



# Butte County Library

## County Librarian's Report For the Library Advisory Board

### July and August, 2015

#### Administration – Mel Lightbody, County Librarian

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All of our branch libraries held successful summer reading programs. This year's "Read to the Rhythm" theme allowed a great range of creative arts experiences and engagement, from children making music, learning about music, and experiencing music –all with tie-ins to literacy, the library, and the community. Free performances, from classical guitar to qeej (a Hmong instrument) to traditional belly-dancing, played a prominent role in the library's goal to engage and inspire learning at the library this summer. Summer reading programs help to combat "summer slide" and keep kids and teens connected with library fun over summer break.

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Usage is down somewhat at the Chico branch, although the number of patrons continue to climb. Since July 1, the branch has registered 769 new library users. Circulation and visits typically drop in August from July highs, as the library takes a hiatus from many children's programs. However, August's circulation dropped below 50,000 items for the first time in many months, and August 2015 visits were down about 2500 from last August.

On the staff side, we've worked diligently throughout July and August to gather data about how/when the library is being used, and how staff are conducting library services. The abrupt shift in schedule in Chico was the impetus to conduct an overall service analysis of the library and look at holistic solutions to efficiently provide the high quality of library service expected by our communities. Staff collected daily and hourly statistics on check-ins, questions answered, number of people in the library, and more, as well as provided their own thoughts and insights on library services. County Administration is helping compile these data into a staff report which will likely lead to recommendations to improve efficiency and level of service at current funding levels.

In personnel news, we regret to share that our excellent children's librarian, **Kristine Macalalad**, is leaving Butte County for a similar job at the Escondido Public Library, effective the end of this month. Meanwhile, **Sarah Vantrease** has been hired as the Assistant Director, and will be continuing her role as Oroville Branch Librarian in addition to expanded administrative duties.

#### Overall Highlights:

- Literacy Services needs more tutors to help adults improve their reading and writing.
- The Paradise branch is moving forward with the parking lot expansion project.
- The Chico branch's Video Editing Lab is now open.
- Patrons and staff are adjusting to the Chico branch hours.
- Oroville branch served a wide range of children and teens in the summer reading challenge.
- Gridley, Durham and Biggs branches were active in community partnerships.
- Successful outreach to summer lunch sites in Chico to engage children with the library.

## Literacy Services -- Heather Tovey, Literacy Coordinator

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- 4250 children and adults in Butte County heard the message from the Literacy Coach that adults who struggle with their reading and writing can find help at their library (2014/2015 fiscal year).
- Tutor Training is open to potential volunteer tutors September 19th and September 26th. We need additional tutors.
- The Day Reporting Center (Sheriff Office) continues to have adults who seek our tutors.
- Mark your calendars! November 6th in the Sierra Nevada BIG ROOM Literacy Services will host the 9th annual Trivia Bee for Literacy.
- Butte County Library, Literacy Services lost our dear friend, supporter and advocate Parke Colbert August 19, 2015. From the State Capitol, gentle one-on-one conversations, to the Board room, Parke generously shared his message that "it's never too late to learn to read."

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## Paradise Branch -- Susie Serrano, Branch Librarian

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- The Paradise Friends (PFOL) were awarded \$1,755.75 for their efforts at the annual Chocolate Fest (\$1,355.75 for our efforts and grant application--we were also awarded \$400.00 from Caitlin Hardiman, Chocolate Queen Candidate, sponsored by RaboBank!)
  - The PFOL approved funds for a new parking lot expansion connecting the library and Masonic Lodge parking lots and the first meeting with Butte County was held in August to start the planning process.
  - This year we hosted a kick-off to summer reading and an end of the summer party next door in the parking lot at the Masonic Lodge. The PFOL sponsored the event as well as our Summer Reading program. At each event we had live music, bounce house, food and activities for children and teens. **Kimberlee Wheeler** even promoted our end party on the local Action News at Noon!
  - **Rhoda Boyd** ran the adult summer reading program and created a piano key display with the 176 book reviews turned in by adults.
  - Kimberlee and **Karen Rigby-Alexander** hosted an after-hours program for teens to end the summer reading program including food, games and crafts sponsored by PFOL.
  - Summer Reading Statistics for the Paradise Branch:
    - We hosted 49 adult programs with 422 adults attending
    - 8 Teen programs with 34 attending
    - 30 Children's programs with 977 attending
    - Sign-ups: 228 children, 25 adults and 23 Teens for our summer reading program.
    - Adults read 176 books, Teens read 240 hours, and Children read 3,070 books
  - Kimberlee is now working at the Chico Branch and **Paula Tarrant** is covering Youth Services in Paradise until June 2016
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July

- There was a feeling of sadness, low morale, frustration, lack of appreciation for their hard work among staff and volunteers over the loss of City of Chico funding and the fact that the Butte County BOS would not backfill the funds lost. The most upset patrons seemed to be parents of little tots from babies through toddlers who were very happy with the programs and time of programs offered by the branch for their children. Staff struggled with a new plan for youth programming. Times changed as did audiences to some degree. The new schedules are becoming part of family and child routines, and a sense of normalcy is returning.
- Video Editing Lab held a Kick Off/Open House which was visited by many in the community, including BOS Larry Wahl. The teens showed the video created during the past few months.
- End of Summer Party was enjoyed by over 400. The activities took place on the east lawn under the redwoods. The party outgrew the branch last summer.

August

- Storytimes took a rest. **Kristine Macalalad** transferred to Oroville as our Countywide Children's Librarian. Part-time SLA **Lucas Sarcona** transferred to Gridley Branch & continued working some extra hours for Chico. Then Sarcona promoted to a full time SLA position with Literacy. Sarcona is on the move again – continuing with Literacy as extra help and working on a Master's Degree in Psychology at CSUC. **Kimberlee Wheeler**, SLA for Children's Services in Paradise, transferred to Chico to take the spot Macalalad vacated!
  - We have a new table in teens. Now the three blue tables snake through the area. **Leslie Botsford** rearranged the teen bulletin board and has a new place for magnetic poetry.
  - iPad minis were installed on posts in both children's and teen areas. Patrons can now look in the catalog and search the "accelerated reader" (AR) level for titles from either location.
  - We moved check-in to just inside the workroom and are taking advantage of the slot in the wall book drop. Tuesdays are called "Tsunami Tuesday" by staff. We begin at 8:30 with two people checking in from the book drop and the flow continues through the first couple of hours that we are open. By 2 pm we have caught up from the morning; just in time for the flood from after school youth returning their materials. We have only had the new set up in place for 1 ½ weeks, but the flow is better. We and patrons are adjusting to new routines.
  - Two iPad minis in the children's room mounted on tables are available for half-hour sessions for children to play educational games with parental supervision. During the first week the two stations have been popular with the child/parent team & half-hour use is working well.
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## Oroville Branch -- Sarah Vantrease, Branch Librarian

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- July-August programming attracted 900 participants, from babies to adults. Two music events drew the largest crowds by far. The Oroville Community Concert Band shared an evening concert to about 110 music fans in July, including a group of visiting professors from Taiwan. 160 Oroville residents, mostly children, teens and families, enjoyed a party on the lawn celebrating the end of the summer reading program with a bounce house, free shave ice, giveaways from partner organizations, and a performance by local guitarist Gene Kelly.
- Overall, 228 young people, including 52 teenagers, signed up for Oroville's summer reading program. The students came from over 40 different local schools, with highest participation rates from Ophir Elementary, Stanford Ave. Elementary, Sierra Ave. Elementary, Oroville Christian School, Bangor Elementary, Central Middle School, and Nelson Middle School—as well as a handful of home-schoolers.
- By the end of the summer, 151 Oroville children and teens reported reading (or listening to) 5 or more books during the summer. Reading at least four to five books over the summer has been shown to prevent “summer slide,” the academic decline experienced by children during vacation.
- Oroville staff, including countywide children's librarian **Kristine Macalalad**, have begun to attend the OARS support committee meetings, which aim to connect Oroville organizations serving young adults, in order to collaborate and partner for improved service. Participation has led to several good connections already, such as LiveSpot teen volunteers helping with the large children's event and contacts with the high schools, allowing Kristine to table at Oroville High's freshman orientation.
- **Laura-Lyn Burch** has officially joined the staff in a limited-term, part-time SLA role. She is coordinating volunteer services for the branch. **Heidi Cress's** special project this fall is “golden oldies” film screenings on weekday afternoons, and **Meybel Van Wagenen** is leading a mini-grant program aimed at connecting families around shared art projects.

## Gridley, Biggs, Durham branches -- Cynthia Pustejovsky, Branch Librarian

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### Gridley

- 44 programs for adults, teens and children, in the branch and at the Labor Camp, total attendance 755.
- Partnered with Butte Co. Public Health for two nutrition programs for school-aged children.
- Partnered with BCOE Migrant Education for three summer school programs.
- Library had a booth at Relay for Life Saturday, July 18 – stories, crafts, games for preschool and elementary aged children.
- Gridley Friends received 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbon for their exhibit in the Flower Bowl at the Butte Co. Fair – “A Reading Garden.”

### Durham

- 17 programs for adults, tweens and children, total attendance 307.
- Summer Reading Grand Finale with John Carter, total attendance 58.

- 10 summer school and preschool class visits, total visitors 124.
- DFOL established a Preservation and Digitization committee to digitize Durham newspapers and other ephemera to be pdf searchable via the Internet. **Dale Wangberg**, branch staff, is on the committee.

### Biggs

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- 4 Game days for school-aged children, total attendance 37.
- Booth at National Night Out community event – branch staff and librarian partnered with Biggs Women’s Club, gave away books and 65 treat bags (bookmark, sticker, crayons and a coloring book).
- Received a donation of 25 new beginning chapter books, much needed!

### Outreach -- Oliver Allen, Outreach Coordinator

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- 16 visits to summer lunch program sites to introduce and conduct library services, with the help of Chico branch SLA **Ricardo Ramirez**.
- Tabled at six community events highlighting services and issuing library cards.
- Tabulated and prepared report from Library Survey.
- A new outreach tool—a book bike--has been created and will be unveiled September 12th.
- E-mail contact with nearly every school principal in Butte County informing of library services for students and teachers.
- Worked on defining and refining the Butte County Library “brand and “voice.”
- Installed two “Little Free Libraries.”
- The Butte County Library will be a member of the Butte Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency Board.