



Flickertale

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Library Stories

The North Dakota State Library is seeking true stories/accounts, quotes, and photos from North Dakota libraries and patrons to include during the 2025 Legislative Session. Please consider sharing how a service/program was beneficial to the community or a particular patron (no names for patron confidentiality).

The form can only accept stories or quotes and will close at noon on Tuesday, December 31. To share photos, please send them to BreAnne at nds1pa@nd.gov.

[Share Your Stories](#)

Trustee Training Webinars

Public Library Specialist Monica Struck will be presenting updated Trustee Training webinars. These webinars will be held every Friday at 12:15 PM from January 3 through February 21. Each presentation will last about 45 minutes and will provide time for questions. They will be recorded and available for viewing after the live session.

The first webinar on January 3 will provide a broad overview of the duties of the board, so be sure to share this information with your board members.

[Register](#)

2024 "Best Books"

Submitted by Kathy Cline

I remember the excitement I felt when I had funds to purchase books for the school libraries, but I also recall the anxiety of wanting to get the most "bang" for my buck by selecting items that youth would want to read. I wanted the books I purchased to be in the students' hands instead of sitting on a shelf, but finding such books takes time—time that is hard to come by amidst all the other tasks that need to be completed as a school librarian. While I can't guarantee that the books on the lists included in this article will provide the best "bang" for your buck, they can serve as a good starting point.

The [Best of 2024: Kirkus Reviews](#) is the first resource on my list. Use the pull-down menu in the middle tab to search by picture books, middle grade and teen-young adult, and the third pull-down menu to search by genre in each level.



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Books and Barks: Library Pet Programs for Everyone

Submitted by Al Peterson

Dogs are often referred to as "Man's Best Friend." Dogs are loyal and always happy to see you. Reading to dogs is a fun and popular way to promote reading skills, especially for those kids struggling with reading, pronunciation, or learning English as a second language. After all, dogs are great listeners and loving, nonjudgmental companions. Libraries can be a great place to match up kids and dogs for a program.

WebJunction explores this topic in [Books and Barks: Library Pet Programs for Everyone](#). This article provides ideas and examples of how other libraries implemented reading to our furry friends. If you ever wanted to implement a reading program that matched up kids with dogs or cats, check out his article in WebJunction. Programs like these strengthen the bond for the love of reading and the love of animals and benefits both kids and dogs.

[Learn More](#)



Racism and Interventions

In today's society, we see, hear, experience, or read about racism; in the informational webinar Racial Equity 101 hosted by Literacy Minnesota, Jimmie Heags, Jr., MA, LSC, LPCC, LADC, and ACS, presents on race, racism, inequality, and interventions.

Mr. Heags explains that, according to scientists, there are no biological distinctions that would cause reason for racial categories, and the concept of distinguishing humans by the level of melanin in the skin has significant socioeconomic outcomes.

The presenter further explains that the concept of race began with European colonialism to validate African slavery and white supremacy. According to Sean Harvey in his article [Ideas of Race in Early America | Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History](#), European colonization also used race as a means to take over Native land. Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans did not see themselves as a unified race during pre-colonization, but racial differences became a political importance in the newly independent America.

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What is a National Ribbon Skirt Day?

National Ribbon Skirt Day is a Canadian holiday that began in 2023. It's official day of observation is January 4th. The cultural shaming of a fifth-grade student, [Isabella Kulak](#), set this celebration into motion (Boyko, 2024).

What is a Ribbon Skirt?

A ribbon skirt is a handmade skirt using fabric and multiple ribbon colors. Each color holds special meaning, depending upon the occasion and tribe (Story, 2023). A tutorial can be found at <https://www.galtmuseum.com/articles/ribbon-skirt-tutorial>.

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FY2025 Community Needs Hearings Scheduled; Feedback Encouraged

Submitted by Amber Schmalz, Communications Coordinator at North Dakota Housing Finance Agency

North Dakota Housing Finance Agency and North Dakota Department of Commerce Division of Community Services will hold public hearings on January 8 and January 15, 2025, to gather input on and prioritize North Dakota's needs for affordable and special needs housing, barriers to fair housing choice, services for individuals who are homeless, and public facilities and economic development assistance. Communities, organizations and citizens are encouraged to comment to help the state identify and prioritize needs in order to create opportunities that are in the best interest of North Dakota citizens. The feedback received will be used to develop North Dakota's Annual Action Plan and develop fair housing goals.



Please consider sharing this information and the flyer (click on the photo above) with your patrons.

[Find Out More Information](#)

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www.library.nd.gov

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.

Times referenced are Central Time.

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