes is Library Administration's big news for these past three months.

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- At the end of December, **Heidi Mitchell** left for a great opportunity in another field. In the interim, Library Admin welcomed extra help staff **Tina Moralez** (Tuesday through Friday) and **Helen Wardell** (Mondays and Thursday afternoons).
- **Caroline Payne** left in the middle of February for a great Sacramento-based, challenging new position. Library Admin has temporarily filled the finance part of her position with **Angie Mitchell**, who is an extra help Financial Technician.
- With the loss of these two support staff members, the library is hoping to reconfigure Admin team, switching out a financial technician for an office specialist (Heidi's position) and a Sr. Administrative Assistant for an Administrative Analyst (Caroline's position).
- We were also sad to say goodbye to **Lindsey Lipski**, our half-time outreach librarian. Since it is budget season we do not know if or when that position will be filled.

## Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator

- January 7th we had a full room of potential volunteers at Tutor Training
- Beginning in January 2017, Literacy Services is now a regular guest at Job Skill Workshops conducted by Butte College for the One-Stop locations in both Oroville and Chico.
- January 30th-February 1st **Siobhan O'Neill** and **Heather** were at the Fresno Public Library offering a 3-day training on "Touchpoints in Libraries" (Dr. Berry Brazelton's approach to serving families). This is a State Library initiative.
- The Literacy Coach continues to be a very popular family outreach strategy. The staff on average conduct 6 early literacy experiences each week and those visits include sending 100+ books into homes all over Butte County.

- The Literacy Team continues to plan the May 5th "read.write. explore; best practices in literacy tutoring" (see attached flyer). This is an allocation from the AEBG that we have partnered with Butte College.

### **Paradise Branch – Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian**

- Teen Tech Week: **Alex Chen** from Chico brought a 3D printer and led a program for us.
- PG&E Energy Saver kits getting checked out.
- One Stop on Tuesdays and Thursdays has been very successful.
- **Karen Rigby** is working on the new Travel section, updating the collection. It's a "destination" now.
- **Rhoda Boyd** organized the second "Meet the Artists" program inviting local artists from Paradise Art Center. Jan Walker had her Chinese brush painting demonstration.
- **Paula Tarrant** combined the adult and YA graphic and manga books, giving them a featured location as well as spine labels for "graphic" and "manga". Circulation is up, especially of the adult titles.
- **Paula** did outreach to the high school, giving a presentation in the Child Development class on best practices for pre-school story times.
- **Paula** created a separate Children's Room monthly calendar of events due to the increase in the number of programs. It's been very positively received.

### **Biggs/Durham/Gridley Branches – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian**

#### Biggs –

- I.S. and AT&T are near completion of the installation of stable public Internet and WiFi services.
- **Cynthia Pustejovsky** met with representatives of Biggs Lions Club to discuss ways to promote the library's services and support for the library.
- **Pat Nohrnberg** had Valentine and St. Patrick's Day craft times.

#### Durham –

- Holiday Crafternoons proved to be popular, DFOL and **Christy Williford** are now scheduling them twice a month.
- **Cynthia** was a judge for American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest, students from Durham Elementary and High School participated.
- **Cynthia** was on the interview panels for Durham, Chico and Pleasant Valley High Schools' candidates for American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State.
- Class visit by Durham Transitional Kindergarten. Toured the library and **Christy** had a special story time.

## Gridley –

- Library and OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) partnered for a program about Ishi. **Dale Wangberg** presented the program.
- Library and Kaleidoscope partnered for the local Poetry Out Loud Contest. **Cynthia** was a judge. Winner went on to the State competition
- **Dale** worked with the Gridley Museum and ANCHR (Association of Northern California Historical Research) for a program about ANCHR's newest publication – "The Road to Cherokee – A California Epic" by Mary Ray King. Although a novel, and the first fiction book published by ANCHR, it is a work of historical interest and has historical facts sprinkled throughout. Mary King was the first women lawyer in Butte County. She and her husband's law practice was known as King and King, Attorneys at Law.
- Sycamore Middle School's librarian, Victoria Rich, and **Cynthia** had a booth at the school's Club Faire. Representatives from various organizations, clubs, Gridley High, Butte College and Chico State had information booths.

## Chico Branch – Brenda Crotts, Branch Librarian

### January:

- Automated Materials Handling equipment installed. Exterior and interior automated return installed.
- January 30<sup>th</sup> – kick off event for AMH. Media, key county staff, contractor, supervisors and CFOL attended to see how the equipment works to save staff time, provide accuracy for the patron and enable the library to return materials to shelves for patron check out much quicker than by our manual system.

### February:

- Oroville Dam and flooding event had an impact on the community; Chico branch was discovered by many people who found themselves in a shelter. Many came to the library to use internet, attend a program or just sit & read or allow their children to play in the children's room.
- Big event of the month – Volunteer Appreciation lunch. Lots of volunteers, good food and fun prizes. Good time enjoyed by all.

### March:

- Spring training for Veteran Resources Station – a time to share with volunteers and staff of other Veterans Connect at the Library sites, learn some new information on serving veterans and hear from veterans.
- Secondary Trauma training for library staff and extra help.
- Next steps through webinar on completing the goals of the Community Conversations" grant with our target communities. Chico and Oroville will be planning both static and interactive programs during this calendar year..

- Maker Space design unveiled to **Brenda Crotts** and Ann Elliott. We are anxious for the design to go to bid & have a contractor offer an acceptable bid so construction can begin.
- Staff and extra help were trained on the flood map use and registration for individuals to know their home's relationship to possible flood and how to register for emergency notices.

### **Oroville Branch – Sarah Vantrease, Branch Librarian**

- The branch partnered with the South Oroville African American Historical Society (SOAAHS) to present a photo exhibit during African-American History Month showcasing the migration of African-Americans to the Oroville area and development of the Southside Oroville Community. 44 people attended an opening lecture by Dr. John Rivers, president of the SOAAHS, and many more viewed the photo display.
- **Susanna Wesenfeld** joined the staff team at the end of March as a new hire part-time Senior Library Assistant. Susanna recently graduated from San Jose State with a Masters of Library and Information Science; she concentrated in youth services and will be assisting with some new children's programs starting in the summer.
- The Oroville branch was closed for several days in February due to the emergency evacuation resulting from the Oroville Dam spillway damage.
- The library hosted class visits from several local schools and is working closely with Oroville City Elementary School District to promote the library's resources and summer programs.
- **Sarah Vantrease** attended training for Lunch at the Library, a program to partner with the Office of Education to provide free summer meals to children; a training on library advocacy presented by EveryLibrary; and a training for community engagement, to assist in successful program development.
- Front line staff members attended a workshop on Secondary Trauma, presented by CSU Chico professor Andrea Rioux.