



# Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report  
For the Library Advisory Board

April through June 2019

## **Administration - Mel Lightbody, County Librarian**

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The last three months have seen much change. As noted elsewhere, we said goodbye to key staff members. Ashley Cane has taken a job in Sacramento, Emily Goehring has moved permanently to Reno, Susie Serrano has become the director of the Clinton Public Library in Iowa and Karen Rigby has joined former director, Derek Wolfgram, at Redwood City. We wish all our departed the best of good fortune in their new positions. They will be missed. In the meantime, Sandy has three open recruitments: A full time senior and three professional/ management positions. We hope our next report shows some of those being filled.

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**Budget** By the time you receive this report, the County's budget process should be finished. We are hoping that we maintain services and that is what the recommendation is. The Board of Supervisors have many competing priorities so as of this writing we do not know the results of their deliberation. Library Admin will be planning a Friends/LAB luncheon in September to talk about the budget, and the State of Library.

## **Countywide Children's Librarian – Avery Campbell**

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- **Lunch at the Library** - Oroville is hosting free lunch for children 0-18 this summer in the conference room at noon on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This is the third year of participation in the program with support from CLA and the State Library. Kimberlee and I have worked closely to launch the program and ensure branch compliance with state and local regulations. It is incredibly heartwarming and fulfilling to serve children meals at the library. They have a choice of fresh fruit and veggies and protein options like milk, turkey, cheese, and nut butters. We chose Wednesday through Friday so that kids would have a chance to eat on Friday, before the weekend and sites close. We do not have the necessary staff to manage the program more than three days a week presently. Coloring, music, and creative activities coincide with lunch service.
- **Paradise Youth Services Summit** – Paula Tarrant and Avery joined a conversation with the Ridge community and other agencies in Butte County to discuss needs of youth post-Camp Fire. This group will reconvene in the future.
- **North Valley Boys & Girls Club** – The Design Lab continues the STEAM programming each week on Thursdays. There is great interest in the program.

## Literacy - Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator and Assistant Director

- **Tutor Training** - July 20<sup>th</sup> we will conduct a day-long Tutor Training at 1820 Mitchell Ave, Oroville.
- **Literacy through Conversation** - Literacy has been providing a conversation group for non-native speakers every Wednesday evening through the month of May.
- **Mobile Library Literacy Services (our Literacy Coach)** As of the month of May, the Literacy Coach has sent 2,019 books into homes across the County and provided 2,581 story time experiences aboard the bus.



David, José, Margarita, Heather

- **Literacy Student success story!**  
We are so happy to share that Jose worked very hard with his tutor Margarita and scored 100% on his U.S. Citizenship test. We are all very happy to congratulate Jose on becoming a citizen of the United States.
- **Family Literacy award** - January 30, 2019 Literacy Services claimed their awarded California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) funds of \$60,000 to support services to low-literate adults and their families in Butte County. In a collaborative effort with Child Development Programs and Services/BCOE and the Oroville Library we had the pleasure of welcoming 96 individuals on June 24th into their Oroville Library for a Family Fun Fair. The morning included a parent education component as well as plenty of fun for the whole family. Five activity stations with a focus on literacy play and thinking “outside the book” were presented to the families who attended.
- **Northern California Literacy Coalition (NCLC)** - Butte County Library, Literacy Services has been very active in this North State coalition. May 3<sup>rd</sup> we help facilitate a Northern California tutor training session that took place in Woodland, CA. Also as a result of NCLC, we have been involved in the Strategic Planning process for California Library Literacy Services (State Library). We find this involvement critical for the benefit of rural libraries.

- **Libraries Helping Immigrants** - Our Community of Practice grows stronger with each conversation. Guest presenters included Immigrants Rising and New Americans Campaign. ESL flyers are now available in Spanish, Tagalog and Arabic. Our California State Library LSTA has been awarded another generous grant allowing programming to continue and expand.

### **Chico Branch - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian**

- **Outreach to Schools** - Neal Dow School Summer program toured the library bringing 55 students plus adults.
- **Programs** - American Creed programs well attended. Strategic Plan community meeting well-attended
- **“It’s Show Time @ the Library** Summer Reading Program for all ages
  - Started June 1 – 900 sign-ups the first three weeks
  - Summer themed programs for all ages in addition to usual weekly programs:
    - Ukelele Concert with Uni and Her Ukelele
    - Escape Room programs
    - Costuming 101 for Teens
    - Read, Connect, Discover Library Bingo

### **Gridley Branch – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian**

- **Outreach to Schools** - McKinley School’s Kindergarten & First Grade classes scheduled visits were very well received with 220 students. Manzanita School’s K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade class visits had 240 students attend.
- **Programs** - American Creed Program – small attendance due to conflict with another program, Opioid Addiction community program. Strategic Plan community meeting was well attended.
- **“It’s Show Time @ the Library** Summer Reading Program for all ages started June 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 125 sign-ups during the first three weeks of this program. Summer themed programs for all ages in addition to usual weekly programs will be shared.
  - Chalk the Walk – sidewalk decorating
  - Summer Bingo for children 5-12
  - Read, Connect, Discover Library Bingo

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

### Durham:

- **Programs** - Strategic Plan community meeting had small attendance, competed with another community program.

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Library represented at the annual May Parade and Picnic – 50 children made crafts.

- **“It’s Show Time @ the Library Summer Reading Program** for all ages
  - Started June 1 – 60 sign-ups the first three weeks
  - Summer themed programs for all ages in addition to usual weekly programs
    - *Craftafternoons* with a drop-in craft each Tuesday
    - Read, Connect, Discover Library Bingo

### Biggs:

- **Programs** - Chess Club meeting at the library weekly; all are invited to participate at all levels of play.
- Saturday Activity Drop-in program for children – crafts, games, Legos, puzzles
- Biggs Book Club meeting at the library during the summer
- **“It’s Show Time @ the Library Summer Reading Program** for all ages
  - Started June 1 – 6 sign-ups so far
    - Each year Biggs Elementary has a summer program that most children attend. It is an all-day program with swimming or a movie in the afternoon.
    - Read, Connect, Discover Library Bingo

## Oroville – Kimberlee Wheeler, Interim Branch Librarian

- **Staff** - The Oroville branch library staff has been doing amazing work; a new team has formed with our newest hire, Christel Gillespie, who joins Heidi Cress, along with the assistance of Paula Tarrant on weekends to help with customer service and special projects. Acting branch manager, Kimberlee Wheeler, has been overseeing branch operations since the beginning of May. Senior Library Assistant Karen Rigby relocated to Redwood City Library and will be greatly missed after 17 years with the County; she worked in Oroville after the Camp Fire. Christel has assumed some of Karen’s duties, namely the “Book Club in a Box” program.  
Heidi Cress had her 20-year work anniversary with the Library in June and we are extremely proud of her years of dedicated service to our community and patrons. Heidi’s branch knowledge is a highly valued treasure for the many new staff coming on board, as well as to our public.

We have completed the process of hiring a new half time senior library assistant, Susan Zimmer. Susan brings a wealth of programming experience and will be part of our regular end of the week staff, especially helping Thu on Sunday. Her presence will be a great relief in that she will fill a vacant role and bring new talent. We also look forward to hiring a replacement for Karen Rigby via a current job opening for senior library assistant.

- **Programs** - Oroville branch continues to conduct wonderful programs each month that include the dynamic and beloved story times offered by Thu Tran. **NASA @ My Library:** programming celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landing is taking place in the branch with crafts, movies, and displays. Our first event, "Make a Planet," had 20 participants. More events are scheduled for July and will be part of our summer library program. Kimberlee is partnering with PBS to bring a preview of their new program, "Chasing the Moon," to the library at the end of June, as PBS is working more closely with public libraries following the success of the *Great American Read* initiative last summer (2018).

- **"It's Showtime @ the Library."** The need for outreach continues in order to garner more sign ups; we suspect our overall number of problem incidents may be preventing more families from feeling safe at the library. We are evaluating these dynamics carefully in order to ensure families feel safe and welcome. *Wild Things live animal show* is scheduled for the end of June and is sure to draw a large crowd. Support from the Oroville Friends of the Library has been tremendous.

Avery Campbell is also conducting summer programs for children and was instrumental in decorating the library with the "Showtime" theme. Avery is partnering with Christel to develop young adult program ideas for July. We will try virtual reality events thanks to a platform provided by Alex Chen.

- **Security** - Elite Security remains a vital part of the overall branch safety strategy. Acting manager Kimberlee is working closely with the guards to oversee and mitigate incidents, with the intention of creating a safer environment, particularly for children. General Services added picnic tables to the grounds near the parking lot in order to help steer people away from loitering near the front of the library and that has been working well so far, though more vigilance is needed to keep doorways clear of smokers.
- **Housekeeping** - Katy Azevedo has been clearing clutter from the Oroville branch back room areas in particular. This has created space and refreshed areas for all to use, including our Friends of the Library. The refreshed spaces

ensure that the library remains in top shape following the extensive remodel of 2014-2015.

- **Outreach to schools** - Central Middle School Family Night was attended to share summer reading program plans. Kimberlee met with Oroville City Elementary School District new vice-superintendent, John Bohannon, to discuss future collaborations. Kimberlee and Avery attended a Thermalito Unified School District monthly meeting, and Butte County Office of Education Summer Meals Workshop.

Kimberlee and Avery also worked with teens from the Las Plumas High School and North Valley Boys & Girls Club on STEAM activities in the library in May. Teens were 'interviewed' for their roles and all did an amazing job. Avery attended the program graduation event for the students at the local Round Table Pizza, where the teens were applauded for their effort and hard work. This was an incredibly fulfilling opportunity for the library and Kimberlee has conveyed that to the program coordinators.

### **Paradise - Brenda Crotts, Interim Branch Librarian**

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**Staff:** Wednesdays and Thursdays, there are three staff and many volunteers working at the branch to get the library prepared for its re-opening.

**Library Update** - With the help of our volunteer staff, a beginning on rectifying the tossed salad effect the book cleaners left has shown a great improvement. The books on the shelves were out of order, outside of bookends, and even upside down. We are about halfway through the stacks in putting them back into proper order. Our Oroville volunteer extraordinaire, Marge, helps every week, mending, helping with media processing, shelving, and covering books.

Brenda is weeding nonfiction for condition and use, with an eye to replacing titles with updated editions. Rhoda has cleaned up the media selections, discarding worn out movies and audio books. There are new movie titles to add so the robust DVD selection will continue. Paula focuses on the Children's collection, weeding for condition and replacement, and planning for gaps in favorite series, update non-fiction, as well as purchase new titles all around.

The generosity of community members in donations and grants for new books and materials for Paradise is overwhelming.