

County's libraries to close Mondays

By LANE WALLACE
STAFF WRITER

All but one small library in the Santa Cruz city-county system will be closed on Mondays as a cost-cutting measure, county supervisors decided this morning.

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The new schedule, which had been recommended by library staff, means only the small library in La Selva Beach will be open Mondays. The entire system has

long been closed on Sundays.

Library Director Anne Turner said she recommended reducing hours rather than the book budget. "We had cut the book budget for the last three years," she said. The book budget is going up from \$365,000 to \$400,000 this year.

The total library budget is dropping from \$4.6 to \$4.3 million; the county pays 65 percent. No reduction in hours is planned at the Watsonville Library, which is separate from the city-county system.

Supervisor Gary Patton questioned why hours are being cut 22 percent while wages are dropping

2 percent.

Turner said she doesn't expect a drop in library use, even with shorter hours. "Circulation always increases in tough times. We were up 10 percent last year and 5 percent this year."

Library employees will still work on Mondays, Turner said. "There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work that goes on" to keep the library running, she said.

Turner said notices of the Monday closure have been posted at libraries. "No one is happy about it," she said.