

## Favorite Time Of Year

Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

Spring is my favorite season. I love the newness we experience each spring, the awakening of our spirits and the world, the fresh air that flows through the house from an open window. I love shedding my heavy winter coat for a light spring jacket and the gentle rain outside my window.

While spring is my favorite season, my favorite time of the year is November and December. I love the focus on gratitude, giving, and family and friends that happens at this time of year. My family has some favorite traditions, as so many do. One of my absolute favorite traditions is making homemade bread. I don't remember a time in my life when I didn't bake bread with my mom. Some of my fondest memories from childhood into adulthood are centered around this family tradition. I do bake bread throughout the year, but the bread made for Thanksgiving and Christmas tastes better than it does at other times in the year. A new cherished memory is baking bread with my nieces, using my mom's recipe.

I absolutely love listening to Christmas music, traditional and modern. I have way too many holiday decorations. Each year as I am pulling out the containers, I say that I need to get rid of some. But then I take the decorations out and they each evoke some wonderful memory, and I happily put them out on display. I have ornaments gifted to me by my maternal grandpa and from my mother-in-law; decorations that belonged to my mom or were made by our son. While I don't love the cold weather of January and February, there is something magical about the first crisp day of fall and the first snowfall of the season. Someone remind me of that when January and February roll around. I hope you will take a moment to reflect on your time-honored traditions. I would love to have you share them with me.

As we approach the end of another year, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to the North Dakota Library Community for all that you do. Your dedication to serving our communities, your innovative spirit, and your unwavering commitment to literacy and learning are truly inspiring.

Your hard work has made a significant impact on the lives of countless individuals. Whether it's helping a child discover the joy of reading, assisting a student with research, or providing a safe and welcoming space for all, your contributions are invaluable.

I am particularly proud of the way you have adapted to challenges and embraced new opportunities. Your resilience and creativity have allowed us to continue providing essential services to our patrons, even in the most difficult of times. Thank you for your dedication, your passion, and your partnership. I am honored to work alongside such talented and committed professionals.



## Native Ways of Knowing: Dr. Debbie Reese

Is there significance in one's hair? Does hair identify a person? Answers to these questions might differ based on an individual's culture or personality. In an October Native Ways of Knowing Virtual Book Club and Webinar series, Dr. Debbie Reese spoke about Native youth and their hair. Dr. Reese also shared children's books that address the topic.

Native American teachings and practices about hair vary by tribe, so the following are examples of teachings and practices. They are not universal to all Native American tribes.

- hair is considered sacred and an integral part of who one is as an individual and a member of the family and community
- long hair represents one's strong cultural identity
- proper grooming and care of one's hair is an act of self-respect
- family and tribe values guide hairstyle and ornamentation
- braiding a child's hair is a time of bonding and nurtures relationships
- it is disrespectful to touch someone's hair without permission (Stensgar, 2019)

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## WI-FI Hotspots Through E-rate

Submitted by **Al Peterson**

Starting in Funding Year 2025, WI-FI hotspots that are intended for use off premise are eligible. Commercially available mobile wireless Internet services that can be supported by and delivered with WI-FI hotspots are eligible provided that they are:

1. Portable,
2. A single device and not bundled with a multi-functional device such as a smartphone or laptop,
3. For use with a commercially available wireless internet service,
4. Capable of delivering wireless service to any broadband enabled user end equipment such as notebook, laptop, tablet, etc.
5. WI-FI hotspots that are actively circulated, not stored on a shelf for future use or as a replacement for lost, damaged, or stolen hotspots.

There are three constraints of the Wi-Fi hotspot initiative to limit funding and allow for the equitable distribution of Wi-Fi hotspots and services to students, school staff, and library patrons, and to ensure cost effectiveness. These constraints are:

1. A set three-year budget,
2. Funding caps on services and Wi-Fi hotspot devices,
3. An annual request limit (the applicant must not request more than 45% of their budget in one year).

The budget for Wi-Fi hotspots will be on a fixed three-year cycle, beginning with Funding Years 2025 through 2027. After three years, the budgets will reset in Funding Year 2028. Funding caps for the maximum pre-discount costs are recurring wireless Internet service: \$15 per month and \$90 per device.

There is still time to participate in this program if you are interested. Contact me at [alpeterson@nd.gov](mailto:alpeterson@nd.gov) and I can answer questions and help walk you through the application process.

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## Calling All Library Champions

**Mary J Soucie, State Librarian**

Are you ready to make a difference for libraries? Join the Chief Officers for State Libraries (COSLA) in Washington, D.C., on March 5-6, 2025, for the **Voices for Libraries** advocacy event. This is your chance to meet with your elected officials and advocate for the issues that matter most to libraries.

Attendees will have the chance to be part of a powerful group of library advocates. They will gain valuable insights from library leaders and policymakers and have an opportunity to connect with other library professionals and advocates from across the country. This is an opportunity to help shape the future of libraries by advocating for increased funding and support at the Federal level.

The Voices for Libraries 2025 event will focus on advancing:

- Federal Funding for Libraries
- Reauthorization of the Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA)
- Support for Literacy
- Broadband as a Human Right

The briefing day will be on March 5 and will include a session for brand new advocates in the morning and a general briefing day in the afternoon for all attendees. Materials will be provided to assist in the advocacy work. NDSL will coordinate a meeting(s) prior to the event to introduce our advocates to each other, share the materials we'll be providing to legislators and answering questions.

Each state has a limited number of spots available for this event. Only 5 spots currently remain. The cost to attend the Voices for Library event is \$89, payable by credit card at the time of registration, plus the cost of travel. All related expenses will need to be paid by the individual attendees.

We encourage you to invite your library board members, Friends of the Library, and foundation members to join you. The more voices we have, the stronger our impact will be. We have never had more than three people attend the advocacy event in Washington D.C. in my ten-year tenure. It would be wonderful to have the maximum number of advocates meet with our legislators in 2025.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact the State Library at [ndsladm@nd.gov](mailto:ndsladm@nd.gov).

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of something big. Your voice matters!

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# A New Library is Born!

Submitted by Monica Struck

One month ago, on November 5, 2024, people around North Dakota turned out to vote. When placed next to the more well publicized national and state races and measures, it is easy to overlook what happened at the local level. However, there was something that happened in a small town in North Dakota that is very exciting: A library was born! With nearly 77% of the vote, the city of Halliday voted to establish a public library. Congratulations, Halliday!

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Tammy Kruger

### Combatting Stereotypes

Oxford Dictionary defines "stereotype" as "a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing". Stereotypes most commonly tie into gender, sexual orientation, age, race, social-economic status, and religion. However, human beings are multi-faceted creatures! We are not meant to fit into an orderly box of strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes. Because of this, stereotypes often prove harmful, even those that, on the surface, might seem positive. Being able to combat stereotypes is not only a critical thinking skill, but also a social and emotional skill.

#### The Science Behind Stereotyping

In the animal world, creatures make snap decisions to help keep themselves safe. This is part of their survival instinct. In this case, humans are not really all that different! We "size up" others, typically based on race, age, and gender, to determine who is friend and who is foe. Our brains establish predictions for when we meet new people who possess characteristics we have deemed either safe or dangerous. The more often our predictions are proven correct, the stronger their pull becomes (Cox, 2022, & The Psychology, 2006). However, this is where stereotyping becomes a problem. While dynamics within the animal kingdom tends to be fairly cut-and-dry, humans can (and often do!) possess a multitude of attributes. Generalizing people without considering all their different sides, downplays what they actually have to offer others. This is a loss both for the stereotyped individuals as well as the communities in which they reside.

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## Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

Submitted by AI Peterson

There are two more North Dakota State Library webinars this month. The Battle of the Books Check In with Literacy Specialist Tammy Kruger gives an opportunity to discuss how the competition between teams statewide is going. Also coming in December is a new webinar, *Introduction to First Amendment Audits*. If you are unfamiliar or all too familiar to First Amendment Audits, please come to this informative webinar to help you become aware and prepared.

#### [Battle of the Books Check In](#)

**December 19, 2024. 11:00 AM -11:30 AM**

As we get ready to begin our competitions, I wanted to provide an opportunity for collaboration amongst the competing teams. In this webinar, we will split off into two groups (Big School / Little School) to give you a chance to talk with like-sized schools and discuss how you will be running your program. We will also save some time for Q & A.

Not registered for this year but interested in seeing how other schools do their programming? Join us!

#### [Introduction to First Amendment Audits](#)

**December 30, 2024. 2:00 PM – 2:45 PM**

What would you do if someone came into your library and started recording a video or approached you asking questions while recording the conversation? This is a social media trend known as a First Amendment Audit. In this webinar, we'll explore what a First Amendment Audit is, how to handle the situation, and what steps that are needed to preemptively to prepare for citizen first amendment audit.

Check out all the great webinar opportunities available this month. The list can be found on our website at <https://www.library.nd.gov/traininglibraries>. You can also find out about webinars and events from the Events Calendar <https://www.library.nd.gov/events-calendar>.

# Library Tidbits

[Alfred Dickey Public Library](#) is hosting a free Local Author Fair with 21 state and local authors selling their books.

[Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library](#) is hosting a Story Time with Mrs. Claus.

[Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library](#) is hosting a 2025 Bookmark Design Contest

[Dickinson Area Public Library](#) hosted a dinosaur presentation with rare replicas and fossils from the Badlands Dinosaur Museum

Edgeley Public Library received a donation from AgCountry Farm and Credit Services and Mike Long.

[Fargo Public Libraries](#) are accepting donations for their mitten trees.

[Fargo Public Library](#) hosted a Family Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

[Fargo Public Library](#) hosted "The Architecture of Surrounded by Enemy, Denby M. Deegan" Presentation.

[James River Valley Library System](#) is hosting a Holiday Open House on December 13 with pictures with Santa, storytime, cowboy poetry, a holiday musical, and a Christmas carols sing-along.

[Minot Public Library](#) hosts a READ program where kids read to dogs.

[Minot Public Library](#) and the Minot Park District have updated the Oak Park Story Stroll.

[Ward County Public Library](#) received a \$10,000 grant from the Minot Area Community Foundation to support the purchase of the new bookmobile. The grant was made possible through the Minot Area Community Foundation's Williamson Fund.

West Fargo Public Library held a wood slice painting class.

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The Flickertale is a weekly publication of the North Dakota State Library, a Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

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ISSN: 1068-5383

This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library.

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To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov).  
Times referenced are Central Time.

Some of these resources and programs are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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