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Krum Public Library Quarterly

a newsletter released by KPL staff

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BIG NEWS!



This April, the library says goodbye to Donna Pierce, our director of almost 20 years. Ms. Pierce has led the library from extremely humble beginnings to the stature it enjoys today. She has made a lasting impression on her colleagues, her employees, library patrons, and the Krum community at large.

**Thank you for everything, Donna,
and congratulations on your
retirement!
We will miss you.**

The library is pleased to announce that the **new Library Director is Elizabeth Schrier!** Elizabeth, or "Liz" as you may know her, has been a staple of the Krum Library since she joined us as a student. Upon achieving her MLS, she has made a positive impact both as a supervisor and a member of the KPL team. Elizabeth's expertise and enthusiasm for innovation and serving the community have made her the ideal choice to lead KPL into an exciting future.

Welcome, Elizabeth!

Thank you, Krum.

A fond farewell from retiring Library Director Donna Pierce, MLS

Nineteen years ago this month I wrote the first "From the Stacks" for the Krum Newspaper. The paper lasted a little longer than my monthly columns. But now, the time has come, as all things must, for my tenure at the Krum Public Library to come to an end. This will be my last Director's note to you as I will retire on April 24th, 2026.

I walked into the Krum Public Library on March 27th, 2007. The previous staff had resigned at the end of February and two of the Krum Friends of the Library members were doing their best to keep the library up and running. When I started the library was dark, smelly, and had a very outdated collection. (We had a 1956 edition of Women's Health!)



I am extremely proud of how far the library has come in two decades. But I couldn't have accomplished what I have without the support of everyone who has advocated for the Krum Public Library – whether that is through donations, speaking with elected officials or just attending programs and checking out materials.

I am convinced that, with your continued support, the library will continue to grow and provide for the community.

Thank you so much for a wonderful 20 years!

Donna's Career Highlights



Donna earned an estimated \$151,000+ in grant funding for the library, which provided furniture for the ENTIRE library as you see it today, plus:

- Shelving
- Junior & adult non-fiction books
- 700+ Spanish & bilingual books
- Patron access computers
- Specially equipped children's computers
- Outdoor book drop
- Video game consoles
- and more!

Other Major Accomplishments:

- Started with a staff of 1 part-time person; now there are 2 full-time and 3 part-time staff.
- Mentored and trained librarians
- Assisted in maintaining the Friends of the Library
- Helped form and operate NTLC
- Hired and maintained a qualified children's librarian (Ms. Katie!) for popular programming
- Continued to update the collection, adding hot spots and video games
- Increased programming over the years
- SO much more!



"My favorite accomplishment is fighting for the current library building, assisting in its design, and seeing it come to life. I am proud that my name is on the cornerstone."

– Donna Pierce



Hello, Krum!

A Note from NEW Library Director,
Liz Schrier, MLS

Spring has arrived, bringing with it both renewal and a bittersweet farewell. This April, we say goodbye to our incredible Director, Donna Pierce, whose nearly twenty years of service have shaped the Krum Public Library into what it is today. Donna's dedication to the City of Krum and to every patron who has walked through our doors has been constant and deeply felt. Over the years, she has helped build not just a library, but a place where people gather, learn, and feel at home. Her work has left a lasting imprint on both the space itself and the community it serves.

Her influence reaches even further through the people she has mentored along the way. I am grateful to be among those she guided. What began as a practicum quickly grew into something much more meaningful,

and in a relatively short time, her mentorship has had a lasting impact on my path and perspective.

While we celebrate Donna's well-deserved retirement, we also look ahead with a sense of continuity. It is an honor to step into the role of Library Director and carry forward the work she has so thoughtfully built. With the continued support of the City of Krum and our community, we remain committed to providing thoughtful services, engaging programs, and a welcoming space for everyone who walks through our doors.

The foundation she created is strong, and we are excited to continue building on it in the years ahead. I personally look forward to continuing the work built by Donna Pierce and leading the library into its next chapter.



About Elizabeth



Outside of her day-to-day work, Elizabeth is an avid game enthusiast who is always ready to talk about Magic: The Gathering or introduce someone to a new board game. She has a deep appreciation for a well-built spreadsheet, a love for fantasy novels, and a constant drive to find better, more efficient ways to do just about anything.

She is passionate about building community through the library, serving as a bridge between the city and its citizens, while encouraging literacy through initiatives, innovation, and engaging programs.

The Collection

New Materials and Exciting Updates to the Library Catalog



CloudLibrary, a digital collection of ebooks and audiobooks, has joined our library!

Download the CloudLibrary app, select Krum Public Library, and sign up with your library card and PIN (remember, unless changed, your PIN is always the last four digits of your phone number).

LIBBY remains available for Krum Library patrons as well, and you may use both apps simultaneously.

WE HAVE A SWITCH 2!

You can try it out at the library on Fridays at 4PM during our weekly Video Games program. We also have Switch and Switch 2 games available for checkout, including these recent releases:



LIZ RECOMMENDS CASTLE PANIC

It's a game that's easy to jump into but still keeps everyone engaged! I LOVE co-op games. You're all trying to defend the same castle from waves of monsters, which means a lot of talking, planning, and occasionally realizing someone definitely should have made a different move. It creates those fun moments where everyone is invested in what's happening on the table. It's also a great balance of simplicity and strategy. You can learn it quickly, but every round still feels like it matters. It's easy to bring out for a casual game night and just as easy to get pulled into one more round."

It's easy to set up, quick to play, and full of action and laughter. Highly recommended.



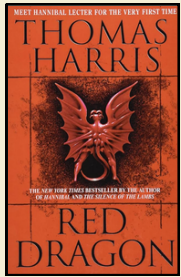
In recent months, we've added many brand new beautiful and fun board games for all ages at no cost to the library! This is due to Atlas Games and their extremely generous donations.

THANK YOU, ATLAS GAMES!

What We're Reading



MARGO:
RED DRAGON
BY
THOMAS HARRIS
HORROR/
THRILLER



Red Dragon by Thomas Harris is a wonderful example of a gripping horror classic. The story follows Will Graham, a retired FBI agent with a special talent for profiling criminals, a talent that never fully allowed him to depart from his work. Upon the surfacing of a new serial killer, Will is pulled back into the mess he swore off. After a fateful encounter with Dr. Hannibal Lecter, Will finds himself wondering if he will regret leaving behind his comfortable life in Florida.

What I like most about this story is the writing. The language, especially referring to the inside police work, is extremely accessible and clear without being excessively wordy, helping me not to get bored and let my mind wander while reading. Crime novels can sometimes be more confusing than helpful and often contain excess jargon or complexities that do not interest me, so I am grateful that this was not true about Red Dragon.

In addition to the general writing, the story has some truly unique characters that I found myself growing attached to without even realizing it. The way they are described and their interactions with each other are very refreshingly realistic. Reba McClane, a blind woman who works with the main antagonist, is especially interesting in the way that she impacts the story. Establishing likeable characters with imperfections is the natural route to creating realism, but the opposite is also important, establishing villainous characters that have human nature or redeeming qualities.

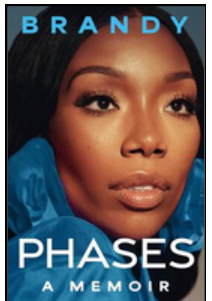
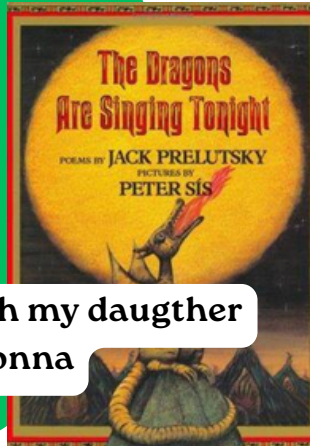
Red Dragon feels like one of those books that everyone who enjoys the horror genre should read, even if you're someone who doesn't usually read police stories such as myself. It definitely hits the spot when you find yourself in the mood for a scary story. I can now understand why Thomas Harris is so widely regarded for his work in the horror genre, and I can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Donna recommends

William Blake's Inn
by Nancy Willard

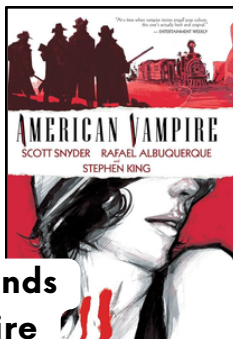
AND

The Dragons are Singing Tonight
by Jack Prelutsky

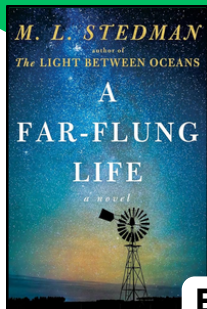


Liz is reading
Phases: A Memoir
by Brandy

"Because I loved reading these with my daughter when she was little."- Donna



Katrina recommends
American Vampire
by Scott Snyder & Stephen King



Bari recommends
A Far Flung Life by M.L. Stedman

MS. KATIE, KPL'S CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN AND THE HOST OF OUR WEEKLY CHILDREN'S HOUR, RECOMMENDS WHEN SPRING COMES AND KITTEN'S FIRST FULL MOON, BOTH BY KEVIN HENKES.



Brecken's Nonfiction Nook

Brecken Wellborn, PhD



Welcome to Brecken's Nonfiction Nook, where I review the standout nonfiction books from the library that I've read this quarter. This time, I'm discussing **two titles about internet life** recently added to the library's collection.

Across its overarching structure, *Doppelganger* interweaves three different narratives, all of which combine into a complex portrait of how the internet shapes our understanding of the world around us. One of these stories is a historical analysis of Naomi Wolf, the once-famed feminist writer who has transformed into a highly visible conspiracy theorist (at one point, she tweets about a government-backed plot to kill the sun). Another is Klein's own account of spending her public life being confused for Wolf by people online. **Klein examines how feelings of loneliness and exclusion, when**

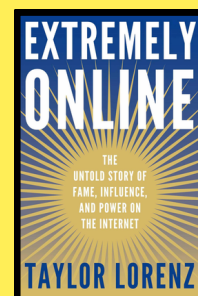
reinforced by social media, can disfigure our perception of the world. The book is strongest when Klein connects to her personal stories (including a rather shocking account of when she actually met Wolf) or offers a convincing thesis about how the consequences of disinformation are related to psychological isolation. The book's least successful narrative, although still engaging, is about extending the concept of distortion to global politics broadly. These sections of the book are never boring, but they distract from the most unique aspect of the text: the distorted parallels of Klein and Wolf.



Doppelganger
Naomi Klein

Lorenz's sweeping history of social media is a brisk read through the major moments, micro-celebrities, and monetary mishaps that shaped the current state of digital media. For those less familiar with internet culture, Lorenz's book is jam-packed with chronologies ranging from the fall of Myspace to the rise of YouTube and is sure to be an informative journey. **For those who are more accustomed to being extremely online, you will likely enjoy reliving some of the biggest moments of internet culture,** gain a few insights into the behind-the-scenes drama that shaped the rise of social media, but also feel like Lorenz's account never goes quite as deep as it could; her chronology is far wider than it is deep.

However, because Lorenz is an experienced journalist, the book is accessible, well researched, and treats its primary subjects with respect and without judgment. By her own admission, Lorenz is extremely online herself, which means that this book runs counter to Jonathan Haidt-style fearmongering about the so-called "dangers" of being online. Lorenz is far more interested in the history of the subject and the people who comprise the most visible cohort of online creators than in decrying those who spend "too much time" online.

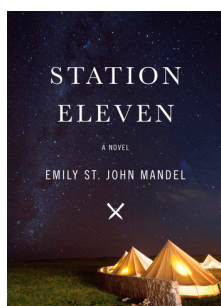


Extremely Online
Taylor Lorenz

What's Krum Reading?

Here are the most checked out books at the library this quarter

- **Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel**
- **The Boys by Clint & Ron Howard**
- **Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall**
- **The Invisible Woman by James Patterson**
- **Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas by Dav Pilkey**



Library Insider's Guide

Recent Library Legislation

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES (IMLS)

WHAT HAPPENED?

On 3/14/25, the White House issued Executive Order 14238, directing that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency that administers Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) support, be reduced "to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law," and directing the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to limit budget requests to those needed for required functions and closure-related steps.

WHERE THINGS STAND NOW (EARLY 2026)

As of early 2026, IMLS remains in place, and federal library funding has continued. Congress approved, and the President signed, an FY2026 budget on 2/3/26 that includes \$212.5 million for LSTA (a \$1.4 million increase) and level funding of \$30 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program, which supports school-library literacy initiatives.

Even with that positive outcome, the past year highlighted how quickly federal funding and agency structures can become uncertain; and how important it is for communities to understand what's at stake.

HOW THIS EFFECTS KRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY

IMLS is the primary channel for LSTA support to every state. In Texas, LSTA funds flow through the Texas State Library & Archives Commission (TSLAC), helping provide research databases, e-books, summer reading support, grants, and shared services that stretch local library budgets further. Most public library funding still comes from local government. As Candid notes, government sources make up roughly 94–96% of public library funding overall, with a smaller share coming from fines, fees, and philanthropy. For Krum, the key issue is long-term stability: when federal support is questioned or delayed, it becomes harder for Texas libraries to plan confidently for resources, technology, shared services, and grant-funded projects that benefit local communities.

– Liz Schrier



In 2025, EveryLibrary (everylibrary.org) tracked more than 130 state-level bills affecting libraries and the public's right to read.

These proposals varied widely.

Here at the KPL, we monitor these developments closely. Our goal is to keep our community informed about how new laws and court decisions may shape library services, access to information, and resources.

Library Insider's Guide



What Happened in Llano and why librarians are talking about it

The events in Llano County have become a key part of the national conversation about library governance and the First Amendment. The situation began in August 2021, when the Llano County Library System removed 17 books from its shelves. County officials described the titles as “obscene” or “pornographic.” The list included a wide range of materials, from humorous children’s books to award-winning literature such as Maurice Sendak’s In the Night Kitchen, Isabel Wilkerson’s Caste, and Robie H. Harris’ It’s Perfectly Normal.

Following these removals, the county dissolved its existing library advisory board and replaced its members through appointments made by the Commissioners Court. Meetings were no longer open to the public, the library’s digital reading platform was canceled, and the Library Director, Suzette Baker, was dismissed.

- In 2022, several library patrons filed a lawsuit arguing that the removal of books violated their First Amendment right to receive information.
- In March 2023, a U.S. District Judge issued a preliminary injunction ordering the books returned to library shelves. The Commissioners Court publicly considered closing all three library branches rather than complying. The case proceeded to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- In June 2024, a three-judge panel upheld the District Court’s injunction, finding that removing books based on their content constituted a First Amendment violation. However, that decision was vacated when the Fifth Circuit ordered the case to be reheard en banc by the full court.
- In May ‘25, the Fifth Circuit issued a new opinion, reversing the earlier injunction.

The court held that public library collection decisions fall under government speech, meaning: libraries curate their collections as an expression of government intent, and patrons do not have a First Amendment right to demand specific books be kept or made available. Under this ruling, library materials may be removed for any reason—including viewpoint.

- On December ‘25, the Supreme Court declined to review the case, leaving the Fifth Circuit ruling in effect in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

By determining that library collection decisions fall under the category of government speech, the court narrows the First Amendment protections associated with public libraries. In particular, it weakens the ability of individuals to challenge the removal of materials on the basis of discrimination (meaning patrons won’t have a say in what is purchased or removed), a cornerstone of previous library-related First Amendment cases. This decision also creates uncertainty for library staff. Under current Fifth Circuit law, governments may remove books despite the Free Speech Clause.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR KPL?

KPL remains committed to serving our whole community. Our staff are trained professionals who maintain collections using established standards, community needs, and widely recognized best practices. Beyond formal education, librarians participate in ongoing, wide-spanning professional development, ensuring that staff can meet the needs of the public.

The KPL will continue providing the same high level of service it always has. The library works closely with the City of Krum in its operations and will maintain that partnership as legal developments unfold.

Like libraries across the state, the Krum Public Library will remain available to answer questions, provide accurate information, and support constructive community conversations. The library will continue upholding its core values: ensuring access to information, supporting learning at every age, and maintaining a welcoming space for all patrons.

The Krum Public Library remains a community resource dedicated to serving every individual to the best of our ability and that commitment will not change.

– Liz Schrier

Videoland

Film Curation & Appreciation at KPL



You may not realize this, but the films and modest movie programming at KPL are brought to you by a cineaste with two film degrees + decades of movie-related experience (yes, me). I am passionate about developing the library's movie selection & related materials into a collection we can all be proud of. **Katrina Barnett, MA**

Many fond memories of my childhood are linked to movie theaters and, more importantly, to the independent video stores that flourished in the 90s and early 2000s. The act of browsing, sharing, and discussing movies in their physical form (VHS! DVD!) alongside friends and strangers in a public space was a rich experience of community and connection for me, and a formative one. I miss that, but I am pleased that libraries may be one of few spaces that can still provide that opportunity.

I believe that physical media AND personal exchanges around art and storytelling are paramount to great culture, as well as vital personal development and education. I hope to find ways to expand the library's potential as a communal and film-centric space (as well as a literate one, of course).

For now, I'd love to encourage those of you with an interest in movies to find a title on our shelves that you wouldn't normally consider and give it a shot! That's the simplest way to expand our tastes and knowledge, and at the very least it might lead to an interesting conversation. Do you normally skip older movies, documentaries, or stuff with subtitles? Shun musicals or animated fare? Try one anyway, just for fun. It's free!



Here are some KPL titles a little off the beaten path that might be a good place to start!

[Please see ratings for each film before determining its appropriateness for you or your family]



A Look Back

See how far we've come!



Then



Now



Seeking Sponsors for Summer Reading 2026

Support the Krum Public Library's Summer Reading Program! Become a sponsor and help ignite imaginations, encourage lifelong reading habits, and support community engagement.



The scope and success of summer events are directly linked to sponsorship and generosity .

This year, we're seeking sponsors to help us purchase grand prizes (and little prizes) for our readers to earn and win.



Tier System



Sponsors will be publicly recognized based on their donation tier.
See what your support unlocks:

Bronze Sponsor (\$25-\$99)

- Shared sponsor slide (with other Bronze donors) displayed above our circulation desk during SRP months
- Logo and info featured on Summer Reading Program calendars
- Bulletin board poster listing all Bronze sponsors during SRP months

Silver Sponsor (\$100-\$499)

- Individual sponsor slide on our circulation TV during SRP months
- Logo and info on SRP calendars
- Poster on bulletin board during SRP months
- Website listing as a Silver Tier sponsor (SRP season)
- Newsletter listing as a Silver Tier sponsor (SRP season)

Gold Sponsor (\$500+)

- Individual sponsor slide all year on our circulation TV
- Gold Tier listing on SRP posters
- Bulletin board poster all year round
- Website listing as a Gold Tier sponsor (year-round)
- Newsletter listing as a Gold Tier sponsor (year-round)





Thank You

to our new and long-standing sponsors!

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Upcoming

Events that we're excited about

KRUM FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY PRESENT
THE 3RD ANNUAL
SPRING FESTIVAL



SAT, APRIL 25
9 AM - 2 PM
KRUM MIDDLE SCHOOL

• vendors • food • crafts •
bounce house & more!

PLUS: SHOP HANDMADE GIFTS FOR MOTHER'S DAY!

APRIL 18
NATIONAL JAZZ
MONTH!

JAZZ CONCERT
AT THE LIBRARY
THURSDAY, APRIL 23 @ 6PM

FEATURING THE KRUM JAZZ BAND



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FREE COMIC BOOK DAY
MAY 2ND, 2026

SPONSORED BY: GRUMPY'S COMICS & PIZZA PARTY @ KRUM LIBRARY



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THE KRUM PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS
SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA
SAT, JUNE 6
12PM-2PM

FREE

LET'S START SUMMER READING IN A BIG WAY!
INCLUDING:

BOUNCE HOUSE **LASER TAG** **MAGIC SHOW**
FEAT KRUM PD
FREE SNO CONES **AND MORE!**

DESENTIERRA UNA HISTORIA **815 E MCCART ST. KRUM, TX**
940-482-3455
KRUMLIBRARY.ORG **UNEARTH A STORY**



How to Help



If you're looking for a meaningful way to support the library, **consider volunteering!** Whether it's your involvement makes what we do possible, especially as we near Summer Reading time!

JOIN TODAY!

- NO FEES
- NO MONTHLY MEETINGS
- CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT
- BE A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

To volunteer, sign up at the library in person or go to:

timecounts.app/krum-public-library

Don't forget to attend the biggest library fundraiser of the year, Spring Festival (April 25) at Krum Middle School. For more information on Krum Friends of the Library or volunteering in general, contact Stacey at **KrumFriends@gmail.com**

Share the Love!



If you love what the library brings to Krum, contact your city representatives and let them know how much the library means to you. Every email, call, and comment helps ensure we can continue offering great programs, resources, and services for our community.



contact city of Krum here:
info@cityofkrum.com