

LOCAL & WORLD

PAGE A3 MADERA TRIBUNE Wednesday, September 7, 2011

First 5 provides reading materials for families

THE MADERA TRIBUNE

Approximately 46 percent of families surveyed through the First 5 Family Survey, “did not” read to their children because they did not have books in their home.

That is why First 5 Madera County sponsors the annual “Growing Family Libraries” event in Madera, Chowchilla, Madera Ranchos and Oakhurst, which puts books in the hands of children and enhances early literacy experiences at home.

Each family participating in the “Growing Family Library” event took part in a 30-minute

FIRST 5 MADERA COUNTY

workshop that focused on developmentally appropriate literacy techniques.

In exchange for the parents’ participation in the workshop, First 5 Madera County provided each family with a \$50 dollar voucher to be spent toward books.

The First 5 Family Resource Center contracted with Schwabe Books (a book vendor) to supply books for the families to choose from following the workshop.

“Growing Family Libraries

is a valuable event for my son and I because the books that he got are for his age and it will help him recognize the words and sound them out. This will help him get ready for kindergarten. We are happy and really enjoy reading to each other,” said Nora Solis, a parent.

Regular book-sharing time provides a context for parents to introduce new words by labeling objects. It also provides for parent-child discussions about book content and allows the children to practice new words that express ideas. Fur-

ther, regular library visits and books in the home can raise children’s interest in the written words.

“With this small project, we invested \$10,000 into 148 homes serving 157 children 0-5 years of age throughout the county. The training attended by the parents will have positive impacts throughout the child’s lifetime,” said Chinayera Black Hardaman, executive director for First Five.

She offered four helpful tips when reading to your child.

1. Introduce books to your child — explaining the front,

back, spine, title, and author.

2. Engage your child — when reading a book to them by asking them about the book.

3. Echo — repeat information back and forth with your child.

4. Read to your child a minimum of 30 minutes every day — to ensure that all families have an opportunity to grow their libraries, the First 5 Family Resource Center will also provide books to families that participate in weekly “Story Time” activities.

Library

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

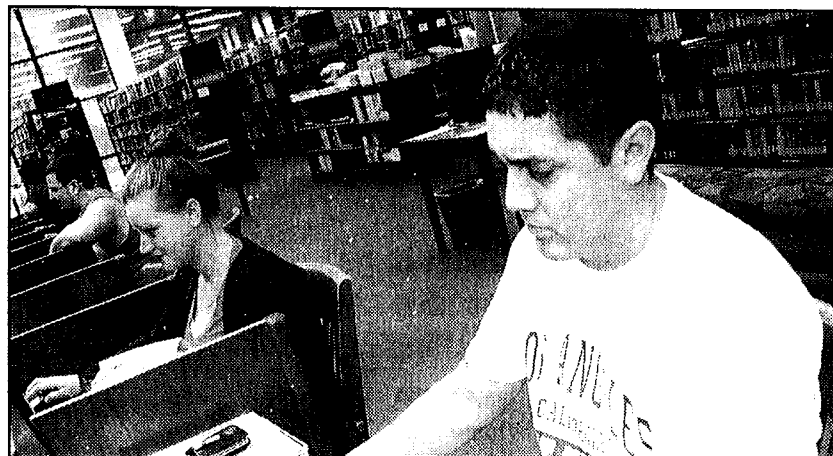
Mester, the main branch’s new managing librarian.

Mester, the Madera Ranchos branch manager for nearly seven years, was put in charge after Linda Sitterding, County Librarian of 10 years, retired at the end of July.

She hopes to revive the library — despite the small

WENDY
ALEXANDER/THE
MADERA TRIBUNE

Bryan and
Amber
Quiroz use
the comput-
ers at the
library.



Five most often asked questions at the library

Besides asking for directions to a specific book or types of books, patrons rely on the library for

1. How do I print my legal forms? (The County Court sends residents to the library to get legal documents printed, says managing librarian Ellen Mester.)

2. How do I find out about my genealogy?

On Lil fig in

NIAN
A spoke
dent of I
dia rep
convoy
vehicles
tered h
only thr
ferrying
of Moar
tourage.

Mass
chief of
Maham:
The As
Tuesda
ment ha
voy of i
hicles to
hafi’s se
sour Da
Dao c
on Mon
ed to N
soumi
housed:
“”