



# Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report  
For the Library Advisory Board

July through September 2018

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

---



First of all, a thank you to our new assistant director, **Susie Serrano**. She agreed to join administration after a failed recruitment this summer. Susie was my first choice but I respected her decision to continue on at Chico branch. However, after we looked outside and couldn't find anyone I asked her again. This time she said yes.

This left an open position and we were happy to offer a promotion to **Ashley Cane**, formerly the Countywide Children's Librarian. Ms. Cane had been acting as interim branch librarian in Oroville and frankly did outstanding work during her time there. Each branch has its unique challenges and Oroville's are demanding.

**Cynthia Pustejovsky**, our beloved and experienced Gridley/Biggs/Durham branch librarian took on the role vacated by Susie. Ms. Pustejovsky will continue as the Chico Librarian for several months as Ms. Cane serves in Gridley/Biggs/Durham. Sometime this spring they will trade back and Ms. Cane will become the next permanent Chico Librarian.

We also had Brenda Crofts return to us temporarily while Paradise Librarian Emily Goehring was out. Such a bonus to have so much experience on our team.

In other news, October will bring the launching of the strategic plan. Susie is the team lead and other members are: **Heather Tovey, Emily Goehring, Ashley Cane, Alex Chen, Oliver Allen, Dale Wangberg** and the LAB's own **Nancy Brower**.

Finally, a brief word on the Amnesty month. It was by many measures amazingly successful. Staff cleared the accounts of 1,394 people including 531 youth and new adult (under age 30). That is a whopping 38.09% of the cleared accounts and 1400 people welcomed back to the library. Please be looking for our report later this month.

## **Literacy - Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator**

---

- July 14<sup>th</sup> **Tutor Training** with an attendance of 11
- August 1<sup>st</sup> **Literacy through Conversation** began at the Chico Branch. Literacy Services has received multiple requests from ESL adults who wish to work on their conversation skills. We are happy to be providing this weekly offering from August 1<sup>st</sup>- October 31<sup>st</sup> with another session planned for 2019 with the help of our volunteer tutor Kathy Coots.

- September 5<sup>th</sup> Literacy Services began providing weekly office hours at the **Sheriff Department's Day Reporting Center (DRC)**. The DRC is an Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) unit responsible for supervising offenders in the community who were sentenced to serve time in the custody of the Sheriff. We have been pairing tutors with adult learners at the DRC for some time now but are aiming to build more of a presence and availability for those working to improve their reading, writing and basic numeracy. We've already had an increase in assessments given at the DRC.
- September 18<sup>th</sup> was the Local Childcare Planning Council of which Literacy Services is a member.
- September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> a **statewide California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) conference** was held in Sacramento. This was the first time in 18 years that CLLS Literacy Coordinators and their Networks had an opportunity to come together and focus on adult literacy. Butte County Library, Literacy was pleased to be a member of the planning committee with the intent of speaking to the needs of the rural libraries.

Doors opened at 7:30 a.m. on September 25<sup>th</sup> and the days were full. **Our very own adult learner Pete Cervantes and Champion of Literacy was chosen to present on a panel of advocates for literacy.** Naming a few of the other presentations/sessions: former Outstanding Librarians in Support of Literacy (prior Director Nancy Brower has won this award from CLA), Learning Challenges (dyslexia), Tutor Training, Assessments and Data Management in Service of Literacy.

*Pete presenting on the **Adult Learner Leadership Institute** panel for the CLLS Conference September 26<sup>th</sup>*



- 12<sup>th</sup> annual Trivia Bee for Literacy is October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Sierra Nevada Big Room.

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

---

#### **July:**

#### **Children**

- Library Build Day: Kids built structures out of cardboard, duct tape and other craft supplies. It was fun for the whole family!
- Library Playtime in the Meeting Room

### Young Adult

- Wednesday Wanders: Hogwarts and Camp Half-Blood – Part of summer reading program theme, Reading Takes You Everywhere. Each Wednesday Wander had its own uniquely designed postcards, crafts, and activities. For Hogwarts, we had ties to color, Hogwarts house cootie catchers, bowtruckle and wand-making crafts. For Camp Half-Blood we built a fort out of cardboard and had a themed scavenger hunt/quest. Patrons of all ages were encouraged to attend, and we tried to make it so that everyone could participate in at least one of the activities we offered.
- Library hosted teen volunteers for the Upward Bound program at Chico State through July 12.
- Thank You Note from a Patron: *“Thank you for a wonderful summer reading program! My teenage sisters loved their programs, and I, having not participated in one since I was a little girl, thoroughly enjoyed the adult one. Thank you to all for the unstinting friendliness of all you librarians, who have truly made my summer trips to the library the highlights of my summer.”*

### Adults

- Phil Elkins, KZFR’s Sr. Filipe, between playing his guitar and singing, spoke about the challenges veterans face as they re-enter civilian life

### August:

#### Children

- **Kimberlee Wheeler** did outreach at the Chico Mall for back to school, three Saturdays in August

#### Young Adult

- Maker Lab afternoons: We started experimenting with opening the Maker Lab up to the public with various activities and crafts. We were able to simultaneously offer 3D printing and other crafts such as bookmark making. We were also able to utilize our robots in an activity we called Robo Racers where patrons could try to maneuver our robots around a track taped down to the carpet. We’re looking forward to integrating the Maker Boxes into these program offerings.

### Families

- 42 people attended the Sunday movie, “Coco”. The weekly Sunday movie has an average attendance of 10 to 12.

### September:

#### Children

- 2 Second Grade Class visits/library tour: 54 students
- Batman Day at the Library – 35 participants
- Ms. Wheeler attended Butte Thrives meeting, the trauma informed services group of county staff members

#### Young Adult

- We started to encourage more engagement in the teen room with our monthly question board and book displays. During the summer, we also started to cultivate lists on KOHA

specifically aimed at YA readers. These are editable by any staff member interested in adding more titles.

### **Families**

- 39 people attended the Sunday movie, “Avenger: Infinity War”.
- Celebration of the Americas Program – for the 4.5 hours approximately 600 people attended, but not all at the same time. 4:00-5:00, the last hour the library was open, about 300 walked through to sample the food from 16 countries. Others came at various times to see one or two of the performers, but didn’t stay for the full program. The last hour there were about 60 people enjoying the music. **Julissa Winton** did an amazing job organizing the event.

---

### **Gridley, Durham, Biggs – Library Advisory Board Report – July, August, and September**

---

Summer Reading was a great success in Gridley, Durham, and Biggs. Between the three branches, over 200 people of all ages signed up to keep reading, learning, and exploring all summer long; to help them accomplish that goal, we hosted special library play days, movie showings, and storytimes for families; held meet and greets with the local police force in Gridley; offered talks by local authors; and helped families build their home libraries by giving away free books as summer reading prizes. We already can’t wait for next summer!

In July, the Gridley library hosted local author, Richard Hurley, to discuss his book, *California and the Civil War*. Hurley’s presentation illustrated the attempts by southern partisans to swing California in to the Confederacy and acquire the mineral wealth of the state for the Southern Cause. The program was sponsored by the Gridley Friends of the Library and attended by over 25 history buffs.

In August, **Cynthia Pustejovsky** represented the library at the Biggs National Night Out. This annual nation-wide event, organized by local police forces across the country, brings residents and local organizations together to foster a sense of community and safety. Cynthia met with Biggs families to share information about library resources and sent everyone home with a free book or two to share.

In August and September, all three libraries experienced a pleasant influx in collection materials thanks to a few grants from the California State Library. With these grants, we were able to build on our collections in a number of subject areas, including workforce development, life over 50, STEM, bilingual materials for children, early literacy, and popular media.

---

### **Oroville - Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian and Assistant Director**

---

We are sad to report, but happy for **Regina Griffiths**, that she is leaving the Library for her dream job. Her position will also be opening soon.

All staff enjoyed Amnesty Month and how happy patrons were! Oroville staff were still processing Amnesty fee waivers up until ten minutes until closing on the very last day. We really enjoyed letting them know how lucky they were to have come in during September and clearing

their fines – there were lots of happy fist pumps; loud, joyous whoops; and big smiles from all involved.

Lunch at the Library! In partnership with BCOE, we served over 200 meals to children in July and August alone.

Another successful Summer Reading Program! 274 Children, Teens and Adults signed up for the program. Our 25 programs were well attended with 731 people. Thank you to the Oroville Friends of the Library for supporting our Summer Reading Program!

---

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

I am submitting a report covering branch activities for July thru August 11 based on information supplied by branch Library Assistants as I began an interim Branch Manager assignment on August 14, 2018

#### **July**

- Courtesy of Paradise Friends of the Library the Blackburn Meeting room received laminate wood grain flooring to replace carpet funded by PFOL approximately 15 years ago.
- Branch Manager, **Emily Goehring**, had a baby boy, Levi.
- SLP program for all ages was successful with enthusiastic participation in scheduled programs on Fridays such as stuffed animal sleep over, DIY ice-cream, Legos, firecracker painting, and paper & straw elephants. Adults could choose a wrapped book to read from 3 hints to entice selection. A finale party completed the SLP.

#### **August**

- During the month of August branch programs take a vacation.
- Library Assistant, **Rhoda Boyd** attended Active Shooter Training and shared information with branch staff.
- New flooring in Blackburn Meeting room was dedicated with a reception on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **September**

- Regular scheduled programs returned
- Library Assistant, Senior, **Paula Tarrant** attended Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Springfield, Illinois. A report will be delivered during the October Librarian's Leadership Meeting and a copy will be shared with all staff.
- Banned Books Week celebrated with a display of materials challenged and patrons are encouraged to read a controversial title and have their photo taken reading their challenged title.