

BETWEEN THE LINES

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 2022

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

In the November/December 2022 issue of *American Libraries* magazine, Executive Director Tracie D. Hall wrote, "Rather than being underfunded and over-scrutinized, libraries and library staffers should be recognized for their indispensable role in informal and formal public education. In a period when access to early and adult literacy education, post-

basic math above a third-grade level. To help alleviate these problems, the Alpine Public Library Adult Education Program is working to provide a free educational resource, and attendance is growing. We now have 70 students, but we need more instructors. Contact Bianca Barrera at the library (432-837-2621) for more information.

The library's expansion plans are moving forward. A very generous library proponent offered to donate \$10,000 to the Kids' Campaign if we raised \$10,000. With donations made during Giving Tuesday, we met the match. Many of our supporters chose to double their donations and help us move closer to increasing our dedicated spaces for kids and teens.

We have received some great news from area foundations that are supporting our expansion. The Abell-Hanger Foundation has offered a charitable gift of \$100,000 as a matching grant. For every \$2.00 we raise toward our expansion project, it will give us \$1.00. The Permian Basin Area Foundation is supporting the project with a charitable gift of \$100,000. Things are looking good, and we are on track to begin construction in 2023, but we still need help.

Finally, we received a grant from the Big Bend Regional Hospital District to create a Big Bend Regional Resource Directory. Last year the library sponsored community conversations about rural

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secondary degrees, living wage employment, and even the most basic needs are still not as widely distributed as they should be, libraries continue to widen their scopes to fill those gaps."

All of us at Alpine Public Library recognize the importance of an educated and engaged community. Texas ranks 46th in literacy in the United States, with 19% of adults lacking basic skills; 16% of Texans over 25 don't have a high school diploma or equivalent. According to the Texas Workforce Commission, 4.8 million Texas adults need adult education. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that in the United States more than 43 million adults cannot read, write, or do

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health care. One result of the conversations was recognition of the need for a directory of available resources to help residents with health care decisions. The library recognized our role in disseminating information and assisting patrons with accessing health care resources. This project will improve access to our limited health and community resources by creating a regional resource directory. We'll start after the first of the year and hope to have the directory completed by July 2023.

—Don Wetterauer, *MLS, PhD*
Executive Director

Special Donations

In Memory of:	From:
Phyllis Holochwost	Cindy Slocumb
Joe Vanunucci	
Barbara Novovitch	Kathy & Albert Bork
Ladonna Schnider	Jan & Toni DeLuna
Precious Dog of Cathy Lammons	Linda Bryant & David Kowal

Re-Reads Gently Used Books

A Project of the Friends of Alpine Public Library

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

Amazon Storefront

aplmembers.org/aplrereads

Alpine Public Library
Established June 1947

**Thank you,
Business
Friends!**

Alpine Framing
Alpine Radio
Aramark TX
Big Bend Coffee Roasters
Big Bend Law
Cheshire Cat Antiques
Desert Heart Jewelry
Front Street Books

GMS Insurors of West Texas
Hog Eye Cattle Company
Liz Rogers, Lawyer
O'Neal Law
Out West Feed & Supply
Porter's
Prescription Shop
Salon Americana

Sibley Anderson Lewis Attorneys
Talley-Reed Insurance
Twin Peaks Liquors
Vast Graphics
Wassermann Wranch
WesTex Community Credit Union
WR Ranch

2023 TRAVEL TALKS AT APL



January 27

Kathy & Albert Bork, Linda Hedges & Rick Reese on Ultimate Africa: 5 countries, 4 people, 3 weeks

February 25

Matt Walter on Cornwall & Windsor, U.K.

March 30

Cecilia Riley & Mike Gray on birding in Panama

7 PM in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room

If you have an adventure you'd like to share in 2023, contact Lee Smith at leepsmith@yahoo.com or Jim Robertson at jpz1100@yahoo.com.



beanstack at APL

This fall, 115 participants read for 10, 857 minutes and earned 313 badges. Way to go, readers!

Sign up at alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org for winter reading challenges and prizes for all ages.

1000 BOOKS

Before
Kindergarten

Ages 0-5

Click

[alpinepubliclibrary.
beanstack.org](http://alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org)
for details.

PAJAMA STORY TIME

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY!

FEBRUARY 10
6:30 PM



What's the deal with Fluffy Fridays?

APL x AHS *Fluffy Fridays* is a partnership between Alpine Public Library (APL) and the Alpine Humane Society (AHS). We started the program last year to promote adoptable pets and animal rescue work, but also to raise awareness about the many opportunities that exist to help unhoused pets. *Fluffy Fridays* at the library are basically a meet-and-greet, once a month, with a pet from the Alpine Animal Shelter. This

takes place in person at the library on a Friday morning (check [our monthly calendar](#)), and we also broadcast the event on either Facebook Live or YouTube to showcase the pet, create a buzz, and talk about rescue-related topics and issues that are important to our community and beyond.

On *Fluffy Friday*, our goal is to get the animal out of the shelter environment for a short period so that it can interact with people, places, and things in a real-world environment. Friendly exposure to people, other animals, children, noises, and public spaces helps condition shelter pets so they, in turn, can become more adoptable. What that means is, if you come to *Fluffy Friday*, don't be worried that we expect you to adopt! Certainly, if love at first sight happens, great, but if you come by just to chat with us and meet a shelter dog or cat, that helps socialize them. And that helps a LOT.

With this venture, we've had the pleasure of meeting and learning from AHS Enrichment Director, Mary Ann Vega. Mary Ann is not only a great person but also a real asset to Alpine due to her long career working with, and advocating for, animals of all varieties. Under her direction, AHS supports pet

owners and animals in a number of ways. For example, AHS will run monthly low-cost spay-and-neuter clinics throughout the Trans-Pecos beginning in December 2022. For \$100.00, animals are spayed or neutered and given basic vaccinations, including a rabies vaccine. An extra \$10.00 pays for micro-chipping a pet as well. The next event, *Big Bend Big Fix 11*, takes place in Pecos December 3–5.

Also—if you didn't know—AHS provides assistance to those facing financial hardship in feeding their pets.

AHS now has a food pantry at its offices at 600 North 5th Street. Donations can be made there, or at the AHS thrift store, to help feed a pet in need or to sponsor a spay/neuter. Call 432-837-2532 for more



information about donations to AHS.

The shelter is currently very full. Consider playing a small role in the wellness of unhoused pets if you have some extra time. While AHS is a nonprofit organization, and Alpine Animal Services (including the Alpine shelter) is a part of our city government, the two organizations partner for the benefit of animals. Some of the ways you can help our local rescue animals include walking shelter dogs, socializing cats, fostering, giving to the shelter or AHS, or visiting with the shelter or AHS to see how you can help if you have a special skillset.

And, as always, a big thank you to AHS staff and our Animal Services officers, who are all doing a lot of work behind the scenes to keep many animals safe and well and off the public streets.

—Nan Jamieson



Cuentos
en
español

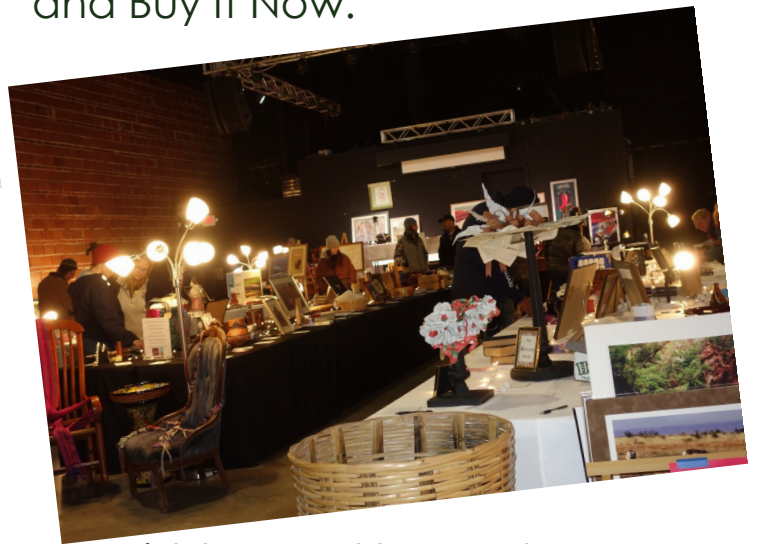
CADA MIÉRCOLES
10:00 AM

Para los niños en los grados prek-2

APL AT ARTWALK



Volunteers work long hours to set up for the Silent Auction and Buy It Now.



Bidders and buyers browse the tables for treasures.



SILENT AUCTION 2022



Artwalk 2022 found us back at the Granada Theatre, the location where I first discovered the event in 2012. The weather was certainly not optimal, and the traffic was somewhat lighter than normal (probably due to the weather), but the people who braved the weather found treasures and certainly are the reason the Silent Auction happens every year.

We had more items for our Buy It Now (think garage sale) tables than we've ever had by far! Plenty of stocking stuffers were found as well as presents for young ones to give to family members and friends.

The donations to our auction were amazing. We had art that epitomized the West as well as items that brought other parts of the world to Alpine. Nonart donations were also many and varied. We had indoor grills and lobster pots, crystal, gift certificates for food, handmade afghans, wall hangings, and air mattresses. We had old cane-bottomed chairs, hand- and machine-made quilts, and a wonderful rocking chair. We had an old portable typewriter that spent its life in a church in the Texas Hill Country and folding bicycles that may have been ridden in that same area. I am sure we had more individual donations than we've had in the past and certainly a greater variety. Without these

donations, the annual Silent Auction benefiting the Alpine Public Library would not happen.

The library also received a generous offer from the new owner of the Granada, Benjamin García, to hold the event there again. It is a lovely, large space we enjoy so much. As a strong supporter of the library, he also encouraged people to become Friends of Alpine Public Library by sponsoring a drawing for a one-weeknight use of the Granada. The drawing was open to first-time members of the APL Friends who joined during the Silent Auction.

Co-chair Kathy Donnell and I must also express our ongoing gratitude to the several dozen volunteers who spent hundreds of person hours making this event the success it was. Kathy and I have been co-chairing this event for eight years. This year we had a number of first-time volunteers as well as the return of regular volunteers from prior years. Without them, we could not manage to have a Silent Auction during



Artwalk. We are both grateful and honored to work with people who do so much to make Alpine Public Library the wonderful asset to Alpine that it is.

—Linda Bryant

Benjamin Garcia:

“Enabler of Other People’s Success”

Benjamin Garcia had never been to the Big Bend until he visited five years ago, staying in the national park and a local vacation rental. Three weeks after his visit, attracted by the mountains and the small-town atmosphere, he moved to Alpine. He has now lived in Alpine longer than anywhere else in his life.

Growing up, Benjamin and his family moved often as his mother advanced in her career. He was born in Oklahoma and lived in the Midwest, on the East Coast, and on the West Coast. After high school, he traveled to London to attend Imperial College.

During high school Benjamin’s family lived in New Hampshire. He “challenged” himself to read as many of the books in his school library as he could. When he got his driver’s license, he drove to the Library of Congress, the first of many road trips, and acquired his first library card. He has patronized libraries wherever he’s lived.

As soon as they moved to Alpine, Benjamin and his family started using Alpine Public Library resources. Before he had a home printer, he used one at the library. Initially, they lived within walking distance of APL, and he and his daughter would walk over to check out books to read at bedtime. His daughter participates in library programs for kids, like Makerspace Saturdays and Tinkercad. His partner checks out sewing machines.

Benjamin studied mathematics at Imperial College and incorporates his mathematical knowledge into his work with tech start-ups, in particular, with event organization start-ups. As a founding employee and as a consultant, he uses software to solve problems. In 2019, he began to offer these services to non-profits to help them raise awareness through marketing strategies.

Recently, Benjamin purchased the Granada Theatre and the former Saddle Club, historic structures

which had been vacant for several years. He plans to use the spaces to support local organizations. In fact, this year, APL’s Silent Auction was able to return to the Granada, its original venue, thanks to Benjamin’s generosity.

Providing the space for the library fundraiser fits in with the rationale governing both his profes-

sional role and his community service: to be an “enabler of other people’s success.” He has found that he can make a more significant impact by working in a small town. In a large city like San Antonio, for example, several businesses may be engaged in the same work, which sets up a zero-sum competition in which one business



succeeds at the cost of another’s failure. This dynamic is not compatible with his work philosophy. He aims to support the passions and goals of businesses and organizations provided those passions are not just for making money. Fortunately for APL, this support has included joining the Friends of the Alpine Public Library, attending meetings, and offering new insights on perennial issues like attracting new members.

In Benjamin’s view, a key role of a library is to expose patrons to “other viewpoints and perspectives.” He has found that fantasy books are particularly effective at providing other perspectives by depicting worlds and cultures unlike ours. Reading such books, he thinks, can make us more empathetic to others’ experiences, in the way that travel can. He sees a library as the “best resource for immersive experiences outside of travel.”

Travel is one of Benjamin’s interests. In addition, he enjoys trail running and hiking and has ample opportunity to engage in both in the Big Bend region. He also participates in Spartan Races, which he describes as “a mashup of an obstacle course with a trail run up to a marathon in distance” He has been

a consultant for Spartan Races since 2016. He also practices Parkour, a sport he began in high school and participated in during college, where he was the president of the Parkour society. Parkour, based on military training practices, involves moving through spaces—natural environments and cityscapes—in the most direct way possible by running, leaping, and climbing.

If Benjamin continues to be an “enabler” of APL’s success, the library will be able to more efficiently run, leap, and climb over some of the obstacles it faces in achieving its mission to build community, encourage literacy, and promote lifelong learning.

—Lee Smith



Alpine mayor Catherine Eaves (right) presented a proclamation commemorating National Friends of Libraries Week to APL representatives (from left) Don Wetterauer, Amelie Urbanczyk, Kathy Bork, Ellen Ruggia, and Chris Ruggia.

APL FALL KIDS' PROGRAMS



Ember the Reading Dragon at Alpine Elementary School

Cubelets in Mr. Creer's 5th grade robotics class at Alpine Middle School



APL WINTER KIDS' PROGRAMS

Makerspace Saturday
ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY
837-2621

BE THERE OR ELSE!

JAN. 7
FEB. 4
MARCH 4
APRIL 1
MAY 6
JUNE 3
JULY: NO PROGRAM
AUG. 5
SEPT. 2
OCT. 7
NOV. 4
DEC. 2
2023

10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

Ages 6-12

SCIENCE

CUBELETS at the
ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Grades 4-7

MONDAYS 4:30-5:30 PM 2023

TODDLER TIME
Every **Thursday** at **10:00 am**

December
1: Santa's Stocking
8: Gingerbread People
15: My Christmas Tree
22 & 29: No Programs

January
5: Let It Snow!!
12: Suzy Snowflake
19: Polar Bear's Underwear
26: Snow People

February
2: My Socks
9: Valentine's Day
16: Trains
23: Teddy Bears Everywhere



Alpine Public Library
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Alpine, TX 79830

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

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Business Name: _____
Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
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Phone: (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail (saves postage): _____

Membership Type (Annual)

☐ Individual/Family \$35 ☐ Best Friend \$100+
☐ Business \$100
☐ Ongoing Monthly Donations \$ _____/Month beginning _____, ending _____

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Please Select Payment Type: ☐ Check ☐ Credit/Debit Card
Credit/Debit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____
Name of Cardholder (Exactly as it appears on card): _____
Cardholder Billing Address: _____

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.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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