

Laramie Branch to open on Sundays

CPL is excited to announce that it will open on Sundays at its Laramie branch. The Laramie library will expand its hours starting on January 12, 2020, increasing its open time by four hours. Patrons will be able to visit the library on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ACPL's current financial security and fiscal planning has put the library in a great position to open on Sundays. This is a big victory for the public library, as historically expanding library hours has been difficult. Throughout its history, the public library

has strived to be open as many hours as possible, but budget issues have consistently led to ACPL having no other option than to reduce its operating hours.

This will be the first time since 2015 that the main branch has been open seven days a week. In 2015, the Laramie library closed on Sunday due to budget cuts, after six months of being open seven days a week.

To celebrate this positive change, the library and ACPL Foundation will have "Sunday Funday" on the second Sunday of the month from January to March.



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Check out the Sunday Funday schedule on page 2.



January 12

Scavenger Hunt, 1-5pm

Bring the whole family for a fun scavenger hunt throughout the library.

Hot Cocoa Bar and Cookies, 1-5pm

Get out of the cold and enjoy some goodies on our first Sunday being open.

Kids Bookmark Design Contest, 1–5pm

The winning bookmark design will be the official ACPL bookmark for National Library Week in April.

Fiber Fun, 2-4pm

Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other craft project and enjoy listening to an audiobook of short stories for an afternoon.

Sundries of the World Film Series, 7pm

For adults. Join us for the film series kick off.

February 9

Family Game Day, 1–4pm

Spend an afternoon playing tabletop games. Popcorn and lemonade will be served.

Book Bombs: Random Acts of Kindness, 1–5pm

Celebrate Valentine's Day by leaving a note of kindness in a library book. Write a positive note and leave it in a book to be appreciated by the next reader.

Kids Bookmark Design Contest, 1–5pm

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Fiber Fun, 2-4pm

Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other craft project and enjoy listening to an audiobook of short stories for an afternoon

Sundries of the World Film Series, 7pm For adults. Check the library website for a film schedule.

March 8

Spring Luau & Kids Movie, 1:30-4pm

Games, food, and fun! The movie will begin at 2:30pm. Arrive at 1:30pm to enjoy snacks and games. Bring your beach towels to relax on and watch this tale of a young girl's close encounter with the galaxy's most wanted extraterrestrial.

Kids Bookmark Design Winner Announced, 1pm

The winning bookmark design will be the official ACPL bookmark for National Library Week in April. The winner will be announced on March 8. All bookmark entries will be on display.

Fiber Fun, 2–4pm

Bring your knitting, crocheting, or other craft project and enjoy listening to an audiobook of short stories for an afternoon.

Sundries of the World Film Series, 7pm

For adults. Check the library website for the schedule.

New faces @ your library

New ACPL Board Member

The Albany County Public Library Board of Directors welcomed a new board member in July. Faryn Babbitt is the executive director of SAFE Project. She is currently a member of Leadership Laramie.

Babbitt joined the library board because she wanted to volunteer in the community and felt she had the

skills necessary to make an impact on the board.

"I think that the library is a vital resource for Albany County, and I'm excited to be a part of such a wonderful team," Babbit said.

Babbitt enjoys reading, eating, and shopping. She loved the book "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. She comes from a longtime Laramie family. Both Babbitt's par-



Faryn Babbitt

ents and grandparents grew up in Laramie. She is married and has two young children and two dogs.

New ACPL Library Director

In September, the Albany County Public Library Board of Directors named Rachel Crocker as the new library director. Crocker previously held the role of assistant library director upon joining the ACPL staff in January 2018.

"Rachel [Crocker] has impressed me as an assistant and interim director," ACPL Board Chairman, Scott Shoop, said. "She has the intelligence, leadership, and management skills to be very successful in this position."

Crocker has strategic planning and visioning experience, as well as sound knowledge of the three branches of Albany County Public Library and the Albany County community. Crocker has taken a lead on budget preparation and library operations during her time at ACPL. Her financial and organizational management skillset are assets to the library.

"Working with the ACPL staff to serve the Albany

County community has been such a pleasure, and I'm thrilled to take on this new role at the ACPL," Crocker said. "I look forward to working with the staff, board, and community to continue the ACPL's great work and to create a vision for how the library can best serve and adapt to the growth and changes in Albany County."



Rachel Crocker

Crocker graduated with

a Bachelor's degree from UW and a Master's degree from Denver University. She formerly worked at IREX, an international education nonprofit. She facilitated discussion and led planning to assist public libraries in eight countries. Crocker's skills helped libraries to develop initiatives that matched community needs. Crocker primarily worked in the Philippines and Nigeria for the project.

New to Circulation

Sabrina Reed joined the ACPL staff as a circulation assistant in September. Reed applied to ACPL because she is interested in becoming a librarian. She is working on her Master's in Library Information Science online at the University of Arizona.



Sabrina Reed

In her first year in library school, Reed's favorite course has been the history of libraries. Once she graduates, Reed would like to become a young adult or children's librarian.

Favorites in the Library: Young Adult Fantasy, Lord of the Rings, and the Harry Potter series

Favorite coffee shop:

Starbucks 💍

Library foundation funds library p

he Albany County Public Library Foundation debuted its new support program for the public library in September 2018. The ACPLF mini-grant program was designed to provide additional funding to the library for needed purposes, while also providing professional development opportunities to library staff.

This newsletter will highlight two of the minigrant projects completed in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Youth Services Librarian, Monica Owens, worked with the ACPL Foundation on two mini-grant projects. Owens' first project brought in a performer to visit ACSD#1's elementary schools to promote the Summer Reading Program. Magician and comedian Ann Lincoln visited 10 elementary schools over three days in May 2019.

"The Summer Reading Program is a big part of the Youth Services Department," Owens said. "The program promotes literacy and learning while students are out of school, but often it can be difficult to get the word out and encourage participation at the library."

To address this challenge, Owens brought Lincoln straight to the schools to highlight the fun of the Summer Reading Program. Owens previously worked with Lincoln on similar performances at her past libraries.

Owens picked Lincoln to perform because she is a great professional, has experience with school visits, and shows great energy and enthusiasm. Lincoln is known for her hilarious shows and her ability to adapt her performances to the Summer Reading theme.

Lincoln does such a good job tying books and literacy into her performances.

The performances were incredibly popular and encouraged students to go home and tell their families about coming to the library. The library saw a substantial increase in student participation in the elementary school age range. The 2019 Summer Reading Program had about 1,000 adults, teens, and kids participate.

Owens' second mini-grant was to replace the library's old die cut machine and purchase new sets of die cuts. A die cut machine is a device designed to cut materials, such as paper and fabric, into different shapes. In addition to a new machine, the library purchased a set of letters, space-themed die cuts, and other shapes. The die cut machine is an important time saver for library staff.

The library die cut machine sees weekly use. The Youth Services Department regularly uses the machine to make nametags for weekly storytimes. The different shapes and colors offer a great learning ex-



The youth services new die cut machine

rojects

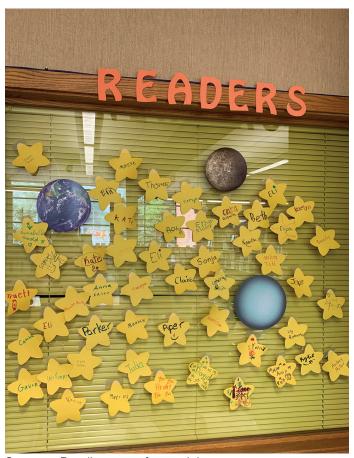
perience for children. It also helps ACPL's staff get to know the children by name.

The library also uses the machine to cut out felt shapes and letters for the felt board in the children's area. Parents and caregivers use the board with children to identify colors and spell out words.

The new die cut machine was used during the Summer Reading Program as well. Everyone who signed up was provided with a star cutout to place on the library's reader board. Rocket shapes were provided to all participants that completed the reading incentive challenge.

The ACPL Foundation's Agnes Milstead Fund and the Love Family Fund provide funding for the minigrant program. The ACPL Foundation will continue to provide the mini-grant program each year to library projects as funding allows.

In FY20, the ACPL Foundation has \$5,000 for



Summer Reading stars for participants



Magician and comedian Ann Lincoln

projects. The organization will support a classic book replacement project, new game board shelving, and slat wall displays for magazines. \Diamond

Thank you...

Guthrie Family Foundation

for providing a \$20,000 grant to support the public library.

Albany County Public Library



Foundation

ACPL Foundation fundraiser raises \$19,000

he ACPL Foundation held its fourth annual "A Novel Night" fundraiser in October. The Clue murder mystery event raised more than \$19,000, the highest amount to date for the fundraiser.

This year's event also auctioned off the opportunity to pick next year's murder mystery theme. Next year's theme, picked by Turtle Rock Coffee & Café, is Happily Never After: A Fairy-Tale Themed Murder Mystery.

Event Earnings:

- \$17,200 sponsorships
- \$4,575 ticket sales
- \$4,344 wine raffle, dessert auction, and silent auction
- \$26,120 in total income before expenses
- \$19,140 in total income after expenses

Event Attendance:

- 34 business sponsors
- 6 individual sponsors
- Over 200 attendees

Cluedo Sponsors (\$1,200):

Corthell & King, P.C.
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Caitlin White
Cara Williams
Steve & Karen Williams
Wyoming's Rib & Chop House



The ACPL Foundation's murder mystery fundraiser was created to benefit the public library. Funds raised at this event have a direct impact on library programs, technology, materials, and continuing education. The money raised at this event is more than one-fourth of the ACPL Foundation's minimum donation of \$60,000 to the library in FY20.

Thank you for supporting your public library! 👩



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Friends of the Library

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