



# Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report  
For the Library Advisory Board  
April, May, June 2021

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## Library Administration – Narinder Sufi, County Librarian

### Grant Updates (Not NVCF):

- **DIY Digital Preservation Lab** – Equipment for the new Butte Digital Preservation Lab has been acquired and is being set-up in the Oroville branch. The lab will allow users to digitize their photographs, documents, and VHS under a do-it-yourself model. Instructional guides have been created to aid users in utilizing the equipment and those guides are currently being tested for ease of use. The lab is set to launch in September.
- **Dia de Los Ninos** – This grant wrapped up in May with the reporting and was a nice success for us in that we gave out many activity kits in Chico, Oroville, and Gridley. Many new ebooks were ordered, and the dance lesson videos were shared on all our social media accounts. This was a fun, colorful, lively grant opportunity that included help from Literacy staff members.
- **My NASA Imagination Experience:** This grant project is almost finished, with only one more craft kit left to be distributed on July 16. We have completed all our mid-project reports successfully and will produce 2 more instructional craft videos for kids to watch with their activity kits. In total, 359 craft kits have been distributed across the county, many new books and videos have been added, and we will have four craft videos on social media by the end of the project.
- **Butte County Children and Families Commission/First 5 Grant** – First5 awarded Butte County Library \$145000 for Dual Language Learning for families with children 0-5. Together with our partners through First5 at the Hmong Cultural Center, Northern Valley Catholic Social Services and BCOE/Child Development Programs and Services we will be providing digital devices and early learning delivered both in the library and the Family Literacy Coach.

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### Library Opening

- The library has opened up all computers to full usage, giving patrons longer time (2 hours) when they use their library cards. One-hour guest passes are still available to those who want them.
- There is now unlimited time in the library, and more furniture being put out.
- Sunday hours will resume in Oroville and Chico, on July 11th, 1pm-5pm
- The Chico Friends of the Library will have their first book sale on July 10th.

### Coming up in next 3 months:

- Tutor Training will be offered in person July 17th.
- August 9th Welcome Back Volunteer Tutors and Literacy Students!
- Oroville:
  - Wednesday morning story time moves indoors
  - Pick-Up-A-Hobby Art Day for teens
  - Monthly Curious Minds Homeschooling Club
  - Oroville Crafters

- Coloring for Relaxation for Adults
  - Saturday Movie
- Gridley
  - Resume the Wednesday afternoon Kids Club and the Friday morning story time
  - Monthly Curious Minds Homeschooling Club
  - Coloring for Relaxation for Adults
  - Thursday Get-Together for Adults – crafts and other activities
  - Restart the monthly Ladies Night Out movie
  - Monday Book Club 1st Monday will meet in person
  - Creative Writing Group reconvenes
- Biggs
  - Due to their popularity, we'll continue with the Grab-n-Go kits and activity packets.
  - Exploring ways to offer a story time this Fall.
  - Reach out to Biggs Unified to see if information about the library and new books can be included in their newsletter throughout the school year.
- Durham
  - New tables for the computers will be installed
  - Keeping fingers crossed for submissions for the teen mural contest
  - Restarting in-person story times in August
- Paradise
  - Shifting collections in the adult area to remove items from the (very high) top shelf
  - Paradise Friends to start up book sales again in July

### **Staff News**

- Welcome Kyle Johnke, Library Assistant and Traci Mitchell, Senior Library Assistant joined the staff in April.
- Misty Wright promoted to Assistant Director of Butte County Library, as of June 26, 2021.
- Janae Kambestad, Branch Librarian for Chico, Durham and Paradise libraries, as of June 26, 2021.
- Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian for Biggs, Gridley and Oroville, as of June 26, 2021,

### **Branch Reports:**

#### **Biggs, and Gridley Branches - Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian**

- Grab-n-Go craft kits and activity packets (Include coloring pages, word searches, mazes, crossword puzzles and other word games) for preschoolers, elementary and middle school students
- NASA activity kits
- Summer Reading book displays

#### **Chico Branch – Misty Wright, Branch Librarian**

- Due to the popularity of the Children's Make and Take, we have increased the number of kits and they are now available weekly.
- Andrea and Joe are still doing great with their Fandom club on Instagram live and teen grab and go kits which are distributed to all branches. In June, they are using their Fandom club time for Teen Summer Reading program Sketch Academy, where they teach teens how to draw, virtually through Instagram Live.

- Sheryl and Joe started having in person story time outside in May, which has become very popular, drawing crowds usually between 50-60 people!
- The children's summer reading program activities take place on Saturday morning, in person, outside and have been very popular.
- Patron numbers are steadily increasing, with Tuesday usually being the busiest day.
- Oliver and Kyle have begun outreach again to various senior centers in the community.

#### **Durham Branch – Janae Kambestad, Branch Librarian**

- Grab-and-go craft kits
- Adult crafternoon kit

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

- Wednesday story time on the lawn in front of the library
- Summer Reading book displays
- Lunch at the Library for children under 18
- NASA activity kits
- Dungeons and Dragons 1st & 3rd Wednesday afternoon in the library
- Pick-Up-A-Hobby kit – different hobby each month for teens
- Teen Tuesday – board games, virtual reality and 3D printing
- Oroville Evening Thinking Readers' Book Club

#### **Paradise Branch - Janae Kambestad, Branch Librarian**

- Grab-and-go activity and craft kits
- Adult grab-and-go craft kit
- Community art project – Open to all ages: Wood craft squares to decorate and return. Squares will be pieced together and displayed in the library to form a mosaic/patchwork to form a larger piece of art.

#### **Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator**

- Author and musician Jim Gill joined us in creating Butte County's own community video book filled with children's hopes and dreams, *May There Always Be Wishes*. 500 invitations/activity bags went into homes welcoming participation in the project. We received 217 illustrations from children across Butte County working closely with Family Literacy Services partners and library branches. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-K0F98Q2gg>
- 450 copies of *May There Always Be Wishes* by Jim Gill were provided to homes. Children were happily holding them high for Jim Gill to see during our live Zoom session with him on April 30th.
- Need inspiration? Drop by your local library to see the illustrations from the Jim Gill video book in an art show.
- Help Me Grow's Kaci Sanders joined us at each branch library for the Jim Gill gala as our partner. Do you have questions or concerns about your child's development, behavior, or learning? Are you wondering what services are out there for kids from birth through age five? All parents have questions. Help Me Grow has answers. builds an effective grid of connected service providers that best serves families
- Tutors and Literacy Students are having sessions in the library.
- Tutor Training Part 1 and Part 2 via Zoom in April trained 5 new tutors.

- Literacy Coach continues to provide weekly access to WIFI at SavMor in Magalia and River Bend park in Oroville each Monday. Spreading the word that your library can help adults with their reading and writing and sending books into homes.

### **Heartwarming stories:**

- Heartwarming stories abound this last quarter with the illustrations for Jim Gill's video book, *May There Always Be Wishes* from children all over the County. Children happily pointed to their pictures hanging on the walls of their library and one boy even declared, "I'm famous!" after seeing his picture in the Durham branch. From "may there always be grandmas and flowers" to "may there always be rainbows and happy thoughts" we were inspired by the young artists and authors in Butte County.
- After the pictures that the children drew for the Jim Gill program were hung up in Chico, a very small boy went very slowly past every single one looking for his. He was so excited when he found it and was able to go behind the circ desk to sit on a stool under his picture so his mother could take a photo. He was so happy that his artwork could be viewed by everyone in the library. The title was "May There Always Be....Grapes."
- Patrons continue to express appreciation for the library remaining open this past year, and to be able to browse the collection. Several have been very happy with the selection of newly released DVDs, and have commented that streaming movies can be expensive.
- Durham only had 2 artists turn in their work for the Jim Gill program. They both are featured in the video. When staff showed Joseph and Oak (they are brothers) their art work hanging on the wall, Joseph announced "I am famous!" Oak just stood there with a stunned but happy look on his face.
- A young patron turned in his completed, all six, SRP log. He was thrilled to pick out 6 free books. He spent a good 15 minutes picking out his favorites.
- A mother and daughter who come in weekly made a morning activity out of the Community Art Project craft that was set out for the summer reading program, decorating a wooden square. They made a lovely presentation of their art and were so excited to give it to the library for our growing community 'mosaic.'

**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.