Did Santa bring you a new Kindle for Christmas? Do you already have a Kindle but want to learn more about how to use it? If so, join Hastings Memorial Library staff for a Kindle Basics class. An instructor from Mid-Plains Community College will be on hand to teach all the tips and tricks needed to use a Kindle like a pro.

The class will be held on Jan. 5 at 9 a.m. The session will last approximately 2-3 hours and is free of charge. Anyone interested in attending please call the library at (308) 352-4894 to register.

This class is made possible by a partnership between Mid-Plains Community College and the Nebraska Library Commission and is being funded through a combination of federal and grant funds. This is the same funding source that has provided new computer equipment for the library in the past.

The U.S. Department of Commerce awarded the Library Commission a $2,416,403 grant to fund Nebraska's public computer center project, Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities. The three-year project is designed to expand broadband capacity; upgrade public computing resources in libraries; and advance access to employment, learning, health information, and E-Government services.

The Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, provides funding to expand broadband access and adoption in communities.

In addition to the federal grant, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will provide $1,251,786 in matching funds, including a grant and technical assistance to support the project. The total project budget is $3,668,189. Funding for this Kickoff launch meeting was provided by Connected Nation through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Every day libraries serve people who use public access computers to find jobs and fill out job applications. Individuals are looking for authoritative medical information for themselves and their family members. They are using state government services (E-Government) to apply for various programs, gain access to court documents and legal assistance, etc.

Hastings Memorial Library's computer center is open to the public during regular library hours. Those with questions are encouraged to stop by the library at 505 Central Avenue in Grant or call (308) 352-4894.