



Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report
For the Library Advisory Board

Administration. Mel Lightbody, County Librarian

Library Administration has submitted a balanced budget to the County Administration. (Thank you, **Sarah Vantrease** and **Caroline Payne**.) We do not expect any cuts to our budget this year. We expect to finally re-fill the Countywide Children's Librarian professional position and have requested additional staff for Paradise and Oroville. We have also requested an Assistant Library Director who will also perform branch management duties.

Page | 1

On the top of the overall facilities list (building list) is a new roof for Chico. The top of our library list is a driveway between the Masonic property and the Paradise Library property in order to ease parking issues in Paradise and a host of smaller remodels and renovations of the Chico Library which the **Chico Friends of the Library** are so generously funding.

The one unknown is whether and to what extent the City of Chico will fund the additional hours for the Chico branch. We'll keep the LAB informed.

Biggs – Durham – Gridley. Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Biggs:

WiFi usage continues to be strong, especially during closed hours. It seems the library is the only WiFi option in Biggs, or so we've been told.

A few patrons are playing chess. An adult occasionally helps some of the Jr. High boys.

Durham:

After-school programs at Durham Recreation & Park District and Durham Children's Center are visiting the library once a week.

Christy Cooke-Williford attended the Strengthening Families workshop.

Gridley:

Cynthia Pustejovsky attended Gridley Elementary Schools' Family Read Night. We had a craft for the kids, gave out stickers and coloring pages, and library literature. It was a fun 2 hours that gave me an opportunity to meet a few more families and say hello to some of our regulars.

In addition to her weekly morning program at the Labor Camp, **Meybel VanWagenen** has attended four Family Fun events in January and February. She has crafts and handouts for the children and is able to get to meet more of the parents. These are always very busy days for VanWagenen, but she enjoys knowing that she is making more families aware of the library and its services.

February 11 the Gridley branch hosted “Poetry Out Loud” a school-wide competition sponsored by Kaleidoscope and Gridley High. “Poetry Out Loud is contest that encourages the nation’s youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation have partnered with U.S. state arts agencies to support Poetry Out Loud. The Contest uses a pyramid structure that starts at the classroom level. Winners advance to a school-wide competition, then to a regional and/or state competition, and ultimately to the National Finals. Each winner at the state level receives \$200 and an all-expense-paid trip with an adult chaperone to Washington to compete for the national championship. The state winner’s school receives a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The first runner-up in each state receives \$100, with \$200 for his/her school library. A total of \$50,000 in awards and school stipends is awarded annually at the National Finals.” www.poetryoutloud.org

The last Tuesday of each month Gridley, Durham and Biggs staff use the meeting room of the Richvale Café for our staff meetings. At our February meeting, the café’s manager told us about a recent visit with her grandparents where she noticed that her grandparents were reading some interesting books. She asked where they got the books; their reply, “The library”. She was surprised, because she had always thought the library was just for educational purposes. After our meeting, the manager and Cynthia had a nice conversation about the library and its many services. On Saturday, **Laura Lyn Burch** called Gridley to say the café manager had just been in the Oroville branch to get a library card and had mentioned our conversation.

Paradise. Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian

The Paradise library is so fortunate to receive 3 gently used Public Access Computers (PACs) to replace the three older models that often leave library users frustrated by the slowness when trying to search for library books, place requests or check their account while in the library. Thanks to the **Paradise Friends of the Library** these computers will give library users more access to the location of needed material without the frustration of waiting for the computer to respond giving the patron a sense of independence and more browsing options.

The reference area has been rearranged to grant more access to reference materials and the forthcoming Paradise Seed Lending Library. This will also create future space enhancements for the public computer area. **Susie Serrano** continues to meet at the Paradise Grange to help with the seed packing and preparation for opening in April 2015.

Other activities include:

- **Kimberlee Wheeler** and staff have worked to enhance the space in the children's and teen rooms. Wheeler was able to incorporate a light table donated to us by a local preschool and is incorporating new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) style learning. She is also mentoring several teens with their senior high school projects as local teens have chosen to complete their projects at the Paradise Library.
- Wheeler also attended a Spanish Language Book fair at the Davis Library to help improve our Spanish collections and attended an Early Learning with Families workshop in Sacramento.
- **Karen Rigby-Alexander** continues to run the County ILL program through our branch and assisting with the ZIP program with great success. She also organized a great Blind Date with a Book display where patrons checked out a covered book not learning of the title until opening it after checkout. Rigby-Alexander also attended the Strengthening Families training in Oroville in February.
- **Rhoda Boyd** is working on finishing a core reference course through Infopeople and hosted an adult craft class for Valentine's Day.
- We continue to try to plan for outreach in the community with Wheeler attending the local Headstart and hosting class visits at the library. Susie attended the Paradise Unified School District meeting in February and gave a short presentation regarding our eResources, Teacher's Advantage Pass library cards and the opportunity for Teens to volunteer at the Library.
- We are planning for a Book club Social in May, a KinderGo day in June, and our annual Summer Reading Program.

Chico. Brenda Crotts, Branch Librarian

Chico started the year with a new children's program: Hand Made Play – children use everyday household items creatively for play. Helps let parents see they can be creative and have fun with their children without spending money.

The Spanish language collection is continuing to grow for all ages and in all formats – thank you to **Chico Friends of the Library (CFOL)** for generous donations.

CFOL approved the purchase of 3Dprinting equipment for a teen program the branch will be starting in cooperation with students from Chico High and a local 3D printing business. **Leslie Botsford** is coordinating this program.

Veterans Resource Station opened on February 2, 2015. We have volunteer veterans for 2 to 3 hours several days of the week. In February veteran volunteers assisted 76 veterans find needed information or directed the person to needed services.

CFOL approved the purchase of video editing equipment for a teen program to be administered by **Kristine Macalalad** and **Ricardo Ramirez**.

Shifting of adult non-fiction is near completion in preparation for making a larger media area for easier browsing by public and staff.

Weeding of adult fiction is near completion. Shifting of adult fiction will make a larger area for two new teen media programs and our expanding Spanish language collection.

Remodel projects involving: computers, media, teens and reference have been approved by CFOL to pay for the projects totaling \$80,000.

New Bilingual Story Garden program on Monday with Ramirez at 10 a.m. for all ages incorporating stories, songs and crafts.

Family movies twice a month on Sunday are back.

Seems like much time February was devoted gathering statistical and anecdotal information regarding use of the branch for City Council meeting on 3/3 to asking for \$25,000. To maintain the current branch hours through June 2015. Funds granted.

Oroville. Sarah Vantrease, Branch Librarian

New programs for adults have been the focus and highlight of the last two months at the Oroville Branch Library. The “New Year, New Skills” program series took adult programming beyond traditional book groups, chess clubs, and the flourishing “Knitter’s Night Out.” It was sponsored by the **Oroville Friends of the Library** and included:

- Two legal help workshops, about issues of landlord-tenant law and fair housing rights, led by attorneys from Legal Services of Northern California
- Two interactive fitness/nutrition classes, with cooking demonstrations and take-home goodies, taught by staff from Butte County Public Health
- A “songwriter’s circle” featuring local guitarist Gene Kelly
- A poetry/creativity workshop featuring local poet Susan Wooldridge (supported in part by a grant from the California Center for the Book and Poets & Writers, Inc.)
- An introductory watercolor painting class taught by library staff member **Meybel Vanwagenen**, the most popular of all the programs
- Drop-in sessions with outreach staff from Butte 211, Covered California, Medi-Cal, and Social Security

While skill-building and information-sharing was a major focus of this program series, it also served to bring together people from all walks of life. Class participants included retirees, folks looking to get back into the job market, homeless individuals and families, developmentally-disabled adults, working parents, and many others representing the diversity of the greater Oroville community.

In addition, the library kicked off new weekly “Computer Comfort” classes in January, designed to be supportive, small group help for library users getting acquainted with computers and the Internet for the first time. Each class is customized to participants’ own questions and interests, with 2-4 attendees in each. In March, the library will offer this class twice a week to accommodate more learners. A community donation to the Oroville Friends of the Library provided funds for buying up-to-date computer books, such as the aptly-named *“Is This Thing On?” A Friendly Guide to Everything Digital* and the oft-requested *Computers for Dummies*.

Also during this busy season, the library is hosting free tax help twice a week through April 13, thanks to volunteers from AARP. The on-site service helped 125 people to file their federal and state income taxes during its first month.

The success of these adult programs comes in part from the quality of the activities, the community’s hunger for such programs, and the multiple channels for advertising and promotion. Facebook advertising, word of mouth, fliers inside the library and around town, the Oroville Chamber of Commerce website/weekly email, and the Chico News & Review online calendar all helped to get the word out.

A snapshot of survey responses from a sampling of the Oroville Branch Library adult programs, January-February 2015 is appended.

Literacy. Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator

- The Literacy Team has banded together to support two separate ongoing grants/projects.
 1. A First5 Butte County grant that includes the Strengthening Families Network and facilitating a County-wide Jim Gill (children’s author and educator) concert/workshop series.
 2. A State Library LSTA grant, “Drive for Adult Literacy” that utilizes programming for families as a strategy to reach the adult learners in Oroville. We continue to collaborate with the Housing Authority and offer one of the programs at Hammon Park while the other session will take place at Martin Luther King Park.
- January 23rd **Carey Gross** received a Children’s Champion Star from First5 Butte County Children and Families for her long-standing support for children 0-5 in Butte County.
- January 17th and 24th Tutor Training provided training to 14 potential tutors from Butte County. The tutors represented a slice of our community; a physician, a reading specialist to a currently enrolled college student. However, there was a common thread that bonded the room together which was the desire to ignite the power of literacy in lives of those who may find it a struggle to read and write.

- January 24th Tutor pair, Tev and Alma present at Tutor Training.
- February 12th Sheriff Department offers a Day Reporting Center tour and training with 4 tutors and the Literacy Specialist.
- February 17th Champion of Literacy, Parke Colbert spoke on behalf of the services he received as an adult learner at the library to the Butte County Administration staff meeting with the Literacy Specialist. As always, Parke can touch hearts and minds with his wise and gentle voice.
- February 18th Strategies provided a Strengthening Families training for library staff as a result of being written into the Drive for Adult Literacy LSTA grant. Strengthening Families is an approach/philosophy to serving families that many social service agencies are utilizing.
- Weekly Oroville Branch, Babies Love Books storytimes continue to be offered by Literacy Services **JoJo Mantle** and attendance seems to be growing. Please help spread the word that Oroville Branch Library has a weekly program for families with 0-18 month olds!
- February 27th **Heather Tovey** attended the Northern California Literacy Coalition in Colusa.
- Literacy Staff visited 24 Butte County preschools (in most cases offering a program for the morning session of school and the afternoon session) with the Literacy Coach and a focus on Early Literacy with a reminder that their library has FREE services available for those adults who may struggle with their reading and writing.
- Literacy Staff also drove the Literacy Coach weekly into Oroville's Hammon and Playtown Park with the message that the library offers FREE tutors to those struggling with their reading and writing as part of Drive for Adult Literacy LSTA grant.
- Banjos can be found on the Literacy Coach these days that are made out of recycled materials. Children are practicing their phonological awareness skills by listening carefully to the words in a Jim Gill song and strumming along with the rhythm and the tempo.



Did you learn something new today?
 Yes No
Tell us more:
fantastic, and so helpful

Did you learn something new today?
 Yes No
Tell us more:
I would like some summer program for Adults
Did you enjoy your time at the library?
 Yes Some No
Did you talk to someone new?
 Yes No
How did you find out about the program?
 Yes No

Did you learn something new today?
 Yes No
Tell us more:
*Fabulous presentation!
I learned alot!*
Did you enjoy your time at the library?
 Yes Some No
Did you talk to someone new?
 Yes No
How did you find out about the program?
Oroville Chamber of Commerce

Thanks for coming!
Did you learn something new today?
 Yes No
Tell us more:
library flyer
Did you enjoy your time at the library?
 Yes Some No
Did you talk to someone new?
 Yes No
How did you find out about the program?
library flyer
What else do you want to learn about?
everything!

Thanks for coming!
Did you learn something new today?
 Yes No
Tell us more:
Please do this class again!
Did you enjoy your time at the library?
 Yes Some No
Did you talk to someone new?
 Yes No
How did you find out about the program?
at Orange Tree Senior Center
What else do you want to learn about?
more of this program
Do again soon

Thanks for coming!
Did you learn something new today?
 Yes No
Tell us more:
 *Loved it!
More!*
Did you enjoy your time at the library?
 Yes Some No
Did you talk to someone new?
 Yes No
How did you find out about the program?
at the library
What else do you want to learn about?
more friends

Thanks for coming!
Did you learn something new today?
 Yes No
Tell us more:
*and enjoy music!
More please*
Did you enjoy your time at the library?
 Yes Some No
Did you talk to someone new?
 Yes No
How did you find out about the program?
at the library
What else do you want to learn about?
Gene's writing