

A well-stocked, well-staffed library is like a gardener who plants books, knowledge, and dreams and grows readers, learners, and do-ers.

Between the lines

Libraries aid us on our hero's journey

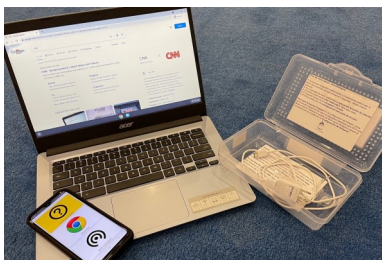
Alpine Public Library

September 2021

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

These days our lives seem to revolve around technology. Completing daily personal and business tasks often requires online interaction. You've probably heard the term "digital divide." Digital divide basically means the gap between those who have easy access to computers and the Internet and those who don't. Factors such as age, income, and urban versus rural affect the gap. In our rural area it isn't surprising that online interaction may be difficult. The FCC points out that, if you live in rural America, there's a better than 1-in-4 chance that you lack access to fixed high-speed broadband at home, compared to only a 1-in-50 probability in urban areas.

and we have a good Internet connection via Big Bend Telephone. If you haven't already done so, stop by and try out our new equipment. And if you have your own personal device without Internet at home, we have free Wi-Fi. If you need both a computer and Wi-Fi, come in and check out a Chromebook.



The last item I want to mention is that the library has mobile hotspots for checkout. These pocket-sized devices are easy to use and connect your wireless device to cellular Internet. The hotspots are free and made possible by a grant from austinfree.net, the Tocker Foundation, Central Texas Library System, and the UT Technology & Information Policy Institute. The APL staff is always available to help answer your questions.

All of us at Alpine Public Library work toward building community, promoting literacy, and encouraging lifelong learning. Come in and see what your Alpine Public Library has to offer.

**This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Grant #LS-249990-OLS-21). (2021)*

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Earlier this year Alpine Public Library received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC)* to help us narrow the digital gap in our community. With the grant we purchased new computers, an iPad, a Padcaster Studio, Chromebooks, and materials for our online children's programming, and we funded International Storytime with Casa Hogar orphanage in Ojinaga, MX.

Our new computers are fast,

Special Donations

In Memory of:	From:
Nicole Cardoza	Connie Roe
	Adrian & Susan Billings
Martha DeSipio	Kathy & Albert Bork
Jim Luhning	Lee Smith & Jim Robertson
Diane Baylor	Don Wetterauer
Verna Bonner	Lela Erwin
Jeffery Todd Williams	Rena Gallego (Brick)
Billy Cowell	Sara & Phil McGaughy
Rosalyn & Jack Koss of Toledo, OH	John & Donna Ehrke
Joyce Wright	Barry A. Zavah
Donna Connor	Stephanie & Jeff Haynes
Candace Covington	Adrian & Susan Billings
Jean Pierce	

In Honor of:	From:
Albert Bork's 75th Birthday	Linda Bryant & David Kowal
	Billito & Kathy Donnell
Marilyn Terry	Doug & Becky Elliot
Bill Elliot	

Re-Reads Bookstore

Alpine Public Library

Open Monday 10 AM–1 PM
 Tuesday–Friday 10 AM–4 PM
 Saturday 10 AM–1 PM

Shop Re-Reads Catalog
aplmembers.org/aplrereads

Shop Re-Reads on Amazon.

Amazon Storefront

beanstack at APL

6,168

That's how many minutes our Beanstack kids have read this summer. They've earned 135 badges and completed 24 activities.

Our top beanstack reader is Isla Velasco who is 11 years old and has logged 1980 minutes of reading and earned 13 badges.



Raz-Kids Reading!

Ages 5-12

Join the Raz-Kids Program to gain access to interactive e-books at 29 different levels and to weekly enrichment sessions with the children's librarian. For more details, contact Mary Beth Garrett at kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org.

1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Ages 0-5

Get started or keep going to reach the goal of reading 1000 books to your little one before kindergarten. Find details here:

alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org

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Business
Friends!**

Alpine Framing
 Alpine Radio
 Alpine Community Credit Union
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 Front Street Books
 GSM Insurors of West Texas

Hog Eye Cattle Company
 Liz Rogers Criminal Defense
 Marathon Basin Wool Mill
 Out West Feed & Supply
 Salon Americana
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 Twin Peaks Liquors
 Wasserman Wranch
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Zumba—Second Saturday Yoga—ESL Conversation—GED—Citizenship

Lifelong APL Patron

Many of us profess to being longtime patrons of Alpine Public Library, but Colt Billings is in a special class. He's been a patron since he was six months old, when he joined children's librarian Mary Beth Garrett for Toddler Time. Now 10 years old, Colt continues to participate in children's programs at the library, but he is more than a patron. He supports the library with his time and energy. He was one of the top vote getters and fundraisers at APL's most recent Dancing with Alpine's Stars, and he serves as a member of the Board of Directors Building Committee.

Colt and his family have deep roots in Texas. Colt is a native of Alpine, but his parents, Susan and Dr. Adrian Billings, and his two older brothers, Blake and Zane, moved to Alpine four years before Colt was born. His maternal grandparents live in Dallas, and his dad's parents live on the Rio Grande in Langtry. In the fall, Colt will be in the fifth grade at Alpine Middle School; Zane will be a junior at Alpine High School; and Blake will be a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin.

For Colt, the best thing about the library is the selection of books. He likes to read and appreciates being able to choose what he likes from the many books in the library's collection. This summer, Colt has been engaged in APL's Rise to the Challenge, which awards prizes to six- to 12-year-olds for reading at least 20 minutes a day. He keeps track of his reading time using the online program Beanstack. He is also reading the Harry Potter series with his mother.

In February of 2020, Colt danced with his parents and other local celebrities in APL's fundraiser Dancing with Alpine's Stars. The Billings team got the most votes on the night of the event to win a trophy. The win meant not only that the Billingses wowed the crowd with their dance moves, but also that they brought in the most money in \$5.00 votes that night. Colt was surprised when his team won, even though he and his parents practiced for a month to polish their dance routine. According to Colt, dancing was "fun," and it was "cool to be the only kid." The best part, though, was getting to dance with his mom.

Colt also shows his support by serving on the Board of Directors Building Committee, which oversees the expansion of the children's and teens' sections. Over the past several years, APL has been planning and raising funds to convert the partially

enclosed patios into spaces for children's and teens' collections and programs as part of the Campaign for Kids. Linda Bryant, the board president, recently established a committee to manage the construction process. Thinking that the expansion could benefit from the perspective of the primary users of the spaces, children and teens, she consulted Mary Beth Garrett for recommendations.

Mary Beth proposed Colt, as she put it, "because of the leadership skills he presents during class visits to the library." As she observed, he "considers the needs of the group, not just his own" and "seeks out compromises when there are disagreements between students." She is confident that "he'll give his opinion when asked and share his ideas," which is exactly what is needed in a committee member. For his part, Colt understands that he represents "the kid's point of view." He thinks it's "cool to see what the add-on looks like."

When Colt is not in school or attending library programs, he spends time playing with friends in someone's backyard or around his neighborhood. They play cops and robbers, switching off roles. He also likes to watch action movies and to eat his grandmother's brown rice, his favorite food. The family's two dogs, bloodhounds named Cha-Cha and Tango, take up some of Colt's time. He helps with their feeding and enjoys taking them to the dog park in Kokernot Park.

The family also has two horses named Shadow and Splash. Not long ago, Colt, on Shadow, rode with his father to the airport. Alpine residents might have seen Colt on Shadow riding along with Dr. Billings in this summer's 4th of July parade. During his summer vacation, he has been swimming in the public pool, where his older brother lifeguards. Soon, Colt will return to school, where math is the subject he likes best "because there is only one right answer."

At 10, Colt is making a difference in his community, and there is every reason to assume that he'll continue to do so. As Mary Beth Garrett notes, "he keeps a sense of humor and is pretty good at letting annoyances roll off his shoulders." Also, he "is confident and friendly." These qualities will serve him well as he makes his way to adulthood. And Alpine Public Library will be well served if he continues to be a committed patron.

—Lee Smith



I Saw My Donation at the Recycling Center. Why?

Most of us hate to throw books away. There's a visceral reaction to tossing a book in the trash. So most of us try to find somewhere else that might be able to use it. In Alpine, that place is usually Re-Reads.

Re-Reads exists for two reasons: to bolster the library's income and to introduce readers to authors they may not be familiar with. It exists because of your donations, and we're very, very grateful. Sometimes, though, we just have to recycle what you've donated, even if it's in good condition. We thought an explanation of how we treat donations might ease the pain of maybe seeing your well-loved books at the Recycling Center.

All donations are sorted first for condition. If the book is moldy or water damaged, if it's too dirty to clean, if it has no cover or the cover has been chewed by rodents, if the pages are heavily marked, if pages are missing, if the binding is loose, we can't sell it. It has to go to recycling or the trash in the case of mold.

Next we sort for possible inclusion in the library's collection. The library staff uses formal criteria for determining what goes into the library collection. The library, like Re-Reads, has space limitations. Staff members must make hard decisions based on shelf space, popularity of the subject matter, and condition, just as we must do in Re-Reads.

If the library can't use your donation, we look at two places to sell books: Amazon and Better World Books (BWB). If a book can be sold (and if it's not a local-interest book—more on this later), we list it on our Amazon storefront because we make more there than we would if we sold it in the store. If Amazon is not a possibility and if the book has an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) and is in good condition, we check Better World Books. Before we send a book to BWB, however, we consider whether it might sell in Re-Reads.

Decisions about whether to place a donation in the Re-Reads inventory are based primarily on condition, popularity of the genre, and shelf space. We've

talked about condition already, but shelf space plays a large role in whether something ends up in the store or at the Recycling Center. Some genres are more popular than others and sell faster: mysteries, general fiction, Western fiction, and large print, for instance. We get a lot of those donated, and we sell a lot of them.

We also get a lot of religion, biography, self-help, business, and cookbooks, but these, for some reason, don't sell very well. People obviously read them because they're donating them, but few people are buying them from us. We have to be ruthless with these particular categories because of shelf space. Shelf space is a precious commodity; we have to allocate it carefully.

We end up with a lot of duplicates. Some we keep, especially mystery fiction and general fiction, but some just have to go. We provide duplicates and Reader's Digest condensed books to stock the shelves at the train station. We also send some Western fiction

and condensed books to the Brewster County Jail. We don't have room in the store or in storage to handle the volume of duplicates we can't share. We also can't sell uncorrected advance reader's copies of any book. These are often recycled.

Local-interest books are treated somewhat differently. We check first to see whether the library has the book. If not, and if it isn't a very high dollar

book, library staff adds it to either the Rare and Interesting Books Collection or the Southwest Collection. If the library can't use the book, we check the price on Amazon and mark it for sale in Re-Reads for less than it would cost if you bought it from our Amazon store.

If we decide a book probably won't sell in Re-Reads, if it's in good condition, and if it has an ISBN, we check BWB. We sell it there if BWB wants it. That keeps it out of recycling and generates some income for the library. Older books, which often don't have an ISBN, are not eligible for sale to BWB and are evaluated for placement at the train station, the jail, or in the dreaded recycling boxes.

We also review stock on a rolling basis by genre to freshen inventory and to make room for new donations. We generate reports about sales in each genre we sell, and we run inventory reports to determine how long a book has been on the shelf. These reports help us make decisions about what stays and what has to find a new home.



It's a complicated process, and time consuming. Those of us who work in the back room of Re-Reads processing donations hate recycling books as much as you do. We spend a lot of time looking for ways to make sure your donations benefit the library in some way. We don't throw stuff willy-nilly in the trash or into a recycling box. It's a considered process that we hope respects your generosity.

—Kathy Bork

APL Premier

On Sunday, March 8, 2020, Marta Robertson premiered her Library of Congress lecture to a large crowd at Alpine Public Library. We were happy to be Marta's "practice" audience. Of course, a few days later we were overtaken by COVID-19, and all of our schedules changed. Now, over a year later, Marta's lecture is available at the Library of Congress. Below are some thoughts from Carol and Don Slocumb and Marta followed by the link to the recording.

Thank you, dear friends! Marta was so grateful for the opportunity to present her Library of Congress lecture to such an appreciative and supportive audience at the Alpine Library, especially since her performance was cancelled shortly after that due to COVID.

Don and Carol Slocumb

Dear friends and family,

As we head toward fall, I wanted to let you know that my Library of Congress lecture, 'A Gift to Be Simple': Japanese American Influence in Appalachian Spring, was recorded digitally earlier this summer. I want to thank each of you for your support and contributions in ways too numerous to list here. Please know that I couldn't have done it without each of you!

Very best wishes for good health!

Marta

Marta Robertson

Gettysburg College

<https://loc.gov/concerts/lecture-marta-robertson.html>

Re-Reads exists
because of
your donations.



CONCERTS FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS 2020-2021

Library of Congress Music Division

In Association with the American
Musicological Society

American Musicological Society Lecture

"A Gift to be Simple:"
Japanese American Influence
in Appalachian Spring

MARTA ROBERTSON, PHD

Professor of Music,
Gettysburg College

Hallow-Read: A Spooktacular Reading Challenge

It will soon be spooky season! Summon your favorite books and earn ghoulish electronic badges and creepy reading buddies! Ages 5-12. Registration begins on Sept. 12 at alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org

Nailed It/Failed It Cook-off

Teens, do you love food? You are invited to discover a new recipe in a cookbook from the library's collection and share your results on social media. Gift certificates to local restaurants will be awarded. For more details, contact Mary Beth at: kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org.



Get cooking!

START LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE WITH APL AND MANGO LANGUAGES!



Tired of sitting through the countless ads on DuoLingo or paying monthly for Babbel? Mango Languages is a similar language-learning tool made available to APL patrons for free through their online account. Mango offers 70 world languages for us to explore. To access, visit our online catalog and log in using your library card number and 10-digit telephone number. Give us a call or stop by the library if you need assistance with login.

After you log in, scroll to the bottom of our **Electronic Resources** and click on **Mango**. Once you set up an account using the e-mail address and password of your choice, you can access Mango directly from learn.mangolanguages.com or download the Mango app to your iOS or Android device. Modules can even be downloaded on your phone for when you don't have Wi-Fi access.

Mango Special Features

Voice Comparison offers a visual indication of your performance by comparing a waveform of your voice with that of a native speaker. Using the Voice Comparison Tool, record your voice to see a waveform of that recorded audio. Drag it and line it up with the waveform of the native speaker. Comparing these two waveforms will give you a good idea of where you need to make improvements. For example:

- ♦ If your waveform doesn't show as many peaks as the native speaker's, you may need to work on your vowel pronunciation.
- ♦ If your waveform is longer, your pronunciation may be too slow. You can click and drag on your waveform to make real-time improvements in your own recorded voice.

Google Translator is built in to Mango. Key-stroke tip for Windows computer users: keep a separate window, rather than a browser tab, open in Translator to flip back and forth by hitting Alt+Tab.



Culture Notes inform learners on points of etiquette, body language, or even gestures as a backdrop to learning material, allowing you to forge a deeper connection to the language and gain perspective on regional differences in usage.

Mango Movies in “engage mode” provides short lessons throughout featured cinematic content to encourage deeper understanding of the dialog, grammar, and cultural context of a film. Subtitle options include single- or dual-language, offering a side-by-side comparison of every line. Tired of lessons? Flip over to “movie mode” and sit back to enjoy some quality content.

Tidbits and Drawbacks

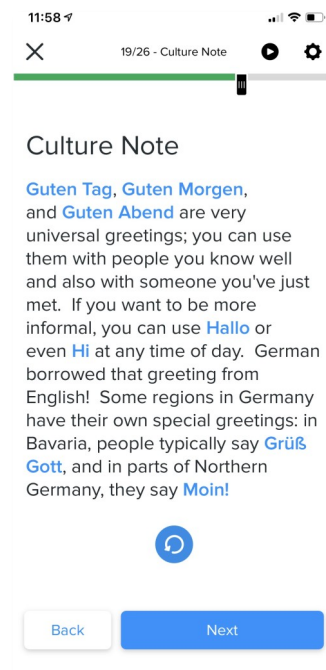
Language students can navigate Mango in their native language, which can be helpful at first, but, as we all know, hearing instructions in the actual language being studied can be beneficial to learning. Sometimes Mango feels a little repetitive—you may find yourself clicking through the same phrase multiple times to the point of boredom. That said, repetition is a key factor in language learning!

Perhaps Mango doesn't go deep enough for more advanced students. A Spanish-speaking friend of mine wanted to brush up on his financial/banking vocabulary for a new job; however, the module in Mango for financial services wasn't advanced enough for him. We found some additional resources on the Web to support his information needs.

In Summary

Give Mango a try—and let us know how you are using this resource. We love to hear your feedback at APL. We know there are many language-learning resources available but we feel Mango is a good adjunct to any program you may be using already. Another nice feature about the Mango app is you can set up reminders to study for anytime or day of the week. A little practice most days will keep your skills sharp. Happy learning!

—Nan Jamieson



PANDEMIC 2020-21: COULD IT HAVE BEEN WORSE?

Join the Alpine Public Library and others in our community to read and discuss *The End of October*, Lawrence Wright's novel about a devastating pandemic. Wright began writing his novel in 2017, completed it in the summer of 2019, and published it in the spring of 2020, in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an interview on NPR's *All Things Considered*, Wright noted the coincidence of the publication of his novel and the COVID-19 outbreak, but maintained that it was not coincidental that there were parallels between the pandemic and the plot of the book. "I researched it very carefully and I talked to people who *knew* what was going to happen. They laid it out for me. . . . So the fact that it's unfolding as they suggested it would and as I reflected in the novel is no surprise at all."

Individual readers and book clubs are invited to read and discuss the novel and reflect on their own experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic and on health care resources in our area. The novel is available for check out at the library and for purchase at Front Street Books. A reading guide is also available at APL and on the library website.

Author Lawrence Wright will participate in the discussion of the novel via livestream on September 22 at 7 p.m. Readers may join in at the library, where the livestream will be projected on the APL outdoor screen, or on Zoom.

The community-wide reading and discussions of *The End of October* are the first part of community conversations about health care resources in the Big Bend region. The Big Bend region is designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area by the U.S. government, and residents of the area experience the challenges of this shortage, especially now. The novel will provide a community-wide starting point on which to base these discussions of health care with a focus on the resources in our area. Additional conversations will take place in October.

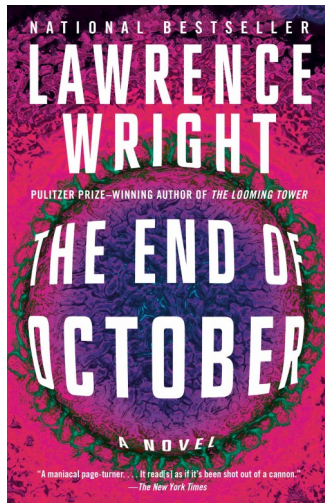
The purpose of the community conversations is to provide forums for area residents to discuss their

experiences with health care resources. Health care professionals recognize the challenges that they face in providing appropriate care; others in the community recognize the challenges that they face in accessing care. Both groups see the challenges largely from their own limited perspective. The conversations will allow all individuals to see the issues from multiple

viewpoints. The goal is to arrive at an understanding of the issues faced by disparate individuals and share these perceptions with state, county, and city governments.

The library is grateful to our partners in and supporters of the community reading and the conversations on health care resources: Front Street Books; Preventative Care Health Services; Big Bend Regional Hospital District; and the American Library Association and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries for awarding the Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries grant, which funds this project.

—Lee Smith



Lawrence Wright is an author, a screenwriter, a playwright, and, since 1992, a staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. He is the author of several nonfiction books, including *Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief*; *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-fiction; *God Save Texas: A Journey into the Soul of the Lone Star State*; and, most recently, *The Plague Year*.

"Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)."

Friday Morning Senior Coffee—Toddler Aerobics & Story Time—SimplyE
Literacy Packets—Yarn Arts—Mango Languages—Interlibrary Loan



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www.alpinepubliclibrary.org

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I agree to pay above total amount according to card issuer agreement and I acknowledge all charges to be final unless duplicate payment is made.

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