



# Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report  
For the Library Advisory Board  
July, August, September 2019

## Library Administration – Melanie Lightbody, County Librarian

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*We are very very glad to share with you that our two new Branch Librarian's will be starting on Monday, October 7. Janae Kambestad will be our Chico librarian and Misty Wright will manage Oroville and Paradise branches.*

*Janae Kambestad is coming from the Burbank Library. Here is a short bio -*



*'Growing up in a small town in northern California, I attended CSU, Chico earning a BA in history. I eventually moved to Burbank where I worked at the Burbank Public Library first as head of circulation services and most recently as the local history librarian. Outside of work, I volunteer for my sorority's foundation and enjoy listening to podcasts (I even started a podcast while the local*

*history librarian at the Burbank Public Library called rememBURBANK which featured short stories from the history of the community). I look forward to being back in northern California and serving the communities of Butte County'.*

*Misty Wright comes from Katy in Texas and has worked in libraries there. Misty will be managing Oroville Branch and Paradise Branch. Here are a few lines from Misty –*



*'I'm a Cajun girl from South Louisiana, but have lived for many years in Florida and Texas. I came to my library career a little late, getting a BA in Communications and a first Master's in Animal Science, before I decided to pursue my Library Science degree, from University of South Florida. My passions in the library are LGBTQ issues, intellectual freedom and immigrant services. In my free time, I enjoy watching movies, seeing live music, running, going to sporting events, reading, traveling and cooking and baking. Get ready for some Cajun food, y'all!'*

## Durham Branch - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

- Summer Reading – “It’s Showtime at the Library” In addition to regularly scheduled programs, there was something for all ages. Adults Library Bingo – turn in card to enter drawing for a gift card to a local restaurant. Sign-ups 10, Completions – 2; Young Adult, Student, and Preschool programs had the same Reading component – For every seven books read, activities completed or combination of both, children picked out a new book to take home.
  - Young Adults (Gr 7-12) Sign-ups – 8, Completions – 3
  - Children (Gr K-6) Sign-ups – 58, Completions – 37
  - Pre-School Sign-ups – 40, Completions – 31
- Ongoing programs: Crafternoon – weekly drop-in program for all ages, different craft each week.
- Book display with subjects that were on the Bingo card were prominently displayed.
- Reassigned books on CD that were no longer circulating in Gridley were shared with Durham. Patrons are very happy to see the new offerings. Many tell us to thank Gridley and Gridley Friends for sharing.
- Color printing/copying now available at the Durham branch thanks to DFOL’s LAB grant. Patrons are pleased to have the option.

## Biggs Branch, Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

- The Biggs branch library has been seeing smooth operations thanks to the help of SLA Dale Wangberg who oversees operations on each open day.
- Summer reading program - Kids and families were drawn to the library on Saturdays especially, when drop-in crafts were offered.
- A chess club was arranged for Saturdays as well and had few drop-ins. We created a Facebook event for the chess play and think we had some good exposure even though attendance was low overall.
- Wildfire Abatement - In September, there was work done on Wildfire Abatement post Camp Fire; analysis of ash and debris is being evaluated given that the larger branches and Paradise were a priority. As a team, we are eager to find ways to increase attendance and overall use of the library.
- Library Card Sign-Up Month - September celebrates Library Card Sign Up Month and the branch has promotional stickers and bookmarks from ALA, thanks to

permanent branch manager, Cynthia Pustejovsky. These are sure to be popular and go fast!

## Gridley Branch - Kimberlee Wheeler, Interim Branch Librarian

Gridley branch library served many patrons over the summer months and had great success with several programs recently.

Branch Programs - There was an Immigration Services Event that drew over 50 people as well as Congressman Doug LaMalfa. New citizens were sworn in and the library was happy to be a part of this exciting moment in people's lives. The event was the focus of a cover story in the Gridley newspaper.

The Gridley branch continued storytime programming in the month of August when other locations opted to take a break, and Christy Cooke-Williford had large crowds of kids every Friday; they are very devoted to her excellent skills as a storyteller! September saw visits from several new patrons thanks to a tour given by Katy Azevedo. Manzanita Junior High School also initiated regular class visits in which the kids have some free time to explore the library and borrow materials. Our first group was robust and successful.

Summer Reading Program - Aiko Hori made fun events and new release film showings available to the public and oversaw the reading logs and prize book giveaways. The summer reading program was also featured on the cover of the Herald and we are pleased with the media support.

## Chico Branch - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

- Summer Reading – “It’s Showtime at the Library” - Young Adult, Student, and Preschool programs had the same reading component – For every seven books read, activities completed or combination of both, library patrons picked out a new book to take home.
    - *Adults* – No sign ups required. Patrons could choose from a variety of activities - Library Bingo, Read 7 books, Attend a weekly movie - to enter our “End of Summer” drawing. Prizes donated by Chico Chai, Chico Friends of the Library, In-Motion Fitness, and Madison Bear Garden.
- Programs – 72, Attendance – 399

- *Young Adults:* In addition to regularly scheduled programs, there was a Teen Lock-in Night, Escape Room Library Scavenger Hunt – drop in program, students could do it whenever they visited the library. Sign-ups – 72, Completions – 40, Programs – 71, Attendance – 740
  - *Children (Gr K-6)* – Regular programs plus Costuming 101 – 3 programs each with a different aspect of costuming, Escape Room, Ukulele Concert, Instrument Petting Zoo – Try an instrument, Library Scavenger Hunt. Sign-ups – 923, Completions – 258, Programs – 58, Attendance – 735
  - *Pre-School* – Ukulele Concert, regular programs. Sign-ups – 233, Completions – 104, Programs – 93, Attendance – 3,465
- Banned Book Week - Displays of books, adults and teens that have been challenged or banned, with literature about the top ten for the past few years and the top ten most challenged.
  - YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) Teen Top Ten Reads - Teens are asked to vote online for their favorite books. Voting ends October 15. Staff have created a display of the titles that have been nominated this year, with information about voting.
  - Teentober - YALSA is in the process of changing “Teen Read Week” to “*Teentober*”. The focus of the new program will be a month long program directed towards teens.
  - Curious Minds Homeschooling Club - Attendance has been small but steady. Families enjoy various activities, especially getting to know one another. They decided the theme for the next program. Children range in age from pre-school through middle school. 2 Programs, Attendance 34

## Oroville Branch – Kimberlee Wheeler, Interim Branch Librarian

Safety Initiatives - The Oroville branch library has been working hard on safety initiatives by removing the concrete picnic tables near the parking area and maintaining strong internal and external communication with Elite Security, Library Admin, Facilities Services, and Oroville Police Department. As of this writing, loitering has reduced considerably on the grounds in particular, making library users feel more welcome overall.

Outreach - Katy Azevedo and Countywide Children's Librarian, Avery Campbell, conducted very successful outreach at the Oroville PEB Festival, honoring the local Hmong community.

New Programs - Susie Zimmer has created several events for children as pop-ups on a drop in basis. Our Veterans liaison, Audrey, has been doing her best to serve local vets though her current schedule seems a bit stretched. She is looking at adding an additional day and time to meet the needs of veterans seeking her out at the library.

## Countywide Children's Programs – Avery Campbell, Countywide Children's Librarian

- Summer Reading - Summer Reading Program was held at five of the six branches from June 1 through July 31 with the theme of 'It's Showtime in the Library.' Paradise did not participate this year due to its closure during and after the Camp Fire. With a total of 1667 individuals signing up, it was a drop from our 2018 numbers, but we had an increase of programs and attendance.
- Lunch at the Library, Oroville - For two months, Avery Campbell, Countywide Children's Librarian, was stationed at the Oroville Branch where he helped run *Lunch at the Library* in partnership with Butte County Office of Education (BCOE).
- Programs Countywide - The Design Lab, a weekly STEAM/STEM program for children, was open in Oroville. Avery helped with the STEM activity put on by four teens from the Oroville Boys' and Girls' Club while they were involved with their CREW program for professional development.
- Outreach - Avery attended a school board meeting for the Thermalito Elementary School District where he was able to introduce himself and get the word out about the upcoming Summer Reading Program. He also participated at several community events including the Library Literacy Services's *Family Fun Faire*, the Hmong Cultural Center's *Peb Family Fun Fair*, the Gridley Labor Housing's *Resource Fair with Promotores*, and the Chico Friends of the Library extravaganza, *La Celebración de las Américas* in Chico.

## Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator

- Literacy is pleased to announce another LSTA FY 19/20 grant year of Libraries Helping Immigrants. Partners and Learners K-6 tutoring has begun again in Oroville and we are looking for tutors.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Bee - Staff are busy preparing for Trivia Bee for Literacy on October 25th at the Sierra Nevada Brewery Big Room. Donations and raffle prizes are arriving daily.
- Volunteer Training - July 20th Literacy Services trained 15 additional volunteer tutors. August 19th Literacy provided a Digital Literacy workshop for volunteer tutors in Chico. October 12th is our next Tutor Training.
- Literacy Coach - Scheduling for the Literacy Coach has begun and we are booked through November!

**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.