

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 2023

## What's happening at Alpine Public Library?

The Alpine Public Library is preparing for our fall semester of GED students. Thanks to our excellent tutors, the first group did really well. So far, one student has passed the official GED exam with flying colors. A second student has passed the required practice tests and is ready to take the official test. The third student is almost ready. The fall semester starts September 11 with a new group. We are making the program available in the tri-county area and hope to recruit students from Presidio and Jeff Davis counties as well as Brewster County.

The library received a Texas Reads 2024 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The purpose of the grant is to help mitigate learning losses, generate enthusiasm for reading, and augment students' social-emotional learning for kids who started school during 2020. Each participating student in grades 4–7 will be given a copy of Kate DiCamillo's *The Tiger Rising* for

book discussions and other program-related activities.

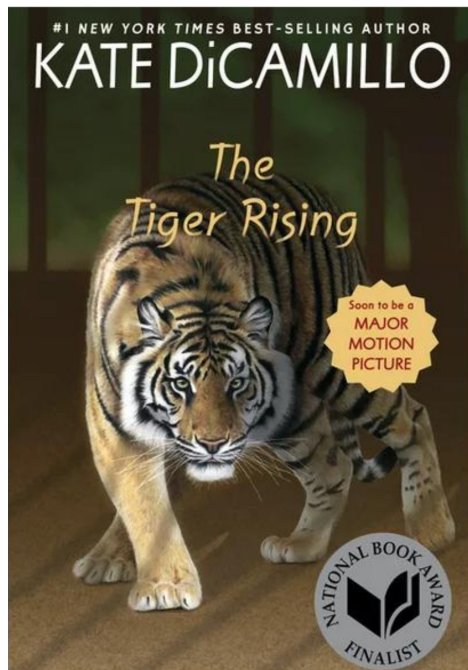
We plan to launch the Big Bend Regional Resource Directory (BBRRD) at a meeting in September. The directory will be an online resource of valuable and reliable information for residents of

and visitors to the Big Bend area. The directory is a work in progress, as we will regularly edit and update it. Read Lee Smith's BBRRD article elsewhere in this issue.

All of us at Alpine Public Library would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of library volunteer Cindy Sotelo. Cin-

dy has been providing outreach services to homebound library patrons for 10 years. She delivers library books and materials, on request, to library patrons who are physically unable to come to the library. The service is available either on a temporary basis or more long term. Thank you, Cindy. We appreciate all you do to help make the library available to everyone in our community.

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



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## Special Donations

In Memory of:

From:

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Rick Keith

Paul Will

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Judith Parson

Bobbie Vandyke

In Honor of:

From:

Marilyn Terry,  
celebrating her birthday

Doug & Rebecca Elliot

Bill Elliot, celebrating his  
birthday

Liz Rogers

Kathy & Billito Donnell



# Travel Talks

# 2023



### September 29

Marilyn and Ralph Gruebel present There Be Banjos Ahead: A Tour of East Texas Wineries

### October 27

Valerie Naylor presents This Land is Your Land: Seeing all of the USA from Coast to Coast and Beyond

**7 PM in the AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room**

*If you have an adventure you'd like to share in 2024, contact Lee Smith at [leepsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:leepsmith@yahoo.com) or Jim Robertson at [jpz1100@yahoo.com](mailto:jpz1100@yahoo.com).*

# 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](http://aplmembers.org/aplrereads)

## Spanish Classes at APL

Beginner 11 AM to 12 PM  
Tuesday & Wednesday

Advanced 11 AM to 12 PM  
Friday

Sign up at APL or 432-837-2621.

ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PROGRAMS FOR YOUR  
CLASSROOM  
2023-2024



## PreK and Kinder "MyPlate"

Nutrition Program

## "Happy Teeth"

Dental Health Program

## Grades 1 and 2

## What's Inside Me?

Human Anatomy Program

## Tinkercad: 3d Printing

## "Happy Teeth"

Dental Health Program

## CUBELETS

Electronic Blocks/Robots

## Grades 3 and 4

## What's Inside Me?

Human Anatomy Program

## Tinkercad: 3d Printing

## "Happy Teeth"

Dental Health Program

## CUBELETS

Electronic Blocks/Robots

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

MARY BETH GARRETT  
CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

[kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org](mailto:kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org)

837-2621

**Thank you,  
Business  
Friends!**

*Alpine Framing  
Alpine Radio  
Big Bend Coffee Roasters  
Cheshire Cat Antiques  
Desert Heart Jewelry*

*Front Street Books  
Hog Eye Cattle Company  
Out West Feed & Supply  
Porter's  
Salon Americana*

*Talley-Reed Insurance  
Twin Peaks Liquors  
Vast Graphics  
Wassermann Wranch  
WR Ranch*

# FROM COMMUNITY CONVERSATION TO COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Residents and tourists in the Big Bend will soon have ready access to information about health care and social services by tapping into the Big Bend Regional Resource Directory (BBRRD), an online database of organizations and programs serving the tri-county area. Looking for a dentist, a ride to the doctor, a public restroom? Big Bend Regional Resource Directory can help.

BBRRD got its start back in October of 2021, when Alpine Public Library hosted a community conversation on health care in the region. The two dominant issues identified in the forum were the lack of health care resources and the lack of information about existing ones. Participants identified a need for an up-to-date health resource information clearinghouse. In 2022, the Big Bend Regional Hospital District awarded a grant to APL to create a clearinghouse, a searchable web-based information depository that can be accessed anywhere by residents and visitors alike.

APL partnered with the nonprofit San Antonio Community Resource Directory (SACRD) in building BBRRD. The SACRD platform provides a straightforward format for organizations and programs that highlights details like hours, locations, phone numbers, and services offered. It also lists links to additional information on websites and Facebook pages.

Users can search by service category or name and view the results on a map of the area. Information can be saved by sharing using e-mail, text, print, or QR code. For residents and visitors without internet access, area libraries and other agencies will be ready to help with retrieving and printing information about resources. Service providers and users will help keep BBRRD up to date by suggesting edits.

As we have moved from a community conversation to a community resource—the Big Bend Regional Resource Directory—a huge information gap in our geographically remote part of the world will be closed.

—Lee Smith

*BBRRD is funded by a grant from Big Bend Regional Hospital District.*



# GED AT APL

For information, contact Bianca at 432-837-2621.

"WONDERFUL TEACHERS WHO ARE  
RETIRED AND YET FULLY DEVOTED"

## *Student Testimonial*

Lydia Porillo

"I am enjoying the H.S.E. program very much. We have wonderful teachers, who are retired and yet fully devoted to teaching this class. I would like to thank the Alpine Public Library for providing this program."



”

"FRIENDLY AND A JUDGEMENT  
FREE ZONE"

## *Student Testimonial*

Seirra

"My experience with the GED program has been amazing. The class is friendly and a judgment free zone. I never had to be afraid to ask questions. The instructors are very kind and helpful. The program is a great way to get your GED and I highly recommend it."



”

"YOU CAN LEARN SO MUCH AND  
MEET AMAZING PEOPLE"

## *Student Testimonial*

Sarali

"I'm grateful for this program and everything it has taught me! I would recommend anyone to this program because you can learn so much and meet amazing people to guide you through."

”

## ACHOO! HACK HACK! SNIFF SNIFF!

These are the sounds of the part-time volunteers who process donations to Re-Reads. These are also the sounds of the volunteers who welcome those donations with open arms—and nasal passages and lungs.

We work hard to get your donations on the shelves in Re-Reads or in the library, but our work is often hampered by the condition of a donation. We get boxes with decades of dust glued to the books, with live and dead insects, with mildew, and, once, with human cremains. Some of our volunteers have severe asthma, most have allergies, all have a horror of roaches and spiders (and human cremains).

We spend inordinate amounts of time cleaning books before we can even check whether we can use them. If you would take a few minutes to clean your donation before bringing it to Re-Reads, we would save enough time to process even more books, which would make for a better bookstore. We love our bookstore and we love your generosity, but we love our volunteers, too. A little TLC before bringing in your donations would go a long way toward showing your love.

—Kathy Bork



**FAMILY  
PHYSICS FUN!**  
NOVEMBER 4, 2023  
ALPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
805 W. AVE. E.  
837 2621  
10:00AM-12:00PM  
AGES 4-12  
[ALPINEPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG](http://ALPINEPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG)

Find out what's happening  
this month at APL at  
[alpinepubliclibrary.org/calendar/](http://alpinepubliclibrary.org/calendar/)



# OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER

Ryder Romero is the son of Guillermo Romero and the late Molly Kline. He is nine years old and a fourth grader at Alpine Elementary School. Ryder has been an active participant in library programs since he was six, and he became a volunteer this past June.

Ryder's duties include preparing activities for programs, organizing the MakerSpace, caring for and maintaining Cubelets (robotic blocks), and serving as a tutor for Family Science Night. He is learning how to check in and shelve books in the children's area, and he likes to assist library patrons who need help.

For fun, Ryder likes to play "challenging" video games like Minecraft. He also enjoys riding his bike and caring for the chickens he raises in his backyard. When he grows up, Ryder hopes to be a police officer, or a fire fighter, or a sheriff, or a bone surgeon—maybe all four!

Bursting with energy and always smiling, Ryder is a delight today and a beacon for the future.

—Mary Beth Garrett, Children's Librarian



## kids at APL

**Teen Board Game Saturdays**

Ages 12-18  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Game changes weekly

October 14th 10:00am-12:00pm  
Ages 4-12  
**MONSTER MASH**  
Alpine Public Library  
805 W. Ave. E  
837-2621  
alpinepubliclibrary.org  
Monster Macarena!  
Monster Munch Making!  
Monster Stories!

**PAJAMA STORY TIME!**

September 16, 6:30pm  
Alpine Public Library  
805 W. Ave. E, Alpine TX  
Don your pajamas and join us for festive fall fun!  
READING  
Ages 0-10  
SCARECROW ACTIVITIES  
CRAFTS

## DARK SKY SPEAKER SERIES

APL DARK SKY SERIES PRESENTS:  
**NICOLE WILSON**  
OPTO-MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN  
from the MCDONALD OBSERVATORY  
**Sept. 30th, 6:00pm**  
**Alpine Public Library**  
805 W. Ave. E 837-2621  
What exactly does an Opto-Mechanical Technician do?  
Come find out with us at the library!  
REFRESHMENTS SERVED

The Dark Sky Speaker Series will feature Nicole Wilson, Opto-Mechanical Technician from the McDonald Observatory. Ms. Wilson will share her role in the operation of the 91 hexagonal mirrors that form the reflecting surface of the Hobby-Eberly Telescope, the third largest optical telescope in the world.



# The Stars Were Out, Big and Bright

On Saturday, July 8, Big Bend dance enthusiasts turned out in force to walk the red carpet into the Granada Theatre for Alpine Public Library's Dancing with Big Bend's Stars fundraiser.

Seven teams competed to see which could raise the most money for the library. The team of Nora Hubbard and Matheo Karleen took home two trophies—most money raised the night of the event and the dancers' choice award. The Kiwanis Low Steppers—Jimmy Case, Marilyn Gruebel, and Ralph Gruebel—channeled the Bee Gees with a sparkling rendition of "Stayin' Alive" to win the trophy for the most money raised overall. The remaining teams danced with verve and made a huge contribution to the success of the event: the City of Alpine team, the Alpine Public Library Zumba team, Las Adelitas, Greg and Valynda Henington, and the lone soloist, Rubbie Ortiz Domínguez. Audience response was raucous and supportive. At the end of the evening, the dancers had raised around \$9,000 for library operations.

An event like this would not be possible without the behind-the-scenes work of volunteers. A special thank you to event coordinators, Nash Traylor and Cullen Monaco, and to Heather Yadon, of the Alpine

Visitors' Center, who transformed the already beautiful Granada Theatre into a magical dance venue. Members of the Sul Ross State University baseball and football teams helped set up and break down the event, which our "well-seasoned" volunteers really appreciated. Special thanks to Benjamin García, owner of the Granada Theatre, for use of the space and technical support. Amelie Urbanczyk again served as emcee extraordinaire, and Chris Ruggia DJ'd like it was 1980, only with better equipment.

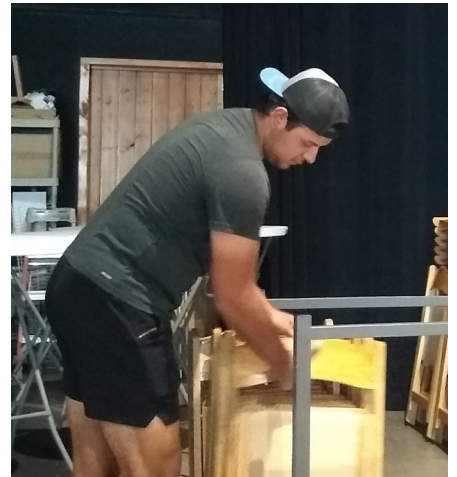
Big Bend's businesses step up to help us over and over again; we couldn't operate at the level we do without them. Special thanks to these sponsors: American Legion, Chateau Wright, H Group, Kiwanis, Pinkie's Twin Peaks Liquors, Porter's, Americana Salon, Bread Garden Bakery, Eva's Salon, Jugo, Roux Alpine, Santana's, Skelton's Runway, Talley-Reed Insurance, Kathy and Albert Bork, Stephanie and Jeff Haynes, Sharon Kelner, and Vast Graphics.

So, another fun fundraiser is in the record books, but planning is already under way for the 2024 version. Stay tuned and start practicing!

—Kathy Bork







DANCERS &  
VOLUNTEERS  
STARS ALL!







Alpine Public Library  
805 West Avenue E  
Alpine, TX 79830

Phone: 432-837-2621  
[www.alpinepubliclibrary.org](http://www.alpinepubliclibrary.org)

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## 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](http://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](http://www.alpinepubliclibrary.org).