

LIBRARY DIRECTOR
TERI DUGAN
JUNE 2025

- Summer reading programming is in full swing for all ages at the library. The days are busy and have been going by rather quickly. I am proud of the way staff have pivoted and navigated our service and programs to mitigate the disruption caused by the major construction project taking place on the south side of the library. We've noticed that patrons are still attending and finding their way into the library regardless of the fact that there is a lack of sidewalks and parking spots.
- The construction project seems to be moving along at a steady pace. Folks are appreciative of the curbside service we are offering and have expressed that. The foreman of the project told us that that are ahead of schedule with the work. Originally, the project was estimated to take about 2 months.
- Liz and I met with the Columbia Falls Library Association to inquire about the possibility of getting air conditioning installed in the Columbia Falls Library. We are pleased that the CFLA agreed to pay for the mini split units and installation. We are working closely with the City of Columbia Falls to coordinate the installation. This addition will be so appreciated by our patrons and staff in the library!
- On June 2nd, we gathered for our all-staff in-service day at the library. We received training from Cara Orban and Bobbi DiMontigny from the State Library. Our Friends of the Library provided a lovely staff appreciation luncheon for everyone. The afternoon brought fire safety training from Summit Safety and Security. Staff were able to get hands on training with a fire extinguisher with live fire.
- The library hosted a Kalispell Chamber Coffee Connect that was so fun! We brought in donuts and coffee for a group of about 30 folks. The library leadership team shared all about what is going on at the library and what we do. It was great to make connection in our local area. The attendees seemed to have fun as we all shared our favorite genre of reading with the group!
- The Hot Spot Lending Program will be ending on July 1st. Due to recent state and federal funding cuts, we are no longer able to offer this service. Since its launch in 2020, the Montana State Library Hot Spot Lending Program has provided internet service to our community while away from the library.
- Two more computer stations have been added in Bigfork. The demand for the use of the computers in Bigfork is great and by adding two desk top computer stations, the needs of the community are being met. These work stations are comprised of the same furnishings as the rest of the library in Bigfork.
- I submitted our FY26 grant request to the Library Foundation last month. They are considering the request this month. We are looking forward to planning our programs for all ages for the upcoming fiscal year
- I am attaching a list of tentative artist exhibits that we have scheduled through FY26.

TRAFFIC COUNTS- MAY 2025
Kalispell- 10,499
Columbia Falls- 5,039
Bigfork- 1,792

TRAFFIC COUNTS- MAY 2024
Kalispell- 11,672
Columbia Falls- 4,661
Bigfork- 1,717

FLATHEAD COUNTY LIBRARY ART EXHIBITS FY26

June – August 2025

- Kalispell: Plein Aire Painters of the Flathead, oil paintings of local landscapes
- Columbia Falls: Layah Cottonwood, mixed media
- Bigfork: Montana Art Therapy Association, mixed media

September – November 2025

- Kalispell: Jane Emmert, oil paintings of local landscapes
- Columbia Falls: Tom Roberts, acrylic paintings of MT wildlife
- Bigfork: Jonathan Marquis, Drawing and Paintings of glaciers

December 2025 – February 2026

- Kalispell: Tom Roberts, acrylic paintings of MT wildlife
- Columbia Falls: Rocky Hoerner, mixed media
- Bigfork: Salish Kootenai College students, mixed media

March – May 2026

- Kalispell: Layah Cottonwood, mixed media
- Columbia Falls: Mary Knotts, oil paintings of MT wildlife
- Bigfork: Tom Roberts, acrylic paintings of MT wildlife

June – August 2026

- Kalispell: Linda Olsen, oil paintings of landscapes
- Columbia Falls: Jane Emmert, oil paintings of local landscapes
- Bigfork: Layah Cottonwood, mixed media

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
SAM CROMPTON
JUNE 2025

Configured additional MS 365 Outlook authentication settings to help reduce the possibility of spoofing, phishing, spam and ransomware attacks.

Listened to a few hours of keynote sessions from a Cisco North American customer event Jun 9-11. The consistent theme of all speakers was how Cisco is integrating AI capabilities into their product lines. No vendor in the tech industry wants to be left behind in the AI race and I can assure you Cisco will not be. Their messages pertained mostly to larger customers but the features make their way into the product lines we use at the library. Key messages focused on utilizing AI to improve automation, implement security, build more resiliency and help avoid/solve network problems.

Received two new Verifone replacement credit card terminals to replace the units in Kalispell and Columbia Falls. The new devices support the latest security standards which the old devices that have been in place for about 7 years do not. Hardware and installation support is included as part of our yearly contract with Envisionware. The Bigfork cc terminal is new enough that it does not require replacement at this time.

Received certificate of responsible recycling of outdated library Cisco network equipment from the logistics company responsible for dismantling and reusing as much as possible of our end-of-life devices. If any of the equipment can be reused then it was worth the effort to coordinate shipments.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH LIBRARIAN
LUNE AXELSEN
JUNE 2025

This past month has been all about getting ready for kids and teens Summer Experience programming, and launching new summer adult programming. In preparation, I created banners that display the generous sponsors, obtained by the Flathead Library Foundation, that pay for summer programming for youth. This was part of a promotional package that the library foundation created to entice sponsors, which turned out to be highly successful. In addition, I scheduled social posts that will honor these sponsors all summer long.

On top of that, I created Facebook events, Instagram posts, a press release, and went on KGEZ Radio, and my team and I updated print materials and online calendars to reflect summer programming for kids and teens. Amidst all of this, the Kalispell library got word that sidewalk construction was about to start and would impact access to the library for the summer. This required announcements about the construction and alternative locations of where some of our summer programs would take place. It was tall order, but we seemed to get the word out and our Play Expos were all well attended with record numbers of kids' gameboards going out the door.

My team and I have also been preparing to promote a roster of adult programs this summer. We are calling it the *Summer of Art*, as we have several art-themed programs happening at all locations. The first of these events was the opening celebration of the Montana Art Therapy Association's art exhibit at the Bigfork library. This interactive and engaging multimedia show kicked off with a presentation and group art project in the Community Room at the Bigfork library on June 14th. The event was well attended. We have new art exhibits at all library locations through August. Local artist Layah Cottonwood returned for a mixed media show at the Columbia Falls Library, and the Plein Aire Painters of the Flathead brought their collaborative exhibit to the Kalispell location.

COLLECTION SERVICES LIBRARIAN
KAT WILSON
JUNE 2025

May 2025 Circulation Statistics

	May 2025	May 2024	May 2023	May 2022
Juvenile	16650	16449	15140	15319
Young Adult	1164	1053	1002	902
Adult	12232	12433	12455	12714
Overdrive ebooks	4110	4564	4454	4628
Overdrive audiobooks	7805	7526	6751	6369
Overdrive magazines	2035	1355	411	365
Total	43996	43380	40213	40297
ILLs Borrowed	72	53	43	45
ILLs Loaned	30	28	31	41
Outgoing Partners Crates	311	333	312	256
Incoming Partners Crates	300	322	307	271

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	197	201	
Marion	N/A*	N/A*	7	6	5	12	12	4	7	6	2	N/A

*Marion closed first week of June through August.

**TEEN LIBRARIAN
STARR WHITE
JUNE 2025**

Here is a recap of our attendance:

Scene (all locations): 55
Gem Wall (Bigfork; Kalispell): 278
Fandom (Kalispell): 8
Crafternoons: 2
LVL-UP (Kalispell): 7
Columbia Falls Junior High School Outreach: 13
Super Smash Bros. Tournament (Bigfork): 3

Summer Experience:

Teen Team is putting the finishing touches on instructions and materials for this year's workshops. Our passive programming components are either up and running or ready to launch. The gameboards and amigurumi kits are available. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated Teen Team members for their hard work and commitment in making this possible.

Teen Summer Gameboard:

This year's Teen Summer Gameboard is proving to be extremely popular. So far, we have printed 269 gameboards. It is wonderful to see teens excited to take them home. Soon we will begin to see teens return to the library to collect their map rewards and submit their reading challenge tickets to the raffle box.

Teen Workshop Location Change:

Because of ongoing road and sidewalk construction on 3rd Street, we have moved the first three Kalispell Library teen workshops to the Earl Bennett Conference Room at the Flathead City-County Health Department (1035 1st Avenue West, Kalispell). With this change, each library location (Kalispell, Columbia Falls, and Bigfork) will host three workshops, and three additional workshops will now be held at the Health Department. We appreciate the Flathead City-County Health Department for generously providing this space.

Future Teen Zone:

Over May and June, the Teen Team has been working together to plan what the ultimate Teen Zone could look like. We created a vision board, gathered input from teens, and met to draft a preliminary layout (see photo on next page). By the end of this month, I hope to have the full plan written out.

Fall Programing:

Teen Team will be finalizing our Fall Program schedule this month. We are looking forward to offering a full lineup of programs and activities inspired by teen feedback. More details will be coming soon. It is shaping up to be an exciting season ahead!



CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN
BECCA JOHNSON
JUNE 2025

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The Youth Services team spent the last month preparing for summer and we are very excited about our program offerings this year. May is challenging because we balance summer preparation with all the normal activity that happens in the children's department. This year was particularly busy with school group visits in Kalispell and Columbia Falls. A highlight in Kalispell was having all 60 kindergartners from East Evergreen Elementary visit, at the same time! The majority of these students had never been to the library.

EARLY LITERACY STORYTIMES (0-5 YEARS)

MAY ATTENDANCE STATS

Kalispell: 329(9 programs)

Columbia Falls: 247(11 programs)

Bigfork: 143(7 programs)

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS (6-10 YEARS)

MAY ATTENDANCE STATS

Kalispell: 53 (3 workshops)/ 184(8 class visits)

Columbia Falls: 88 (3 workshops)/ 144 (7 class visits)

Bigfork: 11 (3 workshops)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

MAY SENSORY PLAY SATURDAY

Kalispell: 51 children/38 adults

Bigfork: 20 children/15 adults

SUMMER READING EXPERIENCE

The first few weeks of Summer Reading Experience has been busy and fun! We have already reached our goal of handing out 1,000 gameboards. Children are all set to track their reading and spend time playing and experimenting through hands on activities this summer. Each location had really strong attendance at our play expo events. In Kalispell, we enjoyed hosting our activities at Depot Park. It was wonderful to have so much space with shade! A big thank you to Kalispell Parks and Recreation for their partnership with us this summer! We also want to express our gratitude to the Flathead Library Foundation and sponsors of Summer Reading Experience: Don K Family Foundation, Glacier Grins, Glacier Bank, Freedom Bank, Columbia Falls ACE Hardware and Town Pump.

PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN
TONY EDMUNDSON
JUNE 2025

The Kalispell library's chiller was down for many weeks due to a gasket leak and motor fan needing replaced. The unit was serviced and operational on the 12th of June. However, further repairs will be necessary to bring it up to full capacity, as a pump for the cooling fluid is dead. We are thankful for even the bit of respite we have, as temperatures were holding in the 80s and even the 90s inside on hot days.

During our All Staff Day on June 2nd, Josh Braach, our Safety Officer and Advisor, set up a fire extinguisher training with Summit Fire of Kalispell. These trainings are essential, as they give staff the opportunity to actually use a fire extinguisher on real flames in a controlled environment. These extinguishers are filled with water, though the rest of the experience is very much the same. According to Josh, we now have over half of our staff certified in CPR/AED, stop the bleed, and Nacan trainings, with many more scheduled in the coming months. Our County trainers have praised Josh's efforts to certify a great number of our staff over this past year.

On May 19th, our new morning Custodian, Sid Fichter, started training. We've had a month of his hard work to date and are so pleased to have him on our team. He is diligent and conscientious, and we see how much pride he takes in making our spaces clean and inviting. We still have an evening Custodian position open and hope to fill the job soon.

COLUMBIA FALLS BRANCH MANAGER
LIZ CAMARILLO
JUNE 2025

Summer Expo was busy! Our Youth Services team did an outstanding job designing every aspect of the event, creating a playful and inviting space for families. We registered lots of kids for Summer Experience, handed out game boards, and watched them light up over the adorable pens they got to choose. Bravo, YS team! We're excited for the summer programs ahead.

We've hired two new materials handlers, Hannah and Katie, which is a relief as our busy summer season is just beginning. Over the past month, Max and Leena came up from Kalispell to support our collections department. It would have been chaotic without their help, and we're so grateful for their willingness to step in.

We attended a guided tour of the Land to Hand headquarters at their new location in the old Columbia Falls High School building. Land to Hand is the organization responsible for keeping our seed library stocked and thriving. They're involved in numerous charitable efforts, and this is a collaboration we truly value and look forward to continuing.

I submitted a grant request to the Columbia Falls Library Association (CFLA) for the installation of air conditioning units in the library. It's been increasingly clear that patrons, seasonal workers, and visitors try to seek out the library as a refuge from the summer heat and the intense smoky season, which forces us to keep our windows shut. During this time, the library often exceeds eighty degrees for at least two and a half months, which coincides with our busiest season. Carmen Wyman reached out and arranged a meeting with the CFLA board members, Teri, and I to meet Shawn from the City of Columbia Falls. He confirmed that the city would handle the ongoing maintenance of the units once they were installed. After a brief discussion, the board approved the donation and selected the quote from Performance Heating and Air. Installation began this week, and they are nearly finished!

We cannot express enough how grateful we are to the CFLA for their support. Our patrons are our priority, and thanks to Performance Heating and Air, we'll be able to cool the library just in time for summer!

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

In May we wrapped up our Spring Gardening Bingo, and moved on to Art Bingo! We have been printing Bingo cards for patrons to take home and challenge themselves with thematic activities. They've been popular, so we decided to create a year's worth of challenges. The summer will have Art Bingo, followed by Bird Bingo in partnership with Flathead Audubon Society, and then a Food/Cooking Bingo and finally a book/reading Bingo. These bingo challenges are designed with adults in mind, but they appeal to all ages and especially families working on them together. The prizes for the rest of the year will be collectable stickers.

We had a reception for the Montana Art Therapy Association's art show, which will hang in Bigfork through the summer. About 40 people attended the workshop put on by an art therapist as part of the reception. Attendees learned about the profession of Art Therapy and participated in a hands-on activity. We will have one more workshop like this in July.

I've been working on compiling statistics for circulation and programs for all of our locations, but especially for Bigfork. Here are some of the results for the 10 months we have been open:

- 25,289 items checked out since the new building opened, which is a 55% increase from the same time period the year before
- 525% increase in WIFI sessions
- 170 groups have had utilized the community room
- 20,708 patron visits, which is a 43% increase from the year before
- 590% increase in children's programming attendance.

In Kalispell so far, this fiscal year, we counted 4,146 times a parent or caregiver attended Storytime with a child. We tend to focus on the numbers of children who attend these programs, but in many ways, we are providing an important service to the adults as well. They gain enriching time spent with their children, but also a chance to meet other adults and make friendships and other connections, and to access library resources. The mental health impact is significant.