

LIBRARY DIRECTOR
TERI DUGAN
JANUARY 2026

As we head into 2026, I'm beginning my third year as Library Director. From where I stand now, I see 2026 as an exciting turning point; one that will really build momentum and help shape the future of the possibility of a newly built Kalispell library. We accomplished a lot in 2025, and those achievements set the stage for the important work we'll be doing this year.

The library leadership team worked with Honore Bray, a retired Library Director from the Missoula Public Library, to develop a building program that will guide the creation of a new library in downtown Kalispell. The vision for a new 40,000–50,000 square foot library in the downtown Center Mall area is stronger than ever, and this preliminary building plan will help move that vision forward.

I'm looking forward to our kickoff meeting with LSW Architects and Riff Agency, where we'll start planning how to share the story of a new library with the public. A small group will meet on February 5th to begin this work. We've received a generous \$50,000 pre-design grant from LSW, and I'm excited to get this project underway.

Building issues continue to surface at the Kalispell library. Most recently, the exterior book drop door broke, and we're exploring options to fix it. Unfortunately, the parts are outdated and no longer available. In addition, the accessible door button on the south side has stopped working, and we're currently in the process of replacing its components.

We are continuing to evaluate the holds pickup service in Marion. So far this year, only 24 holds have been picked up there, compared to 804 in Lakeside. The trip to Marion requires extra fuel, staff time, and can be challenging depending on road conditions. Because of this, we are considering whether to discontinue the service, which only operates during the school year. I recommend that the Library Trustees discuss this topic at the February meeting.

TRAFFIC COUNTS- NOV 2025

Kalispell- 10,480
Columbia Falls- 4,122
Bigfork- 1,676

TRAFFIC COUNTS- NOV 2024

Kalispell- 10,440
Columbia Falls- 4,039
Bigfork- 1,893

TRAFFIC COUNTS- DEC 2025

Kalispell- 10,192
Columbia Falls- 4,291
Bigfork- 1,757

TRAFFIC COUNTS- DEC 2024

Kalispell- 9,627
Columbia Falls- 3,591
Bigfork- 1,811

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
SAM CROMPTON
JANUARY 2026

Replaced the Kalispell perch phone with a new touch screen model. The phone provides better mobility than the previous two separate devices, with the integrated Bluetooth handset allowing up to 20 meters of cordless range. The touch screen functions allow simpler, more intuitive call handling for staff at our busiest phone station compared to the previous model.

6900 IP Phones Series

The 6900 IP Series is a powerful business suite of desk phones with crystal-clear audio, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, advanced features, and a broad array of accessories to improve productivity and mobility in today's modern business environment.



Held pre-site survey meetings with Dell in preparation for deployment of new server hardware. Mounted the hardware in equipment rack and loaded Windows Server 2025 in preparation for Dell deployment expert assistance. On January 6 the hardware configuration work was completed. During the next few weeks work will be done in stages to integrate the new server into the network, the intent is for minimal downtime or impact to staff. The existing 12 yr old server equipment will be deactivated and recycled after the transition to the new hardware, which is expected to last many years as well.

Temporarily replaced the YS self-check computer, the previous computer lost its power supply and would not power on. The temporary solution was to reconfigure & install a spare self-check station available from a previous upgrade. This allowed time to order and install the final two self-check computer upgrades for Kalispell YS & Lakeside. The Kalispell device has been installed and is in production. Lakeside will be installed by the end of January. Marion's upgrade is on hold pending further discussion about the future of that self-check station.

Redeployed one of our surveillance cameras to better cover the SE corner of the 2nd floor in Kalispell. We now have the area by the elevator and east stairwell entrances in view to help cover ingress/egress from those facilities. Cabling was rerouted from an existing source to enable the new camera mounting. This concludes the security camera upgrades specially budgeted for in 2025.

COLLECTION SERVICES LIBRARIAN
KAT WILSON
 JANUARY 2026

November 2025 Circulation Statistics

	November 2025	November 2024	November 2023	November 2022
Juvenile	16961	17609	16451	16430
Young Adult	1059	1059	994	882
Adult	11063	11753	12457	12074
Overdrive ebooks	4145	4430	4638	4161
Overdrive audiobooks	7872	7303	6679	5870
Overdrive magazines	2240	1954	1549	452
Total	43340	44108	42768	39869
ILLs Borrowed	38	42	43	38
ILLs Loaned	33	36	33	30
Outgoing Partners Crates	272	274	357	264
Incoming Partners Crates	281	280	416	252

December 2025 Circulation Statistics

	December 2025	December 2024	December 2023	December 2022
Juvenile	16151	15334	13460	13861
Young Adult	1096	964	1041	851
Adult	11655	12089	11965	11982
Overdrive ebooks	3984	4363	4697	4430
Overdrive audiobooks	7952	7137	6865	5838
Overdrive magazines	2173	1553	1503	489
Total	43011	41440	39531	37451
ILLs Borrowed	51	54	57	31
ILLs Loaned	42	33	34	33
Outgoing Partners Crates	317	322	291	296
Incoming Partners Crates	302	303	285	307

Lakeside and Marion FY26 Circulation Statistics

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Lakeside	140	166	133	128	123	114						
Marion	N/A*	N/A*	4	9	7	4						

COMMUNICATIONS LIBRARIAN
LUNE AXELSEN
JANUARY 2026

We wrapped up the year at Flathead County Library with a long list of quality hands-on, creative programs for all ages. It was no small task to promote the programs that follow. My team and I make sure to update online calendars throughout the valley as well as our own, send out press releases, schedule multiple daily social posts, send out an email newsletter, create a monthly print calendar as well as posters and flyers for just about every activity. Plus, I go live on air with KGEZ once a month to talk about our programs. And our efforts work. We have noticed a direct correlation with our promotions and attendance. Below is a wrap-up of the past month's activities that we've promoted.

The adult's menu of programs was once again full of choices. By partnering with AARP, we brought two Smart Driver Courses for seniors to library, one in Kalispell in December and one in Bigfork in January. We offered Seed Packing Parties for our Seed Library in Columbia Falls. We wrapped up our fall partnership with Flathead Audubon with an art and conservation workshop at the Kalispell and Bigfork locations. We offered a free Decorative Cookie Piping activity at the Columbia Falls location.

Of course, kids and teens departments had a full roster of activities at all locations, including regular Storytimes, Kids Wednesday Workshop, weekly teen programming, and a new special workshop for teens called *The Art of Giving*, all of which has been popular with the community.

December also marked the launch of new fall art exhibits at all three locations. To get the word out, I sent out a press release titled, *Winter of art at Flathead County Library*, and made social posts announcing each artist and event. At the Bigfork library, viewers will find *Indian Country in a Glimpse: A Contemporary Photography Exhibition* this winter. The library offered a reception for this special exhibit in December to celebrate more than thirty-five original works by six photographers from the Flathead Nation. At the Columbia Falls library the public can explore the mixed media works of iconic Flathead Valley artist, Rocky Hoerner. Rocky's wildlife acrylic paintings, mountain landscapes, and signature calendars have been recognizable works in Montana for over 50 years. Local artist and art educator Tom Roberts returned to the Kalispell library this winter. Tom's acrylic paintings focus on big game, wildlife, and Montana landscape.

Through all of this, I have been training our new part-time library advisors Joni Jenks and Stephanie Knight. Both picked up Communications tasks quickly and both took extended vacations around the holidays, so I have been essentially a one-person team. I am sad to announce that Stephanie gave notice and left her new position to go back home to Arizona. This means we are looking for another part-time advisor to fill that position and I will have to train someone once again.

Social Media Snap Shot

Our Facebook and Instagram following continues to grow. Our engagement and reels reach were up this month due to posting more videos about our programs and services. Website users were up significantly this period.

Social Media Stats:

- **Facebook:**
 - 229 New Followers this period (3% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Facebook Engagement:**
 - 14.8K engagement this period (2% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Followers:**

PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN
TONY EDMUNDSON
JANUARY 2026

2025 Incident Stats

Month	Total Incidents	911 Calls	Non-Emergency Calls	Handled In-House	2024 Totals
January	11		3	8	32
February	9		1	8	29
March	15	1	6	8	19
April	6	1	1	4	16
May	8		1	7	16
June	7			7	25
July	14		2	12	11
August	10		3	7	20
September	12		4	8	10
October	19		10	9	9
November	11		3	8	16
December	2			2	18

Incident numbers have closed out at half of previous year's numbers, and of significant note is only two calls to 911 this year, the last one in April. Outcome due to proactive security measures (Alert Security), trespasses, and good documentation. CAT (Crisis Assistance Team, led by James Pyke) gave a presentation to library staff this month. CAT has responded to the library in recent months, and been tremendously helpful. Outlook into 2026 very positive.

2023 - Kal		2024 - Kal		2025 - Kal	
Jan-23	54	Jan-24	32	Jan-25	10
Feb-23	39	Feb-24	29	Feb-25	8
Mar-23	28	Mar-24	19	Mar-25	13
Apr-23	15	Apr-24	16	Apr-25	5
May-23	8	May-24	16	May-25	4
Jun-23	8	Jun-24	25	Jun-25	6
Jul-23	16	Jul-24	11	Jul-25	12
Aug-23	3	Aug-24	20	Aug-25	10
Sep-23	5	Sep-24	10	Sep-25	10
Oct-23	16	Oct-24	9	Oct-25	19
Nov-23	40	Nov-24	16	Nov-25	10
Dec-23	23	Dec-24	18	Dec-25	4
	255		221		111

We have a new aquamarine card option for our patrons, designed by staff Lune Axelsen. Its bright and clean style are sure to be a hit with patrons of all ages. The other three options are still available.



We have been conducting interviews for an evening Custodian in Kalispell. We have promising applicants and hope to have someone hired soon. An Advisor position is also open and interviews will be conducted for this soon.

TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIAN
JACKIE CARLL
JANUARY 2026

DECEMBER STATS:

Here is a recap of our programming:

Fandom- *Melted Crayon Art* (Kal): 14

LVL-UP- *Beaded Snowflakes* (Kal): 16

Challenge Accepted- *DIY Bouncy Balls* (Kal): *Cancelled due to outage*

Scene- *Mini Winter Cross Stitch* (All locations)

Gem Wall Theme: *New Years Resolutions for Teens*

The Art of Giving Workshop:26

CFJH Outreach:9

School Visits: 63

TEEN UPDATES

Our department kicked off the holiday season with a Winter Workshop called, The Art of Giving. In this workshop, teens got creative by making their own greeting cards and helped spread cheer by making paper snowflakes that were shared with our local senior center. In addition, at the Kalispell and Bigfork locations, teens got to make Hot Cocoa in a Jar to gift to their loved ones. This workshop was well received! We saw new kiddos come that have never attended before, so that was a WIN for sure.

SCHOOL GROUP VISITS

Saint Matthews Middle School students came to use and check out materials again this month, with a total of 57 in attendance. We also had (7) students from Linderman School pay us a visit, and Tony and I gave them a special holiday tour and overview of our Teen Programming.

OUTREACH

Columbia Falls Junior High (CFJH)-

Madi and I are continuing our lunchtime outreach program at CFJH, which functions as a school club. With the holiday season here, this program took a break into January and will resume in February.

Bigfork High School-

We are currently working with Mark Hansen, the Bigfork HS principal, to set an official schedule with them. We are hoping to launch our outreach program there in February

YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN
BECCA JOHNSON
JANUARY 2026

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT UPDATES

The library children's department was a popular place during the holidays and winter school break! We love being a destination for families with young children and are always thrilled to meet people who are visiting and decide to check out the library!

EARLY LITERACY STORYTIME (0-5 YEARS)

Youth Services team took a two week break from hosting programs but that didn't keep families away from the library! During program breaks, the YS team will set up or refresh activities with the goal of keeping our spaces inviting and exciting.

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

KALISPELL- 427 (11 PROGRAMS)
COLUMBIA FALLS- 155 (11 PROGRAMS)
BIGFORK- 270 (10 PROGRAMS)

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

KALISPELL – 264 (8 PROGRAMS)
COLUMBIA FALLS- 181 (10 PROGRAMS)
BIGFORK- 173 (9 PROGRAMS)

KIDS WORKSHOPS/SCHOOL VISITS (6-12 YEARS)

Wednesday Workshop: Wild Explorers hosted Glacier Institute in Kalispell and Bigfork and Flathead Lake Biological Station had their first workshop in Columbia Falls. All of our locations have been seeing an increase in groups scheduling field trip visits. Three 3rd grade classes from East Evergreen enjoyed a scavenger hunt activity in Kalispell. Glacier Gateway 1st graders visited Columbia Falls and two homeschool groups visited Bigfork.

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

KALISPELL- 121 (4 WORKSHOPS)/ 64 (4 CLASS VISITS)
COLUMBIA FALLS- 97 (4 WORKSHOPS)/ 46 (3 CLASS VISITS)
BIGFORK – 28 (3 WORKSHOPS)

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

KALISPELL- 48 (2 WORKSHOPS)/ 23 (1 CLASS VISIT)
COLUMBIA FALLS- 106 (3 WORKSHOPS)
BIGFORK – 13 (2 WORKSHOPS)/ 28 (2 CLASS VISITS)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

SENSORY PLAY SATURDAY ATTENDANCE

KALISPELL – 68 (NOV), 38 (DEC)
COLUMBIA FALLS- 22 (NOV), 17 (DEC)
BIGFORK – 11 (NOV), 12 (DEC)

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: 2,858
GRADUATED (children who have aged out of program): 1,128

COLUMBIA FALL BRANCH MANAGER
LIZ CAMARILLO
JANUARY 2026

Happy New Year!

We wrapped up 2025 with gratitude. For all our added staff, who are doing excellent, and our long-standing staff who make a visit to the library fun and easy for visitors and patrons. For working towards, and witnessing, the success of all our implemented programs and activities for all ages. We are also grateful for all the building additions granted to us for the betterment of our staff and patrons. The air-conditioning units we had installed kept us cool throughout the summer.

Tony offered his time and came up just after Christmas to install some garage hooks for us. Funds from the Friends helped us purchase and store the folding chairs we needed for programs, presentations, and workshops. In the past, we relied on borrowing chairs from the City of Columbia Falls' chamber room.

Our YS librarian, Kylin Catt, will be leaving her position at the end of this month. She confirmed it was best for her and her growing family. So, I want to share that she will be terribly missed by all of us. She has demonstrated exceptional professionalism throughout her time with us. Her kindness, courteous manner, and consistent professional demeanor have made her a valued member of our team. She has been highly regarded by our patrons and the broader community, consistently going above and beyond to serve both the public and our staff. We will miss her, but she has promised to become a loyal story time mom!

Sam will soon be installing a new public printer. The one we have now keeps making a clacking sound, even after two repair visits, so HP ultimately decided to replace it. We should expect the new one to arrive soon.

**ADULT PROGRAMMING LIBRARIAN
BIGFORK BRANCH MANAGER
DEIDRE MCMULLIN
JANUARY 2026**

This month I'm continuing to plan community events including:

-an event at FVCC Library with author Chris LaTray. His book was selected for One Book Montana, and our event will be the culminating event for that program through Humanities Montana. February 23rd 6pm -8pm

-a lecture series with Glacier Institute with three lectures planned over the next three months. The first lecture will be about current research in Glacier Park at the Bigfork Library on January 23rd from 4-6.

-we will begin planning more such events in Columbia Falls after a purchase of chairs from gift money from Friends of the Library. Thank you!

Library advisor Halie will soon begin maternity leave. We will cover her hours doing Storytime with staff from Kalispell.