

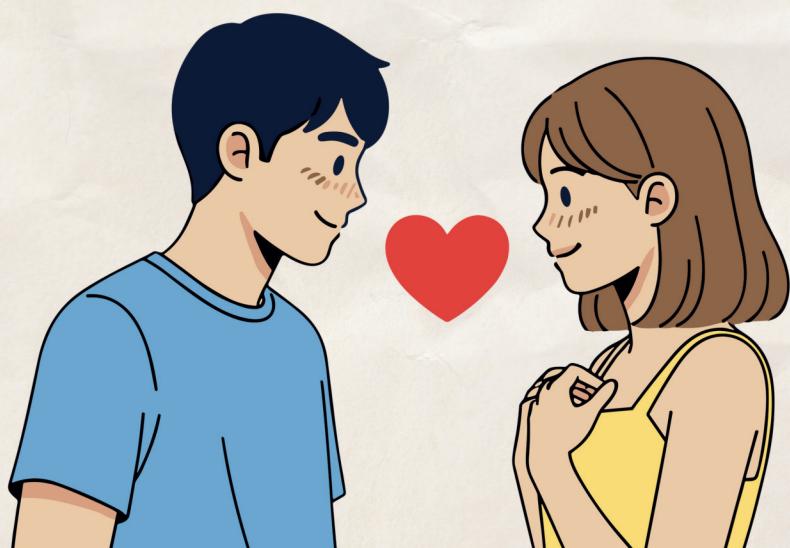


# the ORLA newsletter.

FEBRUARY 2026

# ROMANCE FICTION

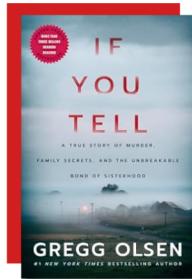
*that's worth the hype*



# WHAT WE'RE READING



Available on Libby



## IF YOU TELL ★★★★☆

GREGG OLSEN

After more than a decade, when sisters Nikki, Sami, & Tori Knotek hear the word mom, it claws like an eagle's talons, triggering memories that have been their secret since childhood. Until now. For years, behind the closed doors of their farmhouse in Raymond, WA, their sadistic mother, Shelly,

subjected her girls to unimaginable abuse, degradation, torture, & psychic terrors. Through it all, Nikki, Sami, & Tori developed a defiant bond that made them far less vulnerable than Shelly imagined. Even as others were drawn into their mother's dark & perverse web, the sisters found the strength & courage to escape an escalating nightmare that culminated in multiple murders. Harrowing & heartrending, *If You Tell* is a survivor's story of absolute evil - and the freedom & justice that Nikki, Sami, & Tori risked their lives to fight for. Sisters forever, victims no more, they found a light in the darkness that made them the resilient women they are today - loving, loved, & moving on.

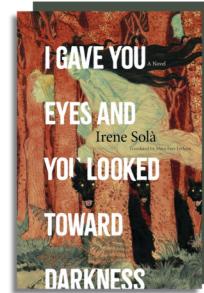
**"Perfect for fans of *Mommy Dearest*, or just true crime in general, this story will have you hooked from the very beginning. Shelly Knotek is one of the most diabolical & sadistic mothers of (probably) all time. This story was horrific and, at times, hard to believe. It was a good read, but I found the writing style a little disjointed & often repetitive."** Natalie Whitling, ORLA Marketing Coordinator

## FICTION



## I GAVE YOU EYES AND YOU LOOKED TOWARD DARKNESS

IRENE SOLÀ

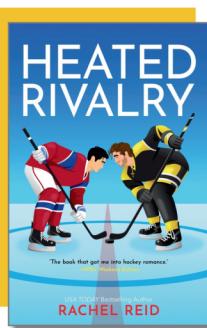


Dawn is breaking over the Guilleries, a rugged mountain range in Catalonia frequented by wolf hunters, brigands, deserters, race-car drivers, ghosts, & demons. In a remote farmhouse called Mas Clavell, an impossibly old woman lies on her deathbed. Family & caretakers drift in and out. Meanwhile, all the women who have lived & died in that house are waiting for her to join them. They are preparing to throw her a party. As day turns to night, 400 years' worth of stories unspool, & the house reverberates with raucous laughter, pungent feasts, & piercing cries of pleasure & pain. It all begins with Joana, Mas Clavell's matriarch, who once longed for a husband - "a full man," perhaps even "an heir with a patch of land & a roof over his head." She summoned the devil to fulfill her wish & struck a deal: a man in exchange for her soul. But when, on her wedding day, Joana discovered that her husband was missing a toe (eaten by wolves), she exploited a loophole in her agreement, heedless of what consequences might follow.

**"I love family epics. I love novels that follow a group of people through time & tell stories about their lives, how they intertwine, & how the world changes around them & affects them. This is a pretty good one! Solà weaves the past & present, the living & the dead, myth & history all together to make a collective whole that is beautiful & enjoyable to read. It can be challenging to keep track of characters because she jumps between the past and the present with little warning, but I always found myself able to get back on track fairly easily. A short, strange, & lyrical read. Shout out to the translator, Mara Faye Lethem, as well."** Amanda Barker, Franklin Public Library Branch Manager

## HEATED RIVALRY ★★★★☆

RACHEL REID



Pro hockey star Shane Hollander isn't just crazy talented; he's got a spotless reputation. Hockey is his life. Now that he's captain of the Montreal Voyageurs, he won't let anything jeopardize that, especially the sexy Russian whose hard body keeps him awake at night. Boston Bears captain Ilya Rozanov is everything Shane's not. The self-proclaimed king of the ice, he's as cocky as he is talented. No one can beat him—except Shane. They've made a career on their legendary rivalry, but when the skates come off, the heat between them is undeniable. When Ilya realizes he wants more than a few secret hookups, he knows he must walk away. The risk is too great. As their attraction intensifies, they struggle to keep their relationship out of the public eye. If the truth comes out, it could ruin them both. But when their need for each other rivals their ambition on the ice, secrecy is no longer an option...

**"I'm staying at the cottage. Romance novels aren't my thing, so I can't really comment on the writing. It doesn't feel fair to say it's bad, but it's not great either. The story and the characters make up for it for me since I'm a sucker for this sort of thing. Is that contradictory? That romance novels aren't my thing but I'm a sucker for this type of story? Whatever. I've yet to watch the show, but I do think that anyone who has watched it should read the book. Ilya Rozanov and Shane Hollander, you will always be famous."** Emily Antkowiak, Adult Services Coordinator

# Franklin Library Hosting Bunco Party Fundraiser

Join us at the Franklin Public Library for a Bunco Party on **Thursday, February 12th!** Registration is required - sign up at the Franklin Public Library or by calling (814) 432-5062. Games start at 11:00AM. The registration fee is \$20/player and includes lunch. All proceeds benefit the Franklin Public Library.

Bunco is a dice game generally played with twelve or more players, divided into groups of four, trying to score points while taking turns rolling three dice in a series of six rounds. A bunco is achieved when a person rolls three-of-a-kind and all three numbers match the round number.



## WE'RE HIRING A NEW CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

Do you believe a well-timed silly voice can save a storytime? Can you lead a room full of wiggly toddlers & connect with curious elementary kids? Franklin Public Library is looking for a Children's Coordinator who brings energy, creativity, & a genuine love of kids to everything they do.

This role is perfect for someone fun, a little silly, endlessly patient, & comfortable being their authentic self in front of children of all ages. If you thrive on laughter, songs, & helping kids discover the joy of reading & learning, we want to meet you.

- **Position Type:** Part-Time
- **Location:** Franklin Public Library
- **Hours & Pay:** 25 hours per week, \$13/hour
- **Responsibilities:**
  - Plan, coordinate, & lead engaging children's programs, including Storytime, Bouncing Babies, & other age-appropriate activities
  - Create a welcoming, inclusive environment for children & caregivers
  - Connect with children from babies through elementary age using creativity, humor, & warmth
  - Assist families with library services & children's materials
  - Collaborate with library staff to support overall library goals & community outreach



Apply online at [oilregionlibraries.org/jobs](http://oilregionlibraries.org/jobs) or pick up an application at any ORLA location



WRITTEN AND  
CREATED BY

EMILY ANTKOWIAK

Each month, I take one historical image & photograph it superimposed over the same area as it appears today. This allows you to see what Venango County looked like in the past with a modern reference. My hope is to share neat photos from the library's archives to make them and their history more attainable.



This month we're looking at Coefield's Corners in Franklin. Back in 1919, Frank H. Williams became owner of Franklin's second authorized Ford agency. The first belonged to his partner and former boss, Frank E. Steele. The cement block with planter on top, which stood on this corner for many years, is a familiar sight to some. This location was later home to Buyer's Fair, and now houses Hand in Hand Christian Counseling.

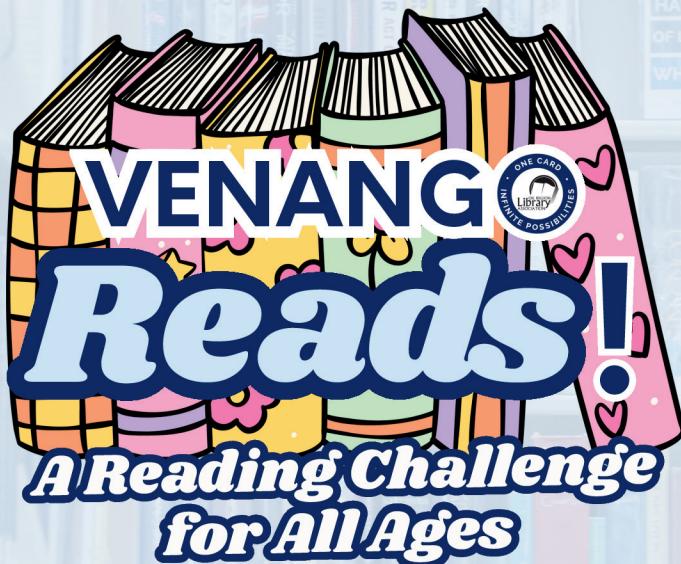


THEN

NOW



Do you have an image or location you'd like to see featured?  
Email [eantkowiak@oilregionlibraries.org](mailto:eantkowiak@oilregionlibraries.org) with your suggestions!



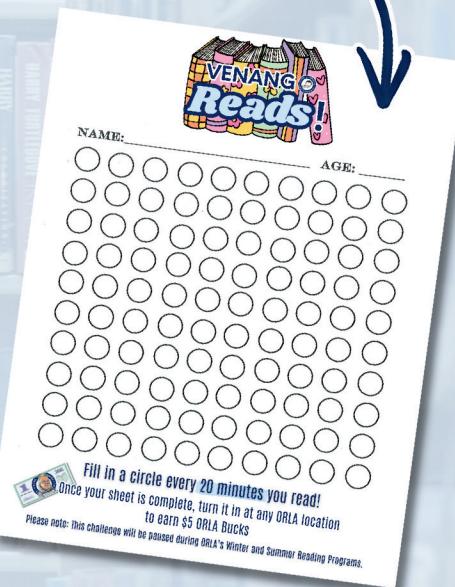
# VENANGO Reads!

## A Reading Challenge for All Ages

EXCESSIVE  
HANDLING  
OF LIBRARY MATERIALS  
WHEN BROWSING

Fill in a Circle for Every 20  
Minutes You Read

Turn in a Full Sheet  
at Your Library for  
\$5 ORLA Bucks



Exchange Your ORLA  
Bucks for Prizes



Have you heard about Venango Reads? It's a new ORLA-wide reading challenge for ages 5+ (even for adults!) that earns you prizes as you read!

How it works:

- Pick up a Venango Reads log at your library (available at both Franklin & Oil City locations).
- READ! For every 20 minutes you read, fill in a circle on the log. You can read anything you want - even a newspaper or magazine!
- Once your log is filled up, bring it into your library to earn 5 ORLA Bucks.
- Exchange your ORLA Bucks for prizes, like books, games, trinkets & more!

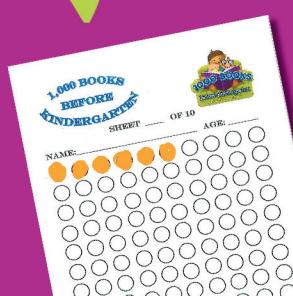
This challenge runs all year long at Franklin & Oil City libraries, taking a break during the summer for our annual Summer Reading Program. Anyone ages 5+ can participate. Having a library card is not required to participate.



Keep track of the  
books you read with  
the library's easy  
color-the-shapes log!



These readers  
hit milestones  
recently!



### Why Participate?

There's no better time to lay the groundwork for independent learning than early childhood. Reading 1,000 books before kindergarten is a low pressure way to close the vocabulary gap & develop the early literacy skills so crucial to success in school. Any child can participate as long as they are not yet in kindergarten.

Register your child in person at your library or online at [www.oilregionlibraries.org/youth/1000-books-before-kindergarten/](http://www.oilregionlibraries.org/youth/1000-books-before-kindergarten/)

2026 ANNUAL  
OIL REGION LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# LIBRARY LOTTO

2026 tickets are  
available NOW!

EACH TICKET  
**\$20**  
ONLY 1000 SOLD

## JANUARY WINNERS!

**\$75**

NO WINNER

THIS COULD BE YOU NEXT  
MONTH! GET YOUR TICKET  
TODAY AT YOUR LIBRARY!

**\$100**

NO WINNER

THIS COULD BE YOU NEXT  
MONTH! GET YOUR TICKET  
TODAY AT YOUR LIBRARY!

**\$200**

NO WINNER

THIS COULD BE YOU NEXT  
MONTH! GET YOUR TICKET  
TODAY AT YOUR LIBRARY!

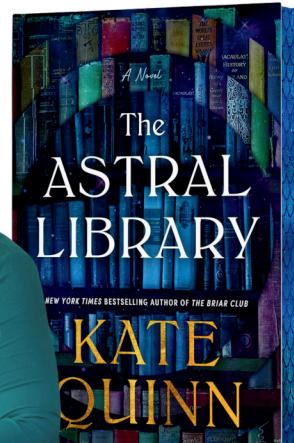
A total of 36 winners will be  
determined by the **Pennsylvania**  
**Daily Pick 3** evening drawing at  
7:00PM on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd days  
of each month in 2026.

## Book Portals & Journeys of Literary Magic with **KATE QUINN**

You're invited to join us for a virtual conversation with acclaimed author Kate Quinn about her latest fantastical work, *The Astral Library*, which poses the question: Have you ever wished you could live inside a book? Welcome to the Astral Library, where books are not just objects, but doors to new worlds, new lives, and new futures.

Alexandria "Alix" Watson has learned one lesson from her barren childhood in the foster-care system: unlike people, books will never let you down. Working 3 dead-end jobs to make ends meet & knowing college is a pipe dream, Alix takes nightly refuge in the high-vaulted reading room at the Boston Public Library, escaping into her favorite fantasy novels & dreaming of far-off lands. Until the day she stumbles through a hidden door & meets the Librarian: the ageless, acerbic guardian of a hidden library where the desperate & the lost escape to new lives... inside their favorite books.

The Librarian takes a dazzled Alix under her wing. Still, before she can escape into the pages of her new life, a shadowy enemy emerges to threaten everyone the Astral Library has ever helped protect. Aided by a dashing costume-shop owner, Alix & the Librarian flee through the Regency drawing rooms of Jane Austen to the back alleys of Sherlock Holmes & the champagne-soaked parties of The Great Gatsby as danger draws inexorably closer. But who does their enemy really wish to destroy—Alix, the Librarian, or the Library itself?



Thursdays, March 12th  
7:00 PM

Register now to hear more about *The Astral Library* & ask the author questions on Thursday, March 12th at 7 PM via digital live-stream in partnership with Oil Region Library Association.

Watch LIVE Online From Home  
OR

Join Us at the Oil City Library  
In-Person for a Watch Party!\*

\*Doors Open at 6:30 PM at the Oil City Library

Register & submit your questions to the author  
here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ORLAKateQuinn>

ADULT  
CRAFT  
CLUB

Spring  
2026

## at Oil City & Franklin Libraries!

Join us this Spring for more Adult Craft Club! This month, we are making Mini Spring Wreaths. All sessions are free to attend & all materials will be provided.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

Oil City has two dates to choose from, and both programs will be held at 5:00 PM. Franklin's program will be held at 4:00 PM. Visit or call the Franklin Public Library (814-432-5062) or the Oil City Library (814-678-3072) to register today!



### Mini Spring Wreaths

February 18

4:00PM | FRANKLIN  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

February 23

5:00PM | OIL CITY  
LIBRARY

February 25

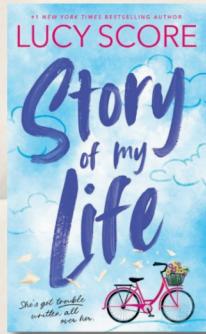
5:00PM | OIL CITY  
LIBRARY

# ROMANCE FICTION

that's worth the hype



also available  
on the Libby  
app



## Story of My Life

Lucy Score

A big-hearted small-town romance featuring sharp banter, slow-burn chemistry, & two stubborn souls learning that love might just rewrite everything they thought they knew.



## The Ten Year Affair

Erin Somers

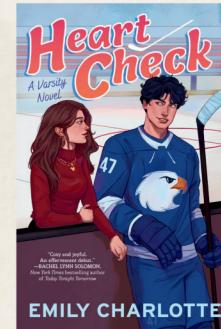
A second-chance romance about two people bound by a decade-long, on-again off-again connection who must finally decide if their love is worth the risk of lasting heartbreak.



## Overdue

Stephanie Perkins

When a burned-out librarian's quiet routine is upended by unexpected romance, she's forced to confront what she really wants from love, work, & life beyond the stacks.



## Heart Check

Emily Charlotte

A tender sports romance where a professional athlete & a determined heroine navigate vulnerability, ambition, & the emotional risks that come with opening your heart.



## A Witch's Guide to Magical Innkeeping

Sangu Mandanna

When a weary witch takes refuge in a cozy enchanted inn, she finds unexpected romance, found family, & the chance to rediscover her magic. Warm, whimsical, & heart-forward, this fantasy romance proves that sometimes the truest spells are the ones cast on the heart.

# Atmosphere

Taylor Jenkins Reid

Set against the glittering intensity of the early space race, this sweeping romantic novel follows an ambitious woman whose pursuit of the stars is complicated by a deeply personal love that challenges her ideas of devotion, destiny, & sacrifice. As passion & purpose collide, she must decide how much of her heart she's willing to give—to love, & to the life she's chasing.



DAVID LEVITHAN  
**SONGS FOR  
OTHER PEOPLE'S  
WEDDINGS**  
a novel  
with songs by  
JENS LEKMAN

# Songs for Other People's Weddings

David Levithan, with songs by Jens Lekman

A tender, bittersweet novel following a man who spends years providing music for other people's happiest moments while quietly searching for love & meaning in his own life. Through fleeting connections & missed chances, the story explores longing, timing, & the spaces between commitment & possibility.

# Sweet Heat

Bolu Babalola

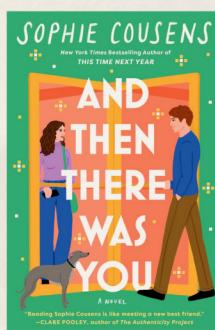
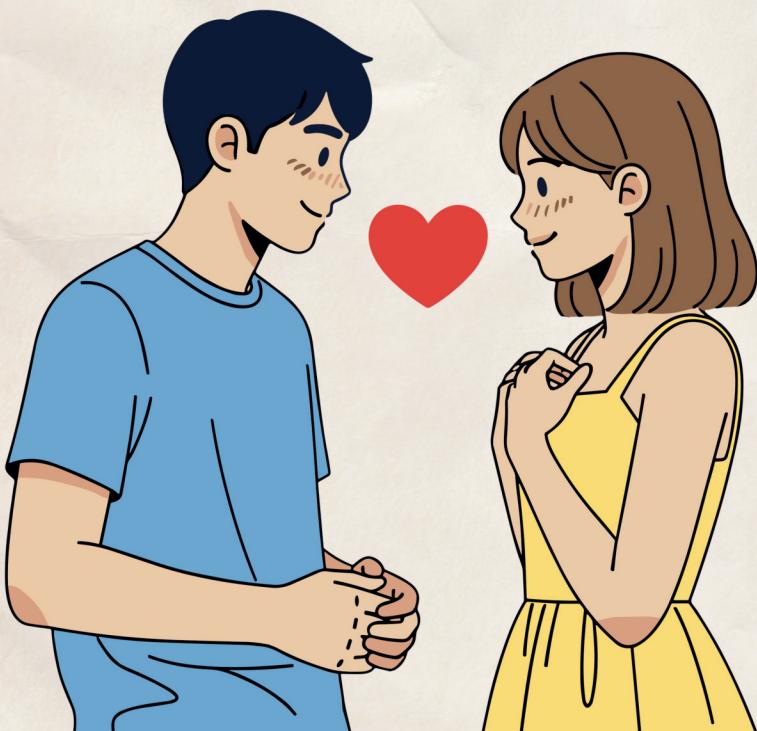
At a summer wedding she can't escape, heartbroken podcaster Kiki Banjo is forced to spend weeks with her charming, successful ex while her own life feels like it's falling apart. As old chemistry reignites amid wedding chaos & unresolved hurt, Kiki must decide whether reopening her heart is a mistake—or exactly what she needs.



# Good Spirits

B.K. Borison

Assigned to haunt the holidays like any other year, Ghost of Christmas Past Nolan Callahan never expects to be drawn to Harriet York, a kindhearted people-pleaser who doesn't understand why she's being visited. As they unravel her past together, their growing connection forces them both to question whether moving on means letting go—or daring to imagine a future before Christmas Eve arrives.



# And Then There Was You

Sophie Cousens

Facing her ten-year college reunion with a stalled career, a fresh breakup, & the return of the best friend she never quite got over, Chloe Fairway turns to a mysterious dating service for the perfect plus-one. But as her too-good-to-be-true match forces her to confront an unexpected catch—& unresolved feelings—Chloe discovers that looking back may be the key to moving forward.





# Libby.

The library reading app



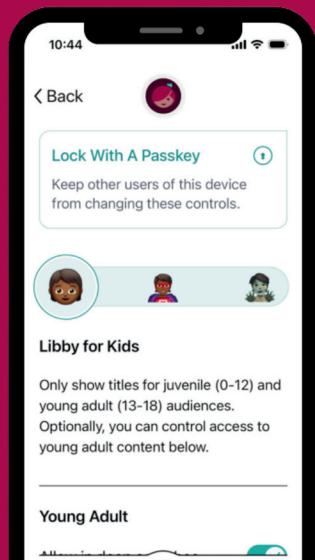
## TIP OF THE MONTH

# Using Content Controls

Content controls serve multiple purposes in Libby. **Libby for Kids** hides everything that isn't juvenile or young adult content and can be further refined. You can also lock content control settings with a passkey (including one on another device) to make these settings more secure.

A less well-known use for content controls is customizing your browsing experience. **Libby for Everyone** doesn't hide anything by default, but you can hide mature content if that's not something you're interested in. You can also use **Libby for Grown-ups** to hide kids titles and streamline your browsing and searching in Libby.

Content controls work like app-wide filters that you can use to customize your experience. If you haven't tried them yet, they're worth experimenting with!



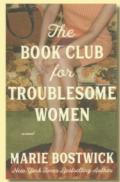
## Next Month's BOOK CLUB Selections

MARCH 2026

### Oil City Library Book Club

*Oil City Library*

Meets First Thursday of the Month at 10:30 AM



The Book Club for Troublesome Women  
Marie Bostwick



Also Available on Libby!

### The Bookmakers Book Club

*Franklin Public Library*

Meets Second Tuesday of the Month at 12:00 PM

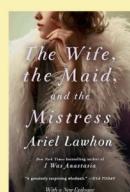


There's a Hole in My Bucket  
Royd Tolkien

### Thursday Evening Book Club

*Franklin Public Library*

Meets Third Thursday of the Month at 5:00 PM



The Wife, the Maid, and the Mistress  
Ariel Lawhon

## BUY A COFFEE Support Your Library



Franklin's *Iron Furnace Coffee* has recently debuted their "Page Turner Latte" & offered to donate a portion of every purchase of the drink to Oil Region Libraries!

Purchasing a Page Turner Latte is a great way to support a local business and your local libraries! We thank Iron Furnace Coffee for their amazing support.

Page Turner  
Latte



A blend of maple, brown sugar, & cinnamon in a latte.



IRON FURNACE COFFEE

1236 LIBERTY ST., FRANKLIN, PA

SATURDAY JAN. 31ST AT  
OIL CITY'S LIBRARY HALL



# 2026 PUZZLE CHALLENGE



The 2026 Puzzle Challenge took place Saturday, January 31st, at Oil City's Library Hall.

This year, 20 total teams competed to finish a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle within the 4-hour time limit.

Team "3 Daughters & a Mom" were the 1st place winners of the Puzzle Challenge, finishing their 1000-piece puzzle in just 1 hour, 41 minutes & 51 seconds! "The Panicking Puzzlers" were the 2nd place winners, finishing their puzzle in 1 hour, 42 minutes & 15 seconds! Team "Livin' on the Edge Pieces" took 3rd place, finishing in 1 hour, 44 minutes and 7 seconds.

The top 3 placers finished within minutes of each other. 16 total teams finished their puzzles, while 4 teams attempted, but did not finish.

A huge thank you to all our helpful volunteers & to the Belles Lettres Club for the yummy food!

Mark your calendars for next year's Puzzle Challenge on **January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027!**

## TEAM

## PLACE

## TIME

3 Daughters & a Mom	1 <sup>st</sup>	1: 41: 51
The Panicking Puzzlers	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1: 42: 15
Livin' on the Edge Pieces	3 <sup>rd</sup>	1: 44: 07
Downward Facing Dogs	4 <sup>th</sup>	2: 11: 01
The Piece Seekers	5 <sup>th</sup>	2: 30: 31
The Missing Pieces	6 <sup>th</sup>	2: 35: 57
The Misfits	7 <sup>th</sup>	2: 44: 56
Speed Solvers	8 <sup>th</sup>	2: 49: 36
The Bulldogs	9 <sup>th</sup>	3: 02: 53
LOCKED IN	10 <sup>th</sup>	3: 17: 30
Liberty Street Irregulars	11 <sup>th</sup>	3: 20: 46
Mongo & the Jigglers	12 <sup>th</sup>	3: 31: 29
Pennsylvania Jigsaw Massacre	13 <sup>th</sup>	3: 39: 09
Gavin & the Piece Keepers	14 <sup>th</sup>	3: 56: 16
The Puzzle Nuts	15 <sup>th</sup>	4: 00: 41
OC3	---	FINISHED
Corner Crew	---	DID NOT FINISH
Jigsaw Jam	---	DID NOT FINISH
Puzzlettes	---	DID NOT FINISH
Gettin' Jiggy With It	---	DID NOT FINISH



# FEATURED RESOURCES

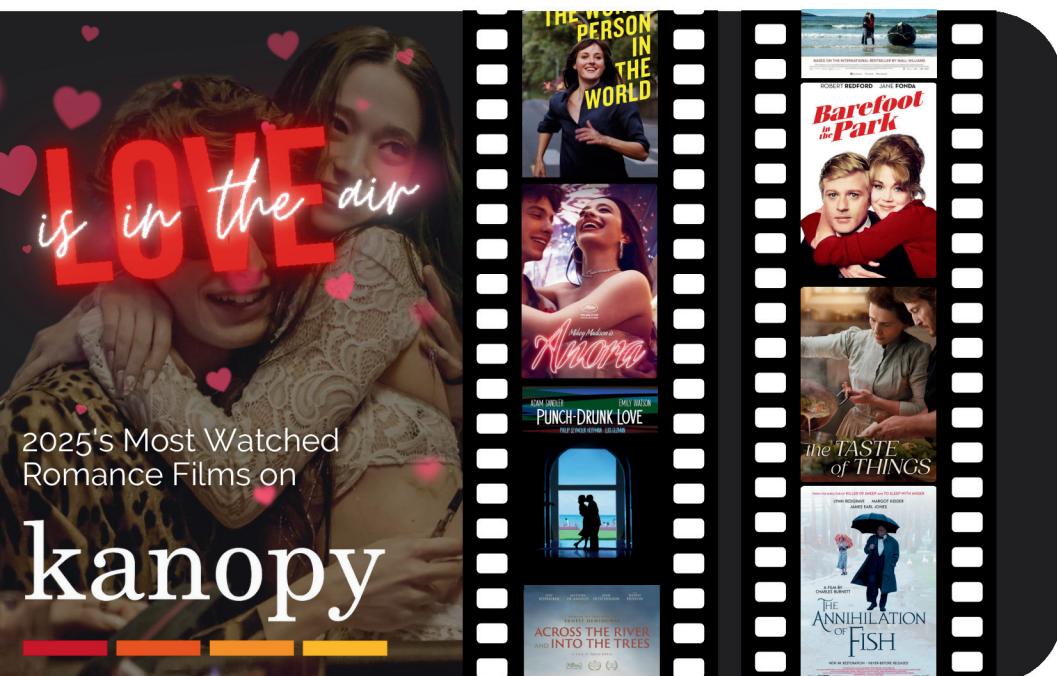


## Books That Shaped Us

Honoring 250 Years of America & the Books That Shaped It



LawDepot offers an extensive library of documents and legal resources, providing easy-to-use assistance with a wide range of legal needs. More than two million people have used LawDepot to save over a billion dollars in legal fees. Find LawDepot in the Libby app & check it out with your library card!



Libby, LawDepot & Kanopy are available to you for FREE with your library card at [oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org)



### **Oil City Library**

2 Central Ave.

Oil City, PA 16301

(814) 678-3072

Monday.....	9:00am-7:00pm
Tuesday.....	9:00am-7:00pm
Wednesday.....	9:00am-7:00pm
Thursday.....	9:00am-5:00pm
Friday.....	9:00am-5:00pm
Saturday.....	9:00am-3:00pm
Sunday.....	CLOSED



### **Franklin Public Library**

421 12th St.

Franklin, PA 16323

(814) 432-5062

Monday.....	10:00am-6:00pm
Tuesday.....	10:00am-6:00pm
Wednesday.....	10:00am-6:00pm
Thursday.....	10:00am-6:00pm
Friday.....	10:00am-6:00pm
Saturday.....	11:00am-4:00pm
Sunday.....	CLOSED

# FIND US ONLINE

[oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org)



@orlalibraries