

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Digital Bookmobile to stop in Milford

By Jennifer Antonik
The Chronicle

MILFORD — A national tour is headed for Milford next week hoping to send local reading skills in overdrive mode.

The 42-foot toterhome Digital Bookmobile powered by Overdrive, “the industry-leading digital reading platform for more than 40,000 libraries & schools worldwide,” according to the company, will be at the Milford Public Library Friday, Aug. 17.

Inside the nationally travelled truck, locals can find computes, touch screen stations and more, ready for them to take e-reading for a test drive.

“We want to make sure we can get them ready from start to finish. It’s a free-flowing day. People can come in and out as they have time,” Marketing & Events Specialist Joe Skelley said.

“We are honored to have been chosen for this visit and we are hoping that the Milford community will come out and see just what the library through the OverDrive services has to offer,” said Kay Hudson, director of the Milford Library.

The Digital Bookmobile will be staffed with a professional ready to share Overdrive’s new app, Libby,



SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

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which can help readers connect their personal devices to the Milford Public Library and other libraries.

“Libby: she’s what we call the one tap reading app. We like to say you’re one tap away from your current book, library items and your shelf where you have everything that’s checked out. It’s all free, the only thing you need is your library card,” Mr. Skelley added.

“It’s really about making reading accessible. It’s not about being in competition with your local library. We’re like your second library branch that never closes. And even better, there’s no fines or late fees because at the end of the time, the books automatically return themselves.”

Like titles found at the library, users can renew books as needed.

Overdrive also works directly with publishers to ensure ebooks never lose their original contents.

“That means all the formats are preserved. You’re not losing fonts, pictures, drawings or whatever is in there. For example, in the Harry Potter books, there’s drawings at the start of each chapter. You won’t lose those in the e-book,” Mr. Skelley said.

Users can, however, change fonts and backgrounds if they desire.

“I joke with my grandmother that no, you don’t have to look for large prints book because they can all be large print books,” he chuckled.

Definitions and an open dyslexic font is available through the app, as well, in hopes of making reading more fun and accessible to every-

one. But the best part? Everything is free, including the visit to the Digital Bookmobile.

“The truck is a toterhome which is kind of the most tricked out version of an RV. We’ve done some customization to do what we do. We’ve traveled across the United States and Canada helping readers get better connected,” Mr. Skelley said.

“The truck is fully ADA accessible with a wheelchair lift. It’s available for all ages and stages. We welcome all people aboard. It’s just a great way to connect with your public library and a good reminder of the services the library provides.”

News Editor Jennifer Antonik can be reached at jantonik@newszap.com.

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