



ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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acplwy.org
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SUMER HOURS

MAIN LIBRARY

SUN: CLOSED

MON-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

2026

Vol. 20 No. 1

THE OPEN BOOK

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



Unearth A Story: Summer Reading Program

Unearth A Story, the 2026 Summer Reading Program will run June 6–August 16. Albany County Public Library will offer a summer reading incentive program for all ages, with large raffle prizes provided by Smile Doctors. Participants can stop by the library on or after June 6 to sign up for the free program.

ACPL 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 ages 2–11, you can cross off an icon on the reading log for every 30 minutes of

continued on page 2

JUNE 6 - AUGUST 16

**STOP BY THE LIBRARY TO SIGN UP!
FOR BABIES, KIDS, TEENS, & ADULTS**

**UNEARTH
A STORY™**

MORE INFO: ACPLWY.ORG

Albany County Public Library Smile Doctors

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

in this issue

SUMMER
READING
PROGRAM

MULTI-
PURPOSE
SPACES
GRAND
OPENING

DID YOU
KNOW?

NEED
MEETING
SPACE?

A NOTE
FROM THE
LIBRARY
DIRECTOR

reading or listening. For teens (ages 12+) 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 60 raffle tickets. That's double the amount from last year! There is no limit on the number of reading logs for participants, but the free book is available on the first reading log only.

Babies will receive a Summer Reading kit to use for the full summer. This contains a board book, bubbles, shaker egg, and a calendar of early literacy activities.

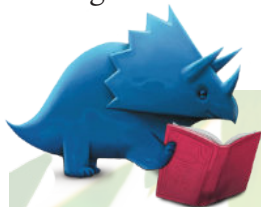
The Summer Reading Program is especially important for school-aged youth, as they often experience a lapse in learning, commonly referred to as the "summer slide." Summer Reading Programs help motivate children and teens to keep reading, learning, and exploring while they are out of school. The Summer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

Make sure to check ACPL's event calendar and watch social media for program locations. For most of the events, we will be back at ACPL again this year.

The Summer Reading Program will start with a fun kick off on June 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Washington Park, Shelter #1. Bring the whole family for balloon art from Alpacaglobo Balloons, face painting, button and magnet making, sidewalk chalk art, games, and activities. Smile Doctors will be on hand to show off the raffle prizes.

ACPL will have fun, interactive displays set up for kids at the Centennial Valley Branch Library and Rock River Branch Library over the summer. There will also be a naming contest at the Laramie Branch for two dinosaurs. Kids can choose a dinosaur cut-out based on if they are a "carnivore" or "herbivore," write their name on it, and display it in the Children's Area.

Summer Reading programming will run June 6 to August 16. Participants can enjoy the reading challenge through August 16. Raffle winners will be notified the week of August 17. More information and a full schedule are available on the ACPL website and on social media. 🌈



FREE SUMMER READING PROGRAM EVENTS

Summer Reading Program Kick Off

June 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Washington Park, Shelter #1

Come to the park, have some fun, and sign up for Summer Reading! All ages welcome!

Monday FunDay

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a morning of early literacy fun! This program will explore movement, music, art, play, and more. Each week is a new adventure for ages birth to 5. Sessions will start June 8.

Book Babies

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Lap-sit stories, songs, and toys for the littlest readers. For ages birth to 2 with a grown-up. Sessions will start June 9.

Stories @ the Park

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in Washington Park

Stories @ the Park is geared toward families and preschool-aged children. Sessions will start June 11.

YAK!

Thursdays at 4 p.m.

For grades 4th-6th. Join us every week for crafts, games, art, activities, and more. Sessions will start June 11.

Toddler Storytime

Fridays at 10:30 a.m.

Stories, songs, and rhymes for toddlers and their caregivers. Ideal for ages 2-4. Sessions will start June 12.

Preschool Playtime

Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Preschool-aged activities to support development for children ages 3-5. Sessions will start June 13.

Kids Lego Club

Saturdays at 1 p.m.

For kids in grades K-6th. Build and create with Lego! Sessions will start June 13.

Storywalks®

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

Come walk and read a new story every month.

Read with a Ranger

June 18, July 9, & August 13 at 2 p.m.

Stories, activities, and snacks with our friends at Wyoming State Parks.

The Magic Bookcase

June 9 at 2 p.m.

"The Magic Bookcase" recharges and re-enchants the

wonder of reading and storytelling by combining the arts of magic, traditional storytelling, and “handling humans” (the gentle art of audience participation). Featuring Wyoming Magician Byron Grey.

Wyoming Fossil & Gem Discovery

June 16 at 2 p.m.

Become a scientist and treasure hunter in this interactive program that combines fossil excavation and gemstone prospecting. Use tools to reveal hidden fossils, then sift real Wyoming dirt for sparkling gems and tiny fossils to keep. This “Jurassic” program will also feature fun dinosaur-themed crafts!

Top Hogs of the Wild West - Performing Pigs

Two Shows! June 23 at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

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

Rockin' the Ring: Rock Painting with Laramie 4H!

June 30 at 2 p.m.

Paint a rock, build a story, step into the spotlight! Dig into creativity at this fun, hands-on workshop inspired by 4-H animal shows – no live animals needed! Youth will “un-earth” their very own pet rock, bring it to life with a name and personality, and learn how to present it in a show ring. Participants will practice confidence, creativity, and storytelling before wrapping up with a light-hearted pet rock show. No experience needed – just come ready to discover the story in your stone!

Patriotic Bike Parade

July 2 at 2 p.m.

Help us celebrate the United States' birthday! This July marks the Semiquincentennial or 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. There's no better way to show your patriotic spirit than by joining our community bike parade. From 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., we'll be decorating our bikes, strollers, wagons, scooters—if it has wheels, come decorate it! Then, we'll parade around the block and enjoy popsicles back at the library! Supplies are limited.

Pokémon Literacy Lab

July 7 at 2 p.m.

Join ACPL and Cardhalla for a Pokemon themed literacy program filled with games, crafts, free giveaways, and more!

Digging into Art & Imagination with the UW Art Museum

July 14 at 2 p.m.

How can art help us uncover hidden stories? The library and art museum invite you to an afternoon of creativity and discovery! Explore multiple hands-on art-making stations inspired by dinosaurs, fossils, and imagination, and bring your own stories to life through color, texture, and play.

Super Soaring Dino Kites!

July 21 at 2 p.m.

Stop by the library between 2-3pm to design your own high-flying dino-inspired kites with local artist Tara Pappas! Artists will be provided with all of the supplies needed to build and decorate their kites, and then, weather permitting, can test them outside!

Sketchasaurus Rex Puppets

July 27 at 2 p.m.

Join us for an exciting puppet show with Meghan Casey, an award-winning ventriloquist, as she brings her newest program, "Sketchasaurus Rex" to the library!

Light-Up Dinosaur Terrariums!

July 28 at 2 p.m.

Join local artist Tara Pappas in creating a special light-up terrarium, decorated with plants, rocks, and your very own little dinosaur friend (or two!). Stop by the library to make this fun project! All supplies will be provided.

Prehistoric Putt Putt

August 4 at 2 p.m.

Show off your golf skills at our dinosaur-themed putt-putt! Watch out for the fearsome T. Rex and don't fall into any sand traps as you navigate our course! Tee times will be staggered and based on a first-come, first-served basis.

Science Loves Art Workshop

August 11 at 2 p.m.

Bring art and science together to create a masterpiece in this art workshop led by local artist Rene Williams!

Centennial Messy Storytimes

June 10, July 1, August 5 at 11 a.m.

Join us for a fun-filled storytime followed by a messy craft. In June, we will dig up dinosaurs. In July, we will create puffy outdoor chalk. In August, we will make a fossil.

Rock River Messy Storytimes

June 17, July 8, August 12 at 11 a.m.

Join us for a fun-filled storytime followed by a messy craft. In June, we will dig up dinosaurs. In July, we will create puffy outdoor chalk. In August, we will make a fossil.

Summer Reading Bash: Foam Party with Smile Doctors

Friday, August 14 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.

Bookmobile Stops

Washington Park: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Undine Park: Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Out of Town Visits on Thursdays (check online for locations)

Washington Park: Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Infrastructure Grant – Grand Opening of Multi-Purpose Spaces!

ACPL celebrated its new multi-purpose spaces with a ribbon cutting and grand opening on April 22, hosted by the ACPL Foundation. The public was able to see the updated Community Room and Conference Room and the completed, new Activity Center for children and families.

Each space will offer a wide range of options for room set-up and event needs. ACPL will focus on enabling health, education, and job functions to improve the Albany County community with room use. The spaces will allow ACPL to host more simultaneous programs, increase its partnerships in the community, and provide higher quality areas for public use.

Here's a few of the updates we are excited about:

Community Room

- Formerly the Meeting Room, this space was completely renovated to be a more modern and welcoming space with better acoustics.
- Added cabinet space for storage in the new kitchenette. The kitchenette has a full-size refrigerator, microwave, coffee pot, and dishwasher. There is lots of cabinet space for storage, a large sink, and a service window.
- With new tables, chairs, technology, and audio-visual equipment, ACPL has a greater ability to host different types and sizes of programs and events.
- This room will be available for use by the community, even when the library is closed. The new schedule screen and door keypad make renting easy!

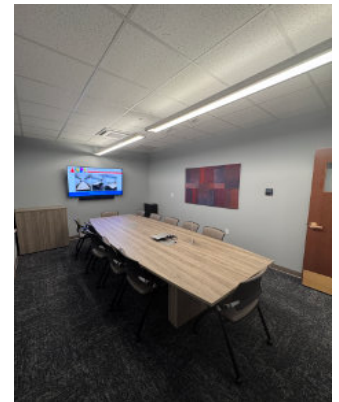


Conference Room

- This room has grown in size and has an increased capacity of 15.

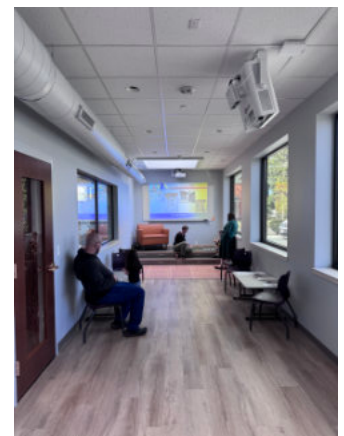


- This space was updated, improving the look and feel of the room, and ensuring privacy by making the room soundproof.
- The room has updated furniture and a new technology and AV system for hybrid meetings.
- This room is also available when the library is closed.



Activity Center

- This brand-new space was transformed from an unusable space into a room ACPL can use all year long.
- The construction of the space added more square footage to the building and increased room for kids and families.
- It has new technology, upgraded furniture, and better storage.



Miscellaneous Extras

- The main entrance and lobby space was extended to enclose more area. It's now an updated and modern space with improved security.
- Patrons can access all three multi-purpose spaces from the lobby and have access to the new single-user bathroom and water fountain with water bottle filler.
- The new lit exterior sign, sliding doors, and digital signage are all great additions.



Other Details/Upcoming

- The mural extension in the restroom hallway is in! This piece was installed to extend the existing ceramics mural by Nancy Jacquot. The beautiful mural extension was completed by local artist, Jodie Atherton.
- A rotating mural outside the mural entrance is in the works, thanks to Dan Toro!
- The project still has a few final pieces. A portion of ACPL's roof will be replaced over the summer, and the library will put in new landscaping out front near the updated entrance.

Special thanks to ACPL's project team led by Dwel, Inc. with Christie Roberts, Arcon, Inc. with Brandon Ahrenholtz, and TAG Technologies with Tim Gaddis! The project was the hard work of more than 25 sub-contractors.

This project was possible thanks to grant funding from the Wyoming Library Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program. Thank you to our other project supporters: Albany County 1% Optional Funds, the Albany County Recreation Board, Specific Purpose Excise Tax funding, the ACPL Foundation, the Sally Dieterich Fund, the Love Family Fund, and private donors.



Thank you to the Albany County Community for a huge turnout at the grand opening! 🌈



Thank you to these grant supporters!



Wyoming Community Foundation \$10,000 grant for programming & materials.



**First Interstate Bancsystem Foundation
\$2,500 grant for programming & materials.**



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



DID YOU KNOW



- **Lucky Day Books** – These are popular books, that while available for checkout, often have a long hold list. The books are located on a display in the main area of the Laramie library. The Lucky Day specific copy cannot be placed on hold and is available on a first come- first served basis when it's on the Lucky Day display. These books check out for 7 days at a time and don't renew, allowing patrons to immediately access some of these more popular books when they stop in the library. Lucky Day books are often anticipated new releases, but also include books that are being adapted as a movie or TV show. Check out this display the next time you're in!

- **7th–12th Grade Volunteers Needed** – The Youth Services Department needs help with Summer Reading programs. Teens in grades 7th–12th can sign up to volunteer by contacting Brittney at bhelm@acplwy.org.
- **Traveling this Summer** – Take the library with you! Check out a Kindle with a wide variety of pre-downloaded book options or download the Libby app for ebooks, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines.



Let's celebrate you!

Albany County Public Library

Appreciation Night

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

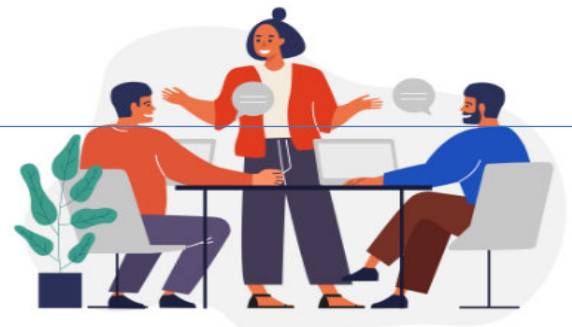
Wednesday, June 24 from 6PM-8PM
at the Albany County Public Library

RSVP AT FOUNDATION.ACPLWY.ORG

Bring the whole family!

■ need a meeting space?

Learn about using ACPL's community spaces



8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Activity Center accepts reservations any day of the week between 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. and between 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Partner with ACPL

Does your nonprofit organization promote work, education or health monitoring? Programs that meet these areas can use the room for free and partner with ACPL to provide quality events that impact the community. Call or email the library to learn more!

Policies, Fees & Reservations

ACPL has a new Community Spaces Policy. This includes all the info you need to determine if your event is a good fit for the multi-purpose spaces. It also includes the rental fees for different users. Applying to reserve a room is easy! You can find all this information on ACPL's website at acplwy.org under Info, Meeting Rooms.

For more information, you can email meetings@acplwy.org.

ACPL is excited to announce that the community spaces are accepting room reservations! The library opened room rental applications on June 1 for reservations starting in July. Room rental applications are open for the Community Room (formerly the Meeting Room), the Conference Room, and the Activity Center.

Available for Private or Public Use

ACPL's community spaces are a great place to book for any type of event. Are you an individual looking to host a private reception? Check out the Community Room. Does your board need a monthly meeting spot at an affordable rate? Learn more about the Conference Room. Are you a parent that just needs a spot to bring the kids for a bit? Consider the Activity Center.

Available for Public Use Outside of Library Hours

Reservations are accepted for the Community Room and Conference Room any day of the week from

a note from the library director

RE: ACPL closed on Sundays for the summer

Dear Library Community -

From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, our hours will be as follows:

Sundays: CLOSED

Mondays: 10am-6pm

Tuesdays: 10am-6pm

Wednesdays: CLOSED

Thursdays: 10am-6pm

Fridays: 10am-6pm

Saturday: 10am-6pm

As is the nature of things in Laramie, we have a few employees who will be out for extended periods of time over the summer. This has left us short-staffed for a few months. To continue to offer the same level of summer programming, we have chosen to close on Sundays. This is a seasonal change from May 24 through September 6. Sunday open hours will return after Labor Day, starting September 13.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Albany County Public Library.

Rachel Crocker
Library Director



Albany County Public Library

Foundation

Friends of the Library

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BECOME A FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBER!

Membership Benefits

- Admission to Friends only book sales
- Vote for board members and officers at our annual meeting
- Personal shopping experience between sales

SAVE THE DATE!

JULY 11, 2026

Saturday Only

10:00 am-5:30 pm

Public 1-Day Book Sale



**Friends of the Albany County
Public Library
310 S. 8th St.
Laramie, WY 82070**

