Library volunteers indexing area newspapers of the 1880s

A preliminary version of an index of Santa Cruz County newspapers from a century ago has been prepared by the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

Sara Bunneti, who heads a group of volunteers who have been reading through the 1880s newspapers, said an index for the 1880s and '90s should be available by the end of the year. The volunteers have spent three years collating stories from the old newspapers and putting the index together.

Copies of the preliminary version of the index are available to the public at the central branch library in downtown Santa Cruz, as well as at the libraries at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and Cabrillo College in Aptos.

The project will not stop when a complete index from the 1880s through the turn of the century is complete. The volunteer group intends to continue indexing local publications from this century, as well.