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. Cindy 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:**
- Vince Lavallu
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- Ike Roberts
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**From:**
- Ginger Elliot
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**In Honor of:**
- Marilyn Terry, celebrating her birthday
- Doug & Rebecca Elliot
- Bill Elliot, celebrating his birthday
- Liz Rogers

**From:**
- Marilyn Terry, celebrating her birthday
- Doug & Rebecca Elliot
- Liz Rogers

Kathy & Billito Donnell

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### 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 lleepsmith@yahoo.com or Jim Robertson at jpz1100@yahoo.com.*

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### 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](aplmembers.org/aplrereads)

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### 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.

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**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
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**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

**Grades 3 and 4**
What's Inside Me? Human Anatomy Program
Tinkercad: 3d Printing
"Happy Teeth" Dental Health Program

**CUBELETS**
Electronic Blocks/Roobs

For more Information:
- Mary Beth Garrett
  - Children’s Librarian
  - kids@alpinepubliclibrary.org
  - 837-2621

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**RE-RIBBON**
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](aplmembers.org/aplrereads)
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.
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
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

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 Dominguez. 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 Urbancyzk 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!
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.

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