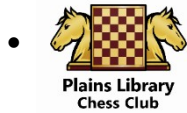


Director's Report April 2026

Respectfully Presented by Nikki Ericksen, Library Director

May Events



May 13 & 27 4:00-7:00

Building



May 6 6:00



May 20 6:00



Through May 14

Door Units: The door units are installed, electrical is completed, and the buttons are positioned according to regulations. Valley Glass was great to work with. It is very satisfying to have this project completed.

Radon: Mitigation was completed on April 10.

Lighting: The city has received new units

Staff and Volunteers

We have been working short since Eden's last day but will be welcoming Mikiah Cook back for the summer. She will temporarily fill the Library Tech role. So far, I've not had any other applicants.

We have a new volunteer. Suzanne Martin will be designing displays for the library. She will be working with community members and organizations to find and create displays that the patrons will find interesting and educational. She is also excited to manage plantings in the planters in front of the building once they are in place.

Programming and Outreach

The library is hosting the display and raffle of a large quilt to benefit the Flat Iron Quilting Guild. The quilt will be on display at the library until May 7.

Regular programming will be coming to an end at the end of May. Chess, Tea & Talk, Story Time, and Book Club will all return in September.

The summer reading program will run from June 1 through July 31. This year we are partnering with Em's Café who will be awarding the kids ice cream cones for their reading at a discounted price to us. We are keeping programming offsite to avoid challenges we have had in the past with too many kids, not enough adults. We will host a pool party for participants and their families at the city pool and we are putting on a STEAM fair held at the 4H building at the fairgrounds. Readers who take on the Reading Challenge and read their 45 hours over the two months will get to attend the bowling/ice cream party with their families on August 1.

Chess Tournament

The chess tournament went really well. We tried a new system of scoring players instead of eliminating them. The overall vibe was more relaxed and more communal. Everyone got to play four rounds and the top scoring players played a championship game. Ross Eckstein won first place. Fifteen-year-old Jeremiah Ericksen placed second and 13-year-old Dechlan Neeson placed third.

Half of the players were new to playing chess at the library. Our three winners are all regular chess club attendees.

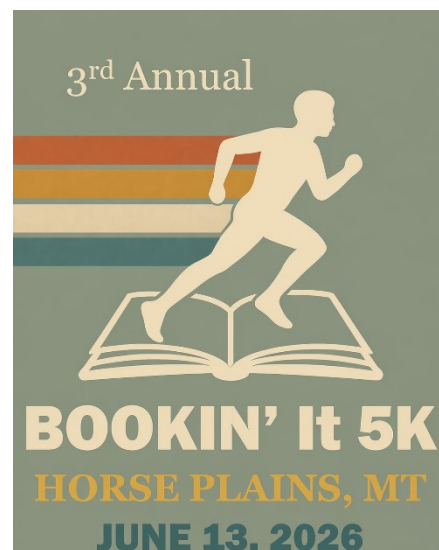


Declan Neeson with prize chess set made by Kathy and Sean Emmett.

Fundraising

People can sign up for the Bookin' It 5K at runsignup.com. There are currently 5 registered. Our current list of sponsors include:

- Quinn's \$1,000
- MT West Dentist \$200
- Plains Physical Therapy \$100
- Valley Bank \$100
- Superior Plumbing \$100
- Plains Auto Parts \$100



- First Security Bank \$100
- Clark Fork Valley Hospital \$100
- Ace's Coffee \$100
- Valley Glass \$100
- Rehbein Ford \$100

Transactions March 2026

CD	16
CHAPTER	13
DISPLAY	22
DVD	207
EASY	203
FICTION	137
JUV-BIO	3
JUV-FICT	93
JUV-NF	43
MONTANA	18
MYSTERY	79
NEW-BOOK	68
NON FICTION	49
SCI-FI	4
STACKS	121
WESTERN	7

New Patrons

15

Computer Users 45

Reference Questions

10

Patron Traffic

1763

Volunteer Hours

11.75

Programming

Children 62

Adult 16

General 22