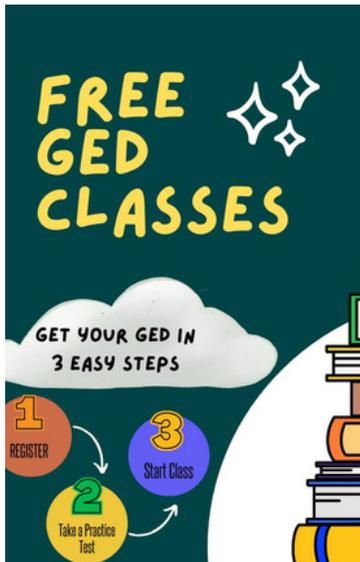


Between the Lines

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 2026



What's Happening at Alpine Public Library?

Alpine Public Library has been accepted to participate in the Family Place library program. Childhood education has been a priority at APL for many years. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission initiated the Family Place Libraries™ Project in 2015 to help public libraries address early learning with a goal of ensuring that all children enter school ready and able to learn. The grant is a highly prescriptive program centered on creating a welcoming, family-centered environment that empowers caregivers of young children as they become their child's first teacher. This grant provides funding for equipment and training necessary to host workshops for children 0–3 and their caregivers, to develop an interactive space for this age group to play and learn in the library, and to forge strong partnerships with organizations serving young children and their families.

Summer reading programs will start soon. The national theme this year is Unearth a Story and centers on dinosaurs. Other programs are in the works for kids during the summer break.

The adult education program will have a graduation of new GED recipients soon. The GED program continues to provide resources to adult learners to achieve their high school equivalence certificate. A new program, Integrated Education and Training, recently started, and students are preparing for Microsoft certification in PowerPoint and Excel.

—Don Wetterauer, MLS, PHD
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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.

kids at APL

Hi, y'all! My name is Casey Costa, and I've been the Youth Services Librarian at APL since August. You may recognize me (and probably my boys!) from the front desk, where I started working in 2019. I wanted to share some of the things we've been working on and some things we have coming up.

I've always been passionate about kids, reading, and making reading more accessible and exciting for kids, even before I started in this position. That's why I started about this time last year with a little facelift of the kids' collections. I created a chapter book section, which bridges the gap for new readers between the beginning reader books (think Dick and Jane) and the regular kids' fiction (think Harry Potter). Separating out these books makes it easier for new readers to find something on their level.

I also reorganized our fiction books a bit to have a little more of a bookstore feel. They say not to judge a book by its cover, but a lot of us are doing that, right? I know I do, and a lot of our books have some pretty cool covers! We've put many of the series into bins to make it easier to find them, and we've forward faced as many of the books as we can. People seem to like these setups, and the numbers don't lie—checkouts for the chapter books and the fiction books are up 25%, meaning 400 more books got checked out in 2025 than in 2024!

Another project we've been working on is a complete overhaul of our picture books. Picture books are AWESOME, but in a sea of books sorted by author, it can be pretty difficult to find a book on any particular topic. So, we've re-sorted these by subject, and it wasn't easy. It took almost 9 months to do with careful consideration for the main subject of each story, but we've narrowed all 2,000+ picture books down to 9 categories: animals, celebrations and holidays, favorite characters, concepts, things to do, imagine, all about me, science, tales, and transportation. Our toddler families are excited about the change, and we hope you'll come check it out.

I've also moved around the collection a bit to make a display area. We've always displayed picture books above the picture-



book shelves, but we wanted to create an area to highlight other books, too, not just picture books. We look forward to displaying seasonal books, highlighting different holidays, and maybe just putting out some fun subjects here and there.

Collection stuff is all well and good, but what about programs? We took the time over the fall and winter to make all of these changes to the collection so they would be done by the time we got to our busiest program season, summer. In the meantime, we've kept Toddler Time going every Thursday morning at 10, with strong attendance. We've had regular class visits from Alpine Child Development Center, the Alpine Montessori school, and area homeschool groups, and many kids have been in to make things with our 3-D printers.

So, what comes next? I've been planning our Summer Reading Program for some time now, and we're using the national theme this year, "Unearth a Story," centering on dinosaurs. In 2026 we'll be bringing back TinkerCAD classes, collaborating with the McDonald Observatory folks to hold programs here, and offering a few new programs that we're not quite ready to unveil. Lots of things are in the works behind the scenes. Stay tuned!

—Casey Costa, Youth Services Librarian

Adult Ed at APL

With the end of our academic year rapidly approaching, we will soon begin plans for our fourth graduation ceremony at APL. We have five graduates and expect a few more. Our remaining students have completed at least one of the required GED tests or have passed the practice test and are planning to take the test soon. We are very excited to celebrate and honor their perseverance and hard work and to celebrate another year of GED at Alpine Public Library.

We are also excited to announce the start of a new class. One key component of adult education and literacy is to provide classes, like ESL, that help students gain a better understanding of English or classes, like GED, that help students obtain their high school equivalency. Another key component is to offer classes that provide skills that will benefit students in a workplace setting. These classes are called Integrated Education and Training, or IET. In February, we began a Microsoft Certification Class. This class will give students a thorough understanding of PowerPoint and Excel and prepare them for the Microsoft certification test. Certificates in Microsoft applications can improve a person's position in the workplace or help attract employment for those seeking to reenter the workforce.

—Bianca Barrera, Adult Education Coordinator/ Bookkeeper



Alpine Public Library

ESL & Citizenship Classes
Clases de inglés y ciudadanía

English Conversation
Conversación en inglés

Citizenship
Ciudadanía



SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for a fun weekend!

When: Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7

What: Family Fun Putt Putt Weekend

How: We will be revamping the Alpine Public Library into an 18-hole putt-putt golf course!

Why: This will be our summer fundraiser.

There are many ways to get involved:

- Sponsor a hole
- Donate golf balls or putters
- Volunteer to help



Most importantly, plan to come out and have some fun! We are even planning an over-21 golf tournament with some special plans in the works.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Special Donations

In Memory of	From
Mary Jane Morgan	Jeremy Morgan
Elizabeth R. Goettle	Mando and Jerri Garza
In Honor of	From
Kathy Bork	Sheryl & Terry Horton
Kathy Donnell	Julie Balovich
Kathy Donnell	Lori Donnell
Kathy & Albert Bork	Ken Durham & Patsy Culver

Find out what's happening this month at APL at alpinepubliclibrary.org/calendar/

Thank You
Business,
Friends!

*Alpine Radio
Big Bend Coffee Roasters
Cheshire Cat Antiques
Desert Heart Jewelry
Front Street Books
Hog Eye Cattle Company
Salon Americana
Talley-Reed Insurance
Twin Peaks Liquors
Vast Graphics
Wassermann Wranch
WR Ranch
WTX Real Estate Photography*



2026



March 27

Linda Hedges, Rick Reese, and Kathy and Albert Bork on New Zealand

7 PM, AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room

If you have an adventure you'd like to share in 2026, contact Matt Walter:
matt.walter.777@gmail.com

Alpine Public Library Biblioteca Pública de Alpine

Toddler Time

Actividades infantiles en inglés

Thursdays at 10:00 am
for ages 0 to 5 years

Jueves a las 10:00 am
edades de 0 a 5 años

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Re-Reads

Gently Used Books

A Project of the Alpine Public Library

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

Amazon Storefront

aplmembers.org/aplireads

SALE
Buy one, get one

March religion & inspiration
April gardening
May health, fitness, & diet