



Butte County Library

County Librarian's Report
For the Library Advisory Board

March and April, 2015

Administration – Mel Lightbody, County Librarian

The LAB has asked me to give you a quick overview of what I think is happening in the branches that you'd be most interested in. Here's what I'd like you to know:

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- Butte County Library may set an all-time checkout record this coming June. The libraries are very busy.
- Annual Spring School Visits are in full swing at most library branches.
- **Sarah Vantrease** and Jeremy Wilson from Behavioral Health wrote a successful federal grant to bring us a year of support for welcoming our patrons with mental illnesses into the library. This is our sixth such grant in a row. I've never known a library our size to get so many.
- Oroville Branch Library has Reading Heroes who read to kids every week.
- Chico Branch Library has 3-D printers and they are really cool!
- Paradise Library has a Seed Library and it is already being used.
- **Oliver Allen** will now be providing a report for the County Librarian's report.
- Chico Branch's open hours may be cut in July this year.
- Chico Branch story times are exploding in popularity.
- The Library will have a "book bike" sometime this summer. Staff members will be pedaling it around to various venues this summer. (See picture of mock-up below.) Staff members **Byron Fountain**, Oliver Allen and Sarah Vantrease spearheaded the development and funding of this new vehicle.



Quick highlights:

- 35 volunteers attended the annual volunteer appreciation event
- 65 people took advantage of free tax help offered at the library by AARP volunteers
- In the first four months of 2015, the Oroville Branch held over 160 in-library programs, 79 of which were targeted to adults
- Computer classes are now offered twice weekly
- Branch librarian attended three Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) sessions held for the Oroville Union High School District

New after-school Reading HERO program connects kids to the joy of reading

Sponsored by the Oroville Friends of the Library, “Reading HERO” brings community members and children together to share in the joy of reading twice a week after school.

The program is free and informal: children can drop in to relax and listen to a story or two, read by three new volunteers, who have been trained in reading techniques that bring stories alive for babies through middle-schoolers. OFOL has provided brand-new books for the volunteers to share and to give as prizes for return visits. “Reading HERO” emphasizes the joy of books and reading. Although it has educational benefits, it is not a program for teaching children to read. It’s all about enjoying a good book. When children start experiencing the pleasure of stories and books, it motivates them to learn to read or improve their reading skills.

Studies also show that children who are read aloud to learn to read more easily, read at a higher level, enjoy reading more and do better in school.

The program’s name, “Reading HERO,” recognizes that the volunteers are “heroes” for opening the door to children’s life-long love of reading—and is also a loose acronym for “how to enjoy reading in Oroville.” That journey of joy begins with the turn of a page.



The flyer features a blue background with a yellow starburst graphic containing the text "READING HERO" in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, the text reads "Share the JOY of reading with a READING HERO VOLUNTEER!". A smaller line of text states: "When children read with a Reading HERO at the library, they discover the world of books and the joy of reading!". Three photos of volunteers are shown: Grandma Sharon (Tuesdays, 3-4 pm), Mr. Z (Wednesdays, 3-4 pm), and Grandma Carol (Wednesdays, 3-4 pm). At the bottom, the Butte County Library logo is displayed, along with the address "Oroville Branch, Butte County Library, 1820 Mitchell Ave. Oroville, CA 95966" and phone number "(530) 538-7642 - Free!". The website "www.buttecounty.net/bcllibrary" is also listed.

Gridley, Biggs, Durham Branch Libraries – Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

Gridley –

Outreach:

- Labor Camp – **Meybel Van Wagenen** had 4 craft programs (2 morning, 2 afternoon) for Family Fun Day, total 100 children participated
 - E-Head Start – Meybel had a craft table at Family Day, total 90 children participated
 - Partnered with Public Health for Spanish Car Seat Safety Program, 27 parents attended
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- Library will be represented by **Gridley Friends of the Library** at “Red Suspenders Day” and first-of-season Farmers Market, Ricardo Ramirez will also be available to conduct library survey at Farmer’s Market
 - 8 First grade class visits, 184 students
 - GFOL presented Beverly Neiswanger with the “Donald Wiley Library Service Award” for her contributions to literacy in the Gridley, Biggs, Live Oak area. Bev is a long-time library supporter and former volunteer, was the Gridley High Librarian for many years, and she and her husband are active in programs for youth.

Biggs –

- **Pat Nohrnberg** had 3 craft programs, total 30 children participated
- During April a tutor and student used the library twice a week
- **Cynthia Pustejovsky** attended initial Biggs Unified School District LCAP meeting

Durham –

- Durham Library Honors Night recognized 7 area residents for their contributions to the library and the Durham community
- Library booth at “Parade and Picnic”, **Christy Cooke-Williford** had a Mother’s Day craft table, DFOL conducted library survey, booth was busy all day
- **Dale Wangberg** assisted two people looking for family history in Butte County

All three branches are promoting “Mental Health Awareness Month”

Chico Branch – Brenda Crotts, Branch Librarian

- Moved all media (books on CD, music and DVDs) to one shelving area. Some patrons are discovering a media they did not know the library owned – mostly music is the new discovery.
- Moved Large Print to new location near media.
- Shifted entire fiction collection.
- Moved beginning of YA fiction to same wall as the rest of the YA fiction.
- Moved adult Spanish collection to two ranges of shelves near window. Beginning of an alcove arrangement with seating. More to come next fiscal year.
- Removed 3 ranges of shelving to begin the opening up of space for Teen’s 3D Printer station and Video Editing.

- 3D Printers arrived & Chico High teen volunteers are beginning the set up & will teach staff & then provide programs for teens.
- **Kristine Macalalad** is considering creating a 3rd Friday morning story time to accommodate the tremendous turnout each week – 102 – 150 is becoming the regular participation level each Friday.
- Veteran Resource Station is seeing a regular flow of veterans asking staff or the volunteers staffing the station for use of laptop, forms or other assistance. In March we served 36.
- VA Northern California health Care System is planning a Spring Fling for women veterans on Saturday, May 30 from 9:30 - 2. This program is being planned for 100 women vets and 10-15 resource vendors. The day will have a resource fair, massage services, make-up makeover, nails, relaxation workshop, lunch & fun games. We will use areas under the redwoods, library space, and the meeting room. I should say there will be a female invasion for the day!

--Brenda and the Chico team

Paradise Library – Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian

- **Karen Rigby-Alexander** attended a training in Sacramento: Leading from Any Position and Kimberlee attended a Social Media Training with Butte County. Rhoda finished her Reference online course and Susie finished her Introduction to Library Management online course both through Infopeople.
- **Kimberlee Wheeler** attended a Family Fun Event at Vista Preschool and mentored 4 High School Senior Projects totaling 29 ½ hours of volunteer work for the library.
- Kimberlee and **Rhoda Boyd** were in the Gold Nugget Day parade with the Library Literacy Coach.
- **Susie Serrano** worked with the **Paradise Friends of the Library** to host a local author night and poetry contest event with a poetry reading April 29th. Susie also joined Pamela Teeter to accept a proclamation for National Poetry Month at the April Paradise Town Council Meeting.
- The Paradise Seed Lending Library is now open and ready for library card holders to checkout seeds, grow their crop, and harvest their seeds for return to the library.
- Karen planned and hosted a Crafting for Adults program making “Mosaics” in March, and Kimberlee hosted Crafting with Recycled Books in April.
- National Library week was celebrated with National Library Workers Day, Patron Appreciation Day, Craft Day, Author Night and music with Gene Kelly.
- Our busiest day was Thursday, April 2nd when over 600 people used the library!

Literacy Services – Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator

- Literacy Coach continues to provide weekly programs (thanks to a State Library grant) at 2 Oroville community parks in an effort to reach adults who may need some help with their reading and writing.
- In an effort to reach potential adult learners Literacy Coach attends/visits: State Preschool (at the Labor Camp) Family Event, Parent Education Experiential Resource family reunification,

Parent Café, Children's Fair (in Chico), Gold Nugget Day Parade (Paradise) and various nonprofit preschools.

- Literacy staff attend AB86 Final Meeting
- We continue to prepare for the Jim Gill county-wide tour which includes securing locations/venues.



- Library Literacy Services logo is officially approved by County Administration

Outreach – Oliver Allen, Outreach Coordinator

Outreach Activities

March 28th Spring Fest- Chico Mall

April 18th Children's Faire- Chico downtown plaza

April 23rd Plaza Palooza- Chico

25th Gold Nugget days – Paradise

28th Koyo radio interview- Oroville

May 2nd Chico farmers market

8th Baby spring fling- Paradise

8th Friday night concert- Chico

9th Chocolatefest- Paradise

12th Paradise farmers market

13th N. valley farmers market- Chico

14th Veggiefest – Oroville

16th Oroville Farmers Market

19th Veggiefest – Gridley

We will be at Farmers markets in 4 communities/ Paradise parties in the park throughout the summer.

- Library survey ongoing- will report on findings at next meeting.
- Book bike/pop up library services coming in June
- Outreach/Library service to summer lunch locations in Chico with Ricardo Ramirez
- Expanded school visits in fall 2015
- Pursuing Digital Literacy grants for rural/ homeless and seniors