



## ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

310 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
307-721-2580

acplwy.org  
facebook.com/acplwy  
instagram.com/acplwy

**CURRENT  
MAIN LIBRARY HOURS**  
SUN-MON: 1PM-5PM  
TUE: 10AM-6PM  
WED: CLOSED  
THURS-SAT: 10AM-6PM

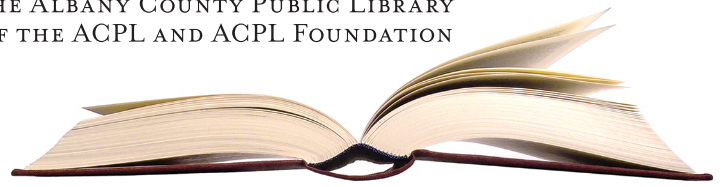
**CENTENNIAL  
BRANCH HOURS**  
MON-FRI: 11AM-3PM

**ROCK RIVER  
BRANCH HOURS**  
WED, FRI, SAT: 11AM-3PM

June  
2024  
Vol. 18 No.2

# THE OPEN BOOK

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BY THE FRIENDS OF THE ACPL AND ACPL FOUNDATION



## Adventure Begins: Summer Reading Program

**A**dventure Begins, the 2024 Summer Reading Program will run June 8-August 16. This year Albany County Public Library will partner with Smile Doctors to combine the two organization's summer reading incentive programs into one collective program. Participants can stop by the library on or after June 8 to sign up for the free program.

The Summer Reading Program is for all ages. ACPL and Smile Doctors will provide a reading challenge, where children, teens, and adults can reach goals over the summer. Even babies can join in the fun! Participants will use a reading log to track their progress. For kids up through sixth grade, you can cross off an icon on the reading log for every 30 minutes of reading or listening. For teens and adults, an icon can be crossed off for every 60 minutes of reading or listening.

After 10 icons, participants can bring their reading log to the library for a small prize. When you reach 20 icons, you will receive a free book. For each icon crossed off, you can fill out a raffle ticket for a big prize, provided by Smile Doctors. A full reading log equals 30 raffle tickets! There is no limit on the number of reading logs for participants, but the free book is available on the first reading log only.

The Summer Reading Program is especially important for school-aged youth, as they often experience a lapse in learning, commonly referred to as the "summer slide." Summer Reading Programs help motivate children and teens to keep reading, learning, and exploring while they are out of school. The Summer Reading Program also encourages a love of reading and interest in the library and books.

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Summer Reading programming will run June 10 to August 4. Participants can enjoy the reading challenge through August 16. Raffle winners will be noti-

fied the week of August 19. More information and a full schedule are available on the ACPL website and on Facebook. 

**SIGN UP BEGINS ON JUNE 8!**  
**FOR KIDS, TEENS, & ADULTS**



**JUNE 8 - AUGUST 16**

**ADVENTURE BEGINS**

**MORE INFO: [ACPLWY.ORG](http://ACPLWY.ORG)**



Albany County Public Library  
LARAMIE • CENTENNIAL • ROCK RIVER



**Smile Doctors**

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

# Summer Reading Program Events



## Summer Reading Program Kick Off

June 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Come to the library, have some fun, and sign up for Summer Reading! Enjoy crafts, snacks, activities, and balloon animals!

## Book Babies

Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at ACPL

Books, rhymes, and songs for ages birth to 2. Sessions will start June 11.



## Stories @ the Parks

Tuesdays at 10 a.m. – Washington Park

Tuesdays at 1 p.m. – LaBonte Park

Thursdays at 10 a.m. – ACPL Garden

Stories @ the Parks is geared toward families and pre-school-aged children. This program takes stories, songs, and rhymes around the community to reach you in your neighborhood. Sessions will start June 11.

## Kids Lego Club

Tuesdays from 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For kids of all ages. Build and create with Lego!

## Storywalks®

Located around the exterior of the Laramie branch of the public library.

Come walk and read a new story every two weeks.

## YAK!

Thursdays from 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

For tweens and teens grades 5th to 12th. Join us every week for crafts, games, art, activities, and more.

## Preschool Playtime

Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Preschool-aged activities to support development.

## Read with a Ranger

June 13, July 11, and August 15 at 1 p.m. at LaBonte Park

Stories, activities, and snacks with our friends at Wyoming State Parks. Stay tuned for specific times and locations!

## Foreign Film Series for Adults

June 23, July 21, and August 18 at 7 p.m.

Join us to explore other places and cultures with our foreign film series. This series is for adults. More information on specific films can be found on the ACPL calendar.

## The Lego Guy

Tuesday, June 11 at 1 p.m.

Come learn about the history of Lego® blocks with Lego Guy Curtis Mork and see some awesome Lego® sets!



## Pint Size Polkas

Monday, July 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Join us for Wisconsin Schneider and the Magic of Music Program. This program will have you singing, clapping, and dancing along. Plus, music trivia!

## Big Bubble Circus

Tuesday, July 9 at 1 p.m.

Don't miss this hilarious event with bubbles of every size and form, mixed with a bit of circus, magic, and buffoonery.



## Top Hogs: Trick Pig Show

Thursday, July 18; Shows at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

We can't wait for you to see the pigs perform trick after trick. These pigs know how to entertain! Space is limited for this event. Arrive early to get a seat.

## Summer Reading Bash: Foam Party

Sunday, August 4 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the ACPL parking lot

Ann Lincoln is back with a hilarious, fun, and awesome foam party! Bring the kiddos for some fun in the sun, with lots of foam. Kids will get wet, so we recommend wearing a swimsuit and bringing a towel. Don't forget to wear shoes and sunscreen. This event is sponsored by the ACPL Foundation and Smile Doctors.



More info at [acplywy.org](http://acplywy.org) or on Facebook or Instagram.



# What do ACPL and Indiana Jones



## have in common?

In the late 1920s or early 1930s, Albany County Public Library was contacted by archaeologist, Edgar J. Banks. Banks was dealing in Babylonian antiquities, particularly cuneiform tablets. He offered ACPL 10 such tablets to form a collection for Albany County.

While ACPL does not have the exact details and records, the library did purchase 10 cuneiform tablets, sent to Laramie from Banks' home in Eustis, Florida. He noted that the items were terra cotta cone and tablets in perfect condition. Banks sent along a detailed list of the tablets, their price, and a brief translation and description of each item. If the records are correct, ACPL paid \$45 for the entire collection. The tablets ranged from \$2 to \$5, with a more expensive votive cone Babylonian tablet for \$10.

In 1956, this detailed list, along with additional correspondence from Banks, was rediscovered in some old files at the Carnegie Library. Banks sent two other letters, one in 1934 and one in 1936, offer-

ing to sell additional pieces to add to the library's collection. No additional pieces were purchased.

In addition to the original paperwork, the old library files included a memo, written in the early 1940s. The memo noted that while ACPL had purchased 10 tablets, only five remained in the library's possession. The other five tablets had been lost or stolen. Because of this loss, the Babylonian tablets mostly remained safely tucked away in the library safe for many years.

Recently, ACPL was contacted by Dr. Renee Kovacs, a translation expert on cuneiform tablets. Dr. Kovacs found an old 2017 article online about the ACPL's collection of cuneiform tablets. She reached out to the library to add the collection to the master cuneiform database for scholars and to provide accurate translations. While the translations and inclusion in the cuneiform database will take time, ACPL is excited to finally have accurate translations of the inscriptions on each tablet.



## Edgar J. Banks

Banks is an interesting historical figure, shrouded in some mystery. According to research and articles from "Harvard Magazine" and a Florida paper, "The Villages Daily Sun," he was born in 1866 and died in 1945.



Banks participated in a dig sponsored by the University of Chicago in 1903-1904, during the time when Bismya (the ancient city of Adab) was excavated. This dig was significant. Banks helped to discover one of the earliest known Mesopotamian temples and

excavated a stepped temple and palace.

While some note him as holding an important place in history as a well-trained archaeologist, others believe him to have been a grifter, because of his extensive antiquities sales. After the Bismya dig, he returned to the U.S. with thousands of artifacts in tow. He went on to sell most of the artifacts to collectors, scholars, museums, colleges, universities, and libraries.

The most famous artifact sold is Plimpton 322. This tablet is part of an exhibit at Columbia University and confirms that the inhabitants of Mesopotamia employed calculations of Pythagorean number theory. The tablet is the world's oldest trigonometric table. The cuneiform tablet is named for the man who bought the artifact from Banks for \$10 in 1922.

In addition to being an archaeologist, Banks was an adventurer. The "Daily Sun" article noted that he climbed Mount Ararat in search of

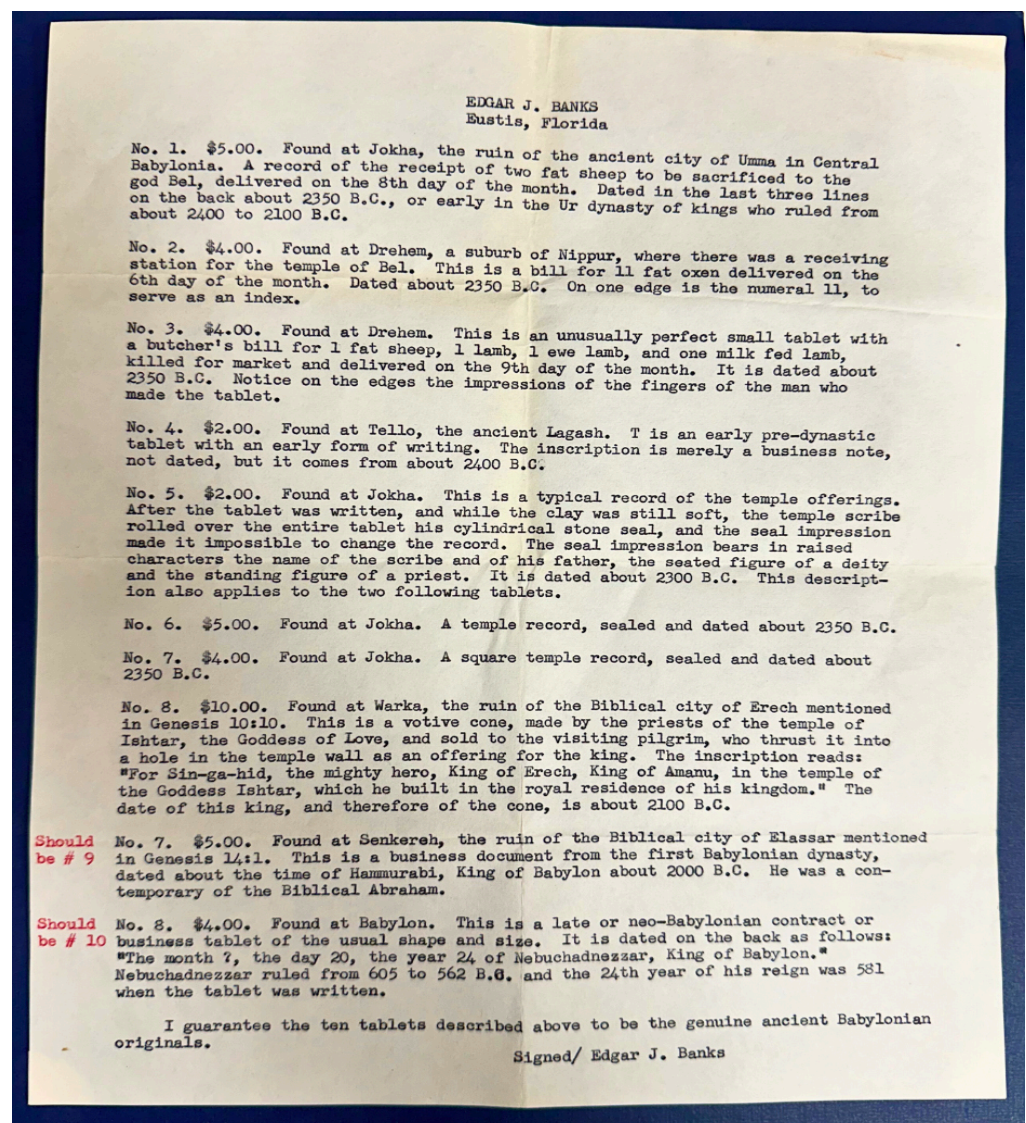
Noah's Ark and looked for the Ark of the Covenant, before settling down to make motion pictures.

You may be thinking that those adventures sound vaguely familiar, and you would be right. Edgar J. Banks is the person on whom the fictional character of the famous Indiana Jones is based. He even has a bit of a Harrison Ford look about him in this photo from 1922 (Courtesy of Wikipedia.).

Banks, sometimes referred to as "the real Indiana Jones" made his mark at ACPL with the sale of ten historic Babylonian cuneiform tablets.

Read more about Edgar J. Banks:

- Harvard Magazine: "Edgar James Banks: Brief life of an entrepreneurial archaeologist: 1866-1954," November-December 2021.
- The Villages Daily Sun: "Forgotten Indiana Jones was man of many mysteries," June 19, 2007 🌈



# Infrastructure Grant – Multi-Purpose Spaces Project Update

**A**lbany County Public Library has moved into the planning phase of its \$1 million infrastructure grant project. This project will focus on three community-use areas at the Laramie Branch. The grant will support the renovation of the ACPL large meeting room and the small conference room. The third part of the project is the creation of an Activity Center for children and families.

Each space will focus on enabling health, education, and job functions to improve the Albany County community. This project will allow ACPL to host more simultaneous programs, increase its partnerships in the community, and provide higher quality areas for public use.

ACPL is working with a local architect/engineer firm, Dwel, Inc. to begin the process. Dwel, Inc.'s key principal, Christie Roberts, will develop plans and designs for the three spaces over the next month. Once the plans and designs have been formalized, the proposal will be submitted to the City of Laramie for approval.

Following the approval process, ACPL will move forward with a formal bid process to select a local contractor to work on the project. Construction is

expected to start at the Laramie Branch by the end of October 2024, dependent on permitting and contractor timelines. Construction is expected to cause closures for the large meeting room and conference room and will be disruptive at certain times. All three areas must be completed by September 2026.

In the meantime, ACPL and the ACPL Foundation are exploring funding avenues for the expenses that are not eligible to be covered by the infrastructure grant funding. This includes technology costs, such as laptops, Zoom equipment, and TV screens. ACPL is seeking funding for the re-

remaining \$30,808 needed for the project.

ACPL does not have firm details on a construction timeline. ACPL will work to establish a clear timeline over the next few months and communicate details to the public as the project progresses.

ACPL is one of five Wyoming libraries receiving a portion of the \$12.6 million from American Rescue Plan Act funding for the Wyoming Library Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program.

ACPL will provide an infrastructure grant update in each library newsletter moving forward. 🌈



## Thank you to these grant supporters!



**Wyoming Community Foundation \$10,000 grant for programming & the bookmobile.**  
**Wyoming Intertie Community Investment Program \$10,000 grant for Rock River technology upgrade.**



**Wyoming Humanities Council \$2,000 Spark Grant for the Young Writers Program**



**Union Pacific Foundation \$5,000 grant for children's materials.**

**For Connection, For Growth, For Community, Think ACPL!**



visit us over the summer!

## What's New Around ACPL

### BOOKMOBILE SUMMER STOPS



- Did you know that the High Plains Seed Library is up and running? Stop by the library and choose from a wide selection of flowers, herbs, and vegetables. Special thanks to Walmart for a donation of seeds!



- Watch the ACPL Facebook or Instagram pages or visit the ACPL website ([acplwy.org](http://acplwy.org)) for information on upcoming programs and events. 🌈

- ALBY, our bookmobile, is back on the road! Check out our weekly schedule and stay tuned for special stops and events. Plus, watch the ACPL Facebook or Instagram for announcements about our awesome take-home kits for kids!

- Thanks to James & Robert with the Albany County 4-H Small Engine crew for fixing the ACPL power washer! We love the invoice they sent to the library.

Albany County 4-H Small Engine

INVOICE # 302-849-3265  
Date: 7-22-24

BILL TO: The library

FOR: Small engine repair  
Power washer

ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Spark plug	7.40
Oil	5.00
Carb New	15.00
Gas	3.00
Subtotal	\$0.00
Tax rate	
Additional costs	\$30.40
TOTAL COST	\$0.00

Make all checks payable to: Albany County 4-H Small Engine Project

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, use the following contact information:

Name: James & Robert  
Phone: 518-486-1234  
Email: james@albanycounty4h.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

Let's celebrate ACPL supporters!

**Appreciation Night**

For Donors, Friends of the Library Members, Staff, Board Members & Volunteers

June 26 from 6-8PM at the Albany County Public Library

Bring the whole family!

RSVP: [foundation.acplwy.org](http://foundation.acplwy.org)



Albany County Public Library

# Foundation

## Friends of the Library

310 S. 8th Street  
Laramie, WY 82070  
307-721-2580

Return service requested

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
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CHEYENNE WY



Keep our mailing list current. Let us know about address changes or multiple copies. We can email this too. Send your address to [cwhite@acplwy.org](mailto:cwhite@acplwy.org).

Visit us at [acplwy.org](http://acplwy.org)



## Friends of the ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Fees and Benefits

#### Annual Membership:

- Individual Membership \$10.
- Family Membership \$15.
- Benefactor\* \$50.

#### Membership Benefits:

- Admission to Friends Only book sales.
- Entitled to vote for new board members and officers at our annual meeting each year.
- Personal shopping experience between sales. Contact [FOL\\_volunteercoordinator@acplwy.org](mailto:FOL_volunteercoordinator@acplwy.org).
- \*Benefactor level includes a family membership; benefactors also will be acknowledged in the Albany County Public Library newsletter.

### Become a Member

There are three ways to become a member, or to renew your membership:

- Complete our online membership form, (be sure to PUSH the button "SUBMIT and PAY" to the bottom of the form!).
- Join or renew at a Friends of the Library book sale.
- Stop by the Circulation Desk at the library during normal business hours.

Friends of the Albany County  
Public Library  
310 S. 8th St.  
Laramie, WY  
<https://friends.acplwy.org/>

