



the **ORLA** newsletter.

SEPTEMBER 2026



LIBRARY HALL PRESENTS SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MISSING ARCHIVES

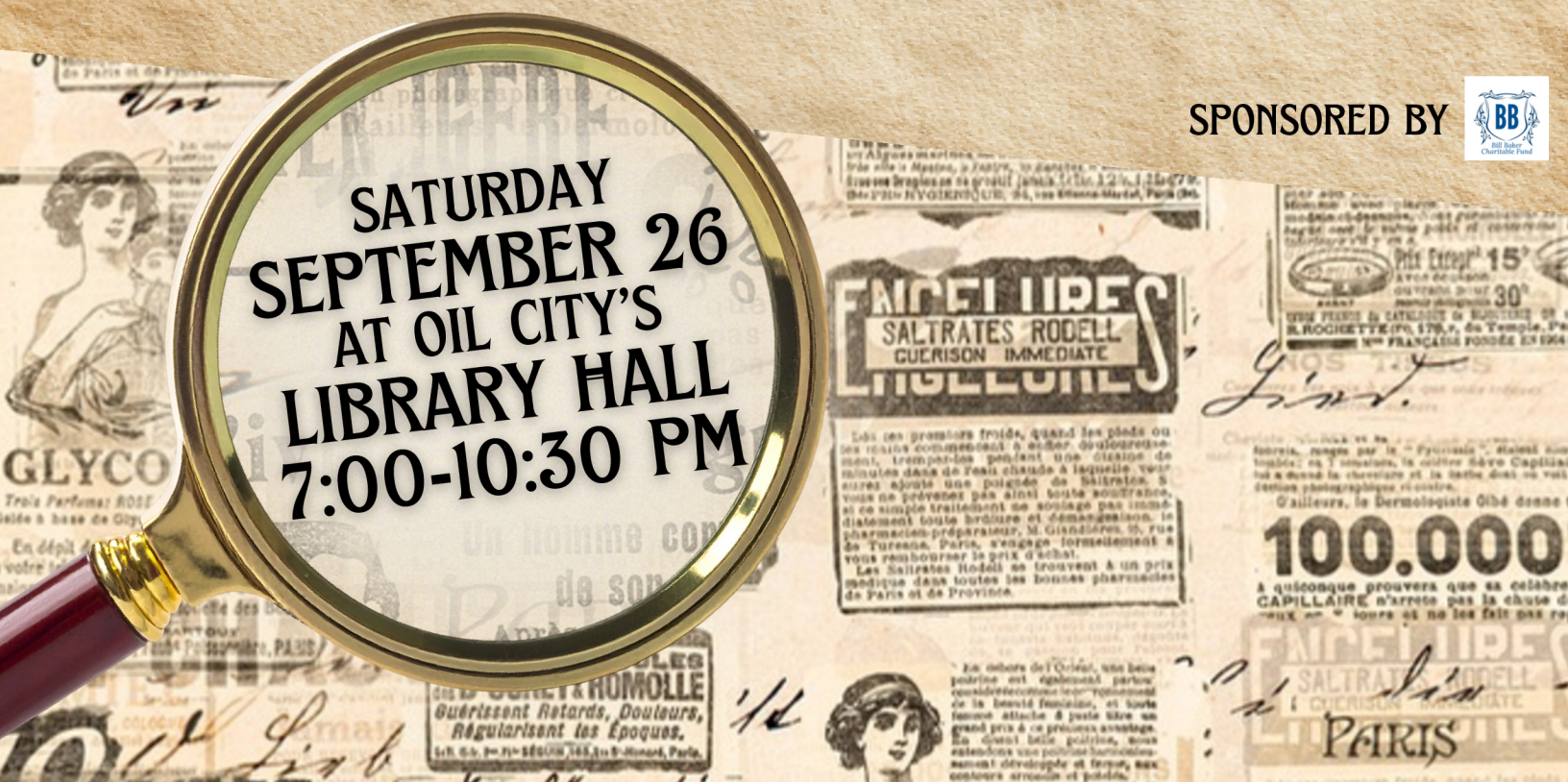


ORLA'S ANNUAL LITERARY-THEMED GALA

SPONSORED BY

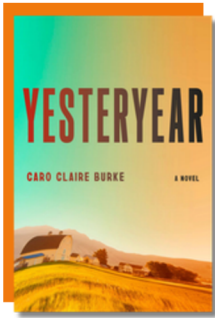


SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26
AT OIL CITY'S
LIBRARY HALL
7:00-10:30 PM



WHAT WE'RE READING

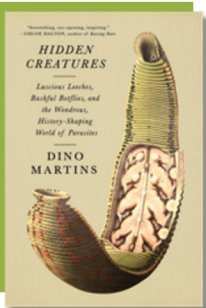
 Available on Libby



YESTERYEAR ★★★★★ 
CARO CLAIRE BURKE

Natalie lives a traditional lifestyle – and her followers are sick with envy. Her charming farmhouse on her working ranch is artfully cluttered, her husband is a handsome cowboy, her homemade sourdough boules are each more beautiful than the last. So what if there are nannies and producers and industrial-grade ovens behind the scenes? What her followers don't know won't hurt them. Then, one morning, Natalie wakes up in a strange, horrible version of reality. Her home, her husband, her children—they're all familiar, but something's off. Is this a hoax? A reality show? A test from God? Natalie knows just two things for sure: this isn't her perfect life, and she must escape, by any means possible.

"This book has had so much hype – everyone is reading it and loving it, but me, not so much. The summary is much different than the book turns out to be. The author writes the characters in an unnecessarily cruel way and tries to shove every single religious, conservative, 'tradwife' stereotype she's ever heard in her life into one character. If you're going to criticise something, please do it right and please do your research. If not, it just comes across as silly and unserious and not at all what good satire should be. I'm curious to read other books out right now with a similar premise, because the idea behind Yesteryear could be done well, just apparently not by this author." Emily Antkowiak, Adult Services, Oil City Library



HIDDEN CREATURES ★★★★★
LUSCIOUS LEECHES, BASHFUL BOTFLIES, AND THE WONDROUS, HISTORY-SHAPING WORLD OF PARASITES

DINO MARTINS

There is the tapeworm, which can grow 120 feet in length within the gut of a whale; the tsetse fly, a notorious vector of disease that can pierce the skin even of crocodiles with its needle-like mouth; and the most universal symbol of parasitic behavior--the leech. Long villainized as, well, parasitic, these creatures are actually a vital part of every ecosystem--and Dr. Dino Martins, an award-winning entomologist and biologist from Kenya, has made it his life's mission to demystify these beguiling beings. Hidden Creatures is a journey across the world ten times over--from Martins's home in the wilds of East Africa to the rainforests of Borneo to cities and backyards across the globe. Along

the way we encounter brilliant and eccentric experts who join Martins on his adventures to investigate not only parasites but their hosts, from hyraxes and hippos to, of course, humans. Immersive, driven by an utterly infectious curiosity, and sure to transform every reader's understanding of these organisms, Hidden Creatures has the magnetic force of a David Attenborough documentary and introduces a monumental, charming new voice in science writing.

"I love bugs and learning about them; call it special interest. So this book was made for me. Now, do I think most people will like this book? Probably not. A lot of literature I read on them is either trying to excuse how gross people find bugs or defend them. Martins sees parasites as a part of nature that he admires and finds beauty in, just by being themselves. Which is not what most people feel when they see a tick or a leech on them. Read it if you want a different viewpoint on the bugs that surround and prey on us, or if you just want to learn more about them." Amanda Barker, Franklin Public Library Branch Manager

★★★★★ **THE COW IN THE DARK AT NIGHT**

JESS HANNIGAN

It is nighttime, and the cow is loose. In this vibrant and silly picture book, curiosity leads to some strange encounters indeed... The cow has always wondered what goes on when the sun goes down. Tonight, she will discover it all. Adventures, nocturnal friends, every exciting thing waiting out there in the dark new world. But these night people may have other things in mind... It's a good thing that the moon is very bright tonight. Readers who love scaredy cats, Jon Klassen, neon green, X. Fang, and things that go bump in the night will fall in love with this new story from beloved Spider in the Well author Jess Hannigan!



"What a fun book. A strong beginning with 'It is nighttime, and I am loose,' and it just continues as a silly romp from there. I also really enjoyed the simple, vibrant artwork. You aren't supposed to judge a book by its cover, but it is the reason I picked this one up. This would be a wonderful read-aloud book for kids or even just one for adults who want a laugh." Amanda Barker, Franklin Public Library Branch Manager

upcoming author talks

You're invited to join us every month for free, virtual, live discussions with bestselling authors! Watch with us online from home & submit your questions to the author ahead of time.



TUE. SEP. 8TH | 7:00PM | ONLINE

Writing the Nightmare: a Ship Called Sickness & One Unforgettable Space Crew with Pulitzer Prize-Winning author Daniel Kraus Prepare to launch into the darkest depths of deep space! Join us online as we sit down with master storyteller Daniel Kraus, winner of the 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, to celebrate the release of his new novel, *The Sixth Nik*. Register now to gain exclusive insight from one of the most visionary voices in modern fiction.



THU. SEP. 24TH | 7:00PM | ONLINE

Where the Paletero Man Goes: A Journey of Neighborhood, Music, and Art with Lucky Diaz Grab a pocketful of change & get ready to dance down the street! Join us for an energetic conversation as we celebrate the joy of community & summer fun with Latin GRAMMY-winning musician Lucky Diaz, author of the sensational bilingual picture book, *Paletero Man*.

**REGISTER NOW
AT**

**[HTTPS://LIBRARYC.ORG/
OILREGIONLIBRARIES](https://libraryc.org/oilregionlibraries)**

SPONSORED BY



PICTURE THIS

WRITTEN AND
CREATED BY

EMILY ANTKOWIAK

Each month, I take one historical image & photograph it superimposed over the same area as it appears today. This allows you to see what Venango County looked like in the past with a modern reference. My hope is to share neat photos from the library's archives to make them and their history more attainable.



Check out this shot from an Oil Heritage Parade back in the '70s! The Zems Zems are riding past the Holiday Inn, which had been built in the previous decade. You also get a peek at the old State Street Bridge. The bridge has since been rebuilt, and the current Veteran's Bridge opened in 1990. The hotel has also been razed with construction started for a new restaurant and events venue.



THEN



NOW

Do you have an image or location you'd like to see featured?
Email eantkowiak@oilregionlibraries.org with your suggestions!

LIBRARY HALL PRESENTS SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MISSING ARCHIVES



ORLA'S ANNUAL LITERARY-THEMED GALA

SPONSORED BY



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26
AT OIL CITY'S
LIBRARY HALL
7:00-10:30 PM

*Join us for a Sherlock
Holmes-inspired evening
with curated drinks,
hors d'oeuvres, gambling,
a brass quintet, items
for auction, and more in
the library's historic
theater! Victorian
period attire is required.*

DIGNITARY TICKET

\$100

- EARLY EVENT ENTRY
- 4 DRINKS INCLUDED
- FREE CARICATURE

ELEMENTARY TICKET

\$75

- 2 DRINKS INCLUDED

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

AT THE OIL CITY LIBRARY & THE FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

SHERLOCK HOLMES



READ - A - LIKES

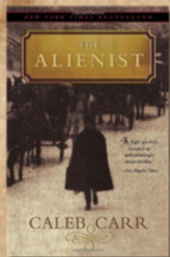
LOVE 'SHERLOCK HOLMES' & LOOKING FOR SIMILAR READS?

These titles capture the same spirit of mystery, clever deduction, & unforgettable characters. Whether you're looking for atmospheric mysteries, ingenious puzzles, or unforgettable sleuths, these reads are sure to keep you guessing. Check out these titles at any ORLA location!



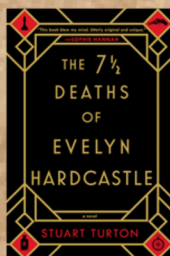
THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE LAURIE R. KING

Fifteen-year-old Mary Russell encounters a retired Sherlock Holmes while walking across the Sussex Downs. Despite their considerable age difference, the two recognize a shared love of logic and investigation, and Holmes takes Russell on as his apprentice. Together, they become an unlikely detective team, using their wits to unravel increasingly dangerous mysteries.



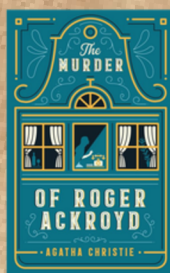
THE ALIENIST CALEB CARR

In 1896 New York City, a series of gruesome murders of young boys has the police baffled. Psychologist—or "alienist"—Dr. Laszlo Kreizler joins forces with newspaper illustrator John Schuyler Moore and a team of investigators to track down the killer. Using emerging psychological and forensic techniques, they attempt to understand the mind of a murderer unlike any the city has seen before.



THE 7½ DEATHS OF EVELYN HARDCASTLE STUART TURTON

Evelyn Hardcastle is going to be murdered—and it will happen over and over again. Aiden Bishop is trapped in a mysterious country estate, forced to relive the day of Evelyn's death in the bodies of eight different guests. To escape, he must identify her killer before time runs out, but each new perspective reveals a different set of secrets, motives, and dangers.



THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD AGATHA CHRISTIE

When wealthy widower Roger Ackroyd is found murdered in his home, the small English village of King's Abbot is thrown into turmoil. Fortunately, Hercule Poirot has recently retired nearby and agrees to investigate the crime. As Poirot carefully examines the suspects and their secrets, he discovers that nearly everyone has something to hide.



THE MOONSTONE WILKIE COLLINS

When Rachel Verinder receives a priceless Indian diamond for her birthday, the mysterious jewel disappears from her bedroom that very same night. As suspicions fall on family members, servants, and strangers alike, a determined investigator sets out to uncover the truth. Told through multiple perspectives, this Victorian mystery is filled with secrets, deception, and clues surrounding the diamond's disappearance.



THE WORD IS MURDER ANTHONY HOROWITZ

A woman walks into a funeral home and makes arrangements for her own funeral—six hours before she is murdered. Eccentric detective Daniel Hawthorne is determined to solve the case, and he recruits author Anthony Horowitz to document the investigation. As Horowitz follows Hawthorne from clue to clue, the mystery becomes a clever, self-aware modern take on the classic detective story.



THE DEVIL AND THE DARK WATER STUART TURTON

On a ship sailing from the East Indies to Amsterdam, a series of strange and seemingly supernatural events has the passengers terrified. When a murderer strikes, disgraced detective Samuel PIPPS is unable to investigate, leaving his loyal bodyguard, Arent Hayes, to solve the mystery. As the ship's voyage becomes increasingly dangerous, Arent must uncover the truth before the killer—and whatever else may be lurking aboard—strikes again.



ALSO AVAILABLE ON LIBBY



MAHJONG

CLUB

at the
Franklin Public Library

THURSDAYS FROM 1-4PM

Learn, play, & enjoy the classic game of Mahjong at the Franklin Public Library! Whether you're completely new to the game or an experienced player, everyone is welcome.

- **Beginning in September**, the first hour, 1:00–2:00 PM, will be dedicated to beginner instruction and guided play. After that, from 2:00–4:00 PM, the tables will be open for regular gameplay for all skill levels.

The library will provide the Mahjong boards, so just bring yourself and your enthusiasm for the game! No registration or experience required. The Mahjong Club is free & open to the public, and new players are always welcome to join.

- **Beginning in October**, the first Thursday of each month will be reserved for beginner instruction & play. The remaining Thursdays will be open gameplay for all skill levels.

Come meet fellow Mahjong enthusiasts, learn something new, & enjoy an afternoon of fun & friendly competition!

LIBRARY HALL MATINEE

SHOWING THIS MONTH



OBSSESSION
(2026) R

WED. SEPT. 16TH
6:00 PM



TOY STORY 5
(2026) G

SAT. OCTOBER 3RD
1:00 PM

Join us at Oil City Library's **Library Hall**
for movie showings every other week!

ADMISSION ALWAYS FREE
ALL AGES WELCOME
FREE POPCORN!



REMEMBERING STEVE BENNETT

1956 - 2026



Steven T. Bennett, longtime Custodian at the Franklin Public Library, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, August 26th, 2026. Steve loved to read & was devoted to the library. He enjoyed reading fantasy books, especially from the 80's. He loved *The Dragonriders of Pern* series by Anne McCaffrey & the *Dragonlance* series by Margaret Weis.

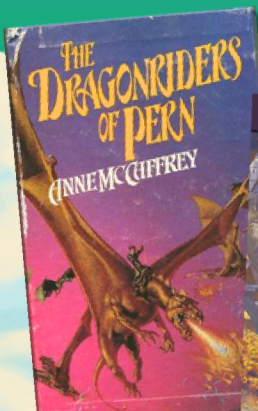
Steve always had a smile on his face, and ALWAYS encouraged others to “just keep smiling!”. We will all miss him & his bright personality so much!

“He always greeted me with a big ‘Good Morning!’ when I came in to work and offered me a dance when he was running the vacuum. He tried to keep his smile and joy wherever he went, and he will be greatly missed here at the library.” – Amanda Barker, Franklin Public Library Branch Manager

“Steve was the coworker every establishment needs. He had a joke for every situation. Whether you were struggling with equipment and needed reminding that beating it with a hammer would do the trick, or that today was the perfect day for a dance in the streets. Each jest helped us to remember that although things will happen no matter what, we get to control how we want to feel in the moment. His happiness was contagious, and he will be truly missed.” – Daidre Green, ORLA Teen Services Coordinator



Steve trying to keep the library from falling apart!



Read a book about dragons, or take some time to dance today, in honor of Steve's memory.

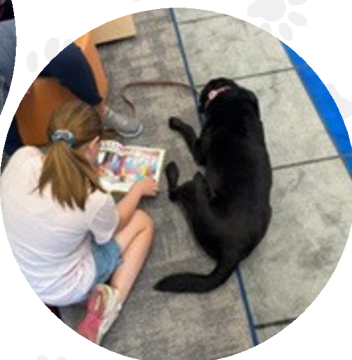
THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER



at the Franklin Public Library!

Children & families had a blast at the Franklin Public Library's weeklong **Dog Days of Summer** event in August! The weeklong event included reading to Therapy Dogs (pictured below), a plushie puppy adoption, a dog storytime, a presentation about Search & Rescue Dogs, and more. Thank you to all who came to support the event, which helped raise money for the library & for the Rotary Club's Dog Park project!

Rotary Club of Franklin



Keep track of the books you read with the library's easy color-the-shapes log!

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

SHEET _____ OF 10

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

Color the shapes log!

Why Participate?

There's no better time to lay the groundwork for independent learning than early childhood. Reading 1,000 books before kindergarten is a low pressure way to close the vocabulary gap & develop the early literacy skills so crucial to success in school. Any child can participate as long as they are not yet in kindergarten.

Register your child in person at your library or online at www.oilregionlibraries.org/youth/1000-books-before-kindergarten/



Franklin Public Library

QUILT-A-THON

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11 | 10-6PM

+

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 | 10-3PM

The Friends of the Franklin Public Library will be hosting their 31st annual Quilt-A-Thon fundraising event on September 11th & 12th during the Franklin Public Library's regular business hours - Friday 10-6PM & Saturday 10-3PM. This annual fundraiser helps the library with some special needs & regular programming.

The quilt tops that will be worked on are supplied by local artisans. Sue Luxbacher, a member of *The Flying Needles*, made a children's quilt top "Teddy Bears in Blue Jeans" in a Snowball quilt pattern. Sue Betz and Krista Cloonan made an applique of "Birdhouses" in a fall setting.

"BIRDHOUSES"

Quilt Top



"TEDDY BEARS IN BLUE JEANS"

Quilt Top



This is an interactive event that anyone may participate in at any skill level. By coming in or calling the library, you can receive a sponsor sheet & an informational letter. Anyone may sponsor a quilter for \$5, which will give you a chance to win one of the completed projects. Increase your chances by donating \$20 for 5 chances. The drawing will be on October 5th.

There will also be a mini consignment shop for small sewn objects, with 10% of the proceeds benefiting the Library. People interested in participating this way can bring in their labeled & priced items to the library on September 8th & 9th. We always have a great time and enjoy meeting new friends! For more information, call the library at (814) 432-5062.



These readers hit milestones recently!



LIBRARY LOTT

2027 tickets are
available NOW!

EACH TICKET
\$20
ONLY 1000 SOLD

AUGUST WINNERS!



NO WINNER

THIS COULD BE YOU NEXT
MONTH! GET YOUR TICKET
TODAY AT YOUR LIBRARY!



NO WINNER

THIS COULD BE YOU NEXT
MONTH! GET YOUR TICKET
TODAY AT YOUR LIBRARY!



NO WINNER

THIS COULD BE YOU NEXT
MONTH! GET YOUR TICKET
TODAY AT YOUR LIBRARY!

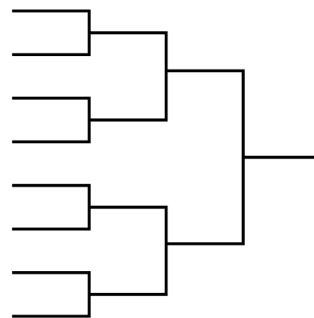
A total of 36 winners will be
determined by the **Pennsylvania**
Daily Pick 3 evening drawing at
7:00PM on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd days
of each month in 2026.



Love Storytime, but can't make it during the mornings? Or maybe you just want some extra stories throughout the week? If this sounds like you, please feel free to join us at the Oil City Library for a new, monthly program: **Storytime... Just Later!**

**3rd Wednesday of Every
Month at 4:00 PM**
at the Oil City Library

Oil City Library's regular Storytime program will continue weekly on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. Beginning Wednesday, September 16th, we hope you can join us for **Storytime... Just Later!**



This Fall, books & their film adaptations will go head-to-head in a bracket-style competition, & you can help decide which ones advance!

How to Participate:

- **SUBMIT YOUR BRACKET:** September 4–27 (which grants you 5 raffle entries!)
- **VOTE:** September 28–November 1, with a new round each week
- Earn 1 additional raffle entry each week you vote
- A special prize will be awarded to anyone who completes a perfect bracket!

WIN A PRIZE BASKET! 15 Movie Night Prize Baskets will be raffled among participants. You can find the official bracket, voting information, featured books & movies, & answers to frequently asked questions at oilcreek.org/book-battle. There is at least 1 copy of every featured book & film available through your library, so start reading (& watching!) now. Good luck, & may the best book win!



Libby.
The library reading app



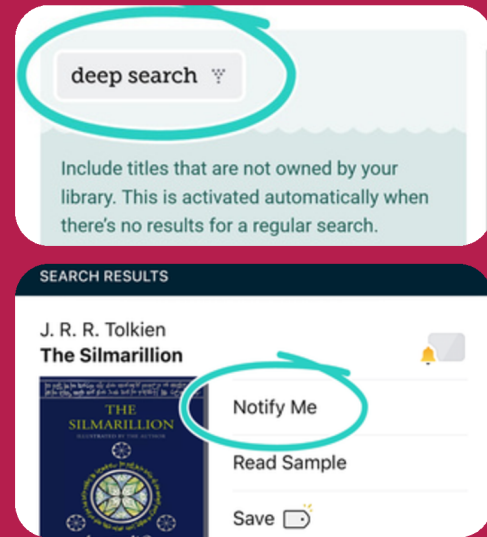
TIP OF THE MONTH

Using Deep Search

When you search for a book title or author, the immediate results will be the options your library has available at that time. However, there's always a chance the library could add more titles at a later date. Or, if you're searching for a book that isn't published yet, it may not be a part of the database quite yet. Enter **Deep Search**!

When you search, scroll down to the end of the results, and you'll see a button called **Deep Search**. After you click on it, you may see your book pop up and a **Notify Me** button appear. You can click **Notify Me** so you'll get a notification if/when the library acquires any copies of the book.

This is a great way to stay on top of new book releases, so you can put an upcoming book on hold as soon as it's available on Libby!



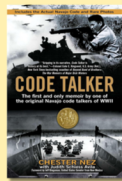
Next Month's **BOOK CLUB** Selections

OCTOBER 2026

Oil City Library Book Club

Oil City Library

Meets First Thursday
of the Month at 10:30 AM



Code Talker
Chester Nez

The Bookmarkers Book Club

Franklin Public Library

Meets Second Tuesday
of the Month at 12:00 PM



Anna Mae
A.J. Schiffer

Thursday Evening Book Club

Franklin Public Library

Meets Third Thursday
of the Month at 5:00 PM



**Finlay Donovan
is Killing It**
Elle Cosimano



Also Available
on Libby!

WANTED!

NEW D&D PLAYERS LOOKING TO LEARN

CALLING ALL INTREPID
ADVENTURERS!!

LOOKING TO LEARN HOW TO PLAY D&D WITH
AN EXPERIENCED DUNGEON MASTER?

HAVE YOU...

NEVER PLAYED D&D?

HAVE LESS THAN A YEAR OF EXPERIENCE?

BECOME PART OF THE OIL CITY
ADVENTURER'S GUILD TODAY!!

DM: BETHANY HART, LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**2ND TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH**

4-6 PM

OIL CITY LIBRARY
6 SLOTS AVAILABLE
TEENS & ADULTS WELCOME

SEPTEMBER 8TH

CHARACTER CREATION!!

LEARN TO CREATE A NEW CHARACTER
IN D&D 5E! RETURN THE NEXT MONTH
FOR...

OCTOBER 13TH

THE CAMPAIGN BEGINS!!

LEARN TO PLAY OVER THE COURSE
OF A YEAR - 12 MONTHS, 12 SESSIONS



REGISTER BY CALLING
814-678-3072



SPONSORED BY
Friends of the Oil City Library
& The Oil City Heritage Society

FAMILY FRIENDLY
TRIVIA
NIGHT
AT OIL CITY LIBRARY

**WIN GIFT CARDS TO
LOCAL BUSINESSES!**

TUESDAY
SEP 29

Game starts at 6:00PM
5 Rounds of Trivia
6 Person Limit Per Team

FREE
admission for
all ages.
Concessions
available to
purchase.

**ADULT
CRAFT
CLUB**

Fall 2026

at Oil City & Franklin Libraries!

Adult Craft Club is BACK for Fall 2026! We can't wait to see you for more crafting fun! This September, we will be making Custom Coasters. Adult Craft Club is free to attend & all materials will be provided. Sessions will continue to be offered at both the Oil City Library and the Franklin Public Library.

Registration is OPEN NOW! Franklin programs are held at 4:00PM & Oil City programs are held at 5:00PM. Visit or call the Franklin Public Library (814-432-5062) or the Oil City Library (814-678-3072) to register today!

**Custom
Coasters**

September 16

4:00PM | FRANKLIN
PUBLIC LIBRARY

September 23

5:00PM
OIL CITY LIBRARY

September 28

5:00PM
OIL CITY LIBRARY

FEATURED RESOURCES



libby
The library reading app.

Jenna's Faves
Read With Jenna Book Club Picks



Read With Jenna

Mometrix eLibrary



Mometrix eLibrary offers study materials for over 1,500 standardized exams, including college entrance, graduate school, finance, nursing & medical, civil service, K-12, teacher certification exams, & many more.

Get Started at oilregionlibraries.org



MODERN B&W

a Collection of Modern Black & White Films on

kanopy

GREEN BORDER
LAKE MICHIGAN MONSTER
HUNDREDS OF BEAVERS
NORTHERN LIGHTS
FREMONT
π
GUNDA



Oil City Library

2 Central Ave.
Oil City, PA 16301
(814) 678-3072

Monday.....9:00am-7:00pm
Tuesday.....9:00am-7:00pm
Wednesday.....9:00am-7:00pm
Thursday.....9:00am-5:00pm
Friday.....9:00am-5:00pm
Saturday.....9:00am-3:00pm
Sunday.....CLOSED



Franklin Public Library

421 12th St.
Franklin, PA 16323
(814) 432-5062

Monday.....10:00am-6:00pm
Tuesday.....10:00am-6:00pm
Wednesday.....10:00am-6:00pm
Thursday.....10:00am-6:00pm
Friday.....10:00am-6:00pm
Saturday.....11:00am-4:00pm
Sunday.....CLOSED

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oilregionlibraries.org

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Libby, Mometrix eLibrary & Kanopy are available to you for FREE with your library card at oilregionlibraries.org