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Bozeman Public Library Welcomes Carnegie Libraries Traveling Exhibit in January

The Bozeman Public Library welcomes a traveling exhibit on Montana’s Carnegie libraries in the month of January. The exhibit is part of a year-long celebration of the libraries in connection with the release of the book *The Best Gift: Montana’s Carnegie Libraries*. The book’s author, Kate Hampton, will hold a lecture and book signing at the Bozeman Public Library the evening of January 23rd.

Residents are invited to come learn more about the history of Montana’s 17 Carnegie libraries, which were built across the state at the turn of the 20th century with the help of funding provided by Andrew Carnegie.

In Bozeman, it was October of 1901 when the city clerk applied for Carnegie funds to build a library. Six months later, Carnegie’s secretary James Bertram responded with an offer of $15,000 for the building. Architect Charles S. Haire designed it—his fourth Carnegie library commission in two years. The building was dedicated in January of 1904 and served the community for 80 years. Eventually, more space was needed to meet expanding demand and a new library opened in 1981. The Carnegie building is now home to a law firm.

In *The Best Gift: Montana’s Carnegie Libraries*, author Kate Hampton brings each of the libraries’ stories to life, showing how they impacted communities. Captivating photographs by Tom Ferris transport us to the libraries’ doorsteps and within. *New York Times* bestselling author Jamie Ford of Great Falls provides the forward, sharing his memories on the role libraries have played in his life.
The traveling exhibit highlights the importance of libraries, the financial contributions Carnegie made to help build them, their individual architectural styles and the significant role of Montana women.

The Montana Carnegie libraries traveling exhibit will be on display at the Bozeman Public Library, 626 E. Main St., for the month of January. Kate Hampton will hold a lecture and book signing at the library on January 23rd at 6:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Carmen Clark, Bozeman Public Library Adult Education & Outreach, at (406) 582-2400.

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