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Lifetime membership is awarded for exceptional support of the library.

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 Mary Beth Garrett
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BETWEEN THE LINES

Friends of the Alpine Public Library

WINTER 2008

FROM THIS . .

Arsonists destroyed the Alpine Rec Center on the site of the new Alpine Public Library on March 6, 2007. The fire nearly doubled the cost of asbestos abatement. The Volunteer Fire Department performed magnificently to contain the fire, dust, and asbestos.



Suzanne Bailey

TO THIS . . .



Tom Michael



Ground was broken for the new Alpine Public Library on December 4, 2008. Construction Phase I has begun—literally—from the ashes of the fire.

FUND-RAISING CONTINUES FOR ONGOING OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

If anyone doubts that this community wants a new public library, look at some of our contributions to date:

- Individuals, businesses, and foundations—around \$200,000
- City of Alpine and the Alpine Independent School District—land for new library, appraised at \$400,000 in 2005
- Brewster County—purchase of existing library facilities and long-term use of those facilities until the new library is functioning (\$100,000) and donation of site preparation and service as construction manager, estimated at \$250,000
- City of Alpine—waiving of all building permit fees
- Texas Disposal Systems—waiving of landfill fees

Construction will be in 4 phases: Phase I, site preparation and foundation, began on December 4, 2008; Phase II, drying in, will commence when enough funds have been raised; Phase III, furnishings, will follow Phase II; Phase IV, landscaping, will be the final step.

Proposal writers are working on requests to foundations totaling around \$3 million, and we continue to look for sources of funding.

The idea of a new library is exciting, but our charming if inefficient current library must keep the doors open and the heat on until that new structure is online. The money for this is

completely separate from money donated for the Capital Campaign.

That's sometimes a hard concept to grasp. You get a mailing from the library board asking for money for the new library; you get another mailing from the Friends of the Library asking you to join the Friends. It's all going to the library, right? Well, yes and no.

These funds go into different "pots." Unless you specifically designate a donation for the Capital Campaign, your contributions go to ongoing operations: book and audio book purchases; utilities; salaries; building maintenance (and there's a lot of that with buildings as old as ours); children's programming; postage; office supplies; custodial service; mowing; computer maintenance—you get the idea. *Friends membership dues all go to ongoing operations*, although the Friends also funnel part of your dues to the Capital Campaign.

So when you get yet another request from us for either campaign, be as generous as you can. When you walk into the children's room at the library and see shelves covered in plastic because we can't fix the holes in the roof, or you see children shivering because we can't keep the room warm, picture a V for Victory: one arm representing the new library, the other arm representing the old. We need both arms.—Kathy Bork



DOLLAR VALUE OF A VOLUNTEER HOUR

1980	\$7.46	1990	\$11.41	2000	\$15.68
1981	\$8.12	1991	\$11.76	2001	\$16.27
1982	\$8.60	1992	\$12.06	2002	\$16.74
1983	\$8.98	1993	\$12.35	2003	\$17.19
1984	\$9.32	1994	\$12.68	2004	\$17.55
1985	\$9.60	1995	\$13.05	2005	\$18.04
1986	\$9.81	1996	\$13.47	2006	\$18.77
1987	\$10.06	1997	\$13.99	2007	\$19.51
1988	\$10.39	1998	\$14.56	2008	NA
1989	\$10.82	1999	\$15.06		

Source: http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Passport to Savings—Your Library Card



Newspapers, the Internet, and the gas pump are all making sure that we understand how precarious the economy is right now. Have you picked up that beautiful dress, latest hot gadget, or vacation brochure only to put it down as the words, “I just can’t afford it,” reverberate in your mind? If you have, don’t despair. Even I have begun the tedious habit of clipping coupons to save money. Are you looking for places where you can save a buck or two? No doubt the answer is a resounding “yes.” Have you ever thought of the Alpine Public Library as a great source of savings?

A borrower’s card is absolutely free at the Alpine Public Library. Each family member is encouraged to have her or his own library card. One of the most obvious things that you can get with your library card is books. Ten books may be checked out at a time. No late charges accrue, although you may make a donation if your materials are returned late. For this low, low price, you may have books out for up to six weeks, considering renewals.

Even if the library does not have the book you want in its collection, you may borrow the book from another library for the reasonable price of \$1.50 per book. How does the alternative rate? The average price of a best-selling book, even searching for bargains and discounts, is \$15.00, not including shipping or tax. If you are a prolific reader and like to check out ten books at a time, this amounts to a savings of \$150.00.

Keep in mind that audio books may also be checked out with your card for the same periods mentioned above. The average price of an unabridged audio book on compact disc is \$25.00. Again, this is with trying to be frugal. You can do the math on the savings. Best of all, if that must-have book turns out to be a dud (with so many books being published today, they can’t all be winners), then you just give it

back to the library and leave your wallet out of the equation.

Movies are some of the most popular materials in the library. We boast a respectable collection of DVDs and the increasingly rare medium, VHS. Four movies may be checked out at one time. The checkout period is up to two weeks. Late fees are not assessed, and any titles we do not have may be borrowed from another library for the \$1.50 fee. The average price of a new DVD is \$15.00. Buying four would set you back \$60.00. What if you are trying to stick to a budget and decide to rent your movies online? Then you would bring your cost down to about \$24.00 per month, plus tax. But how does that compare to \$0 per month?

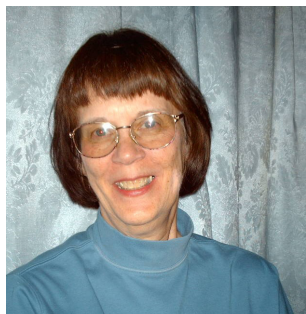
Books in their various forms and movies are just a couple of the things you can use for free with your library card. However, there are other free services that may be used with or without a library card. Internet is the first one that comes to mind. Several public-access computers are available during library hours. You may surf the Internet for at least 30 minutes at no charge. Printing is the only action that incurs a fee—20¢ per page. That fee is cut in half if you bring your own paper.

What does it cost to have DSL at your home? Let’s start with the assumption that DSL is available in your neighborhood. A package that allows you to perform the most common functions on the Internet, such as e-mailing, downloading movies, sending photos, and playing games, would cost \$35.00 per month plus tax. That may sound pretty low, but remember, many of these companies require you to enter a contractual obligation. This is usually for at least a year. So that \$35.00 just turned into over \$400.00.

Are there more savings to be had? The Community Coupon Exchange, a free service facilitated by the library, provides a drop-off point for money-saving coupons. You may take as many coupons as you like for a savings that is up to you to total.

Continued on p. 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Where do you like to read? What kind of reader are you?

Do you read for pleasure or is it a necessity for business or school?

Think a minute about your reading location.

- Do you have a favorite chair?
- Do you lie on the floor on your stomach?
- Is the lighting good?
- Do you go to the same place and sit in almost the same position?
- If you are reading a thriller, do you get tense?
- If a detailed document, do you sit up straight and take notes?
- Do you like to just flop down and get engrossed in the book?
- Do you treasure your reading time and arrange your spot to be visually appealing, have space for a snack or drink, and settle in for some uninterrupted moments?
- Do you read and try to watch TV at the same time?
- Do you carry a book with you and read in any free moments?

We read for many different reasons and have different methods of accomplishing our reading. Hopefully, during 2009 the library and Re-Reads will be a benefit to you and provide many

memorable reading moments.

—Karen Boyd



From the Director—continued

If you do not like the idea of borrowing materials, you may purchase them at Re-Reads Bookstore. With paperbacks, hardbacks, and movies rarely costing more than \$2.00, the savings are definitely being passed on to you.

So, just because the economy is in a lackluster state, it doesn't mean that you must forgo great entertainment. There are plenty of books, movies, and other services to be had at the Alpine Public Library. Be sure to come in soon and bring your library card, your passport to savings.

—Anitra Clausen

RE-READS BOOKSTORE



Re-Reads can help with your holiday shopping.

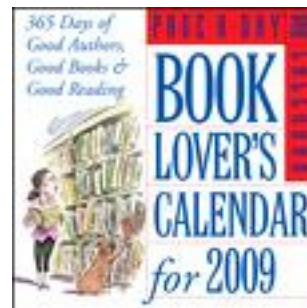
We have book bags with the library logo for a \$10.00 donation. Our Book Lover's Calendars are discounted to \$6.00. And, of course, our gift certificates are a welcome choice, and they start at just \$5.00.

Tuck a calendar, gift certificate, or book in a book bag, tie a ribbon on the handle, and it just couldn't be simpler!

Because of our wonderful and dedicated volunteers and because of your donations, Re-Reads has had a great year in support of our library. Thank you all.

And Happy Holidays.

—Marilyn Terry



HOMEBOUND PATRONS



The Homebound Program has branched out this year.

Ken Durham and I spent many hours cleaning up the jail's library,

which has been neglected for years. Lots of

tattered items were discarded and replaced with newer, better-quality books. The shelves were sorted and labeled according to category.

With a generous donation of Spanish-language magazines from Regina's Nails, the Homebound Program team has been able to provide popular, current reading material to the inmates at the jail and in the lobby of Big Bend Regional Medical Center.

—Gayle Lewis

TOCKER FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT FOR JEWISH BOOK SECTION

The Tocker Foundation has a unique mission—to increase the knowledge of the rural communities of Texas by helping their libraries build a foundation of books.

This grant to the Alpine Public Library is an 18-book collection that ranges from children's books to books for mature adults who wish to learn more about Judaism. The collection also contains books about the Nazi

period, Jewish holidays, and even a Jewish cookbook with 500 recipes.

Aytz Chaim Books wishes to thank the Tocker Foundation and its officers and board for their generosity and their vision of bringing people together with the knowledge that books have to offer.

—Anitra Clausen



What is the city but the people?

—William Shakespeare

KID STUFF

Genre Challenge

APL, in conjunction with the Texas Trans-Pecos Library System, is pleased to introduce the Genre Challenge! Students are encouraged to read a book from each of the genres listed in the Genre Challenge's brochure. They will write a brief summary of one of the books they read.

Participating students will have their names entered in a drawing for an Eyeclops (a device that, when hooked to a television set, magnifies objects). The drawing will be held December 15, 2008.

Picturing America

APL has been awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities' Picturing America Grant. The quality of the posters and teaching materials is outstanding.

Mary Beth Garrett has started two displays using the posters, one in the Junior Room, the other in the Young Adult section. Thought-provoking questions from the teacher's guide accompany each poster on display. The posters and questions will change periodically.

American Girl Series to Marathon

Fifty-five American Girl books were purchased with grant funds. The lion's share went to Marathon, which did not have any of the popular series.



Reach Out and Read

There's a new doctor in town, and he wants our kids to read.

Dr. Adrian Billings has been speaking to any civic group or service organization that'll listen to promote a national pediatric early literacy program endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. According to its promotional materials, Reach Out and Read "trains doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud and to give books to children at pediatric checkups from six months to five years of age, with a special focus on children growing up in poverty."

Dr. Billings has started an ROR program in his clinic and gives a book to each child at each well-child visit. Volunteers read to pediatric patients in the waiting room to allay their fears—of the visit and of reading.

To volunteer, call Dr. Billings's office: 837-3433.



Book Reviews

★★★★ *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment*, by James Patterson

I liked this book because of the ongoing action throughout the book. I felt I could never put it down; it was the best one so far that I've read!

Maximum Ride is about a group of kids who escape from a place called "The School." The School is constantly chasing Max and her friends Iggy, Fang, Angel, Gazzy, and Nudge because they have been genetically mutated. Instead of having only arms and legs, they all have wings right behind their shoulder blades. Enhanced vision can help them see things from far away. And they have their own super strength!

The School has many other things to take care of besides Max and her friends, so it finds a way to make humans be able to mutate into

Book reviews—continued

wolves whenever they want. The School has sent these “Erasers” (wolves) to hunt down Max and her friends and bring them back to be tested on even more.

“Look who’s come to the sea shore.”

“The low voice, smooth and full of menace, woke me from sleep that night. My body tightened like a longbow and I tried to jump up, only to be held down by a big booted foot on my throat.

“Ari. Always Ari.

“In the next second, Fang and Iggy woke, and I snapped out my free hand to wake Nudge. Adrenaline dumped into my veins, knotting my muscles. Angel woke and seemed to take off straight into the air with no running start. She clutched Celeste tightly, hovering about twenty feet above us. I saw her look around, saw her face take on an expression that had disaster written all over it” (p. 359).

—Reviewed by Leigh Wilson, age 12, Alpine

★★★★*Twilight*, by Stephanie Meyer

Bella Swan moves from sunny Phoenix, Arizona, to damp Forks, Washington, to live with her father. She captivates her peers, especially a mysterious boy named Edward Cullen.

After spending time in research and deep thinking, Bella uncovers the truth of the Cullen family’s dark secret, and she promises to keep it. Bella and Edward are swept into an epic journey of romance, danger, and trust.

I thoroughly enjoyed Stephanie Meyer’s first book in a series of four. The plot contains themes of action, adventure, and romance, Meyer’s writing incorporates original ideas, sarcasm, wit, truly comical dialogue, and perfect timing. The dialogue is my favorite part of the book, but I enjoyed the depiction of real-life struggles and drama of teenagers.

The hero of the series, Edward Cullen, is a polite, respectful young man who treats everyone with chivalry and civility. I believe these are values that every young woman should look for in a potential boyfriend. I recommend *Twilight* to every young woman

—Reviewed by Sydnee Gatewood, age 16, Alpine

★★★★*The Catcher in the Rye*, by J. D Salinger

The Catcher in the Rye was written by J. D. Salinger in 1946 and is widely praised as the most provocative and life-changing novel of the twentieth century.

Besides delving into sensitive subjects like religion, discontent with conformity, alcohol and tobacco consumption, Salinger uses a very informal and unique writing style uncommon at the time. If the reader were to read the book through the perspective of a commoner living in the 1940s, as I did, the reader would most likely have a deeper appreciation of the book, especially if the reader contests normality.

The novel has somewhat of a weak story line. As you read along, you will pick up that the author wasn’t necessarily trying to present a wonderful story line, but instead he wants to make you question the world around you, authority figures, and sometimes make you wonder about things you would normally take for granted. I’m not trying to say that the plot isn’t a good one; it’s just not the book’s strongest point, in my opinion.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who has enjoyed books similar to *The Outsiders* or is just angry at the system. *The Catcher in the Rye* is a solid title that deserves to be in any well-read person’s library

—Reviewed by Coleman Blevins, age 15, Alpine



MARATHON

Friends of Marathon Library Hold Successful Fund-Raiser

On October 25–26, the Friends of the Marathon Public Library held a fund-raiser at the Marathon Community Center. The group sold books removed from inventory and Christmas ornaments and hand-knitted scarves and hats.

On Sunday the Friends hosted a salad luncheon, which was attended by approximately 50 people. After the luncheon Marathon photographer James Evans presented a slide show of people, places, and things around the Big Bend region. The audience was spellbound during the approximately 15-minute program.

Many of these “people” pictures evoked strong emotions in those present, particularly those who have lived for a long time in the area. Shedding a few tears, Marathon resident and library branch director, Carol Townsend, said, “David and I moved here in 1995, and so many of those were people we knew back then who are no longer with us.”

Friends president, Arlene Griffis, said, “This was such a successful event for Friends of the Marathon Library. The money raised [\$1,100] will help fund several of our projects for the coming year. We want to thank each person who donated a salad, as well as those who purchased books and made other monetary donations. Our patrons are always generous and are willing to come to our aid in times of need. A town the size of Marathon is so fortunate to have a library.”

Branch librarian, Carol Townsend, and assistant, Shirley Rooney, will continue to sell the ornaments and scarves through December.

—Arlene Griffis

Volunteers Honored



On October 21, the Marathon ISD Board of Trustees honored the volunteers in the Marathon Public Library's 2008 Summer Reading Program, Texas Jubilee. Superintendent Conrad Arriola stated that the board appreciates the efforts of those who work with MISD students during the summer on reading skills, as it helps bridge the gap between spring and fall semesters.



Pictured left to right are Arlene Griffis, Eula Mae Colmenero, David Townsend, Carol Townsend, Shirley Rooney, Carol Henthorne, Hal Henthorne, and Laverne Avery. Other volunteers who were not present to receive their awards are Steve Griffis, Sky Townsend, Ashley Canales, Jackie and Don Boyd, Traci and T. J. Joyner, Mary Baxter, and Luc Novovitch.



This . . . is long overdue but I wanted to take a moment to tell you how terrific the summer reading program was in Marathon. I have a 3 year old and we have just recently moved there. I was very pleasantly surprised to hear the library was putting on a summer program. Your team out here did an amazing job!!!! They were able to plan books and activities that

entertained all the different ages of the children who attended. You could tell how much thought went into each of the days. No detail was left out. I never expected to find such a quality program in such a small town. Thank you to all involved, this is the type of thing that makes a difference in children's lives.

—Beth Petersen

AUDREY PAINTER AND JEAN HARDY RETIRE FROM LIBRARY BOARD



Audrey Painter joined the Alpine Public Library Board of Directors in 1977 and has served continuously since then. During her 31 years (no, this is not a typo) on the board she has served as president, secretary, and Friends of the

Alpine Public Library representative. She has been a valuable member of many committees and has been our go-to person for all of the social niceties.

She is retiring from the board of directors effective December 31, 2008.

Jean Hardy has been on the Board of Directors for 6 years. She has served as president, vice president, secretary, and chair of various committees, including the search committees for several new library directors. She has made us look hard at our decisions and has kept us on track when our minds wander.

She is also retiring from the board of directors effective December 31, 2008.



It's difficult to imagine the Board of Directors without these 2 women. We thank them for their many years of dedicated service to the Alpine and Marathon libraries.

We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.
- Winston Churchill

NEED STOCKING STUFFERS?

Our local Sonic Drive-In has donated Sonic Cards, which we are selling for \$5.00 each, all proceeds to benefit the library. Each card gives the user \$18.00 in savings at Sonic. Available at the circulation desk.

We also have 2009 Book Lover's calendars for sale at Re-Reads for \$6.00, all proceeds to the library's operating fund.



And for that person who has everything, we're still selling squares on the Friends Family Quilt: leaning books, \$50.00; all other book spines, \$25.00. Proceeds benefit the Capital Campaign. Contact Jodye Stone, 837-2621.

The Alpine Public Library has received the following donations in memory and in honor of friends and family.

IN MEMORIAM

CELIA ANN HILL

from Jodye & Cookie Stone

AMELIA JIMÉNEZ

from Judge Kenneth D. DeHart
Dr. Phyllis Musgrove

EDIE KINUCAN

from Kristine & Robert Kinucan & family
D. & T. Fife

JANE LANGFORD

from Anne & Malcolm Calaway
Jodye & Cookie Stone

PATTY MCDANIEL

from Jan & Steve Jacobs

CHRISTOPHER MORGAN

from Dr. Barbara Hazlewood

KARLENE EVANS WHEELER

from Alpine Public Library Board of Directors

IN HONOR OF

ANNE CALAWAY

from the Girl Hikers

ALPINE HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR CLASS

OF 2008

from Project Graduation 2008

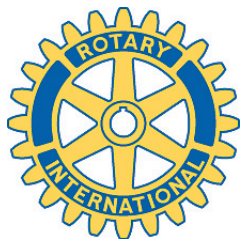
DONORS TO ART WALK 2008

SILENT AUCTION

from Kathy & Albert Bork



WAY OUT WEST TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL



The Rotary Club of Alpine hosted the Way Out West Texas Book Festival August 8–9 to benefit the Alpine Public Library and its Marathon branch.

The festival kicked off on Friday, August 8, with a Chuckwagon Supper and Songfest on the grounds of Kokernot Lodge.

Programs throughout the day Saturday, August 9, featured authors who have written Western fiction, books on Texas Rangers in fact and legend, the natural history of the Big Bend, and similar topics.

A Grand Silent Auction preceded the Saturday night banquet finale hosted by honorary chairperson, Kinky Friedman. The Silent Auction raised \$10,000, which was presented to the library's Board of Directors at its meeting on September 11. Those funds were earmarked by the Board for the Capital Campaign.

The Rotary Club of Alpine plans to make the Way Out West Texas Book Festival an annual event.



David Townsend won a guitar donated by Mark Pollock of Transpecos Guitars and raffled at a fund-raiser at Railroad Blues during the Way Out West Book Festival weekend



Judge Val Beard examines silent auction items



Steve Griffis and Lou Pauls help Marilyn Terry and Diane Brown sort name tags.

ART WALK 2008 SILENT AUCTION A RECORD BREAKER



The new Alpine Public Library is nearly \$13,000 closer to completion thanks to the generosity of local artists, galleries, business owners, and art and library lovers from around the state.

Some 175 donations meant there was something to appeal to any taste and pocketbook. Karen Travland, owner of the new Granada Theatre, allowed us to use the facility for 4 days. Crowds

were as impressed with the renovations to the historic building as with the auction items. Keri Artzt of Kiowa Gallery was responsible for

the donation of thousands of dollars' worth of art.

Volunteers, the library's mainstay, made it happen.

Donors to the Silent Auction are too numerous to mention here, but check out the list on the library's Web page: <http://www.alpinepubliclibrary.org>.

Support your local artists; they support your local library.



Photos by Dennie Miller, for ARTWALK

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