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Kindle E-Book Readers Available from Libraries in Gulf & Liberty Counties

The Northwest Regional Library System recently received a grant to purchase new Kindle Fire tablets for Gulf and Liberty County libraries. Each of the tablets will be preloaded with more than 50 new bestsellers that will be immediately accessible from each tablet's library. In addition, patrons will enjoy access to the library's OverDrive collection of e-books and downloadable audiobooks as well as numerous magazine titles through the library's Zinio service. Patrons can also use the tablets to access the Internet wherever Wi-Fi is available, use photo and video apps, as well as being able to take advantage of other tablet functions.

Tablets initially are available to adult library cardholders who have no restrictions or outstanding charges on their accounts. Tablets include a charger and basic instructions and can be borrowed for a three-week loan period. They may be renewed twice unless there is a hold placed on the tablet by another patron.

The grant from the Panhandle Library Access Network (PLAN) provided for the purchase of seven Kindle Fires. PLAN is a membership network of libraries throughout the Florida Panhandle that collaborates with partners to provide leadership to improve access to information and to enable its members to address the region's needs for education, economic development, and improved quality of life.

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Liberty County Librarian Gerard Giordano said, “We’re very grateful to our partners at PLAN, and we’re excited to be able to offer these items to our patrons. They’re very much like carrying around a library in your pocket. We’re using this grant to determine how practical it might be to circulate tablet readers like the *Kindle Fire* on a wider scale.”

The Liberty County libraries consist of the Harrell Memorial Public Library in Bristol and the Jimmy Weaver Memorial Library in Hosford. The Gulf County libraries consist of the Corinne Costin Gibson Memorial Public Library in Port St. Joe and the Charles Whitehead Public Library in Wewahitchka. For more information on these devices, please call 643-2247 or 229-8879.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Gerard Giordano at 850 643-2247 or email at ggiordano@nwrls.com.