Tuolumne County Library and Recreation Newsletter September 2024

National Library Card Sign Up Month

If you didn't already know, September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month! Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. It's the perfect time to reconnect with your local library and discover all the incredible resources available at your fingertips. Use your library card to check out materials for school, a special pass allowing for free entry to the CA State Parks, movies to watch instead of paying for streaming services, or the newest book you heard about on BookTok. Beyond just books and movies, the library also provides access to digital resources such as eBooks, audiobooks, and online databases, making it easier than ever to find what you need. To get your own



card, visit any of the Tuolumne County Public Library branches, even the Mobile Library, and bring a photo ID with your current address (or separate proof of address) and fill out the form. It's always 100% free and we promise you won't regret it. With a library card in hand, you're opening the door to a world of knowledge, entertainment, and community engagement. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity!

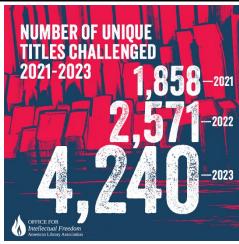
Banned Books Week—Freed Between the Lines





Every year Banned
Books Week highlights
the growing problem of
book censorship in our
country. This year
Banned Books Week falls
on September 22nd—28th
and the Tuolumne

County Public Library will be celebrating the freedom to read and contributing to censorship awareness with special displays and events. You can read more about Banned Books Week, book censorship, and how the Tuolumne County Public Library will be participating in our full two page article on pages 6-7. Join us during Banned Books Week and let's all share the love of our right to read and be "Freed Between the Lines"!



In 2023, the number of titles targeted for censorship at public libraries increased by 92% over the previous year, while school libraries saw an 11% increase.

Children's Summer Reading Wrap Up

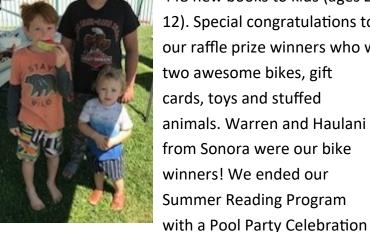
The Summer Reading Program at the Tuolumne County Public Library was a huge success! From June 11th through July 27th, a total of 1,238 individuals attended our 28 events spread over four libraries. In June, our





"Fun in the Sun" summer reading kick off was filled with excitement when kids got to feed and pet llamas, hear stories, make crafts, eat snacks and sign up for our reading program. Other fun craft programs were held for kids at all

the branch libraries and were a big hit too. Kids and adults made electrical circuit creatures, painted bird houses, planted seeds, partied like pirates, decorated stuffed animals, created sun prints, and made pinecone bird feeders! The Magic/Comedy show by Michael Rappa was a gigantic hit with over 200 people coming to see the performance. We gave away 448 new books to kids (ages 2-12). Special congratulations to our raffle prize winners who won two awesome bikes, gift



at the Sonora High School Pool, making a big splash, with over 150 people in attendance. A big thank you to the Friends of the Tuolumne County Library and Duke and Debbie York for sponsoring this wonderful summer reading program!

How Much Did Kids Read from

June 11th to July 27th?

Hours Read (Ages 2-6): 647

Books Read (Ages 7-12): 657

Summer Reading Statistics

Total Juvenile Sign Ups: 480

Total Attendance at all 28 Events: 1,238







Fall Leagues at Standard Park Sports Complex

The Tuolumne County Recreation
Department's Summer Adult Softball is
thriving, with playoffs taking place the
week of September 1st—September 6th.
Four teams from each league will compete
for a chance to win a custom summer
championship t-shirt. Registration for Fall
Adult Softball is closed, and league games
will begin on Tuesday, September 10th. Fall
Softball will consist of Tuesday COED,
Thursday Men's and Women's, and Friday
Men's Leagues.



Special Olympics Soccer and Softball will begin in September culminating in their

softball tournament on Sunday, September 22nd. Soccer is in full swing at Standard Park Sports Complex with the Sierra United Soccer Club's practices and games, and the Tuolumne County Youth Soccer's Fall League youth and adult games.

For questions and additional information about Fall Adult Softball or other programs at Standard Park Sports Complex call the park at (209) 533-2678 or Tuolumne County Recreation Department at (209) 533-5663. To sign up for any of Tuolumne County Recreation Department programs go to www.tcrecreation.com and then click "Online Registration" in the upper left-hand corner. To sign up in person, stop by the Standard Park Sports Complex or the Recreation Department located in the Sonora Main Library.

Tiny Tots—School Begins

In August we wrapped up our summer camps that were filled with many activities, crafts, experiments, and food. We took a few weeks off to decorate our school and prepare for the start of the new school year. School began Monday, August 26th with teachers Kellie, Nicole, and Natalie. We were so excited to meet our new students and welcomed back some familiar faces. This session we'll focus on Zoo Phonics, Sign Langue, Spanish, shapes, colors, and lots of fun and movement. Registration for all five sessions for children ages 3-5 are currently open at www.tcrecreation.com.

Kinetic Sand Recipe:

- 1 Cup—Colorful play sand
- 3 Tablespoons—Cornstarch
- 2 Tablespoons—Dish soap
 - 1 Tablespoon—Water

One of our favorite things to play with is Kinetic Sand and we've included a simple recipe you can make at home. Just stir all the ingredients together in a large bowl. We like to mix the sand and cornstarch together first, then add soap, water, and mix well. If it's really dry just add more water. It can be played with right away, but you'll have better results if you let it sit for 30-60 minutes. Store in airtight container.

Community Roots Resource Fair

Another year spent at a wonderful event! Tuolumne County Youth Center Coordinators, and Recreation Supervisor attended the 3rd annual Community Roots Resource Fair. We joined other local agencies and businesses as they came together to support residents through uncertain times. This event was hosted by the Tuolumne County Department of Health and Human Services and supported by the Sonora Area



Foundation. The Fair included over 40 different agencies and businesses that offered information and helped navigate services available to the public. This event was free and provided our residents with so many different local resources and even free groceries, while available. With so many people in our community constantly looking for a variety of help, this event provides much needed resources. There was information for our youth including resources for utilities assistance, housing, schools, and so much more. Free tri-tip sandwiches and Kona ice were also available. We hope to see more and more people utilizing these resource fairs as they become available to our community. Thanks to everyone who showed up to support and use our programs.

Jamestown Youth Center



We wrapped up our summer vacation at JYC with some cool treats and an exciting elephant toothpaste experiment. Although we weren't ready to get back to school, we all welcomed the cooler temperatures of fall. This September we will have our new weekly meetings for Friday Night Live and Club Live at 3:30pm on Tuesdays. Meetings will include lots of games, crafts, and cooking activities available each week. Some of the crafts will be watercolors,

painted acorns. Thursdays are Good Eats, a program that will have delicious healthy recipes to prepare, provided by Calfresh. Fridays are still Popsicle Fridays and movie nights through the end of September. Saturday, September 21st is International Peace Day and will be our garden clean-up day in preparation for fall planting the following week.





Tuolumne Trails Hiking Adventures

Tuolumne County Recreation Department is now offering hiking adventures for adults and young adults. Tuolumne Trails Hiking Adventures is a seasonal program designed to promote discovery, exploration, and enjoyment of our County's abundant natural beauty. This spring and summer participants enjoyed an interpretive guide giving fun facts about local geology, history, plants, and animals. Breathtaking locations included unique



habitat of the Red Hills, majestic views from Table Mountain, giant Sequoias in Big Trees State Park, seeing the cool pools at Cleo's Bath, and an epic Sonora Pass climb to Blue Canyon Lake.

Look for our Fall Sunset Series open for registration in September.

Fall Sunset Hikes will start between 5:00pm – 5:30pm on Saturday evenings: October 5th, October 12th, October 19th, and October 26th.

Pre-Registration is required.

Eligibility: Adults (age 18+) and Young Adults (ages 10-17) who must be accompanied by an adult 18 or over.

Participants must be able to walk up to four miles with some steep inclines at a slow pace, with rest stops available. There is something for all skill levels; beginners are welcome.

Call Tuolumne County Recreation Department for more information at (209) 533-5663.

Register online at <u>www.tcrecreation.com</u> then click the 'Online Registration' link.



Groveland Youth Center

Summer has come and gone so fast this year and we enjoyed every minute of it. Our kids took their end of summer trips and stayed for some final lake days. The beginning of this school year has already been a wild one. We partnered with Friday Night Live and while the start of our programming was a little unpredictable, things are going wonderfully. We love that we can finally get a strong program up here that our Groveland kids enjoy. Creating new leaders and making the most from the unpredictable is what we do best.

Our kids have been embracing the newest recipes brought in by our *Good Eats* program as well. We recently made some delicious baked tomatoes with cheese and southern green beans.

With school back in session we have returned to our regular hours. Tuesdays—Fridays from 1:00pm—7:00pm and Saturdays 9:30am—5:00pm. Please call Donica at the Groveland Youth Center at (209) 962-7263 with any questions.

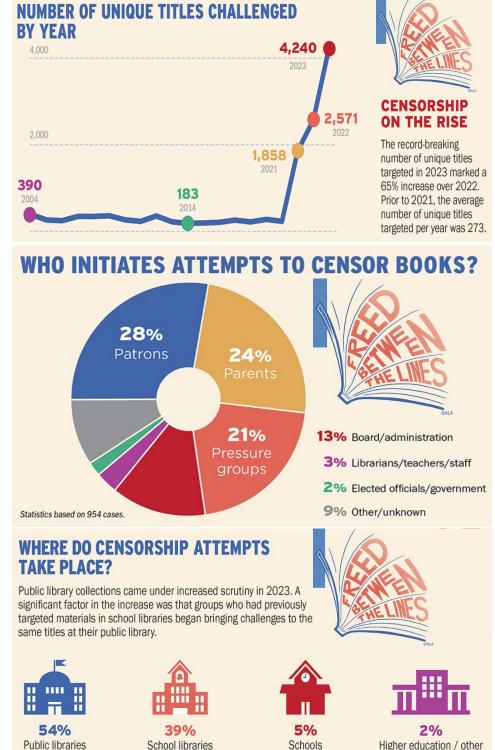
Banned Books Week—Freed Between the Lines

"The reports from librarians and educators in the field make it clear that the organized campaigns to ban books aren't over, and that we must all stand together to preserve our right to choose what we read. Each demand to ban a book is a demand to deny each person's constitutionally protected right to choose and read books that raise important issues and lift up the voices of those who are often silenced."

Deborah Caldwell-Stone Director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

Every year Banned Books Week highlights the growing problem of book censorship in our country. This year Banned Books Week falls on September 22nd—28th and the Tuolumne County Public Library will be celebrating the freedom to read and contributing to censorship awareness with special displays and events.

In 2023 the American Library Association (ALA) once again tracked the highest number of book challenges ever recorded at a staggering 4,240 unique titles. Censorship attempts in public libraries accounted for 46% of these challenges and now seem to be in the crosshairs for aggressive pressure groups. These groups create lists of dozens or hundreds of books and have been targeting school libraries for years leading to the dramatic increase in the number of individual titles challenged which, prior to 2021, averaged "only" 273 unique titles. The number of titles targeted for censorship in public libraries has increased 92% in 2023 alone and your library could be the next in the numerous campaigns to



censor books these groups deem "unacceptable" and remove patrons' rights to choose what they read.

Banned Books Week—Freed Between the Lines

When analyzing these apparently "unacceptable" titles deserving censorship, 47% featured the voices and lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) which can indicate the true implication of these targeted attacks. ALA President Emily Drabinski encapsulates this well in her yearly statement saying "Every challenge" to a library book is an attack on our freedom to read. The books being targeted again focus on LGBTQ+ and people of color. Our communities and our country are stronger because of diversity. Libraries that reflect their communities' diversity, promote learning, and empathy that some people want to hide or eliminate. Libraries are vital institutions to each and every community in this country, and library professionals, who have dedicated their lives to protecting our right to read, are facing threats to their employment and well-being."

The theme for this years Banned Books Week is "Freed Between the Lines" to celebrate the freedom we can find in the pages of a book and to highlight the potential for that freedom to be undermined by censorship. Banned Books Week was created in 1982 to respond to the sudden rise in book challenges and has continued to focus on raising national awareness of the rising amount of censorship challenges ever since. We



MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit



#2 MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit



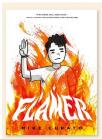
MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

LGBTQIA+ content, sex education, claimed to be sexually explicit



MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

Claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, rape, drugs,



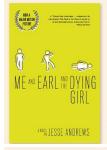
#5 MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit



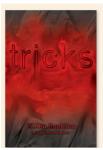
#6 MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

Rape, incest, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content



#7/8 MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

Claimed to be sexually explicit, profanity



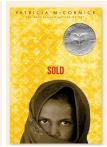
#7/8 MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

Claimed to be sexually explicit, drugs, rape, LGBTQIA+ content



MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

Claimed to be sexually explicit, sex education, LGBTQIA+ content



#10 MOST CHALLENGED BOOK OF 2023

Claimed to be sexually explicit, rape

will be showing movie adaptations of challenged books for our weekly "Mornings at the Movies" every Friday at 10:00am and hosting a special Banned Book Luncheon from 11:30am—1:00pm on Wednesday, September 25th. Patrons are encouraged to bring in their favorite banned book to discuss with others and learn about challenged titles. If you don't think you have a favorite banned book, make sure to check one of our displays. Seeing all the challenged titles on display and scanning copies of the Office for Intellectual Freedom's lists of the most challenged books, you may be surprised to find a book you love has been challenged many times. Join us during Banned Books Week for special programs, explore our displays and let's all share the love of our right to read and be "Freed Between the Lines"!

Recreation—Summer Wrap Up

The Tuolumne County Recreation Department had a fun filled, action-packed summer full of various activities, camps, clinics, and programs that the community enjoyed. We offered a variety of sports camps and clinics that included a Fastpitch Clinic, Tennis Clinic, Soccer Camp, a COED and girls only Basketball Camp, Pre-High Water Polo, Masters Water Polo, Baseball Camp, Yoga for Seniors, and the Mother Lode Miners Swim Team. All these programs had wonderful attendance and each one saw the participants take a huge leap forward in both their skills and their confidence. We cannot thank all of our coaches and instructors enough for the hard work, dedication, and patience they exhibited to offer these amazing programs for our community. Our Summer Recreation Program was also a huge hit with over 120 kids signed up. They spent the summer playing games, learning crafts, making friends, and eating Kona Ice! A huge shoutout to the Summer Recreation Program staff for all the hard work they did and for providing a safe and fun environment for all the participants. The Sonora Tiny Tots Program ran five sessions of Science Camp again, with all five sessions selling out. The amazing staff over at Tiny Tots spent the summer teaching kids about healthy eating, the elements and how they affect our environment, making crafts (sometimes edible) and most importantly, building social cues and confidence.

In our Aquatics programs we were able to provide swim lessons to over 800 participants! With the abundance of easy access to bodies of water in our community, it is crucial that our community is water ready and confident. If you missed out on swim lessons this year or want a bit more work, look for our article on our Extended Summer Program for more information. We also offered Aquatic Fitness at all three pools that were taught and ran by our own lifeguards. Aquatic Fitness is a fun, social activity that allows for a good workout without a lot of strain on the joints. We had over 20 private parties for the summer as well. Make a note to remind yourself to reserve a pool for next summer and throw a private pool party for a birthday, work event, or just to have the pool to yourself and your family and friends. Our lifeguard staff is

another group we would love to thank for all the hard work they put in this summer. All of our programs would be nothing without the amazing staff we had and we appreciate them all so much!

This summer, the Recreation Department made it a goal to create and offer more mental and emotional health programs to our catalog as well. Through this goal we



were able to offer a Kid's Summer Yoga Camp, a children's movement and wellbeing course, and various art events. These programs are so beneficial to the development of young kids, and we hope to continue to offer programs like this all year long. If you or someone you know has a talent and/or passion that you would like to share with the community, please reach out to the Tuolumne County Recreation Department at (209) 533-5663 and become a partner with us. Please reach out to us whether you want to get involved or if you have suggestions on programs you want to see our department take on.

Recreation—Extended Summer

With school now in full swing, many people assume that summer is over and that could not be further from the truth! This year, the



Tuolumne County
Recreation
Department has been
running its second
Extended Summer
Program at the Twain
Harte Pool. During
August, we ran a 4th
session of swim
lessons as well as

Aquafit Monday—Thursday from 8:00am—9:00am, Rec Swim on Saturdays from 1:00pm—5:00pm and Family Game Night on Saturday Nights from 6:00pm—9:00pm. If attendance continues to stay high, we

will continue our Extended Summer Program through the end of September with the last day being Saturday, September 28th. The Extended Summer Program is based off attendance from the community, so come on out and continue to enjoy the summer months, even if school is back in session! You can contact the Recreation Department at (209) 533-5663 with any questions or visit our



website at www.tcrecreation.com. Visit our Activity Guide or online catalog for more information on the Extended Summer Program and all of our other programs.

Twain Harte Branch Library

We continue to have large numbers of patrons visiting our library every month. Storytime and Crafts at Twain Harte Branch Library every Friday, at 10:30am continues to be lively and well attended. If you have pre-K children and haven't attended Storytime at our quaint and cozy library don't hesitate to join us. Everyone is welcome!

We also have a new volunteer for our 10:30am Friday Storytime and Crafts, who will also play music with our young children. While this is great news for the library, we still need a few more volunteers for Storytime and Crafts, shelving, and other tasks at the library. If you have an interest in volunteering at Twain Harte Branch Library, please come and visit us!

Sonora Main Library – Adult Events

It is shaping up to be an exciting and event filled month at the library! September is National Library Card Signup Month, and the library is planning some fun activities and events to celebrate. On Saturday, September 7th, the staff will be bringing out the Lego for a fun Lego Building Day. Drop by the Sonora Main Library from 1:00pm—5:00pm to build something awesome. On Wednesday, September 18th, from 1:00pm—5:00pm the Craft Cart will roll out with the supplies to make book page flowers. Mornings at the Movies will be every Friday at 10:00am with this month featuring film adaptations of Banned Books. The library will continue celebrating Banned Books Week by hosting a Banned Book Luncheon from 11:30am—1:00pm on Wednesday, September 25th. Bring in your favorite banned or challenged book to discuss with others and learn about other banned and challenged books.

As always, every Tuesday is Scrabble Day where you can drop in to play a round or two of this fun word game. Friday afternoons the chess and checkers boards are set out and available for anyone to play a game or two. The library has several book clubs that meet monthly at each branch, and always welcome new members. Ask at your local branch for more details on monthly dates and book choices. You can also support your library by joining your local Friends of the Library organization. Each branch has their own support group and readily welcomes new members.

Sonora Main Library - Teen Programs

The teens are back at school and the Sonora Main Library is hosting programs to get your teen out of the house and into the library. On September 5th and September 19th Friday Night Live, Friday Night Live Kids, and Club Live, will meet in the Sonora Main Library Community Room. Friday Night Live Kids (5th—6th grades) and Club Live (7th—8th grades) will meet from 3:00pm—4:00pm and Friday Night Live (9th—12th grades) will meet from 4:00pm—5:00pm. These free programs, open to all students in Tuolumne County, offer guidance, games, and a safe place for kids to learn and grow.

On September 13th, the Sonora Main Library will show a teen after school movie. The teens who attend will have the opportunity to vote on what movie to watch from an age-appropriate selection. The start time will be around 2:50 pm and snacks will be provided. September 27th will be the Teen Open House, where teens can relax, play games, eat some snacks, make some crafts, and decompress after school. Programs offered by the library are free to the teens in Tuolumne County.



Tuolumne Youth Center

August at the Tuolumne Youth Center was brimming with summer excitement and engaging activities for our communities' youth. Throughout the month, the center hosted a range of fun-filled activities designed to entertain and inspire. The kids enjoyed expressing their culinary creativity with a series of baking sessions. These hands-on workshops allowed them to experiment with recipes and learn baking techniques, all while creating delicious treats that were enjoyed by everyone. The joy of baking not only provided a tasty reward but also taught valuable skills and fostered teamwork among participants. In addition to baking, the month was packed with lively games and recreational activities. The center organized a highly anticipated bingo competition that drew enthusiastic participation from all. The competitive spirit and the possibility of winning prizes made for an engaging and memorable experience for everyone involved. A highlight of the month was



a day dedicated to outdoor fun where the children enjoyed a spirited session with a giant cageball, a game that combined physical activity with exhilarating fun. The oversized ball and energetic gameplay provided ample opportunities for laughter and camaraderie. August's activities at the Tuolumne Youth Center were a testament to the vibrant and dynamic environment we strive to create for our youth. As we look back on the month, we celebrate the joy and engagement it brought to our community, and we eagerly anticipate more enriching experiences in the months to come.

Friday Night Live Pizza and Trivia Party

On Friday, August 16th, Friday Night Live hosted a successful Pizza and Trivia party at the Tuolumne Youth Center. This engaging event brought together children from our community for an evening of teamwork, learning, and fun. Participants had the opportunity to collaborate in various team-based activities that fostered both cooperative skills and creative thinking. The evening was further enhanced by the opportunity to win prizes in fun activities and a generous assortment of pizza and snacks. The children were immersed in this positive, educational, and fun environment of exciting activities. The positive feedback



from attendees highlights the success of the evening and the value of such community-driven initiatives. We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to Friday Night Live, as well as all those who attended and contributed to the success of the Pizza and Trivia party. Their participation made the evening a memorable experience for everyone involved. We look forward to holding more events that continue to inspire and engage our youth in the future.

What's Happening in September?

Library and Recreation Programming

Mobile Library

East Garden Apartments

Tuesdays, September 3rd and 17th 10:00am—11:00am

Willow Springs Clubhouse

Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th 3:00pm—4:00pm

Don Pedro Market

Wednesdays, September 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th 10:00am—11:00am

Mi-Wuk Community Center/Library

Fridays, September 20th 11:30am—12:30pm

Crystal Falls Association

Saturdays, September 14th, 21st, and 28th 10:00am— 11:00am

Jamestown Community Hall

Saturdays, September 14th, 21st, and 28th 1:00pm—5:00pm

Columbia State Park

Tuesdays, September 10th and 24th 10:00am—11:00am

Tuolumne Senior Apartments

Fridays, September 13th and 27th 10:00am—11:00am

Jamestown Preston Lane Apartments

Fridays, September 13th and 27th 11:30am—12:30pm

49ers Church

Fridays, September 13th and 27th 2:00pm—3:00pm

Recreation Programs

<u>Yoga for Seniors</u>: August 6th—September 24th *Sonora* <u>Senior Center</u>, Tuesdays 9:30am—10:30am (Ages 60+) <u>Tiny Tots Session 1</u>: August 26th—October 2nd <u>Sonora</u> <u>Youth Center Monday—Thursday 9:00am—12:00pm.</u> (Ages 3-6)

<u>Tiny Tots Session 2</u>: October 14th—November 20th *Sonora Youth Center* Monday—Thursday 9:00am—12:00pm. (Ages 3-6)

<u>Youth Centers</u>: *Back to School Hours* Tuesdays—Fridays 1:00pm—7:00pm & Saturdays 9:30am—5:00pm

ALL COUNTY FACILITES CLOSED Monday, September 2nd Labor Day Holiday

Sonora Main Library

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays @ 10:30am—Children's Storytime and Crafts

Tuesdays @ 1:00pm—Scrabble

Wednesdays @ 2:00pm—Crochet Circle

Fridays @ 10:00am - Mornings at the Movies

Fridays @ 1:00pm—Checkers, Dominoes, and Chess

Saturdays 3:00pm—5:00pm— Technology Help Time

Thursday, September 5th & 19th @ 3:00pm—Friday Night Live Kids/ Club Live

Thursday, September 5th & 19th @ 4:00pm—Friday Night Live Saturday, September 7th @ 1:00pm—Lego Building Day Friday, September 13th @ 2:45pm—Teen After School Movie Tuesday, September 17th @ 11:30am—Book Club: *The Hypnotist's Love Story*

Wednesday, September 18th @ 1:00pm—Craft Cart: Book Page Flowers (Ages 12+)

Wednesday, September 25th @ 11:30am—Banned Book Luncheon Thursday, September 26th @ 4:00pm—Teen Advisory Council Friday, September 27th @ 2:30pm—Teen Open House Tuesday, September 24th @ 2:00pm—Friends of the Tuolumne

Saturday, September 28th @ 12:00pm—Movie Showing: *Goonies* Saturday, September 28th @ 2:00pm—STEM at the Library

Twain Harte Branch Library

County Library Meeting

Fridays @ 10:30am—Children's Storytime and Crafts
Thursday, September 26th @ 3:30pm—STEM at the Library

Tuolumne City Branch Library

Tuesdays @ 2:00pm—Crochet Club

Tuesdays 3:00pm—5:00pm—VR Headset Play Time (Ages 10+)

Fridays @ 10:30am—Children's Storytime and Crafts

Friday, September 13th @ 10:00am—Book Club: *The Secret Life of Bees*

Wednesday, September 18th @ 3:30pm—STEM at the Library Wednesday, September 25th @ 5:00pm—Teen Anime Club

Groveland Branch Library

Fridays @ 10:30am—Children's Storytime and Crafts Friday, September 6th @ 2:30pm—STEM at the Library Friday, September 13th @ 2:00pm—Book Club Tuesday, September 17th @ 10:00am—Quilter's Group