

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR
TERI DUGAN
APRIL 2025**

- I recently submitted our 2024 Tamarack Grant spending report to the Montana State Library. Federation members are required to use federation funds in accordance with the designated purposes outlined in the plan of service. Libraries must provide an annual report detailing how the funds were utilized for the specified purposes. As part of the Tamarack Federation, Flathead County Library received \$3,895.21 in 2024. Flathead County Library uses the grant money for travel to Federation meetings, offsetting the cost of the Montana Shared Catalog and the Montana Courier Alliance.
- In December, Sam, Lune and I began working to get quotes for the implementation of a new website for the library. Slow loading speeds have been increasingly an issue. We've gathered 4 quotes and are currently gathering more information to troubleshoot our loading speeds. I will continue to work with the library board PR committee to seek solutions.
- My monthly check ins with local library directors continue to be something I look forward to. It is nice to get together to chat about the goings on at each of our libraries and to also brainstorm ways we can work together! I'm looking forward to the Spring Tamarack Federation meeting at the end of April. This will provide great training opportunities with board members and directors across our region of the state.
- Budget planning for the upcoming year has taken a significant portion of my time in March and April. As we move into the new year, I am working closely with the library board to develop the best plan for spending our budget in FY26. The biggest challenges we have faced this current year in spending, is necessary costs related to our aging Kalispell facility. Facility issues are often not planned and are critical to repair to working order.
- We have a staff in-service day planned for June 2nd. We are looking forward to having trainers from the Montana State Library visit and provide training for us. The day will be filled with training from the state library, safety training from Summit Fire and Security and a buffet lunch provided by the Friends of the Library.
- Staff have been truly blessed to have received so many wonderful thank you notes, comments, coffee gift cards and treats this week! The Library Foundation and Friends of the Library showered us with so much gratitude during Library Appreciation week that we are still smiling! I want to express our sincere appreciation to our wonderful support organizations. We could not do what we do without you!
- Tony and I attended a recent Coffee Connect hosted by Montana Pediatrics and The Kalispell Chamber of Commerce. We had a great time chatting with our business partners and hearing about what they do in our community. We are looking forward to hosting our own Coffee Connect in May!
- The leadership team has met two times with Honore Bray, from Beyond the Stacks Library Consulting. We are currently working on a future library building program and creating a list of potential library partners who would benefit from sharing space in our new future library.

TRAFFIC COUNTS- MAR 2025

Kalispell- 10,748

Columbia Falls- 4,994

Bigfork- 2,148

TRAFFIC COUNTS- MAR 2024

Kalispell- 12,548

Columbia Falls- 4,650

Bigfork- 1,685

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
SAM CROMPTON
APRIL 2025

Replaced the old business office Sharp M314 B&W printer with a new HP Color unit. The old device had been in service since about 2010. The new HP printer eliminates the recurring service contract cost we'd been paying all these years. Because it's color we're removing an old business office color printer as well. This new HP device is included in HP's Managed Print Service so maintenance and toner is all handled by them, again with no yearly support fee. This project has resulted in a much-improved printing experience for staff and much less operating and maintenance costs for the library.

Installed an Epson Photo scanner in Bigfork. It's makes quick work of scanning printed photos onto a computer or USB drive. It operates wirelessly through with an Epson app on a dedicated library laptop. The scanned photos can then be emailed or uploaded to a cloud service like OneDrive. This is a great addition to the Bigfork Maker Space area.

Received eight additional hotspots from the State with service committed and paid for by the MSL until June 30th. Eleven library owned hotspots procured from Techsoup were up for renewal in April, but have not been re-enabled. They went 'service-cancelled' April 16th. The fee the library paid for each of those devices worked out to about \$12/mth, so the overall library budget is saving \$1,584.

Deployed new public computer station at Kalispell 2nd Floor to help alleviate patrons having to wait during busy times of the day. Reused an old computer and monitor donated to the library from the County which for this application will function absolutely fine. There was no cost for the Microsoft operating system or Office applications, MS still allows the library to deploy Windows 11 and our version of Office on computers with no fees.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH LIBRARIAN
LUNE AXELSEN
APRIL 2025

Last month Starr and I attended the MLA conference in Bozeman. I had a lot of takeaways to bring back to Flathead County Library, including how Billings' put together an amazingly successful maker space called the Co-Lab. I learned about MSU Library's comprehensive Communications manual which I will use as a guide for our own manual, and I got inspired after a tour of the brand-new Belgrade Library. I will share all of my findings with staff at an upcoming Public Services Meeting.

The promotional campaign for the Story Concerts at the Library was a success. We had great numbers of attendees at all locations for this event. The promotional campaign was a collaborative effort between the Communications Team and the Library Foundation, including Facebook and Instagram ads, radio promotion, NPR promotion, as well as posters, flyers and a press release. Turns out advertising works!

I've also been busy booking new art shows at the Bigfork Library. We have some exiting exhibits coming up this summer and fall that will include art classes at the library. Stay tuned!

Social Media Snap Shot

We continue to grow on both Facebook and Instagram. We are seeing increases in engagement both platforms this month. On Facebook this is primarily due to our History Friday posts. Liz curates these posts and has really tapped into what the community wants to see. We continue to have high engagement rates and are building a sense of community, which is trickling into the other content we post. On Instagram, we see greater interaction with photos and videos about real events at the library. We will continue to seek out these kinds of stories.

Social Media Stats:

- **Facebook:**
 - 210 New Followers this period (3% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Facebook Content Interaction:**
 - 4k people interacted with our content this period (36% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Facebook Engagement:**
 - 175K people engaged with our posts (33% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Followers:**
 - 34 new followers this period (2% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Reels Reach:**
 - 1788 accounts reached this period (27% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Website Pageviews:**
 - 18,607 views this period (7% decrease in the last 30 days)

COLLECTION SERVICES LIBRARIAN
KAT WILSON
 APRIL 2025

COLLECTION SERVICES
 April 2025

March 2025 Circulation Statistics

	March 2025	March 2024	March 2023	March 2022
Juvenile	18704	18008	18420	19157
Young Adult	1358	1228	919	1179
Adult	12693	12924	14127	14795
Overdrive ebooks	4670	4921	5021	4407
Overdrive audiobooks	7929	7517	7000	6216
Overdrive magazines	1955	1808	673	360
Total	47309	46406	46160	46114
ILLs Borrowed	54	69	49	75
ILLs Loaned	44	32	40	35
Outgoing Partners Crates	327	317	338	297
Incoming Partners Crates	316	327	333	330

Lakeside and Marion FY25 Circulation Statistics

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Lakeside	230	204	191	185	135	109	152	149	221			
Marion	N/A*	N/A*	7	6	5	12	12	4	7			

*Marion closed first week of June through August.

TEEN LIBRARIAN

STARR WHITE
APRIL 2025

MARCH'S ACHIEVEMENTS:

Here is a recap of our attendance:

Scene (all locations): 32
Gem Wall (Bigfork; Kalispell): 814
Fandom: 4
LVL-UP (Kalispell): 8
Challenge Accepted (Kalispell): 13
Young Reader's Choice Awards (all locations and online): 241
Columbia Falls Junior High School Outreach: 12

FEBRUARY:

Battery Recycling Program

Once again, we are thrilled to announce the success of our Battery Recycling Program! Since its launch, we have collected over 300 pounds of batteries, making a significant contribution to sustainability efforts in our community.

Citizen Science Month: Painted Lady Butterflies

April is Citizen Science Month! To celebrate, we're observing the fascinating transformation of Painted Lady Butterflies from caterpillar to butterfly at all our locations. You'll also find information on how anyone can contribute to real-world butterfly research. Plus, we're promoting our science kits, perfect for curious minds of all ages!

Library of Things

Exciting changes are underway as Science Connect, Gaming Connect, and Tech Connect come together under a new name: the all-encompassing Library of Things (LoT). We're about one-third of the way through creating brand-new documentation to reflect this transformation. Plus, we are adding four new telescopes to the Library of Things collection!

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN
BECCA JOHNSON
APRIL 2025

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT UPDATES

When the sun comes out, people venture out and come to the library! The spring season is busy with weekly storytimes, Wednesday Workshops, outreach opportunities and field trips.

EARLY LITERACY STORYTIMES (0-5 YEARS)

Springtime at the library provides an abundance of seasonal program inspiration. There are so many fun stories to choose from featuring topics that young children can relate to.

MARCH ATTENDANCE STATS

Kalispell: 393(12 programs)

Columbia Falls: 245(14 programs)

Bigfork: 210(8 programs)

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS/CLASS VISITS (6-10 YEARS)

Kalispell had visits from 4 different first grade classes, a group with Whitefish Parks & Recreation and 2 groups from Trinity Lutheran Day Camp. These visits aren't all the same. We are flexible and meet each group's needs individually. Typically, a visit begins with a story but sometimes the group is looking for specific skill building information. We may highlight the different collections, noting the difference between fiction and non-fiction and how to find specific topics or authors. With all groups that visit, play and exploration is a priority. Teachers and caregivers give us a lot of positive feedback on our children's space. They appreciate that their library field trip is an educational hands-on experience.

MARCH ATTENDANCE STATS

Kalispell: 72 (4 workshops)/ 129 (8 class visits)

Columbia Falls: 87 (4 workshops)

Bigfork: 21 (4 workshops)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

FRIDAYS WITH THE RANGERS (BIGFORK)

28 children (2 programs)

SENSORY PLAY SATURDAY

Kalispell: 68 children/44 adults

Bigfork: 22 children/17 adults

OUTREACH

LOGAN HEALTH KID KARE – 87 CHILDREN

I visited 4 classrooms at Kid Kare, Logan Health's childcare facility for employee's children. I enjoyed introducing the children and staff to a number of my favorite songs and picture books!

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

2,558 active children

755 children graduated from program

PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN
TONY EDMUNDSON
APRIL 2025

On March 19, I gave a special tour to a group of youth and staff with our local CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). The teens were a delight, and asked many bright questions. They seemed to especially enjoy our local history files and Special Collections.

On April 3, I gave a tour of our local history resources to ten staff and volunteer researchers from the Northwest Montana History Museum. We have worked closely with many of these volunteers over the years, and often refer in-depth research requests to them throughout the year. To my knowledge, we have never had the pleasure of having their entire team here for a tour. They proved to be the most spirited of groups as we pulled out and looked over history books, files, and photographs. This tour served to renew our long-standing partnership, discuss projects, and share in the joys of local history, collection preservation, and dreams of a future library Montana Room.

Library Advisor and Safety Officer Josh Braach gave this update on the County Safety program:

Hello,

I wanted to let you know that our Safety Program has been very successful lately. The Library Department has won the drawings of eligible safety nominations three times in a row. When somebody is nominated for their safe actions, both the nominator and the nominee are eligible for prizes. This means that six different library staff members have received prizes in recognition of their focus on safety.

Thank you,
Safety Officer, Josh Braach

COLUMBIA FALLS BRANCH MANAGER
LIZ CAMARILLO
APRIL 2025

We had a wonderful time celebrating National Library Week, Library Giving Day, and Librarian Day! As a result, we received a collection of heartfelt thank you cards from our patrons. A sincere thank you to the Friends of the Library for their support and for setting that up for us.

In celebration of Library Giving Day, the Flathead Library Foundation hosted a Story Concert event, which was met with an enthusiastic response from the community. Families in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the stories, and a few registered for library cards before heading home.

Liza and Kylin have their calendars filled with upcoming class visits from Glacier Gateway and Ruder Elementary. We always look forward to informing our young community members about the many wonderful resources their local library offers and helping them sign up for their very own library cards. We're also beginning to feel the growing excitement as Summer Experience draws near!

On Monday, April 21st, I will be setting up an earth appreciation zone as part of our adult programming. April is filled with meaningful reminders to celebrate and care for our planet. In honor of this, patrons will be invited to paint their favorite thing about Earth on a 3"x3" card and contribute it to a collaborative community mosaic.

**BIGFORK BRANCH MANAGER
ADULT PROGRAMMING LIBRARIAN
DEIDRE MCMULLIN
APRIL 2025**

This month we hosted three Story Concerts at each branch of Flathead County Library. Bigfork attracted the largest crowd at sixty people. Several patrons commented that they loved this program and asked us to please coordinate similar programs in the future. Having the event in the main room of the library really highlighted our beautiful building, and showed how the space can be used for community events.

We are working on solving several building issues however, which I've come to understand is not a big surprise for a big building. Hopefully some of the hiccups with the bathroom sinks, heating, and drainage in our landscaping will be resolved soon.

I attended Bigfork Chamber of Commerce Sundowner event at the Senior Center as well as their weekly community lunch. It was nice to connect with their Director, hear about their programming, and make friends with community members. Teri and I attended the April Sundowner at Flathead Lake Brewing as well, and learned more about what Rotary is doing in the community. It was also a good opportunity to connect with community members that may not sure the library currently.

We hosted our final Fridays with a Ranger session for kids in third to fifth grade. The topic was beavers, and we were able to use the outside space this time. Yay Spring! Library Advisor Halie and Becca have arranged to continue this partnership in the fall, but to expand to serve our other branches as well.

We have agreed to continue our Genealogy classes for another six months. They will also help us to promote or new photo digitizing scanner.

We have been experimenting with furniture arrangements, and made some adjustments to make our periodicals more welcoming and inviting for sitting and reading or chatting. We are considering this space as a potential better location for our large print books.