



ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

310 S. 8th Street
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acplwy.org
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**CURRENT
MAIN LIBRARY HOURS**
SUN-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

March
2026
Vol. 20 No. 1

THE OPEN BOOK

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



Thank you Wyoming Intertie Community Investment Program!

ACPL receives grant to implement new public computer terminals and management system

The ACPL Foundation received a \$30,000 grant from the Wyoming Community Foundation – Wyoming Intertie Community Investment Program for an essential technology project for ACPL’s three branches, Laramie, Rock River, and Centennial. With this grant funding, ACPL was able to upgrade computers and implement a management system to improve the user experience for patrons, increase access, and improve

usability, especially for printing.

Under the grant, ACPL was able to replace its public terminal computers, all of which were 8–12 years old. Due to age, the number of computers at the Laramie Branch had been reduced to 8. As part of the project, ACPL installed 12 terminals at the Laramie Branch, two terminals in Centennial, and five new Chromebook laptops. The Rock River Library Branch received new terminals previously, as part of a different grant.

The second part of the project was to implement a user management system. This created a cohesive system across ACPL’s three branches with greater functionality and better ease of use. The updated system was installed in late October. Patrons use a library card or guest pass to access and use the system.

Here are few reasons patrons have already been enjoying the new technology:

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UPDATE

Friends of the Library provides incredible support to ACPL

The Friends of the Library provided \$64,225 to the Albany County Public Library in 2025. ACPL thanks the Friends of the Library’s hard-working volunteers and board members for making this contribution possible. Funding from the Friends of the Library is predominantly used by the ACPL to continue to grow the library’s collection of books and other items and to enhance the collection through InterLibrary Loans.

Thank you for shopping with the Friends of the Library and positively impacting the library! Here’s a few ways you can support the Friends of the Library.

Become a Friends of the Library Member!

Memberships are a simple way to provide extra support to the Friends of the Library. Memberships can be purchased anytime during the year and are valid for one year. You can also purchase a membership at the door when coming to attend a book sale.

- Membership Levels:**
\$10 for an individual membership
\$15 for a family membership
*\$50 for a benefactor membership

Memberships include admission to the Friends of the Library Members Only Sales. A benefactor membership includes a family membership and recognition in the library newsletter. Sign up to be a member at: friends.acplwy.org/membership.

Attend a Book Sale!

In 2025, the Friends of the Library made \$30,950 from book sales. Friends of the Library members are given shopping priority and may enter the sale before public hours begin. Sales are held in the basement of Albany County Public Library.

The book sale has a wide and diverse offering of books from every genre. Books are neatly sorted and priced to allow for easy shopping. There is a large assortment of children’s books, as well as specialty books, such as: cookbooks, classics, foreign language, and

Computer and Management System Grant from page 1

- Once a user logs off, devices automatically wipe information and reboot, ensuring patron privacy.
- The computers run at a regular speed and have up-to-date software.
- Ease of printing and the payment kiosk are greatly improved under the system. Patrons can now use credit or debit cards to pay for prints, in addition to cash.

- You can mobile print using an app or link to remotely send in your print jobs. The user then visits the library to print.

The improved system means that patrons are less confused and need less help from staff to run the system. This is a great benefit for staff as well, allowing them to handle other tasks.

Another reason the updated technology is a positive addition at ACPL is because the library can now accurately track computer, printing, and technology usage. With the new system, it only takes ACPL a few minutes to run reports. Since the computers have been installed, ACPL has seen over 2,000 computer logins. The public terminals have been in use for more than 1,700 hours with an average of 167 users per week. For printing, ACPL has had more than 2,500 print jobs.

This incredible update to ACPL would not have been possible without the generous support from the Wyoming Intertie Community Investment Program. Thank you for ensuring ACPL can provide up-to-date technology and positively impact the community! 🌈



more. Sales also encompass more than physical books. Shoppers can find music (CD & LP), and movies/TV shows (DVD and BluRay).

Follow the Friends of the Library on Facebook to get updates on sale dates. The next sale is in early May. More details are on the last page of the newsletter.

Shop Anytime Online!

The Friends of the Library Amazon storefront has many materials available for sale. You can shop online at: friends.acplwy.org/shop. Items sold online are ones that would benefit from a larger sales audience and are priced to be more in line with the high quality, rarity, and interest of the item.

In 2025, the Friends of the Library generated \$19,683 from online sales.

Shop for a Book in the Nook!

The Book Nook is a great option for shopping anytime the library is open. The Friends of the Library Book Nook is located right inside the library's front doors. The space includes a selection of popular books from different genres, as well as many children's books, music, and movies.

The Book Nook is another area that generates significant income for the Friends of the Library. In 2025, this area made \$7,364.

What Happens To Your Donations?

The Friends of the Library rely heavily on donations of gently used items from the community. When you donate to the Friends of the Library, your items go on to a great new life and support your public library.



Donations are first considered for the ACPL collection. After this determination, items are moved downstairs to the Friends of the Library area where volunteers sort, label, price, and shelve materials. Materials are sorted based on where each will be sold, whether it is at a book sale, online, or in the Book Nook.

Donations are accepted anytime the library is open. Accepted items are: books, CDs, LPs, DVDs, and Blu-Ray discs. Items that are not accepted are: VHS tapes, magazines, and yard sale items. If you have collectible magazines you're interested in donating, contact FOL_booksale@acplwy.org. To make a

large donation, contact the Friends of the Library to make arrangements.

The Friends of the Library can provide you with a tax-deductible receipt for your donation.

Community Involvement:

Not every item is appropriate to sell, so the Friends of the Library have an extensive outreach system to provide free books across our community and beyond. When enough books are available, the Friends of the Library provide materials for over 30 locations. Locations interested in receiving books can email: FOL_Outreach@acplwy.org.

Want to Volunteer?

The Friends of the Library run entirely on volunteers. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the organization is overseen by a board of directors, but it has no staff. The volunteer-run organization has 72 volunteers. Learn more online at friends.acplwy.org.

Thank you Friends of the Library Benefactor Members!

<p>Rollin & Carolyn Abernethy Mark & Jennifer Andersen Cassie Clift Roberta Eslinger Peter Gardiner Richard & Mary Guenzel Nicole Hauser Edward Koncel & Lynn Jones Jo Korpitz</p>	<p>Rawson Langlois Barry & Eleonora Lesar Jeff & Nancy Lockwood Hollis Marriott Bill McKay Mike & Eileen Milam David & Deborah Miller Richard & Betsy Moore Linda Nydahl</p>	<p>Natasha & Damon O'Flannigan Shirley Patrick Joseph & Barbara Potenzano Jane Reverand Pamela Shuster Art & Susan Simpson Sam & Chelsea True Craig & Deisy Vaske Mary Winger</p>
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Infrastructure Grant – Multi-Purpose Spaces Project Update

The construction project at the Laramie Branch of the Albany County Public Library is coming to an end! ACPL has been working with our contractor on final touches and ordering furniture and other items for each of the spaces.

The project is focused on three community-use spaces in the library. Grant funding will support a 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.

Here's an update on how the project is going in each space:

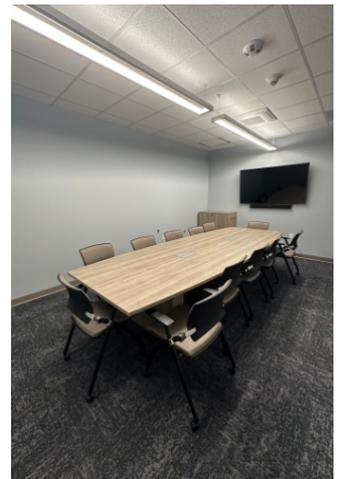
Meeting Room

- The ACPL Meeting Room looks amazing! It's been completely renovated with new drywall, flooring, ceiling, lighting, paint, and HVAC system.
- The space will have an updated AV and technology system, including a touch panel control screen, large projector and screen, and cameras for hybrid programs.
- The kitchenette in the Meeting Room is a great addition. It will have a full-size refrigerator, dishwasher, large sink, and other small appliances to make using the space more convenient.
- Plus, in March ACPL received the new furniture for the room. Say goodbye to our really old chairs and tables and welcome great new options!



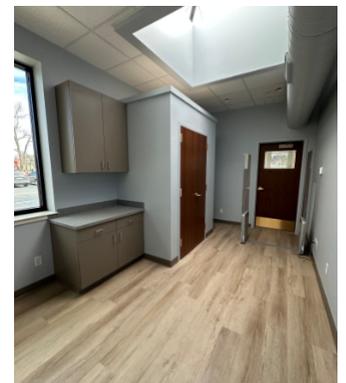
Conference Room

- The ACPL Conference Room has grown in size and been completely renovated. The space now has double the capacity for meetings.
- The room has a new drop ceiling, HVAC system, lighting, and carpet.
- The Conference Room also has a large TV and video bar, as well as technology access from the room's table to accommodate online meetings.
- We're excited about the large conference room table and new chairs for this room!



Activity Center

- It's hard to believe that ACPL's old outside patio is now a finished and well-lit space, allowing our library to have an expanded Children's Area.
- The room's huge windows and skylights make this room feel bright, peaceful, and perfect for a family activity center.
- The new space has a closet for storage, cabinets, and a small stage for programming. The updated technology in the Activity Center is awesome! There is a projector and screen for programs, touch panel controls, and an interactive projector for games and activities.
- This room is getting a great storytime chair



and additional moveable tables and chairs to keep this space flexible for different programs.

Miscellaneous Extras

- The lobby and front entrance opened in December, and so many of you have positively complimented how that space has turned out. The updated space has new drywall, flooring, lighting, and more. Plus, we have digital signage on screens in the lobby, allowing for us to have all information shown electronically.
- The restroom remodel is one of our favorite parts of the project. We are excited to have a single-user bathroom in the lobby area for people using the new spaces and for families or individuals wanting more privacy.
- ACPL also put in a new garage door between the main area and Meeting Room/restroom hallway. This will allow events to happen after hours in the Meeting Room. Another addition is a new fire alarm system. Because the new spaces needed more up-to-date equipment, ACPL was able to update the entire building, making the Laramie Branch a safer space for patrons.
- Each of the new spaces have schedule screens, so you will be able to see if a room is in use.
- How exciting is it that ACPL has new updated water fountains with water bottle fillers? What an improvement from our old water fountains.
- The hallway and wall in the Children's Area also look great after a bit of an update.

Other Details

- The library has new security gates at the front entrance and in the Activity Center.
- We are looking forward to two new pieces of art for ACPL, as part of the project. One installation will be extending the existing ceramics mural in the restroom hallway. The second project will be a rotating mural outside the front entrance. Thanks to our artists, Jodie Atherton and Dan Toro!
- ACPL expects to have a grand opening of the spaces in the near future. Watch for updates on when!
- Once we work out a couple of kinks, the spaces will be open and in use!

Special thanks to ACPL's construction team led by Dwel, Inc. with Christie Roberts and Arcon, Inc. with Brandon Ahrenholtz!

Thank you to our project supporters: the Wyoming Library Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program (WLMCF), Albany County 1% Optional Funds, the Albany County Recreation Board, and the ACPL Foundation.

ACPL wants to offer special appreciation to our patrons. You have been patient during construction, and we appreciate your understanding. 🌈



Thank you to these grant supporters!

Guthrie Family Foundation

\$25,000 grant for programming, building maintenance, technology, & professional development.

Walmart 
\$500 grant



\$4,000 grant for outreach, engagement, and bookmobile support

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

What's Happening @ Your Library

Children:

Youth Services will take a programming break in May. The 2026 Summer Reading Program will start in June!

Storywalk®

Come read a story while walking around the library! A new Storywalk® is posted each week. Enjoy them at your leisure.

Monday Funday

Monday at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Area

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.

Book Babies

Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Area

Bring your babies for a short storytime filled with fun, baby-approved bounces, songs, and rhymes, plus early literacy and child development tips. Ages 0–2 with a grown-up.

Preschool Circle Time

Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Area

Learning, books and fun to develop early literacy skills and school readiness. Enjoy stories for preschool-aged children and their families.

Toddler Storytime

Friday at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Area

Stories, songs and rhymes for toddlers and their caregivers. Ideal for ages 2–4.

Preschool Playtime

Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Area

Let's play together! STEM, literacy, art & motor skill stations for preschoolers & their caregivers. Ages 3–5 accompanied by a grown-up.

Lego Club

Saturday at 1p.m. in the Wyoming Room

Calling all Lego builders! We provide the Legos. You provide the imagination. Caregivers must attend

with children. Program for children in grades K–6th.

Read with a Ranger

April 9 at 4 p.m. in the Children's Area

Stories and activities with a Curt Gowdy State park ranger.

Teens & Tweens:

YAK!

Thursday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Wyoming Room

Have a blast with science, tech, art, and more! It's all about having fun while exploring new ideas and skills. Program for 4th–6th graders.

Adults:

ACPL has a selection of book clubs you can join! Visit acplwy.org/adults/adult-book-clubs to join and see upcoming books.

Cozy Mystery Book Club

First Monday of the month at 2 p.m.

A book club for those who like their mysteries light on sex and violence, and particularly enjoy amateur sleuths! Contact Kennedy at kpennotoole@acplwy.org with questions.

Murder Club: A True Crime Book Club

Second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m.

A book club that delves into infamous murders, serial killers, and other true crime mysteries. Contact Bailey at bmurray@acplwy.org with questions.

Silent Book Club

Second Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

In collaboration with Scott Henkel from the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research, Silent Book Club isn't like other book clubs. There's no assigned reading. Come join us and read together in quiet camaraderie. All readers are welcome – ebooks or audiobooks, poetry or prose, fiction or non-fiction ... it's BYOBook. Please contact

achapman@acplwy.org if you have any questions.

Garden Series

April 12 and May 3 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Learn all you need to know to start your own garden in Laramie through a variety of toics.



Great news! The High Plains Seed Library is open for the season. Come check out what seeds are available and get started growing vegetables, flowers, and herbs.



ACPL has an Artist Trading Card station. Stop by the station to take home a kit and then return it to the library's station. You can trade cards with other artists.

Meditation and Mind

April 11 and May 2 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Feeling overwhelmed by stress and uncertainty? Discover practical tools to cultivate inner calm, clarity, and lasting happiness. In this uplifting session, you'll learn how to apply ancient wisdom and science-backed meditation techniques to everyday life. Open to anyone seeking greater peace, purpose, and joy.

Bridgerton Tea Party

April 19 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Enjoy tea, snacks, Bridgerton trivia, and more. Costumes

aren't required but are encouraged. The Bridgerton Tea Party is geared towards adults +18. We will be discussing the book and TV series. ACPL recommends registering for the event online to ensure you get a seat.

Adult Crafternoon

April 26 and May 17 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

DIY Book Totes and Recycled Book Crafts. We will provide the supplies. Drop in any time between and go home with a new tote or craft.

For more information on events, visit the library's website, like the library on Facebook, or contact the library at 307-721-2580.

we <3 books!

Blind Date with a Book has RECORD year

The ACPL Foundation's Blind Date with a Book fundraiser in February was a big hit! This fundraiser combines popular trends with great reads and fun gifts to create Valentine's Day gift packages. In 2026, our themes were The Many Faces of Sandra Bullock, the Sarah J. Maas Book Universe, and The Incredibles. The gift packages are popular as gifts for a friend or partner, a special treat for your pet, a fun celebration for your kiddos, or date night for a couple.

This year, the ACPL Foundation had 13 different themed-packages and nearly all the packages sold out. The ACPL Foundation sold 210 packages. Thanks to our buyers and sponsors, the Blind Date with a Book fundraiser had a record year raising over \$9,000!

Thank you to our supporters and our volunteers for making it another successful year! 🍀

Thank You

to our supporters

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Package Sponsors

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First American Title

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Meadowlark Pediatrics

Poppy's Flower Shop & Women's Boutique

Riverstone Bank

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Spine & Injury Clinic of Laramie

StagePoint FCU

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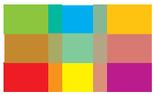
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Blind Date With a Book

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Visit us at acplwy.org

BOOK SALE
May

FRIENDS

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

Category	Day	Time
Members Only	Friday	May 15 2:30 to 5:30 pm
Open to the Public	Saturday-Monday	May 16-18 10:00 am to 5:30 pm
1/2 Price Sale	Monday	May 18