

Between the Lines

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY *fun entertainment learning community involvement* June 2022

What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

We are celebrating Alpine Public Library's 75th anniversary. In honor of the occasion, we have decided to forgive fines for lost books, DVD's, and audiobooks during the month of June. Come to the circulation desk before Friday, July 1, and ask to have your account cleared. Be sure to bring your library card or a picture ID to complete the transaction (fines for electronic devices and UMS collection fees may be excluded from this of-



fer).

I'm happy to announce that the library has received some significant grants recently. First, we are working with the Ysleta Independent School District to provide adult education services in the Tri-County area. Ysleta and Texas Workforce Solutions are providing funding that will allow APL to expand offerings of ESL and EOSL classes (English as a second language and English for speakers of other languages), Spanish, HSE (high school equivalency), citizenship, and adult basic education. A grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for adult educa-

tion will help with these efforts. Second, we received a grant from the J. Frank Dobie Library Trust to improve and add to the library's collection. Third, a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Texas Library and Archives Commission will help upgrade and improve our teen and young adult space and programs. Fourth, funding through the Emergency Connectivity Fund allowed APL to purchase more WiFi hotspots and service. Funding from these grants will help APL provide more technology to connect our community, to create a space that welcomes the use of the library by all, and to provide enhanced educational opportunities.

I hope you enjoy Nan's article on human capital. I would like to add to some of her comments about people's perceptions of libraries. Lee Rainie of the Pew Research Center found that 78% of people surveyed said they found trustworthy and reliable information in a library, 76% learn new things, 65% feel libraries help them grow as a person, and 56% say they get information that helps them make decisions. The library is also a place to level the playing field for those without vast resources.

At Alpine Public Library our goal is to provide a space where members of the community can come together to share common interests in a productive and welcoming environment. We hope to see you at the library.

—Don Wetterauer, *MLS, PhD, Executive Director*

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Special Donations

In Memory of:

From:

Connie Hardy

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Cynthia Slocumb

In Honor of:

From:

Sally Johnson's
Birthday

Kathy Donnell

Chachi Hawkins'
Birthday

National Reading Month

Woman's Club of Alpine

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

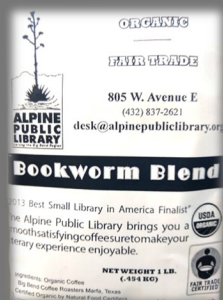
Amazon Storefront

aplmembers.org/aplireads

BOOKWORMS CHALLENGE

Ages 19+

Every bookworm
needs brain food.
Feed your mind by
tracking the books
you read and earn
a free bag of APL's
world-famous
Big Bend Coffee Roasters
Bookworm Blend!



Sign up here:

alpinepubliclibrary.beanstack.org

TRAVEL TALKS AT APL



June 24

Raymond Skiles on towns and mountains in Mexico south of Big Bend

July 29

Martha Bumpus on China

August 25

Linda Hedges on the Middle East

September 30

Sharon McClanahan on Turkey

October 28

Matt Walter on Alpine, Texas

7 PM in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room

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

The Evolving Role of Today's Public Librarian: Our Greatest Asset Is Our Human Capital

Whenever I meet someone new and they ask, "What do you do?" I proudly tell them that I work at the Alpine Public Library, one of the best small-town libraries in the United States. Following that admission, I listen carefully to how that person responds. Sometimes they share that they love borrowing books; other times they claim that they don't use libraries and only buy books on Amazon. Some folks even tell me that they don't have time to read. When my new acquaintance says something about libraries, however, I can gauge their perception of what a library is from that response.

And what a library often is, to them, is a place to borrow books.

Free public libraries are due in great part to the philanthropy of the Scottish American tycoon Andrew Carnegie, who believed in accessible, lifelong learning opportunities for the general public. Carnegie funded the construction of over 2,000 libraries from 1883 to 1929, many of which remain beautiful cultural assets throughout the English-speaking world. Carnegie libraries presented a wonderfully novel ideal: create a public space where the working class could engage in higher learning right alongside the upper crust.

I would be remiss if I didn't also mention Carnegie's primary critic, Alice S. Tyler. Tyler, a librarian who was secretary of the Iowa Library Commission, opposed Carnegie grants throughout Iowa. Her reasoning: Carnegie grants

built libraries, but they did almost nothing to fund library services and staff. And let's be honest, without staff, a library would be reduced to a structureless tumble of books and nonfunctioning computers. (To explore this nightmare further, read Jorge Luis Borges's "The Library of Babel," where the universe is an infinite library in which books are randomly arranged, and there is no catalog to speak of.)

I want to emphasize here why a library's human capital is its most valuable resource. Public libraries are in a continual state of flux in terms of what they do. In a way, they are dealing with an identity crisis. Recent trends in urban public libraries find librarians serving coffee and meals to the unhoused population and treating overdosing addicts with naloxone. Many urban libraries have social workers on staff who are trained to intervene with patrons who may be mentally ill or suffering from substance abuse disorders.

While we have been somewhat sheltered from some of this, the public library is where a lot of people in Alpine go when they have a problem that they don't know how to fix. We are one of the last places that doesn't sell a service but that welcomes everyone, and we attempt, within reason and available resources, to provide any service we see a need for, such as obtaining legal or healthcare information, completing license renewals, or taking and submitting online tests for food-handler certificates. We sit down with folks one-on-one and help them apply for jobs, create résumés, and draft important documents. At the height of the pandemic, we regularly faxed patrons' required unemployment paperwork to Austin. I was so grateful that, when many libraries stayed closed, we were able to provide curbside service during much of 2020 for our patrons.

—Nan Jamieson, *Public Services Librarian*



Here are some examples of tasks we perform on a daily basis, which require a delicate balance of skill, inquisitiveness, patience, and customer service:

Library Director Don Wetterauer became a notary public to provide more services to the community. In a given week, Don may serve as a notary for up to ten persons, many of whom are just passing through and find themselves needing business services. Also, there are quite a few locals who simply enjoy taking care of their business needs at the library. Please call for an appointment if you need notary services. We do accept donations for notary services, but no fees are required.

ILL Librarian Aylin Pereyra, who has also worked at the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library at Sul Ross, recently responded to several inquiries via e-mail wherein an educator sought some specific poetry stanzas for use in a class that same morning. Aylin was able to find the poems online and in a book on our shelves. There was no charge for this service.

Circulation Librarian Joseline Cintrón recently assisted a patron (in person) and his Colombian wife (in another state) with translations necessary to complete some important paperwork for the U.S. Social Security office. This transaction took two meetings in person and over the phone. Joseline later faxed the documents to the appropriate offices for the client. No payment other than the \$2.00 fax fee was required.

Library Assistant Michael Haas, who began his library career as a teen intern while still in high school, has a knack for technology and software. A patron who wanted to archive some analog audio approached the library for help. Michael came up with a way to transfer the recording from a cassette tape to a CD and taught the patron how to transfer more media files. Again, no fee was charged.

—Nan Jamieson, *Public Services Librarian*

STARS OVER ALPINE



On Saturday afternoon, April 9, the celestial stars weren't evident yet, but a galaxy of human stars shone brightly during Alpine Public Library's first Alpine's Talented Stars fundraiser. Three children's acts and 9 adult acts lit up Kokernot Outdoor Theatre for 2 hours with everything from singing and dancing to live cartooning. Dinner was provided by Roux Alpine, and cookies in abundance were baked by library volunteers. Twin Peaks Liquors donated beer and wine, and Porter's donated water to keep the audience cool and hydrated during a very warm and windy day. Heather Plumberg, a professional dancer and choreographer who now makes her home in Alpine, was the show runner. Bret Scott, associate professor of communication, and Ross Fleming, associate professor of theatre at Sul Ross State University, designed the sound and lighting.

Modeled on Dancing with Alpine's Stars, this event also challenged performers to raise as much money as they could in the form of \$5.00 "votes" for them. Heather Plumberg, with an interpretive dance, and Bret Scott, singing an original song about Generation X, gave the audience a taste of what was to come. Three kids' acts opened the talent show. Nine adult acts closed it out. The local Zumba group kept the audience entertained while votes were being counted. Acts were "judged" by the number of votes they garnered before and during the event.

Audrey Painter and Bennye Meredith, with a keyboard and trombone duet, won the adults' competition. In an Academy Award blockbuster kind of ending, the Edwards brothers, Everett and Davis, who played the guitar and accordion and sang, took top honors on the night by taking home 3 trophies in the kids' division, for the most votes on the night of the event, and for the most votes overall. They were gracious in their acceptance speech(es), saying they'd have voted for Astrobleme!

All performers, besides being talented, showed great courage in getting up in front of an audience to show support for the work of Alpine Public Library. They are, in performance order, Abi Scot, Everett and Davis Edwards, and Emma Del Colle in the kids' division; Audrey Painter and Bennye Meredith; Heather Plumberg and Nash Traylor; Tara Mack, Frank Tyler, and Tom Curry; Strings and Things (Carol Wallace, John Kuehne, and Deb Swart); Susan and Clay Chisholm; Violet and Liz Del Colle; Chris Müller and Evie Dorsey; Chris Ruggia; and Astrobleme (Helen Snook, Steve Stratakos, Julie Bernal, and Benjamin Beardwood).

Event sponsors, in alphabetical order, demonstrated their appreciation of the value Alpine Public Library adds to our community: Big Bend Law; Front Street Books; GSM Insurors of West Texas; Hog Eye Cattle Company; Kate McKenna and Pete Szilagyi; Liz Rogers, Lawyer; Mary and Jeff Bennett; O'Neal Law; Out West Feed and Supply; Pat and Marshall McCall; Paula Wilson and Lonnie Rodríguez; Porter's; Prescription Shop; Sibley Anderson Lewis,

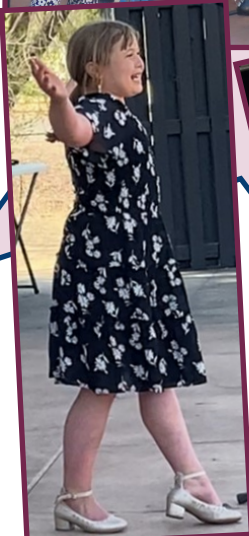
Attorneys; Twin Peaks Liquors; Wassermann Wranch; WesTex Community Credit Union.

Lee Smith, the creative genius behind both Dancing with Alpine's Stars and Alpine's Talented Stars, summed up the event: "Bret, Ross, and Heather made it professional; the talented performers made it super entertaining; and the generous sponsors and energetic volunteers made it happen. And the community members who came out to show their support for the library made it all worthwhile."

—Kathy Bork



Alpine's Talented Stars



Celebrate APL

This year is the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Alpine Public Library. Join us for a 75th Birthday Party at the library on Thursday, June 16, at 5:30 p.m. There will be music, light refreshments, and an opportunity to view and bid on Chris Ruggia's painting, Pronghorn. [Click here to watch a video of Chris painting Pronghorn and to place a bid.](#)



NASA@MyLibrary

OUR BIG BLUE PLANET EARTH

Entering grades 1–4

2–3 PM

June 7

Our Deep, Dark Skies

June 14

Our Deep Blue Oceans

June 21

Our Deep Verdant Forests

June 28

Our Deep-Down Drinking Water

July 5

Our Deep-Freeze Glaciers



Ages 4–11

Read for 30 minutes every day this summer and earn badges, swim passes, and prizes along the way!



**beanstack
at APL**

Ages 12–18

Challenge yourself to read one hour a day for 60 days this summer. Earn a reward at the end of the challenge.

**Build a Better
Reader**

KIDS AT APL



CLASS

Ages 6–12

10 AM–12 PM

July 12, 19 & 26

August 2 & 9

Learn 3-D design
and print your
projects.



JUNE is MEMBERSHIP MONTH for the Friends of the Alpine Public Library

Your Friends of the Alpine Public Library (FAPL) membership is important!

FAPL supports the library through Membership Dues, Re-Reads Bookstore Sales, and Fundraising Events (like *Dancing with the Stars* and *Alpine's Talented Stars*). Almost half of the APL's annual budget comes from these efforts and other community donations.

Alpine Public Library (APL) is an independent nonprofit organization and relies on the support of the Friends to keep the library operating at its current level of service to the community.

FAPL Membership Benefits

FAPL Sticker

Free printing (copies, faxes, etc.) up to \$25 per year

Ten free Inter-Library Loan requests per month

Business members are recognized online and on in-library computer screens

FAPL Membership Types

(one calendar year)

Individual/Family: \$35 • Business: \$100 • Best Friend: \$100+
Ongoing Monthly Donation

Ways to Join FAPL

1. Join online and pay via PayPal at alpinepubliclibrary.org/friends

2. Write a check to Alpine Public Library and put *FAPL Membership* on the memo line.

Mail to: FAPL Membership
805 W. Avenue E
Alpine, Texas, 79830

3. Stop by the Alpine Public Library and pay by check, cash, or credit card.

4. Call us at (432) 837-2621 and arrange for your preferred type of donation.

Ways to Love your Library: Join the FAPL • Shop at Re-Reads for books, coffee & more • Volunteer at Re-Reads Bookstore
Teach GED or ESL classes • Help with fundraising events • Volunteer around your own schedule • Donate money to the APL

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY!

The Friends of the Alpine Public Library organization is 73 years old, two years younger than the library it supports. But APL owes its origin to friends in Alpine who were committed to the idea that a library was essential to the life of the region. This community support has persisted through the years, helping to make the library the cultural hub it is today.

—Lee Smith, Past President of FAPL

Our goal in this new phase of our work with the library is to increase the number of members of the Friends of the Library and find new ways to invite more of our Friends members to start volunteering some of their time to help as well.

—Chris Ruggia, President of FAPL
—Ellen Ruggia, Vice President of FAPL

The members of the Friends group are ambassadors of the library to our community. They advocate for the library and increase community awareness of the services and materials available. Through fundraising efforts, the Friends bring much-needed resources to support the library. By giving their time as volunteers, they help make the library a resource that benefits the entire community.

—Don Wetterauer, MLS, PhD,
Executive Director

Alpine Framing

Alpine Radio

Aramark TX

Big Bend Coffee Roasters

Big Bend Law

Bullshirtz

Cheshire Cat Antiques

Desert Heart Jewelry

Edward Jones Investments

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

**Thank you,
Business
Friends!**



Alpine Public Library
805 West Avenue E
Alpine, TX 79830

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.

Business Name: _____
Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____
Phone: (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail (saves postage): _____

Membership Type (Annual)

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

Payment Options

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: _____

Please send this form to: Membership FAPL
805 W. Ave E
Alpine, Texas 79830

You may also pay with PayPal at www.alpinepubliclibrary.org.