

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 2**

MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 25, 2008

AGENDA ITEM #: 8

ITEM: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Commissioners or Library staff may make announcements regarding the Library Commission and Library or Friends group activities of interest to other Library Commission members.



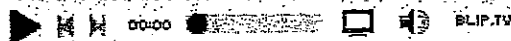
Contra Costa County Library

Bringing People and Ideas Together



National Literacy Month

Literacy: Your Key to Well Being



Barriers to Reading

Do you, or does someone you know, have a barrier to reading? Here are a few free library services that might help.

- **Books for the Homebound**
Volunteers deliver books and audio-books to Contra Costa individuals who are homebound or living in residential care facilities. Contact slapat@ccclib.org for more information.
- **Braille & Talking Books**
The [California State Library](#) provides Braille and talking books, and playback equipment to Northern California residents who are unable to read print or hold a book.
- **Audio-books**
The Contra Costa County Library also has a large collection of [digital](#) and [physical](#) talking books.
- **Project Second Chance**
Contra Costa County Library offers free, confidential one-on-one basic [literacy instruction](#) to people who are over 16 years of age, out of school and conversant in English.

Read It!

Here are a few more library resources to help you learn about health, or reading, or both.



Literacy and Your Health

Did you know low literacy skills cost the United States an estimated \$73 billion annually in healthcare costs?

Did you know that 42% of adult respondents did not understand the instructions, "take this medicine on an empty stomach"?

The theme for this year's National Literacy Month is **Literacy: Your Key to Well Being**. Join the library in raising awareness of the health issues related to literacy.



"Teaching Reading IS rocket science."

- Louisa Moats

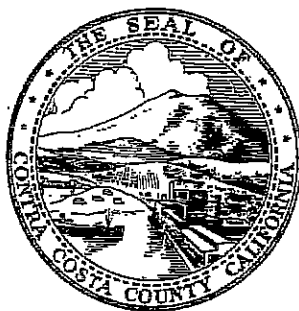
Upcoming Literacy Programs

Big Book of Names

When: Tuesday September 16th, 2008 - All Day

Where: Lafayette Library

Preschoolers write your first name in our "BIG BOOK OF NAMES" during Literacy Month. Find the letter page in which your name begins and print your name. It's fun!



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY

*Please join us for the opening day celebration of the Pesher Library at the
Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility*

*Wednesday September 24th, 2008
2-4 p.m.*

*Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility
4491 Dixler Rd.
Byron, CA 94514*

*Please RSVP by Sept. 10th
Allison McKee (925) 957-2704
amckee@ccclib.org*



Contra
Costa
County

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: Anne Cain, County Librarian
Lionel Chatman, County Probation Officer

DATE: 12 August 2008

SUBJECT: ADOPT Resolution No. 2008/545 Authorizing the Designation of the Library at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility the Lesher Library.

SPECIFIC REQUEST (S) OR RECOMMENDATION (S) & BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

RECOMMENDATION

ADOPT resolution No. 2008/545 authorizing the designation of the library at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility the Lesher Library, in honor of the Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation who donated \$70,000 to establish and develop the new library.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

No impact.

BACKGROUND

On January 22, 2008, the Board of Supervisors recognized the Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation for its contributions to improving literacy and library service in Contra Costa County. The Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation contributed \$2.25 million to the capital campaigns for new libraries in Orinda, Lafayette and Walnut Creek. Committed to bringing services to the underserved, the Dean and Margaret Lesher Foundation donated \$100,000 to the Contra Costa County Library to open the Betty Frandsen Library at the John A. Davis Juvenile Hall in 2006. Based on the outstanding success of this effort, the Lesher Foundation subsequently donated \$70,000 to open a library at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility (OAYRF) in Byron. This library is scheduled to open on September 24, 2008.

The Library and the Probation Department recommend that the library at OAYRF be named the Lesher Library. This request complies with the Board's policy on the Naming of County Buildings (Administrative Bulletin 538).

CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT: YES

SIGNATURE: Anne Cain

RECOMMENDATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

APPROVE OTHER

SIGNATURE(S):

Jason Byro

ACTION OF BOARD ON August 12, 2008

APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED OTHER

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS:

UNANIMOUS (ABSENT _____)

AYES: _____ NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

Contact: Anne Cain, County Librarian
(925) 648-6423

cc: County Library Administration
County Probation
County Administrator
County Auditor

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF AN ACTION TAKEN AND ENTERED ON THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE DATE SHOWN.

ATTESTED

August 12, 2008

JOHN CULLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

By Katherine Smilani, Deputy

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

In the Matter of Naming the library at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility the Leshner Library

RESOLUTION NO. 2008/545

WHEREAS, the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation enhances the quality of life in Contra Costa County through charitable giving to support education, the arts, and children & families, AND

WHEREAS, the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation supports organizations and programs that provide help and support to people in need, offer significant educational support to youth and promote a healthy and exciting future, AND

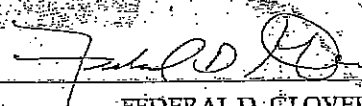
WHEREAS, the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation was recognized by the Board of Supervisors on January 22, 2008 for significant contributions and ongoing support to literacy and library services in Contra Costa County, AND

WHEREAS, the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation provided funding to create new libraries for the youth at Juvenile Hall and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility,

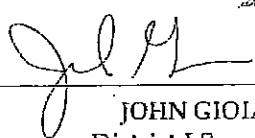
THEREFORE be it resolved that,

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approves naming the new library at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility the Leshner Library.

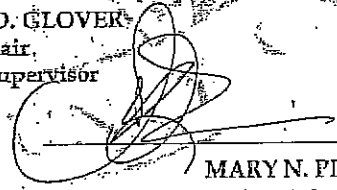
PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present
this 12th day of August 2008.



FEDERAL D. GLOVER
Chair,
District V Supervisor



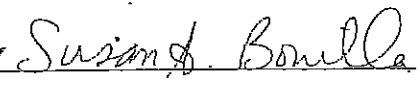
JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor



MARY N. PIEPHO
District III Supervisor



GAYLE B. ULKEMA
District II Supervisor



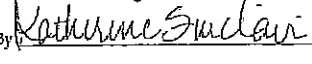
SUSAN BONILLA
District IV Supervisor



I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown:

ATTESTED: August 12, 2008

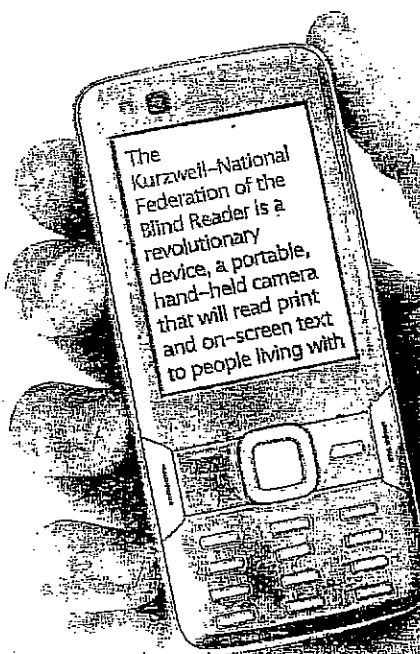
JOHN CULLEN, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By  Deputy

HEALTH JOURNAL



JORDY (top) is worn like a pair of glasses; KnfbReader Mobile (right) uses character recognition software to read text aloud; LowBrowse software (below) lets you display the text of any Web page in a banner in the type size and style you prefer.



Founded in

LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL

Welcome to Lighthouse International

Whether you're looking for information on accessibility, assistive technology, or low vision, we have a link to help you find what you need. You'll find information on our website, including our directory of services and products.

High Technology For Low Vision

SHARON FOWLER HAD to stop teaching after 31 years when hemorrhages behind her retinas severely reduced her vision. "When you can't tell who's who and what's flying across the room, it's time to quit," she says. She kept playing drums in her church band, but couldn't see the sheet music. "They had to wave at me to tell me when to stop," says the 58-year-old Parkersville, W. Va., resident.

Then, vision-rehabilitation experts at the Duke Eye Center in Durham, N.C., fitted Ms. Fowler with glasses that had an adjustable telescopic lens, and her world opened up again. "I can see individual leaves and blades of grass," she marvels. "And when I realized I could read music again, I just started crying."

Even if you can read this, chances are you know somebody who can't. More than 16 million Americans report some form of visual impairment even when wearing glasses or contacts. That number is expected to double by 2030 as the aging population brings rising rates of macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and other eye diseases.

But "low vision" (technically, worse than 20/60 in the better eye) doesn't have to mean darkness and dependence. An ever-growing array of devices can help people maximize their remaining vision and in many cases, compensate for what they've lost. Some of



By Melinda Beck

the new offerings: free software that can tailor the text on any Web site to your personal visual needs, and a cell-phone that can snap photos of text-like signs and restaurant menus—and read it back to you.

"These products solve people's problems," says Jerry Mansell, vision-rehabilitation coordinator at the Duke Eye Center. But he cautions that they can be a waste of money if they aren't suited to individual needs.

Ideally, people who are visually impaired should have a comprehensive vision rehab assessment. This includes a visit with an eye doctor, a technology specialist and an occupational therapist.

Please turn to the next page

Continued from the prior page
 fional therapist who can evaluate a person's limits and goals. "Artists and musicians need different help than somebody who just wants to be able to watch TV," says Diane B. Whitaker, director of vision rehabilitation at Duke Eye Center, which offers such services. "Many people don't know these resources exist," she adds, in part because ophthalmologists have traditionally seen vision rehab as a last resort.

Lighthouse International, a nonprofit organization in New York, also offers vision rehab. "We'll even go to your office and talk to your boss. We'll give you the technology you need to keep your job," says Leslie Gottlieb, a Lighthouse spokeswoman. The group's Web site, Lighthouse.org, has a list of low-vision resources around the world.

Medicare and private insurance will pay for a doctor's evaluation and occupational therapy. Devices generally aren't covered, but low-vision clinics may be able to get discounts for you or suggest lower-priced alternatives.

The biggest obstacle to seeking help is often psychological. "Many people we see have been told there's nothing that can be done for them. They've gotten depressed and given up," Mr. Mansell says. "But when they find they can regain some functions, their quality of life improves tremendously."

Here's a look at some of the newest technologies:

■ **Customizing a computer.** Starting today, you can download a free software program from Lighthouse called LowBrowse. As you read any Web page, the line of text beneath your cursor appears in a banner across the top of the screen. The software lets you select the type size, style, color and spacing of the text that appears in the banner. Your preferences travel with you as you surf the Web, so you have to set them only once.

LowBrowse, which also can read the text aloud and magnify images, is available at www.LowBrowse.org or at the add-ons site for Mozilla Firefox. It's compatible with Windows, MacOS and Linux, but requires the Firefox browser.

■ **Reading on the go.** The Krf-

Where to Find Help:

- www.Lighthouse.org
See "Help Near You" for low vision resources in your city, state or country
- www.Dukeeye.org
For comprehensive vision rehab services
- **State offices for the blind and visually impaired**
- **Contacts by Design**
Dan Myer, 404-323-2020
- www.enhancedvision.com
Desktop and portable magnifiers and the JORDY
- www.bookcourier.com
For the BookCourier portable player
- www.loc.gov/nls
Library of Congress
- www.jitterbug.com
Jitterbug phones



The Trekker Breeze is a portable GPS system that can tell you your location and announce the names of streets.

bReader Mobile is a cellphone with a camera. Take a photo of any text, and the phone reads it back to you aloud or via headphones. The device, which costs \$2,195, can store thousands of pages, and you can adjust the speed and pitch of the computerized reading voice.

■ **You are here.** Another handheld helper is the Trekker Breeze by HumanWare, a global-positioning system that announces the names of streets and intersections as you are walking or riding. With the press of a button, it tells you your location. The cost is \$895.

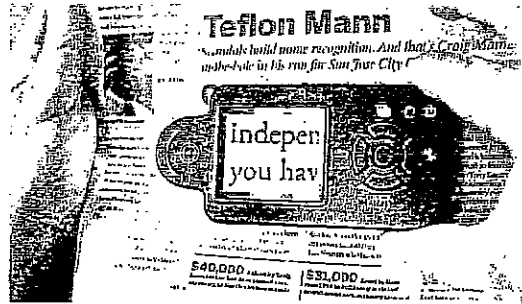
■ **Mimi magnifiers.** Desktop devices that magnify reading material, photographs—even your hands as you sew or write checks—have been around for years. New portable versions come as small as paperback books. They cost from \$220 to \$1,300, but promise much more clarity, contrast and flexibility than an ordinary magnifying glass.

■ **Real reality glasses.** Like a virtual-reality system, the JORDY glasses by Enhanced Vision can magnify objects as much as 30 times and display them on a tiny embedded TV screen. The focus can be adjusted so users can see faces, watch TV or follow ballgames in a stadium. It's \$2,995, and converts to a desktop viewer.

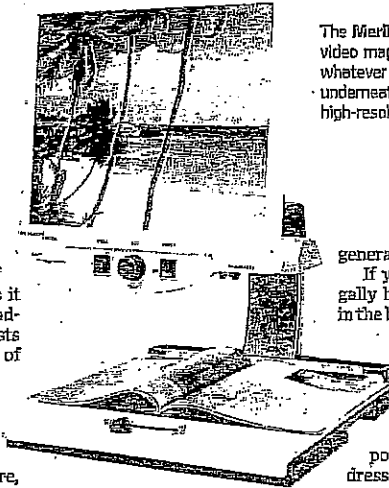
Specialty eyeglass makers can also insert telescopic lenses into regular glasses, and adjust the focus with different caps for different distances, as Ms. Fowler had done at Duke.

■ **Prosthetic contacts.** Custom contact lenses—fit to thousands of reference points on the eye—can sometimes correct problems that off-the-shelf contacts can't, including corneas damaged by trauma. A hunting accident left Bill Robinson, a former chief financial officer, with no vision in one eye and nearly blind in the other. But Dan Myer, a custom contact-lens designer in Atlanta, created a prosthetic lens that has given Mr. Robinson good functional vision, enabling him to drive and work as a CPA.

■ **Staying connected.** Cell-phones can help the visually im-



The Clarity i-vu magnifies print up to 20 times and can alter the contrast to make menus, books and currency easier to read.



The Merlin LCD desktop video magnifier displays whatever you place underneath it on a high-resolution monitor.

generally \$30 to \$40 each.

If you're registered as legally blind (20/200 or worse in the better eye), you can sign up to receive a free tape player and unlimited free books on tape from the Library of Congress.

You mail them back postage-free in a pre-addressed plastic mailer.

■ **Gadgets galore.** A legion of simple, low-tech products—like large-print playing cards, kitchen timers, measuring cups and computer keyboards—can make life easier for the visually impaired. So can the EZ Fill, a battery-powered alarm that hooks onto a mug and beeps when it's almost full. And the Hi Mark 3D writing pen is a tube of goo for labeling appliances and other objects around the home so they can be identified by feel.

Email: healthjournal@wsj.com

WSJ.com

ONLINE TODAY: See a demonstration of the new LowBrowse software, and join a discussion, at WSJ.com/Health.

paired maintain mobility and independence, but can be difficult to use. The Jitterbug, by Samsung, has extra large buttons and display. And its cousin, the Jitterbug One-Touch, has only three buttons—one for 911, one for any number you program in, and one for a dedicated phone operator who will place other calls for you. Both are \$147. Monthly contracts run from \$10 to \$40.

■ **Heard any good books?** BookCourier, \$395 from Springer Design Inc., is a simple pocket-size player that can hold up to 10 audio books at a time; they can be downloaded from services like Audible.com and BookShare.org.

PlayAway books have a built-in audio player. You buy the "book" and just hit play. More than 1,400 titles are available,



Contra Costa County Library

Bringing People and Ideas Together

[Library Home](#) » [Guides Home](#) » [One City, One Book \(http://guides.ccclib.org/onebook\)](http://guides.ccclib.org/onebook)

One City, One Book Last update: Sep 16, 2008

One City, One Book programs are designed to foster community discussion about books by encouraging an entire community to read the same book at the same time. This year, 5 Contra Costa communities are participating in their own "One City, One Book" event.

[Home](#) [Brentwood CityRead](#) [Concord](#) [Lamorinda Reads](#) [San Ramon Valley CityRead](#) [Walnut Creek Reads](#)

[Home](#) [Comments \(0\)](#)

Search:

2008 One City, One Book Programs

Talking about books with friends, family, and neighbors promotes reading, encourages the exchange of ideas, stimulates critical thinking and sparks public conversation. One City, One Book programs are designed to foster community discussion about books by encouraging an entire community to read the same book at the same time.

This year, five Contra Costa County communities are participating in their own "One City, One Book" event.

[Brentwood](#) | [Concord](#) | [Lamorinda](#) | [San Ramon Valley](#) | [Walnut Creek](#)

[Comments \(0\)](#)

What are You Reading?



[Comments \(0\)](#)

One City, One Book



Talking about books with friends, family, and neighbors promotes reading, encourages the exchange of ideas, stimulates critical thinking and sparks public conversation. One City, One Book programs are designed to foster community discussion about books by encouraging an entire community to read the same book at the same time.

This year, five Contra Costa County communities are participating in their own "One City, One Book " event; Brentwood, Concord, Lamorinda, San Ramon Valley, and Walnut Creek.

- **Brentwood CityRead - Sept 15 to Oct 25**<http://cweb.ccclib.org/cgi-bin/cw.cgi?5500+CONFIGcwp.ini+useDatabase 2100 W samurai%27s%20garden>
- Deadgame
- by Kirk Russell
-
- **Concord - Sept 18 to Oct 31**<http://cweb.ccclib.org/cgi-bin/cw.cgi?5500+CONFIGcwp.ini+useDatabase 2100 W fahrenheit%20451>
- The Maltese Falcon
- by Dashiell Hammett
-
- **Lamorinda Reads - Oct 13 to Nov 12**<http://cweb.ccclib.org/cgi-bin/cw.cgi?5500+CONFIGcwp.ini+useDatabase 2100 W soundless%20sea%20steinbeck>
- Funny in Farsi
- by Firoozeh Dumas
-
- **San Ramon Valley Two Cities, One Tale - Sept 17 to Oct 29**<http://cweb.ccclib.org/cgi-bin/cw.cgi?5500+CONFIGcwp.ini+useDatabase 2100 W locked%20rooms%20king%20russell>
- Kabul Beauty School
- by Deborah Rodriguez
-
- **Walnut Creek Reads - Sept 22 to Oct 16**
- The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid
- by Bill Bryson



Contra Costa County Library

Bringing People and Ideas Together



Online Homework Help

[In-Library Access](#) | [Remote Access](#)

HelpNow Online Homework Help FAQ's

What is HelpNow?

HelpNow gives you instant access to expert tutors who can help you tackle a homework problem, learn an academic skill, or write a term-paper. Students in grades 3rd-12th can access HelpNow between the hours of 1:00 pm and 10:00 pm PST 7 days per week. The writing lab accepts submissions 24/7.

What services does HelpNow offer?

- **Conventional Homework Help:** You may submit a question in our online classroom and receive live, one-on-one assistance from a Brainfuse tutor.
- **Skills-Building:** Our skills building service helps you master a concept or skill through state-aligned online lessons, presented by Brainfuse tutors in one-to-one sessions. HelpNow Skills Building has been designed for a variety of age groups and academic needs.
- **24-Hour Writing Lab:** Our writing instructors help you become better writers by providing constructive feedback, and other assistance, within 24 hours of receiving a student's submission.
- **Full Spanish Speaking Service:** Spanish-speaking tutors are offered coextensively (same subjects and hours of availability) with our English-speaking tutors.

What is the difference between "Homework Help" and "Skills Building"?

As the name implies, when you need help with your homework, select "Homework Help". If you need help with a specific academic skill, such as mastering long division or improving your reading comprehension, select "Skills Building" and you will be connected with one of our live tutors. Our skills building tutors utilize our library of state-aligned online materials in interactive skills building exercises.

How does the writing lab work?

HelpNow is the first service of its kind to offer several types of writing assistance: Live Writing Assistance - Live writing assistance during the initial stages of the writing process can help you with organizational structure, idea brainstorming, preparing an outline, etc.

24-Hour Writing Lab – You may submit your writing in file format. Our writing tutors will return the file with comments within 24 hours. It should be noted that the purpose of this service is not to write or edit essays for students but to serve as a sounding board in order to help students better organize and present their thoughts. Our writing experts are trained to evaluate your writing in terms of voice, word choice, ideas & content, sentence fluency, organization, and conventions.

Is Registration Required?

Although you will need your **library card** number/last name in order to access HelpNow outside of one of our community libraries, registering is optional. Doing so will provide you with a username and password where you can review past sessions and use the writing lab.



Contra Costa County Library

Bringing People and Ideas Together

(925) 973 - 3380
amatthew@ccclib.org



VIRTUAL STORYTIME

Contra Costa County Library Introduces Children's Storytime Podcasts

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY— Can't make it to the library for a traditional storytime? Now children can enjoy listening to a children's librarian share nursery rhymes and stories over the Internet through Contra Costa County Library's newest service, storytime podcasts. The library is hosting two initial podcasts. For older kids there's the Chapter a Week Podcast, featuring a new chapter every Monday. For younger kids there's the Online Storytime Podcast, featuring a new story or nursery rhyme every Tuesday.

Podcasting is a simple means of distributing audio content over the Internet. The term 'podcast,' a combination of the words 'iPod' and 'broadcast,' is meant to imply that these are radio type programs that can be downloaded and listened to on an iPod or other MP3 player. Users can listen to the library's podcasts online at ccclib.wordpress.com or they can download the podcasts to their home computer.

For more information about this and other library services visit the library online at ccclib.org. Happy listening!

###

View [more press releases](#).

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [DOWNLOADS](#)



The Bremen Town Musicians



Four old animals: a donkey, a dog, a cat, and a rooster decide to start new lives in the town of Bremen. But their 'music' leads them in a different way.

Bremen-Town-Musicians

read by Lin

Add comment | September 16, 2008

Podcasts

[Chapter a Week](#)

[Online Storytime](#)

Archives

[September 2008](#)

[August 2008](#)

[July 2008](#)

[June 2008](#)

[May 2008](#)

Chapter Six - The Wind in the Willows

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame is a tale of the adventures of four animal friends who live along a river in the English country side— Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger.



In Chapter Six, Badger comes up with a plan to cure Toad of his obsession with motorcars, and Rat and Mole eagerly agree to help. Unfortunately, the sly Mr. Toad has a plan of his own....

Chapter 6 - Mr. Toad

From *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

Read by Suzanne

Add comment | September 15, 2008

Calendar

September 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				


« Aug

The Princess and the Pea

A princess (no, I mean a *real* princess) arrives at a castle on a dark and stormy night. The queen decides to test her claim to princess status by placing a tiny pea beneath a mountain of mattresses. After all a *real* princess would be able to feel it.



This is a funny retelling of this classic children's favorite.

 The Princess and the Pea
by Hans Christian Anderson
read by Catherine

Add comment | September 9, 2008

Chapter Five - The Wind in the Willows

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame is a tale of the adventures of four animal friends who live along a river in the English country side— Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger.



In Chapter Five, Mole finds something important he had lost, loses it again, and then with Rat's help, recovers it once and for all.


Chapter 5 - Dulce Domum
From *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
Read by Suzanne

Add comment | September 8, 2008

The Three Little Pigs

Three little pigs leave home to seek their fortunes and have to deal with a threatening wolf.



 The Three Little Pigs
Read by Dayni

Add comment | September 2, 2008

San Pablo Library



A valuable resource

The San Pablo Library offers free access to 1.4 million books, movies, magazines, and more through the Contra Costa County Library, including 37,500 items available locally in San Pablo.

Between July 2007 and June 2008, community members checked out 75,365 items from the San Pablo Library. A 2007 study by the San Francisco Public Library found the average market value of each library item checked out is \$9.45. According to these estimates, the economic benefit that members of the San Pablo community received in the last 12 months by using library collections is worth approximately \$712,199.



Community Partner

The library is a key partner in a child's education, providing materials to supplement school curriculum, assist with homework, and encourage curiosity. With generous funding from the San Pablo Community Foundation, the San Pablo Library will partner with local schools to offer science enrichment activities for K-12 students during the 2008-2009 school year.

During 2009, the San Pablo Library hopes to partner with Contra Costa College to offer workshops on home ownership as part of a grant project funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

2300 El Portal Dr.
San Pablo, CA 94806
510.374.3998
<http://ccclib.org>

Fast Facts

Items checked out in the last 12 months:	75,365
Registered library members:	20,269
Hours open each week:	35
Visits each week:	2,150
Internet computers:	10
Items available for checkout:	1.4 million
Questions answered each week:	350

Bringing People and Ideas Together

The library provides a safe gathering space for people of all ages to learn and socialize.



Got a question?

Each week, staff at the San Pablo Library answer over 350 questions.

Who asks questions at the library?

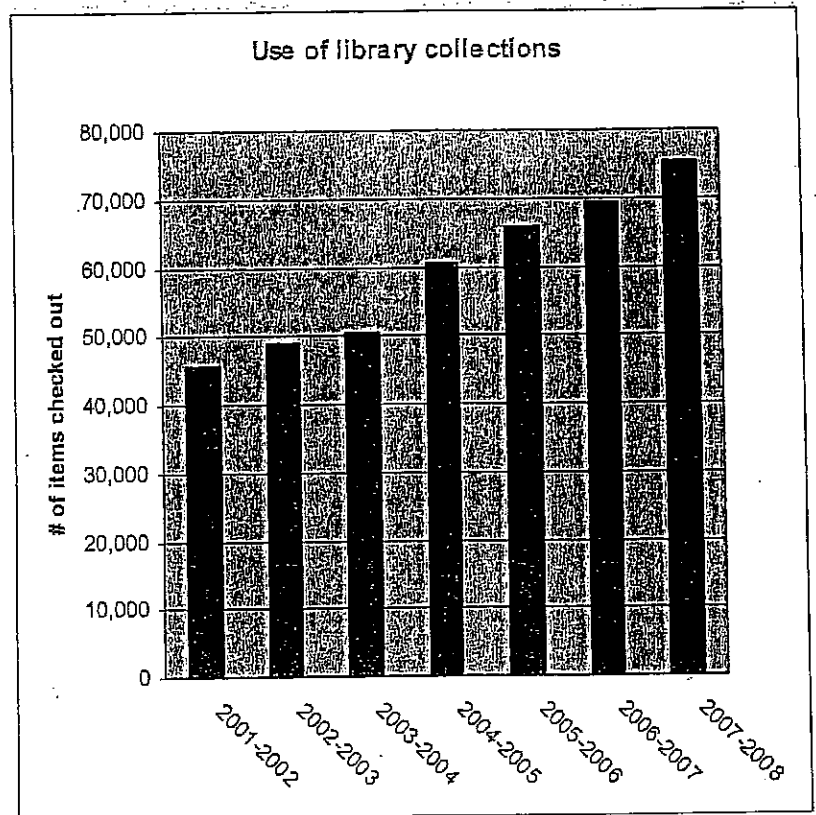
- a high school student who needs help filling out an online job application
- a senior looking for tax forms
- a teacher seeking practice exams to help her qualify for a teaching credential
- a recent immigrant who wants to start a small business
- a 3rd grade student with a homework assignment on coyotes
- a mother eager to learn about using sign language to communicate with her baby

Increasing demand

With over 20,000 registered library members, roughly 7 out of every 10 San Pablo residents have library cards.

During the first half of July 2008, an average of 2,150 people visited the library each week – 430 people each day that the library is open.

From January to March of 2008, 1087 youth attended programs in the library. Attendance at library programs for youth has doubled, up from 436 during the same three-month period in 2005.



The number of items checked out during June 2008 increased 27% in comparison to June 2007, and overall use during fiscal year 2007-2008 increased 9%.

Access to technology

The San Pablo Library forms an essential part of the community's information infrastructure by providing free and equal access to computers and the Internet. For many San Pablo families, the Library is the only place to use computers and access the Internet. Library staff also help the public gain skills to operate computers and use information successfully.

During June 2008, the library's 10 Internet computers were in use 79% of the time that the library was open, totaling 1167 hours of computer use. Computer use at the San Pablo Library is the highest of any Contra Costa County Library.

9/17/08

UPDATE

Governor Announces Plans to Veto Budget Plan Legislature Threatens Override

Yesterday afternoon Governor Schwarzenegger held a press conference in which he discussed his intentions to veto the newly approved Budget plan which passed the Legislature early this morning. He also discussed the potential of the Legislature overriding his veto, to which he explained that in such a case, he would veto hundreds of bills that have been sent to his desk after he carefully evaluates each bill's fiscal impact.

The Governor said "enough is enough," citing insufficient Budget reform and borrowing from small businesses and taxpayers as reasons he will veto the Budget put forth by the Legislature. He explained that "the way the Budget is now, we will need a huge tax increase or to cut education next year."

Earlier today when asked about the potential of a Governor's veto, Senator Cogdill, the Senate Republican leader replied: "I believe that the Legislature will override the veto." Speaker Karen Bass also said that she was confident that the Assembly would override a veto.

The last time that California's Legislature overrode a Governor's veto was in July of 1979, when former Governor Jerry Brown vetoed a bill that granted a pay raise to state workers.

Submitted by Mike Dillon and Christina Dillon, CLA Lobbyists

A Done Deal!

Senate and Assembly Pass the State Budget

No Proposition 1A Borrowing; and Popular State Literacy Program Appears to Have Survived Elimination
After 77 days of the most prolonged, divisive State Budget negotiations in California history, the four top legislative leaders came to an agreement on Sunday afternoon. Keeping details of the terms of the deal close to the vest, the leaders addressed the media and said that they would be taking their proposed package to a Floor vote on Monday, provided they received approval from their respective caucuses. Shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday, both Floors convened for the purpose of vetting the proposal in caucus. Legislators in both the Assembly and Senate commenced Floor sessions after 8 p.m. in order to bring the Budget bill, and corresponding "trailer bills" up on the Floor for a vote.

Specific details of the revised Budget are:

1. No Proposition 1A borrowing. You will recall that we had been fearful that, as the Republicans held firm on not wanting to increase taxes, this would increase the pressure on Democrats to resort to borrowing from cities, counties, and special districts to close the large Budget deficit. The Governor has been particularly vigilant on his unwillingness to borrow from local government, calling it "a temporary solution to kick that can down the alley."
2. Health and human services, as well as K-12 education will avoid any additional cuts beyond the so-called "Senate Democratic Alternative." The "Senate Democratic Alternative" is the "Governor's August Compromise" with some additional modifications. Under the terms of the approved Budget, the K-12 Proposition 98 guarantee would receive an additional minimal increase for school districts which adds approximately \$300 million.
3. The Budget does not include the much talked about "one cent sales tax increase," but rather closes several tax loopholes and seeks accelerated pre-payments from individual income taxes. The now infamous "yacht tax" - affecting California boat owners - was one such tax loophole targeted for closure in last night's package.

You may recall that recently, several State Library administered programs had been targeted for additional cuts or complete elimination ("suspension") by the Senate Republican Proposal. As of late yesterday, Budget staff was unable to confirm the contents of the Budget package to us, as they had not yet fully briefed their caucus. However, it was alluded to us by a top Budget staffer that the Budget bill being voted on during last night's session does not suspend, but rather maintains, the popular California Library Literacy Service program. Further, the Budget rejects the 10 percent across-the-board cuts that the Senate Republican Proposal was calling for, and appears to recommend only a 5% cut to the Public Library Foundation, the Direct/Interlibrary Loan and California Library Services Act (Transaction Based Reimbursement), the Civil Liberties Public Education Program, the "English Acquisition and Literacy Program (or California Library Literacy Service Program), and the California Newspaper Project. (This version was previously adopted by the Budget Conference Committee, and will appear in AB 1781.) Once a Budget document is in circulation, we will confirm these facts and will let you know if there is any change.

During the minimal Floor debate in the Assembly, Assembly Budget Committee Chair, John Laird stated, "Today marks the end of a tumultuous Budget year...[This Budget] isn't what everyone likes." Assembly Budget Committee Vice Chair, Roger Niello added, "This has been a very difficult process. We have to come to closure."

The Budget bill ultimately passed the Senate at 2:15 this morning on a vote of 29 to 11, and passed the Assembly on a vote of 62 to 5. The reason for the late night vote and the many caucuses was because of the Governor's demands for his so-called "Budget Stabilization Fund," and his threat of a veto unless his requirements were met. Ultimately, both houses adopted a plan (SCA 13), which while agreeable to both parties may not be acceptable to the Governor. SCA 13 passed the Senate on a vote of 39 to 0, and the Assembly on a vote of 63 to 3, which could portend a veto override of the Budget, if the Governor elects to veto the Budget. The Budget will now be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto. In addition, he has the authority to sign the Budget with no changes, or he has so-called "blue pencil authority" to make reductions to programs in the Budget. The Governor will act on the Budget in the next few days.

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3**

MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 25, 2008

AGENDA ITEM #: 9

ITEM: CORRESPONDENCE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- None

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 4**

MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 25, 2008

AGENDA ITEM #: 10

ITEM: REPORT FORM COUNTY LIBRARIAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- None