

LIBRARY DIRECTOR
TERI DUGAN
APRIL 2026

The decision last month to suspend hold services to Marion due to cost concerns led to some questions from the Marion School Board. Throughout the process, the trustees have been open to discussing possible alternatives that might allow the service to continue in a more sustainable way. I recommend inviting them to the May Library Board meeting to share their thoughts and explore, together, whether there may be an approach that works for everyone.

We have had two presentations from campaign consultants, both of which were helpful and informative. The two firms being considered, BrandRaise and Campaign Counsel, each bring strong experience and a professional approach. I would be comfortable working with either firm. I am currently reviewing both proposals carefully so I can make a recommendation to the Library Board. I am encouraged by how involved and committed the Board is to moving the new Kalispell library project forward. The time and effort being put into this work show real progress and make it clear that a new library is becoming a reality.

Our first design session with LSW Architects was both productive and inspiring. We met on March 23 to review the overall project schedule and to build on the Storyform work completed in February. During this session, we focused on identifying the project's guiding principles, an effort that is within the discovery phase of the design process. As a result of this discussion, we established five guiding principles that will serve as a consistent framework for evaluating decisions throughout the design and development of the project. Our next session will move the work forward by focusing on space design and programming activities. Casey Wyckoff is leading the work.

The leadership team continues its ongoing work with consultant Diana Damron. A working session with Diana is scheduled for May and will focus on strengthening communication, accountability, teamwork, and core leadership practices. In addition, Diana will serve as the trainer for the June 1 All-Staff Training Day, to be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Northwest History Museum meeting space. Diana is a seasoned trainer, speaker, and author who has partnered with the library over many years. We are pleased to have her lead this important professional development opportunity and am grateful for the funding from the Library Foundation.

I am bringing forward for the Trustees' consideration, a request for a sidebar to the County. For FY27, I plan to seek County funding for a new position that was developed in collaboration with the Personnel Committee and is now before the Board for consideration. Since the Public Services Librarian role will be reclassified to *Head Librarian*, this change creates a gap in day-to-day management. To address this, I am asking the Board to consider adding a *Circulation Supervisor* position. This role would oversee daily circulation operations and supervise front-line staff. A draft job description is included in this month's packet.

TRAFFIC COUNTS- MARCH 2026

Kalispell- 11,982
Columbia Falls- 4,670
Bigfork- 2,043

TRAFFIC COUNTS- MARCH 2025

Kalispell- 10,748
Columbia Falls- 4,786
Bigfork- 2,148

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR
SAM CROMPTON
APRIL 2026

Building on last months successful upgrade of the existing domain controller (DC) to Windows Server 2019 from 2012 r2, significant progress was made this month modernizing library staff's directory services platform. A new physical server running Windows Server 2025 was deployed and promoted as the main domain controller, marking the first time our environment has operated with redundant DC's for staff login & security.

Once the new 2025 server was fully integrated into the domain, all core Active Directory Domain Services (AD DS) components were migrated from the old server to the new. This included automatic replication of directory data, synchronizations and health validations across both controllers to ensure stable multi-DC operation. DNS services were also migrated to the new server, providing fault-tolerant name resolution and improving overall resiliency.

With replication confirmed as healthy, all FSMO, control roles were transferred from the legacy server to the new Windows Server 2025 system. This completed the transition to the new platform while retaining the 2019 server as a fully functional secondary domain controller. Our environment now benefits from true DC redundancy, enabling a more robust platform for reliability and future upgrades.

With domain services stable and redundant, planning has begun for the next phase of the server modernization: migrating all existing file shares, from the Windows Server 2019 system to the new 2025 server.

Renewed the Apple Push Certificate used for centralized management of the library's iPad devices. This annual process requires coordination between Apple Business Manager and Cisco Meraki System Manager. This renewal is expected to be the final one, as the library no longer uses the iPads consistently for patron programs and the ongoing licensing costs for Meraki management no longer justify a continued expense.

Deployed a new printer for the expanded staff area in Kalispell, 2nd floor. The printer has been added to our HP managed services program to minimize ongoing toner and maintenance costs.

**COLLECTION SERVICES LIBRARIAN
KAT WILSON**

APRIL

COLLECTION SERVICES

April 2026

March 2026 Circulation Statistics

	March 2026	March 2025	March 2024	March 2023
Juvenile	18172	18704	18008	18420
Young Adult	1064	1358	1228	919
Adult	11811	12693	12924	14127
Overdrive ebooks	4372	4670	4921	5021
Overdrive audiobooks	8800	7929	7517	7000
Overdrive magazines	2420	1955	1808	673
Total	46339	47309	46406	46160
ILLs Borrowed	67	54	69	49
ILLs Loaned	55	44	32	40
Outgoing Partners Crates	303	327	317	338
Incoming Partners Crates	331	316	327	333

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	219	152	186			
Marion	N/A*	N/A*	4	9	7	4	8	3	20			

*Marion closed first week of June through August.

COMMUNICATIONS LIBRARIAN LUNE AXELSEN

APRIL 2026

The Communications Team is moving full steam ahead on spring and summer projects. Over the past month, I've designed the Kids' Summer Experience gameboard, a Lego Masters flyer for grades 5–8 (to be included in both kids and teen gameboards), and prize stickers for completed Summer Reading Bingo boards. The Summer Reading Experience materials are nearly complete, and I'm preparing to present the full package to Youth and Teen Services.

Meanwhile my team and I have been making sure to promote all programming on our regular channels like online event calendars, email newsletter, social media posts, radio interviews, posters, and our print calendars and flyers. Summer programming is coming up fast so we've got our focus set on changing gears for a new busy season here at the library. My new part-time team members Joni Jenks and Morgan Stewart continue to do great work. I've been training Morgan for a month now and she is picking up tasks quickly and executing them efficiently. Both are great additions to the team.

This month we wrap up the Teen Spring Bookmark Contest. We currently have 20 creative entries in this annual online contest. Next week marks the voting period and the winners will be announced the following Monday.

Social Media Snap Shot

Follower growth on both Facebook and Instagram remained steady this month. Facebook engagement and reach dipped slightly due to a reduction in ads and because our goal of increasing teen program attendance has been met. Instagram, however, saw an overall boost in engagement, with significant gains in reels and stories reach—likely driven by my focus on producing at least one quality video reel per week.

Social Media Stats:

- **Facebook:**
 - 49 New Followers this period (.5% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Facebook Interactions:**
 - 2.1K interactions this period (46% decrease in the last 28 days)
- **Facebook Engagement:**
 - 7.8K accounts engaged this period (30% decrease in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Followers:**
 - 19 new followers this period (.8% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Instagram Reels Reach:**
 - 1250 accounts reached this period (497% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Stories Reach:**
 - 2570 accounts reached this period (22% increase in the last 28 days)
- **Website Pageviews:**
 - 22,000 pageviews this period (4% decrease in the last 30 days)
- **Website Users:**
 - 7.3K users this period (17% decrease in the last 30 days)
- **Website top 5 viewed pages in the last 28 days:**
 - **Teens**
 - **Kids**
 - **Photo Gallery**
 - **Request an Item**
 - **Events Calenda**

PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN
TONY EDMUNDSON
APRIL 2026

A small group of staff are heading out for this year's Montana Library Association conference, including myself. This year it will be in Great Falls. Staff will have an opportunity to take four days of sessions and events, including visiting the Great Falls Public Library. We are excited to learn skills in our field and bring back valuable information for our teams.

I was invited to be a member of the Flathead County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) steering committee, a community-based systems approach to address public health issues or other health related challenges identified through a Community Health Needs Assessment. This process is on a three-year cycle and informs many local initiatives that help educate and improve the lives of Flathead County citizens. We expect to meet monthly over the course of the next 18 months. For my part, I am looking forward to seeing how the work that we already do in the library can tie into this plan, and how it can improve our services to our patrons in return.

TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIAN
JACKIE CARLL
APRIL 2026

MARCH STATS:

Here is a recap of our programming:

Fandom- *Motif Stamp Making* (Kal): 15

LVL-UP- *Faux Stained Glass* (Kal): 12

LVL-UP Bigfork- *Faux Stained Glass* (BF): 7

Challenge Accepted- *Frankentoys* (Kal): 15

Scene- *Collage Bookmarks* (All locations)

Gem Wall Theme: *Which video games should we add to our switch collection?*

DIY Mosaic Magnets Workshop: 24

Build-A-Birdfeeder Workshop: 19

CFJH Outreach: 18

School Visits: 52

TEEN UPDATES: This month, our department brought back our Annual Spring Bookmark Contest for teens. They have an opportunity to create a bookmark with a deep-sea scene and submit it online so it can be voted on. The contest entry period will run through March and close on April 18th. Winners will be announced on April 27th.

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS: We partnered with WorkshopMT for a Build-A-Birdfeeder Workshop in Kalispell intended for kiddos 4-8th grade. They learned the basics of woodworking and how to properly use tools as they build a bird feeder. The best part? They got to take their birdfeeder home. (19 total)

During school spring break, we offered a DIY Mosaic Magnet Workshop in Kalispell. Teens learned how to make their own colorful mosaic magnets. More than half of the teens had not attended our monthly workshops before. We had a great turnout! (24 total)

SCHOOL GROUP VISITS & OUTREACH: In March we had a return visit from St. Matthews 6-8 grades. They toured the first and second floors of the library. The teens made bookmarks for our bookmark contest and also checked out materials to read at home. (52 total)

Columbia Falls Junior High (CFJH)- This month we took broken and dismantled toys to Columbia Falls Junior High. The middle school kids were delighted and giddy to make FrankenToys. Using old toys and tools, they used their imagination to take apart old toys to create something completely brand new. (18 total)

Flathead County School Science Fair- This month I participated as a judge in the county wide School Science Fair held at Glacier Gateway Elementary. The participants ranged from 3rd-12th grade, and the subjects spanned from biological and physical science to engineering. We listened to students across the valley present their work and findings. As a judge, I was extremely impressed by everyone's commitment and dedication to their projects – even blown away by them.

**YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN
BECCA JOHNSON
APRIL 2026**

**YOUTH SERVICES – BECCA JOHNSON
APRIL 2025**

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Summer Reading Experience is in the final stages of planning. The YS team continues to rise to the occasion of planning amazing programs for children in our community. A huge thank you to Ashley, Coral, Mary and Liza for their dedication, flexibility and collaboration as the YS team has been short staffed. They juggle weekly programs, field trips, summer planning, library services and exuberant children every day with a smile!

EARLY LITERACY STORYTIME (0-5 YEARS)

March was a busy month in the children's department at all library locations! We saw significant increased attendance for storytime in Kalispell and Bigfork. Spring programs are a lot fun and we enjoy doing more seasonally inspired activities.

MARCH ATTENDANCE

(increased attendance highlighted)

KALISPELL – 561(14 PROGRAMS)

COLUMBIA FALLS- 240 (13 PROGRAMS)

BIGFORK- 225 (13 PROGRAMS)

KIDS WORKSHOPS/SCHOOL VISITS (6-12 YEARS)

Columbia Falls and Bigfork saw an increase in Wednesday Workshop attendance. We finished up our Wild Explorers series and enjoyed special guests from Lone Pine State Park and Flathead Audubon. Kalispell was busy with group visits including first graders from Rankin and Hedges. During spring break week, Kalispell also hosted day camp groups from Kalispell Parks & Rec and Trinity Lutheran.

MARCH ATTENDANCE

(increased attendance highlighted)

KALISPELL- 146 (4 WORKSHOPS)/ 116 (7 GROUP VISITS)

COLUMBIA FALLS-207 (4 WORKSHOPS)

BIGFORK – 57 (4 WORKSHOPS)/ 24 (2 GROUP VISITS)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**BUILD A BIRDFEEDER – MIDDLE GRADE WORKSHOP
(WORKSHOPMT.ORG)**

Jackie Carll and I were excited to partner with Luke Ramage from WorkshopMT. We have been looking for opportunities to offer special programs for children in the middle grade range (4th-8th grade). The registration for this program filled up fast! We look forward to hosting a second workshop in May.

SENSORY PLAY SATURDAY ATTENDANCE

KALISPELL – 75 CHILDREN/ 55 ADULTS

COLUMBIA FALLS- 24 CHILDREN/ 18 ADULTS

BIGFORK – 16 CHILDREN/12 ADULTS

COLUMBIA FALL BRANCH MANAGER
LIZ CAMARILLO
APRIL 2026

Happy Spring!

While most things are running well at the library, unfortunately, Wendy informed us she would not be able to stay on board with us. She complimented the leadership team, and the staff for being excellent people. It was a mere life decision she had to make, so we gave her all our good wishes. Teri should be posting the open position soon, and we remain hopeful that it will be filled with the perfect candidate.

I would like, once again, to thank Liza for heading up all of the story times and programs she runs for our young patrons. The month of May will be especially busy for her, as she will be adding class visits to her existing programs. Thankfully, Ashley will be taking on some of those visits. I'd also like to extend a big thank you to Susan, who has been filling in for us by covering the desk a couple of days out of the week. It's been a big help.

The Fidget Spinner Zone was a lot of fun. It was especially interesting to see how adults responded to what they were making. Some took the time to carefully build their spinner, while others preferred to observe and play with the prototype. I heard plenty of "ohs" and "ahs" as participants realized how the spinner worked, along with lots of laughter. Up next, we'll be running the May Flower Bookmark Zone, which is always a success.

Lisa Brachwitz, Program Manager of the MSU Extension Mobile Memory Café, came in on April 10th to host a drop-in event. Her program offers a supportive and welcoming space for individuals to learn more about brain health, memory loss, and dementia. The turnout was great, and it was clear that this is a topic our community is deeply interested in. I let Lisa know that she is always welcome to run these programs whenever she is in the area.

Sam and I are currently working on obtaining an estimate for a new public color printer. I have discussed this with Teri that I plan to submit a grant request to the CFLA. An example of why we need a new color printer; We recently had a patron print one hundred flyers, and the job took the printer 30 minutes to complete.

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

This month, several building and facility issues were addressed with the help of our custodial team and other staff. Toilet seats were replaced to make them easier to open and close, and an electrician identified what appears to be a solution to a long-standing issue with a malfunctioning pendant light. Our safety manager installed emergency exit signage and resolved cleaning product storage concerns to ensure compliance with safety standards.

Attention has also been given to our outdoor spaces. The area to the northeast of the building will soon become a native plant garden and outdoor program space. Planned by a Scout as part of an Eagle Scout project, this landscaping effort is being supported by many community volunteers, and the collaborative energy already makes it feel like a true community space.

Our first co-hosted program with Flathead Lake State Park benefited from perfect weather conditions. Seven participants joined a State Park ranger for a guided poetry walk in the Wayfarers Unit of Flathead Lake State Park. The next program in this series will take place on the evening of April 22 and will focus on foraging, with a wildflower-themed program planned for May.

Additional upcoming programs include a presentation by Rick Trembath, former Bigfork Fire Chief and Hotshot firefighter, who will speak about the history of fire in the Bigfork area, and a talk by Kathy Ross on Monarch butterflies and ways community members can help conserve the species.