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Scottsbluff library receives new computers, open house planned

The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library has 14 new computers and other technology tools purchased through the Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities project.

According to Director Abby Yellman, the computers are installed and ready for use by the public.

"The computers can be used free of charge to access court records, find health information, take advantage of educational opportunities, hunt for jobs, explore small business options and more," she said.

The computers and furnishings are valued at \$27,532.00.

"The broadband technology

grant presents an unprecedented opportunity for many Nebraska public libraries to upgrade their public computing capacity for serving community residents," said Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission director. "Technology enhancements will result in measurable increases in use of library computers for E-Government, learning, employment information and more. The ultimate benefit goes to the many Nebraskans who will have greater access to library computers and high-speed connectivity networks for personal, education and job-related needs."

The public is invited to the library on Tuesday, Aug. 14 at 4:30

p.m. to celebrate the launch of the Public Computer Center. "Our open house is a great opportunity for the community to explore the new technology available for use in the library," said Yellman. "We are honored to have special guest Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican on hand to celebrate with us."

She said that refreshments would be served courtesy of Subway.

Yellman said that in addition to the open house, a special training session, "Navigating the Waters of Legal Information and Self-Help for Library Patrons" will be at 5 p.m. The session, which will last approximately one hour, is

free to anyone in the community interested in attending.

The community project is supported in part by the Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

For more information about the open house or training session, contact the library at 308-630-6250.