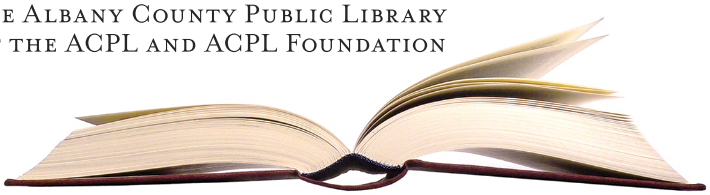
THE OPEN BOOK

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



ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
310 S. 8th Street
307-721-2580
acplwy.org
facebook.com/acplwy
instagram.com/acplwy

CURRENT MAIN LIBRARY HOURS
SUN–TUES: 10AM–6PM
WED: CLOSED
THURS–SAT: 10AM–6PM

CENTENNIAL
BRANCH HOURS
MON–FRI: 11AM–3PM

ROCK RIVER
BRANCH HOURS
WED: 9AM–4:30PM

May
2023
Vol. 17 No. 2

All In the Neighborhood: Summer Reading @ Your Library

All In the Neighborhood, the 2023 Summer Reading Program will run June 10–August 18. This year's theme will focus on the Albany County Public Library's new motto: For Community...For Connection...For Curiosity...Think ACPL.

The Summer Reading Program will have a Mister Rogers-feel, so grab your cardigan, as we have a great summer connecting with the community.

As Mister Rogers said, "Imagine what our neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person."

The Summer Reading Program is for all ages. ACPL will provide a reading challenge, where children, teens, and adults can reach goals over the summer. Participants will use a reading log to track their progress. You can choose your goal: 25 days, 25 hours or 25 books.

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. Participants can stop by the library on or after June 10 to get a sign-up bag.

continued on page 2

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD,
A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A NEIGHBOR.
WOULD YOU BE MINE?

-FRED ROGERS

in this issue

SUMMER READING 2023
WE LIVE HERE
WHAT'S NEW
BECOME AN FOL MEMBER

Summer Reading *from page 1*

As participants read, they will earn votes to help a local non-profit. ACPL will donate to Developmental Preschool & Daycare Center, Open School, Cathedral Home for Children, SAFE Project, and the Epson Center for Seniors.

The Summer Reading Program will start with a fun kick off on June 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring the whole family for food, music, games, and activities. You won't want to miss reading to a goat and then letting the goat eat the book! There will also be amazing balloon animals.

Summer Reading programming will run June 10 to July 29. Participants can enjoy the reading challenge through August 18. More information and a full schedule are available on the ACPL website and on Facebook.

EVENTS

Summer Reading Program Kick Off
June 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Come to the library, have some fun, and sign up for Summer Reading! Enjoy crafts, snacks, music, balloon animals, and read to a goat! Participants will receive a sign-up goodie bag.

Book Babies
Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at Albany County Public Library
Books, rhymes, and songs for ages birth to 2. Sessions will start June 13.

Stories @ the Parks
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. – Lincoln Community Center in West Laramie
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. – Washington Park
Thursdays at 10:30 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. The bookmobile will be there too!

Test Tube Tuesdays
June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25 from 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.
A drop-in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) program, best suited for elementary and middle school-aged children.

Let's Dance!: Zumba for Kids
Thursdays
2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. – For Littles (2-5 years old)
3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. – For School-Aged Kids (6–12 years old)
You'll feel pretty groovy after this fun Zumba class each week. Classes are divided based on age level.

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.
Teens join us every week for crafts, games, art, activities, and more. Ages 12–17.

Family Storytime with Community Helpers
Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
Join us for a weekly Storytime for kids and families. Each week, ACPL will have a "community helper" as a reader for families to learn more about the community.

Kids Lego Club
Saturdays at 11 a.m.
For kids of all ages. Build and create with Lego!

Family Night with the Planetarium
Thursday, June 22 at 8:30 p.m.
Glow-in-the-dark games and activities, along with stargazing. The UW Planetarium will bring telescopes to see the night sky.

"Drive-In" Movie for Kids
Thursday, June 29 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Free movie at the ACPL "drive-in." Kiddos will decorate a license plate to put on their box car before enjoying an animated movie with fun snacks.

3rd of July Parade
July 3 at 10 a.m.
Celebrate Independence Day with a kid's parade! Bring your bikes and scooters to decorate. We will have a parade around the Storywalk, followed by popsicles and a Zumba routine.

Jubilee Days Parade
July 8
See our bookmobile in the parade!

Superhero Fun with Princess Parties
Tuesday, July 11 at 1 p.m.
Be a superhero for a day at this fun event!

Magician Cody Landstrom
Tuesday, July 18 at 1 p.m.
Do you believe in magic? You will after you see this magician! Join us for a comedy magic show.

Musician Steve Weeks
Friday, July 21
There will be a show at 1 p.m. and a show at 4:30 p.m. Come enjoy Colorado-based songwriter, Steve Weeks, for his show that entertains and educates kids of all ages.

Summer Reading Bash: Foam Party
Sunday, July 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 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.

End of Summer Reading: Pizza Party
August 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Come celebrate a summer of reading with a pizza party for all ages!

We Live Here
Phone
COINS

We Live Here

Albany County Public Library has partnered with Laramie Public Art Coalition to display a unique art experience based on the stories of people living in Albany County. The "We Live Here" storytelling pay phone debuted with a celebration and panel discussion with the artists behind the project in May.

The idea behind the project came from local artist, Meg Thompson. Thompson worked with landscape artist, Linda Lillegraven, and Wyoming Public Radio's, Melodie Edwards and Ivy Engel. Thompson and Lillegraven focused on the visuals for the project, while Edwards and Engel gathered and produced the stories.

"We Live Here" combines local oral stories with images of Albany County. These are combined in an art experience representing seven stories. Images and stories are included in a book, and participants can listen to each storyteller's experience by using an old pay phone. The pay phone for stories is located in the center of the public library near the front desk.

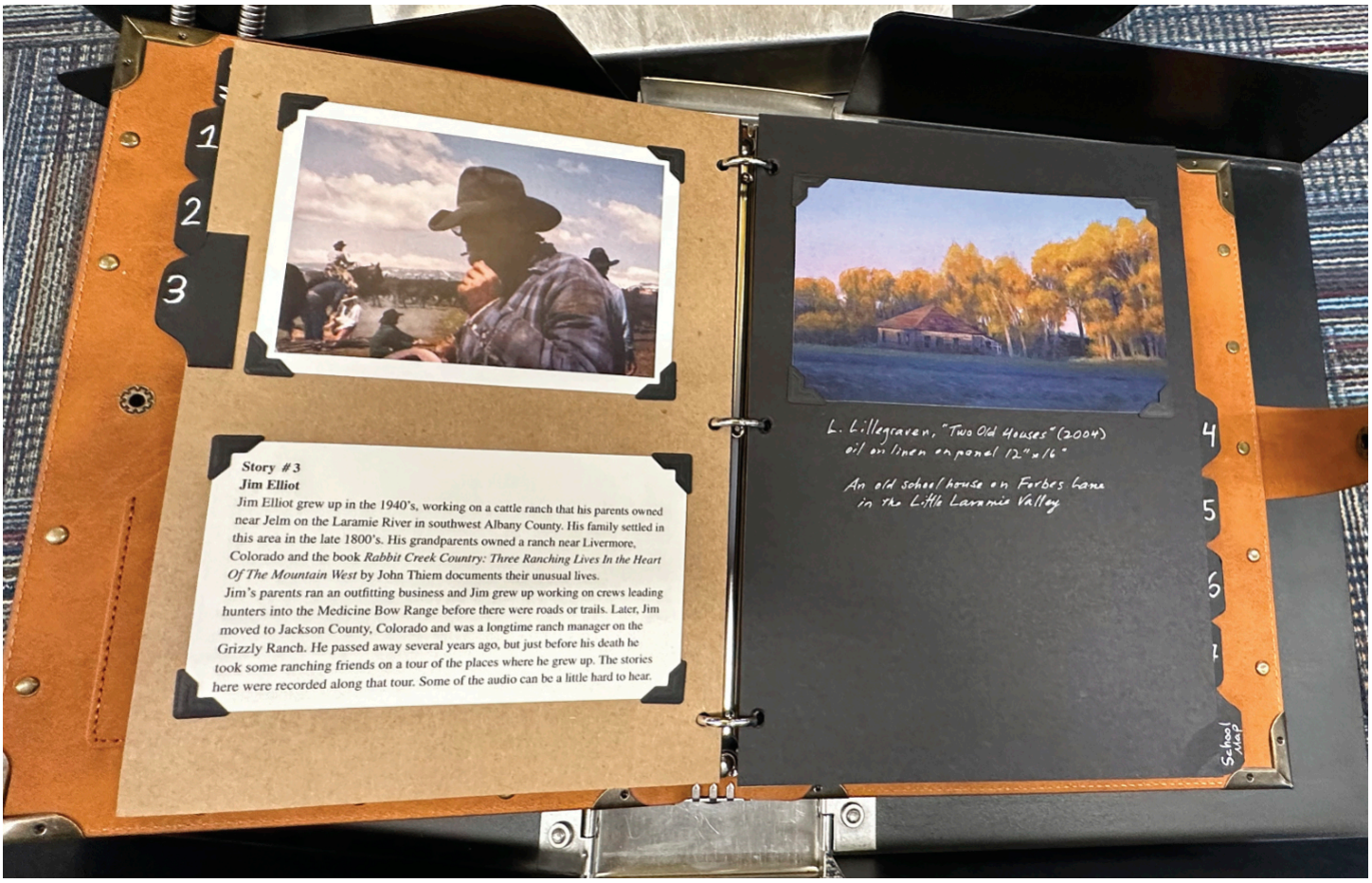
Thompson believes that objects have energy and power and in the digital age we have lost some of that. Phones were such a lifeline of the past, so the experience brings the phone back to life with the familiar old static sound.

The creative team wanted to give a small picture of the unique and diverse experiences in Albany County. There are so many everyday heroes, but our culture puts less focus on these people, Thompson said, who is motivated by everyday stories. Storytelling is particularly rich in Albany County.

"We didn't have to look far to find great stories," Thompson said.

The group also wanted to explore stories related to the agricultural and rural life of Albany County. Lillegraven's painting of a school bus out in the county inspired this type of story.

Story #3 in the book is Jim Elliot, accompanied by a photo of Linda Lillegraven's "Two Old Houses."



The "We Live Here" team celebrated the debut of the project with a panel discussion at ACPL. From left to right: Laramie Public Art Coalition director, Laura McDermit, Ivy Engel, Meg Thompson, Melodie Edwards, and Linda Lillegraven.

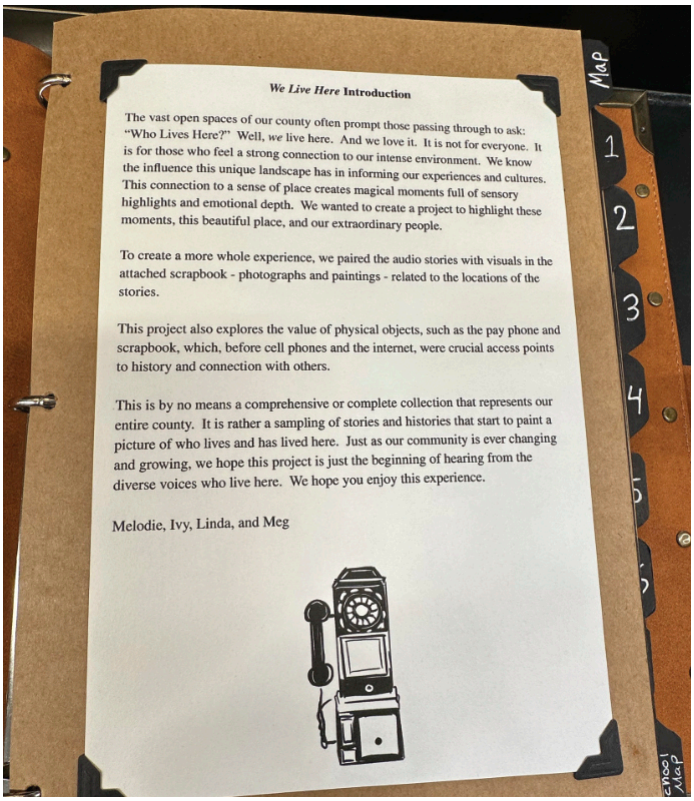
"There is a history in our landscape that shows up if you look for it," Lillegraven said.

One story in the book is Mario Flores, who grew up in West Laramie. Edwards worked with Flores on his story and found herself intrigued by the stories shared that took place in his grandfather's house. In true Laramie and small-town fashion, Edwards and Flores later discovered that Edwards' family now lives in the same house once owned by Flores' grandfather.

"The project showed the layers and layers of community and history being passed down," Edwards said.

"We Live Here" will be displayed at ACPL for the next year. Stop by the library and pull up a chair to listen to amazing stories from your own community. The project was possible thanks to Laramie Public Art Coalition and a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council.

The book introduction from the creative team.



We Live Here **Introduction**

The vast open spaces of our county often prompt those passing through to ask: "Who Lives Here?" Well, *we* live here. And we love it. It is not for everyone. It is for those who feel a strong connection to our intense environment. We know the influence this unique landscape has in informing our experiences and cultures. This connection to a sense of place creates magical moments full of sensory highlights and emotional depth. We wanted to create a project to highlight these moments, this beautiful place, and our extraordinary people.

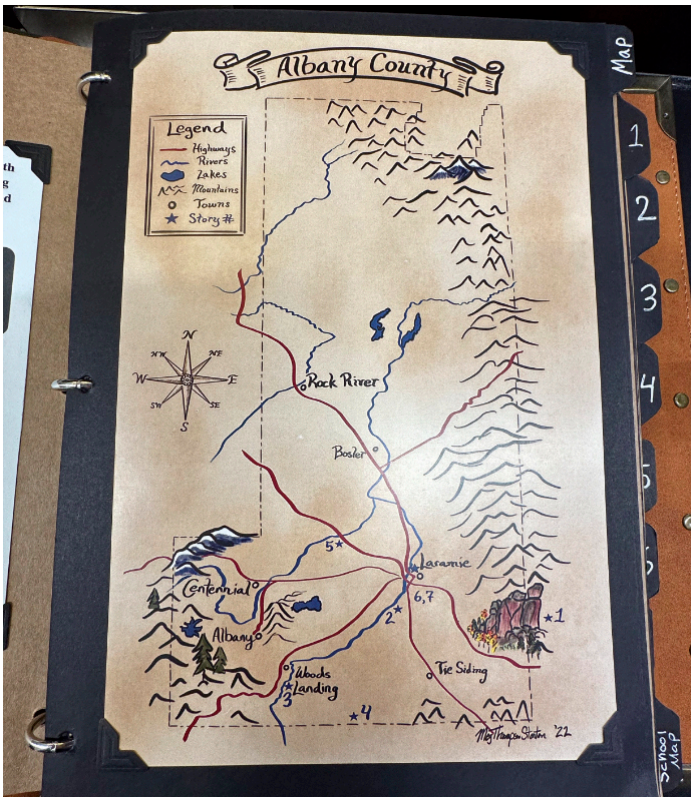
To create a more whole experience, we paired the audio stories with visuals in the attached scrapbook - photographs and paintings - related to the locations of the stories.

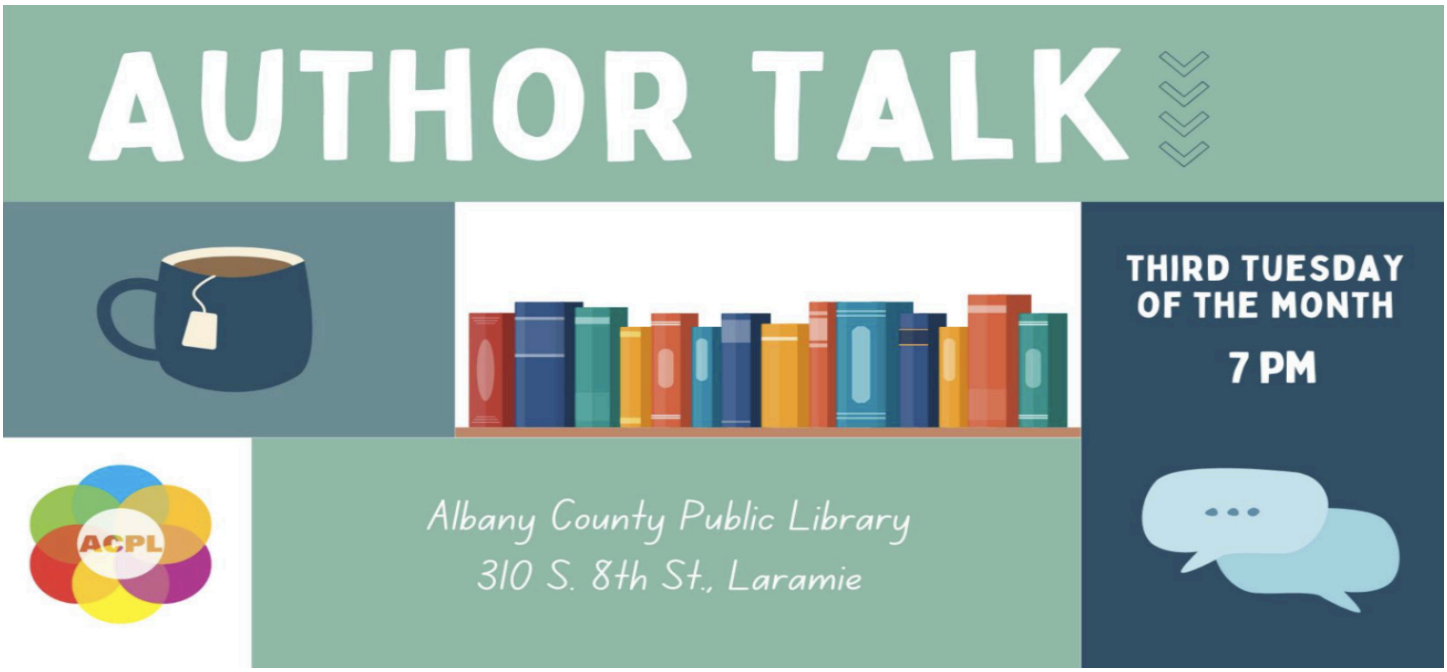
This project also explores the value of physical objects, such as the pay phone and scrapbook, which, before cell phones and the internet, were crucial access points to history and connection with others.

This is by no means a comprehensive or complete collection that represents our entire county. It is rather a sampling of stories and histories that start to paint a picture of who lives and has lived here. Just as our community is ever changing and growing, we hope this project is just the beginning of hearing from the diverse voices who live here. We hope you enjoy this experience.

Melodie, Ivy, Linda, and Meg

A drawn Albany County map in the book shows where each person's story was based.





What's New Around ACPL

- ACPL has a new monthly adult author talk! Join us the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the meeting room for a book talk with a local author.
- Stay tuned for information on where ALBY, our bookmobile will be over the summer!
- We're excited to announce that the Children's Area will be expanding! The expansion will allow for more space for different age groups. Watch for shifting and moving of shelves near the Children's Area over the next few months.
- The ACPL Storywalk at the Laramie Branch will be undergoing an update. Thanks to a grant from the Laramie Rivers Conservation District and help from Leadership Laramie, the ACPL Foundation will be adding concrete pads to Storywalk stands, adding a fresh coat of paint, and replacing some of the plexiglass. The Storywalk will be closed for the project the first half of June.
- The Albany County Early Development Coalition is building a network of people, groups, and organizations in Albany County that work with children aged 0-5. Reach out to ACPL if you want to get involved!

Albany County Public Library
Foundation

Return service requested

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 182
CHEYENNE WY

Friends of the Library
310 S. 8th Street
Laramie, WY 82070
307-721-2580

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.

Visit us at acplwy.org

Become a Member. Support the *Friends* of the Library

Volunteers

- 41: Average number of volunteers each month.
- 463.5: Average hours worked per month.
- Tasks include sales support, regular basement
- crew, and outside helpers.

Library Support

- Donations are added directly to the library shelves.
- $58,230 - donated in calendar year 2023.
- Birthday gifts for library staff.

Betterment of Community

Provide quality books for purchase:
- Book Nook.
- Book Sales.
- Personal Shopper.
- Amazon Sales.

Provide free books:
- In the Library entry.
- Donated to Laramie community groups.
- Donated to Little Free Libraries.
- Donated to Wyoming schools and DOJ.
- Donated to at least 6 states and 5 foreign countries.

Provide new life to old books:
- Books may be sold.
- Books may be recycled.
- Recycled books may go to other non-profit groups.
- Trash is reduced when we can recycle some books for paper.

FRIENDS

Check our website **https://friends.acplwy.org**
to learn more, including links to the sign-up for sales times and volunteer opportunities.