

Between the Lines

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

JUNE 2019

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

Mark your calendars because we have a lot going on this summer! The APL Summer Reading Program is Ride, Read, and Seed. Every Monday from June 24 through August 5 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, kids entering grades 1 through 5 will ride bikes to different locations to learn all about growing healthy food. Come to any or all sessions. Sign up at the library. This program is generously funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

Every Tuesday from June 25 through July 30, we will have Summer S.T.E.A.M. Camp from 10 AM to noon. Learn about cells, Ozobots, spirolaterals, SLIME, gears, and pulley power. Space is limited to 15 students per event. Call the library to register for any of these sessions. Summer S.T.E.A.M. Camp is for students entering grades 4 to 6. Registration begins May 20, 2019.

For kids entering grades 1 through 6, we'll have fun with Ozobots and learn how to use OzoBlockly to fully control an Ozobot's movement and behavior. Sessions run Thursday, from July 11 through August 15, 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM (no class on July 18). The summer science programs are partially funded by the Ladd and Katherine Hancher Library Foundation.

Again this year we'll have the Summer Reading Challenge for ages 5 through 12. Pick up a reading log at the library, complete the log at your own pace, and collect a prize from the Treasure Chest. We'll also have Read-to-Swim again for ages 6 to 12. Sign in at the front

desk and read for one hour to receive a FREE wristband for the Alpine City Pool.

On Thursday, June 27, at 2:00 PM, Sue Young will perform at Alpine Public Library. Sue has brought her educational, entertaining, and dynamic storytelling programs to thousands of kids at festivals, museums, theaters, libraries, and schools throughout the United States. Drawn from an extensive repertoire of Latin American and world folktales, personal stories, and contemporary and traditional music, each performance is customized and features lots of audience participation. Sue Young's visit is made possible by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

The TAME Trailblazer will be at Alpine Public Library on Wednesday, July 10, from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. TAME's traveling STEM-museum-on-wheels invites everyone to get excited about the world around us, from outer space to inside our bodies! The Trailblazer program reaches potential where it lives, bringing interactive exhibits on energy, space, biotech, weather, and aerodynamics to communities across Texas. The Trailblazer visit is made possible with the generous sponsorship of the Tocker Foundation.

Finally, get ready for Alpine's 5th-Ever Adult Spelling Bee on Saturday, September 7! Start putting that team together now. Watch for more details later this summer.

—Don Wetterauer, PhD,
Executive Director

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Special Donations

In Memory of:	From:
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In Honor of:	Given By:
Don Slocumb's 85 th birthday	Kathy and Albert Bork
Kathy Bork's birthday	Adam Bork

Highlights from Re-Reads

We have decided to have our monthly Fill-a-Bag sale be continuous. At any time, people are welcome to browse the two stands of shelves that we have specially marked. Individually, books on these shelves are \$0.25 plus tax. However, we have a supply of bags located with these books. If a bag is filled, the cost is \$1.85 plus \$0.15 tax.

Recently we have received several donations of mysteries (both hardback and paperback) in absolutely wonderful shape. In addition to the regular mystery shelves, we have displays of selected titles and authors in our Relax and Read area near the entrance.



Message from the Board

I consider serving on the Alpine Public Library Board of Directors to be a privilege and an honor that comes with significant responsibilities. In its publication **Effective Governing Boards** (2014), the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges [AGB] lists responsibilities for academic institution trustees, of which the following are most appropriate for APL directors to consider:

- 📖 Establish, disseminate, and keep current the institution's mission.
- 📖 Select a chief executive to lead the institution.
- 📖 Support and periodically assess the performance of the chief executive and establish and review the chief executive's compensation.
- 📖 Charge the chief executive with the task of leading a strategic planning process, participate in the process, approve the strategic plan, and monitor its progress.
- 📖 Ensure the institution's fiscal integrity, preserve and protect its assets for posterity, and engage directly in fundraising and philanthropy.
- 📖 Ensure that institutional policies and processes are current and properly implemented.
- 📖 Conduct the board's business in an exemplary fashion and with appropriate transparency, adhering to the highest ethical standards.

The current APL board of directors is the beneficiary of many who have come before and carried out these responsibilities admirably. Today, the library is privileged to be guided by our very capable executive director, Dr. Don Wetterauer, who skillfully leads us in accomplishing the board-established mission and vision statements:

Mission: *The Alpine Public Library works to build community, encourage literacy, and promote lifelong learning. We endeavor to create and maintain a welcoming facility with relevant and enriching resources that connect our diverse and geographically remote area to the world.*

Vision: *The Alpine Public Library envisions a future in which individuals and families are engaged, lifelong learners.*



In discussing hallmarks of an effective board, the publication states, "An effective board understands and respects the vital difference between governing and managing, and it nurtures and supports [executive] leadership. . . An effective board represents and advocates for the institution in the larger community." I am committed to the collective goal of the current APL Board of Directors to do the work of organizational governance while advocating for and soliciting support for our library. It is a privileged responsibility to do so.

—Gary Dill, President,
Alpine Public Library
Board of Directors

LINDA BRYANT—A GOOD CITIZEN

It takes a good citizen to make a good citizen. Linda Bryant is and does.

Since 1979, Linda has been helping people who want to become U.S. citizens navigate the complicated process overseen by U.S. Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS). She fell into teaching citizenship while working in Berkeley County, SC, as an English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor for advanced students in the county's adult education program. These primarily nonnative college professors were studying for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam, and many of them also wanted to pursue U.S. citizenship. Linda saw a natural segue between what she was already doing and seeking citizenship and investigated the procedure.

Since 1979 she estimates that she has worked with 350 potential citizens and has seen 87 become naturalized—71 in Berkeley County between 1979 and 2012 and 16 in Alpine since 2015. She has traveled to El Paso for the naturalization ceremonies of all but 2 of those 15 naturalized in El Paso. One student's naturalization ceremony location was Dallas. Linda notes that every one of her Alpine students who has stuck with the program to the end has become a citizen—1 from China, 1 from Burkina Faso, 1 from Romania, 1 from Canada, and 12 from Mexico. Her job, as she sees it, is “to help students feel confident that they can do this incredible amount of hard work and to do all I can to make them as prepared and knowledgeable about the process as possible.”

Citizenship is a valuable commodity, so the road to naturalization is not without obstacles. There are 5 steps everyone seeking U.S. citizenship must take:

1. Complete and submit an application, the N-400;
2. Learn 100 facts about U.S. geography, history, politics, and government. The list of facts is prepared by USCIS and changes somewhat after every election, as applicants must know the names of the president, vice president, speaker of the House of Representatives, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, their U.S. senators and representatives, and their state's governor;
3. Undergo a biometric exam (fingerprints);
4. Depending on their age, demonstrate some proficiency in both reading and writing in English and take an exam on the list of facts (more on this below); and
5. Attend a naturalization ceremony.

People in Alpine who are seeking U.S. citizenship are fortunate in that the Alpine Public Library offers free classes, all taught by Linda in English or Spanish, for those who qualify to take the exam in Spanish. The class is ongoing, so interested persons may sign up at the circulation desk at any time. Optimal class size is 9, but no one is turned away. Because of the nature of the signup procedure, students of all levels are working on the requirements at one time. Thus, not only is Linda a teacher, but she is also a juggler with many citizenship balls in the air at once. She has not dropped one yet.

Persons who complete the 5 steps must travel to El Paso three times during the process—for the biometrics exam, the interview/exam to determine English proficiency and to take the facts exam, and the final time for the naturalization ceremony.

Age is a factor in what the testing portion of the process may involve:

Age is a factor in what the testing portion of the process may involve:

1. Anyone younger than 49 must study all 100 facts provided by USCIS. Linda practices with students during class on the questions, which they are assigned in increments of 5 at a time. In the interview/exam they must correctly answer 6 of 10 questions chosen by the examiner. They are also presented with up to 3 sentences in English and must demonstrate the ability to read correctly. Additionally, they must write up to 3 sentences the examiner dictates in English. They must take the exam in English.
2. Anyone age 50–65 who has lived in the United States *at least 20 years* must study all 100 questions and answer 6 of 10 correctly, but they may take the exam in their first language. They do not have to demonstrate proficiency in English. Linda also practices with this group during class on the questions (in Spanish), which they are assigned ahead of time.
3. Anyone over age 65 who has lived in the United States *at least 20 years* must study only 20 questions chosen by USCIS and answer 6 of 10 correctly during the exam. They may take the exam in their first language and do not have to demonstrate proficiency in English. This group as well practices each week on the questions their age group must know.

So here's a question for all of us lucky enough to have been born in this country: Do you know the name of the chief justice of the Supreme Court? Linda and her citizenship students do!

—Kathy Bork



Like Mother, Like Daughters

If you thought the librarian helping you find a book looked familiar, if you thought you recognized the smile or the mannerisms, you were probably right. She might have been Bianca or Loreyna, one of Nicole Cardoza's daughters. Or she might have been Nicole herself. All three work at Alpine Public Library, occupying the same chair at the circulation desk on different shifts.

Nicole has been working at APL since February 2012. Bianca and Loreyna have followed in their mom's footsteps. As children, both went to work with Nicole and volunteered at the circulation desk. Bianca held an internship at the library during the summer before her junior year in high school. After high school graduation, she became a paid employee. Loreyna also started working in her junior year, in 2018, staffing the circulation desk on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays.

The Cardoza women's association

with books and libraries goes back a way. Nicole has been a reader and library patron since she was a child. According to Nicole, she owes her lifelong love of reading to her grandmother, who demonstrated that one could find relief from boredom in a book. When her visiting granddaughter complained of having nothing to do, Nicole's grandmother pointed to a shelf of books and suggested that Nicole entertain herself by reading one of them. This solution worked for Nicole as it did later for her own children, especially after they moved to West Texas.

The young Cardoza family lived in various towns in Texas before moving to Marathon in 2008, when Nicole's husband took a job with the Brewster County sheriff's office. Nicole, accustomed to bigger Central and North Texas towns, was struck by the smallness of Marathon

and by the absence of children playing outside. Bianca, who was 10 years old at the time, remembers thinking that Marathon was a ghost town. She too wondered where all the children were. The Cardozas soon found the children—in the Marathon Public Library.

Nicole asserts that because Marathon is so "tiny," the library there is "huge." It became the social hub for the five Cardoza kids, who attended children's programs. Loreyna, 6 years old when the family moved to

Marathon, and Bianca remember participating in the programs. Nicole started volunteering at the library, and her daughters helped as well, assisting with puppet shows and arts and crafts projects and reading to other children.

When the Cardozas moved to Alpine in 2011, they became patrons and volunteers at the Alpine Public Library. Nicole became a circulation desk librarian after she was recommended for the position by a staff person at the Marathon library. APL had just moved to the current location, and patron visits were on the increase. Nicole's training period was necessarily short. She immediately started processing Interlibrary Loan (ILL) requests and

served for one year on a state committee working on ILL procedures. As the staff person with the most APL circulation desk experience, Nicole has played a role in instigating and implementing changes to the library procedures and the physical space.

Bianca and Loreyna contribute to the library in their own ways. Like her mother, Bianca processes ILL requests. She also works with social media, posting to the library Instagram account, and with computer technology, assisting patrons with Internet searches, word-processing programs, and printing. Loreyna helps with children's programs and assists patrons with computer searches and with finding books on specific topics.

Nicole, Bianca, and Loreyna emphasize what they have learned from their work at the library. Nicole says that she is always learning from patrons, learning about their



Nicole



Bianca



Loreyna

needs and ways to help them. Bianca has learned about customer service during her time at the library. She's learned how to teach patrons to help themselves. She's learned to give people what they need when they themselves don't have a clear idea of what it is that they need.

All three value APL for its welcoming atmosphere. They note that everyone is accepted at the library, that everyone is made to feel comfortable there, that people depend on the library. Nicole, Bianca, and Loreyna play key roles in making patrons feel welcome. They also appreciate the opportunity that their work gives them to meet a variety of people. Loreyna says that she enjoys running into patrons around town.

Mother and daughters also have busy lives away from work. Nicole focuses on time with her family, but also enjoys walking, especially on Hancock Hill, and reading. Bianca likes to hike, swim, drive around the region, and play with her puppy. Loreyna, a junior in high school, is

busy with her studies and her position on the tennis team. She observes that her days are taken up with school, work, and practice, but she also enjoys reading mystery and nonfiction books.

Previously, Nicole has worked as a nursing assistant for the elderly, a teacher's aide, and as the activity director at a nursing home. In her work at the library, she demonstrates the empathy, care, and professionalism necessary in her previous jobs. In the future, Bianca would like to continue to focus on information technology; Loreyna is interested in pursuing a career in nursing. Now, like their mother, Bianca and Loreyna fulfill their library roles with professionalism and attention to patron needs.

If you've mistaken one Cardoza woman for another, if you saw Loreyna from the back and thought she was Bianca, or if you wondered if Nicole's sisters were also working at the library, you are not alone. Like mother, like daughters.

—Lee Smith

Tons of Books to Read



22,800 books. 751 audio books. 1,938 DVDs. All held up by 20,000 pounds of steel shelving in 8,800 square feet of floor space. How do all these books and DVDs get onto these shelves? The process begins with research and careful thought. It also involves patrons' suggestions and donations. The result is a book or film for every reading or viewing taste.

Patron suggestions are an important part of the selection process. As Mary Beth Garrett, the children's librarian, notes, "We want a library filled with books patrons want to read." But, she adds, "we also want books that patrons didn't know they wanted. We want patrons to discover new materials, subjects, authors." This is where the research comes in. Mary Beth and Don Wetterauer, the executive director, consult professional journals specifically for libraries, like *Kirkus Reviews*, *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and *Voice of Youth Advocates*. They also read reviews in newspapers and magazines. This research helps them purchase new titles to keep the collection current.

Patron suggestions are noted on a wish list kept at the circulation desk. But a little sleuthing adds more

information about patron interest. Interlibrary loan requests indicate what patrons would like to read or watch but can't find in our library. Staff members look for any patterns in titles and subjects requested. Mary Beth also consults with school librarians and teachers to determine what books and topics appeal to kids. This information is used to fill gaps in library holdings.

Librarians also use the circulation database to monitor interest in specific authors or subjects. APL doesn't have software to help determine patron preferences, as larger libraries do. However, the database does provide statistics on how frequently particular titles, authors, or topics are borrowed. This data collection helps the library fulfill its mission of providing relevant resources for its patrons.

APL uses EBSCO Information Services Core Collections, databases available to libraries to assist with collection development. These databases, which include titles recommended as must-haves in any library, influence selection decisions. Christine Cavazos, the library cataloger, checks the Core Collections to make decisions about donated books. The first requirement is that donated items be in excellent condition. In order to maintain a current collection, books should also be recently published, with copyright dates within the last three to five years, depending on the category of book. In addition, audio books must be unabridged.

Mary Beth Garrett identifies another key aspect of the selection process: librarians must not allow personal bias to play a role in their choices. They must be aware of their own preferences, their own likes and dislikes, and understand the reasons behind these preferences. Then they must set these personal biases aside and choose, in the words of the library's mission statement, "relevant and enriching resources that connect our diverse and geographically remote area to the world."

—Lee Smith

Learning Express

With your library card, online learning is just a click away.
Visit APL's catalog Web page at <https://alpine.biblionix.com/catalog/>.

Adult Learning Center

This center offers busy adults the resources to improve their basic skills, earn a GED Test credential, or become a U.S. citizen.

Career Center Plus

Are you preparing for a professional exam? Are you curious about a particular occupation or looking to improve your workplace skills? Begin exploring your future here.

High School Equivalency Center

Earning a high school equivalency credential shows that you have high-school-level academic skills. It can help open the door to a better job or career and a college education. The resources in this Center can help you every step of the way, from finding out if you're ready to take the test, to building your academic skills, to preparing for your high school equivalency exam.

College Prep Center

Getting into college is an important step toward building a strong future. But first you need to do well on your college admission tests and write a personal essay that highlights your special talents. College Preparation Center provides the resources you need to achieve your college preparation goals.

Recursos para hispanohablantes

¿Le gustaría practicar más su lectura y escritura en inglés? ¿Busca mejorar o refrescar sus habilidades matemáticas? Cada curso de aprendizaje y las pruebas de práctica calificados instantáneamente en este Centro de Aprendizaje tiene instrucciones detalladas en español que le ayudarán a alcanzar sus metas personales.

College Success Skills

Build skills for success—in college and beyond. (Login Needed)

College Center Plus

If you need to strengthen your fundamental academic skills for your courses, prepare for an important placement test, or ensure a top score on a graduate school entrance exam, the resources here can help you reach your goal.

Job and Career Accelerator

Powerful tools and expert guidance to help you find a great job.

School Center (Texas)

The resources here can help students prepare for important tests, get extra help with assignments, and boost their skills in important subjects.

Computer Skills Center

Video courses are the fastest and easiest way to learn how to use a computer. Use the materials in this center to learn the basics of a computer, from searching the Internet to using popular programs for word processing, creating spreadsheets and databases, implementing design, and more.

PROGRAMS

Ride, Read, and Seed

Entering Grades 1-5
Mondays 9:00–11:00 am

Meet at the library and ride your bike with us to the following locations to learn all about growing healthy food! (*Permission slips required. Please visit the front desk to sign-up for any or all of these events.*)

JUNE 24

Hay Bale Gardening

JULY 1

Flowering Life Farms: Soil

JULY 8

Flowering Life Farms:
Seeds and Seedlings

JULY 15

Flowering Life Farms: Herbs

JULY 22

Flowering Life Farms:
Leaf Vegetables

JULY 29

Flowering Life Farms:
Fruit Vegetables

AUGUST 5

Zimmer Garden

Summer S.T.E.A.M. Camp



Entering Grades 4-6
Tuesdays, 10:00 am–12:00 pm

JUNE 25: What's in a Cell?

JULY 2: OZOBOTS!

JULY 9: Spirolaterals

JULY 16: SLIME

JULY 23: Gears

JULY 30: Pulley Power

Call the front desk of the library to register for any or all of these events. Space is limited to 15 students per event.

Registration Begins May 20, 2019

READ TO SWIM

AGES 6–12
All Summer Long!



Sign in at the front desk and read for 1 hour to receive a FREE wrist band for the Alpine City Pool

Youth Events at the Library



Sul Ross education students guiding a coding lesson



Children making gifts for moms at the Library Mother's Day Celebration



Participants launching stomp rockets at Family S.T.E.A.M. Night



Library Easter Bunny program with puppet show, crafts, stories, and dancing with the Easter Bunny

Toddler Time

THURSDAYS, 10:30–11:30 am
(No programs June 13 & 20)

Toddler Time is an early literacy program for children ages 5 and under. Join us every Thursday morning for learning centers, reading, songs, finger plays, and musical movement.



Ozobot & OzoBlockly

Entering grades 1–6
2:30–3:30 pm

JULY 11 **AUGUST 8**
JULY 25 **AUGUST 15**
AUGUST 1



Summer Reading Challenge!

Ages 5–12
All Summer!

Pick up a reading log from the front desk. Complete at your own pace to collect a prize from the **TREASURE CHEST!**





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Phone: 432-837-2621
www.alpinepubliclibrary.org

Join the Friends of the Alpine Public Library!

Your tax-deductible dues may be paid with check or money order (payable to Friends of the Alpine Public Library), credit/debit card or PayPal. Dues directly support the ongoing operations and programs of the library. You may choose to make an ongoing monthly donation to the Friends on the library's web page at www.alpinepubliclibrary.org. Your personal information will not be shared with any other organization.

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