Over the last several years, our Director and the finance committee of the APL Board of Directors have been gradually improving our data collection and statistics. Part of this effort has included separating the data for the Alpine and Marathon libraries to get a better look at the usage, revenues and expenses for each facility. Board treasurer Ken Durham recently did an in-depth analysis of the statistics related to the Marathon branch.

The key findings showed a trend of reduced usage over the last three years followed by a dramatic reduction in use this year, as well as significant financial pressures: money raised by and for the branch coupled with the Brewster County funds allotted to the branch falls short of funding branch operations by about $14K each year. This year the County set aside $5,000 of their funding for major repairs to the Marathon building, bringing the annual operations shortfall closer to $20,000.

The library board agreed to present these findings to the County Commissioners, and then to the community in Marathon, along with a model offering one possible approach to the above issues: Since the branch’s usage is concentrated in a few key areas (computer use, DVD circulation, children’s programs), it might be possible to provide those services without the physical footprint of the branch library. Our intention was to raise awareness of the problems and begin a dialog to solicit additional ideas towards solving them.

We presented to the Commissioners’ Court at their meeting on June 26. The Commissioners’ response was brief and emphatic: all County funding and support for APL is contingent on the Marathon Library staying open in its current form. Several folks came over from Marathon and spoke passionately in defense of their library.

The board then held a public meeting on June 28 in Marathon. It was well-attended, and most of those present were upset by the prospect of their Library closing its doors. The discussion was often tense and occasionally combative, but there is no question that there was passion for the library in the room.

In the end it was agreed that the citizens of Marathon should have an opportunity to put their heads together and come up with some ideas for alternative solutions and additional community support. A date was scheduled for the formation of a local committee, and a tentative date of July 26 was set for the APL Board to meet with the new committee and discuss possibilities.

-Chris Ruggia, APL President
No, it's not a National Inquirer headline. The Alpine Public Library is 65 years old this year. You'd never know it to look at the "old girl." In February the doors opened to a completely revamped facility, thanks to generous library supporters, board members, and staff, who worked for 6 years to make it happen.

To celebrate the library's 65th birthday—and its rebirth in 2012—everyone is invited for cake and punch in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room from 11:00 to noon, August 18. All party attendees will receive a small gift from the Friends of the Library as a token of our gratitude for your patience and your generosity. There will also be a free drawing for 4 books donated by the Friends of the Library, but you must be present to win.

At noon, Henry Ogletree will preside over a live auction of a dozen art chairs decorated in literary themes. The proceeds of the auction will benefit library operations. Visit the library and Re-Reads to pick the chair you’re going to bid on. How many 65-year-olds reinvent themselves? Join APL and the Friends of the Library on August 18 to raise a toast to Alpine's youngest senior citizen!

-Kathy Bork

Newborn 65-Year-Old!

Going Once, Going Twice...

Among the festivities planned for the August 18th Celebration of the APL’s 65th birthday is the Art Chair Auction. Over the past few months, you may have noticed the growing array of beautiful art chairs, decorated and donated by local artists, displayed in both Re-Reads Used Bookstore and in the library itself.

Twelve of the twenty chairs taken have already been returned, and so far, themes include The Wizard of Oz, Hispanic Children’s Literature, The Rubaiyat, Fairy Tales, Cowboy Poetry, Dr. Seuss, The Little Prince, The Queen of Hearts, and Plato’s Cave. All proceeds from the sale of these chairs at auction will benefit the library’s programs and operations.

Silent auction bidding will begin on Monday, August 13th, in the library. The auction will culminate in live bidding Saturday, August 18 at noon in the library’s AEP Multipurpose Room. Come celebrate your Alpine Public Library’s birthday, and have a chance to take home a piece of literary-based functional art!

See you there, and Happy Bidding!

-Cheryl Frances

Union Pacific Foundation Grant Awarded

The Alpine Public Library was again the lucky recipient of a Union Pacific Foundation award. The Foundation provided $5,000 to be spent toward library collections and programs. English language tutoring, children’s programs, and our new library construction have benefited from the Foundation’s generosity over the past three years. During 2012, during which our regular collections budget was significantly reduced to cover rising operations costs, the UP Foundation funds have allowed us to continue adding current materials to the collection.

APL looks forward to a continued relationship with the UP Foundation, and appreciates the support from a good neighbor to the community.

Celebration!


ESL Cookbooks Available

ESL for the Big Bend learners and tutors combined their culinary skills to complete a new multi-ethnic cookbook, “The Melting Pot.” Recipes include soups, desserts, side dishes, and entrees from Thai, Mexican, American, and Bangladeshi cuisines. The cookbook project was developed by program coordinator Lee Smith to showcase learners’ new English reading and writing skills.

Program participants held a pot luck dinner at APL to meet one another’s families and share their recipes.

Extra copies of the cookbook are available at the library for a $2 donation toward the ESL for the Big Bend program.

TexasReads ESL Grant

The ESL for the Big Bend program will receive a grant from the Texas Reads program, one of three state-funded competitive funding opportunities.

Grant funding will cover program coordination costs, travel expenses for learner placement testing, and tutor training sessions. Because we have a number of active tutors and learners in South Brewster County, travel costs are significant.

Books and other materials from the Alpine Library can be delivered from Alpine to South County libraries using funding from this grant. This means that other readers besides ESL learners may benefit.

If you live in South County and need materials delivered to or from APL, please contact the circulation desk at 432-837-2621.

If you would like to participate in the ESL for the Big Bend program as a learner or a tutor, please visit the library or call Paige.
In Memory Of:

BAILEY ELIZABETH HUDSON
Jim Robertson & Lee Smith

MARY SKRABANEK
Crystal Allbright
Rebecca Hart
Scott & Karen Williams
Ruby Skrabanek & Family
Martha Scott & Gordie Sanborn
Robert & Kristine Kinucan
A.W. Cline & D.L. Allison
Paige Delaney

CAROL MOOLICK
Mary Wilcox
Christopher Millre
Desert Sky Quilters

JORDAN YARBOROUGH
The Matthews Family
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Melleta Bell
Paula Morehead

ROBERT K. RITCHIE
Albert & Kathy Bork
Paige & Allan Delaney

HOLLYE WOOLCOCK
Dick & Jean Zimmer

Special Donations

RUTH SCHUSTER
Kathy & Albert Bork

JANE BEARD
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Kay & Don Green
Ben & Betty Tanksley
Greg & Juliette Schwab

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Kay & Don Green

GRACE SCHMITT
Kathy & Albert Bork

DON WETTERAUER
Kathy Bork

KATHY BORK AND JULIETTE SCHWAB
Mary Jane Morgan

JULIETTE SCHWAB, GREG SCHWAB, AND MRS. PAUL FORCHHEIMER
David Forchheimer

SYLVIA “TEEBY” FORCHHEIMER, SENIOR 2012 GOOD SCOUT AWARD RECIPIENT
Kathy & Albert Bork

MARY JANE MORGAN
Kathy & Albert Bork
Juliette Schwab

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF ROBERT K. RITCHIE
Wayne Cline

KATHY BORK
Craig Dreiss
Honoring Mrs. Shirley Rooney of Marathon

In June the Marathon Public Library held an open house to celebrate the completion of the grant-funded oral history program, which archived the memories of Mrs. Shirley Rooney. Mrs. Rooney has been an employee at the MPL branch for three years.

The grant funded program was sponsored by the library and the Archives of the Big Bend, with funding provided by Texas Humanities. Copies of Mrs. Rooney’s oral memoirs will be housed at both library branches and at the archives located on the campus of Sul Ross State University in Alpine. The memoirs are to be used for scholarly and historic research only, and may not be distributed or used for profit, as specified by Mrs. Rooney and her family.

TTPLS Librarians Stick Together

Libraries in the state of Texas are currently organized into library systems; Alpine is part of the Texas Trans-Pecos Library System (TTPLS). However, due to state legislative cuts of library funding, library systems will be dissolved in August of 2012. This is a huge hit to library administrators and staff, as we depended on the systems for grant-funded computer support, web support, training, program materials, and other benefits.

In April, TTPLS librarians met at APL to discuss options for future cooperative efforts and resource sharing. By combining our knowledge and experiences, we may be able to survive future budget cuts and reduction of available outside funding.

Barbara Valle, TTPLS coordinator, will retire in August. After a twelve-year career dedicated to West Texas libraries, she hopes to continue in an advisory capacity. We will miss her candid input and her willingness to help with complicated budgeting and programming issues.

The Texas state library will continue to provide limited and primarily web-based training to Texas librarians. State-funded grant programs will also continue at much lower funding levels.
Computer Classes Resume

At long last adult basic computer education classes have resumed at the library. Heath Young, a new resident of Alpine from Del Rio, began teaching the summer session on July 10. The session will run for six weeks. Additional classes will be available in the fall — watch for announcements of dates/times.

New in 2012, resume writing classes and online job searching classes will also be held during August. These classes are sponsored by the Technology Expertise, Access and Learning for ALL Texans (TEAL) program, a state-funded mobile computing classroom. One-day adult computer education will also be offered. There is still plenty of room in these one-day classes — call or visit the APL circulation desk to sign up.

Border Patrol Family Challenge

APL was invited to participate in the University of North Texas PEARL project: Promoting and Enhancing the Advancement of Rural Libraries. Participant libraries work with advance library science students to create outreach plans for a specific program at their library. At the project’s completion, the library receives $1,000 cash and may use the outreach plan for advocacy and marketing.

UNT’s Barbara Blake, a Marfa resident, heads the program. APL’s program is called the Border Patrol Family Challenge, targeted at Border Patrol families who are not yet regular users of the library.

Rebecca Garcia, APL’s Librarian in Training (funded by the El Paso Library’s Grow our Own Area Librarian program) is organizing the program. Participating kids will enter a reading challenge to enroll their parents in crazy stunt competitions — stay tuned for details! Hilarity will ensue!

Fifth Graders Visit the Library

Alpine Middle School’s Fifth grade classes visited the new Alpine Library this spring. The students took a tour of the new building and collections, learned about the summer reading program, and watched a Bill Nye the Science Guy environmental program. Afterward, the students learned about APL’s rainwater harvesting equipment, and left their own environmental messages in chalk on the library sidewalk.
Paper Dolls from colorcutandcreate.com
Paste page to cardboard and cut out figures
New Library Contact Information:

Paige Delaney - Executive Director
e-mail: director@alpinepubliclibrary.org

Mary Beth Garrett - Children's Librarian
e-mail: kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org

Carol Townsend - Branch Manager, MPL
e-mail: marathonpl@sbcglobal.net

Nicole Cardoza - Circulation Librarian
e-mail: desk@alpinepubliclibrary.org

Cheryl Frances - Circulation Assistant
e-mail: desk2@alpinepubliclibrary.org

Kris Celaya - Circulation Assistant
e-mail: desk3@alpinepubliclibrary.org

Don Wetterauer - Bookkeeper
e-mail: aplbookkeeper@alpinepubliclibrary.org

Christine Cavazos - Cataloger
e-mail: tech@alpinepubliclibrary.org

Alpine.biblionix.com/mobile

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