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Tim King
Programming Coordinator
Livingston-Park County Library
(406) 222-0862

Melissa Jensen
Community Outreach Coordinator
The Montana History Foundation
(406) 449-3770

Livingston-Park County Library Welcomes
Carnegie Libraries Traveling Exhibit in March

The Livingston-Park County Public Library welcomes a traveling exhibit on Montana’s Carnegie libraries in the month of March. 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 library on the evening of March 12th.

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 Livingston, it was early in 1902 when the city clerk wrote to Carnegie’s secretary James Bertram on the city’s behalf. The clerk wrote two additional letters before hearing back from Bertram nearly a year later, with Bertram requesting more information on the community. Livingston’s mayor obliged and not long after the city learned it would receive $10,000 from Carnegie to build their library. The library opened to the public in October of 1904.

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.

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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 Livingston-Park County Public Library, 228 W. Callendar St., for the month of March. Kate Hampton will hold a lecture and book signing at the library on **Thursday, March 12th at 6:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact Tim King, Livingston-Park County Public Library Programming Coordinator, at (406) 222-0862.

The exhibit is made possible by [The Montana History Foundation](http://mthistory.org), with generous funding provided by the Park County Community Foundation, Tom and Barbi Donnelley (The Donnelley Foundation) and BNSF.

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