

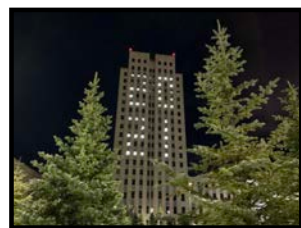
Facility Management and the Christmas Tree

Submitted by Al Peterson

If you have ever driven by the North Dakota State Capitol during the holidays at night, you will no doubt see the large Christmas Tree on the North and South sides of the Capitol created using green and red shaded windows.

Office lights were first used in 1934 to create a cross to convey a holiday message. Capitol workers built a star immediately above it that was 16 feet in diameter and contained 120 electric lights. The current tree configuration began in the mid-1940s using colored paper shades to create a Christmas tree until plastic shades were purchased in the late 1950s. The current colored plastic shades were purchased in 1993. A total of 88 shades (20 red and 24 green on each side) are needed to create the Christmas trees. The current star on the top of the capitol building is 10 ft by 10 ft.

Not only are the Christmas trees created using the lights in the Capitol building, but windows on all sides are used to create the numbers for the current and new year. This New Year tradition began in the mid-1970s and continues to this day.



**The State Library
will be closed on
December 26 and January 2**



Libraries in the News

[9-Foot Menorah To Light Up Fargo For Hanukkah \(Valley News Live\)](#)

Sunday, December 18 is the first night of the eight-day festival of lights for Hanukkah. The Chabad Jewish Center of North Dakota will light a 9-foot-tall public Hanukkah menorah on the lawn of the Fargo Public Library on Monday, December 19...

[Alexander Public School seeking \\$15.5 million bond for expansion \(KFYR TV\)](#)

It's no secret that school districts in northwestern North Dakota are growing thanks to the oil boom. That significant growth poses challenges for how districts can handle it. Alexander Public School will be looking to pass a bond to help finance projects to alleviate some of their issues.

[Alfred Dickey Library Sustains Flood Damage \(NewsDakota\)](#)

The Alfred Dickey Library in Jamestown will be closed until further notice. A water pipe burst to cause a considerable amount of damage in the building. According to officials, a majority of the books were saved, but many were lost....

[The Bismarck Public Library Offers Free Lego Kits For Those Of All Ages \(KX News\) \(Video\)](#)

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library has a Make and Take event. They offer kits for all ages to come and take and explore the world of play. They have multiple 6 design choices for patrons to choose from, including a donkey, robot, and firetruck...

[Letter from mayor, commission chair says both libraries to operate \(Jamestown Sun\)](#)

Both libraries of the James River Valley Library System will continue to operate unless a transition plan is submitted to the city of Jamestown and Stutsman County for approval, says a letter interpreting the memorandum of understanding between the two entities to provide joint library services.

[Myra Foundation announces second-largest annual grant funding to area nonprofit organizations \(Grand Forks Herald\)](#)

The Myra Foundation will award \$730,878 in grant funds to 77 area charitable organizations by the end of the 2022 calendar year, John Botsford, the foundation president, has announced...

[Rugby Legion Auxiliary Members Fill Library's Mitten Tree \(Pierce County Tribune\)](#)

Members of the Rugby American Legion Auxiliary stopped by Heart of America Public Library Dec. 8 to drop off more than 50 pairs of gloves and mittens, hats and socks they collected for the library's 38th Annual Mitten Tree...

[See "Santa's Dream Donut" entries at Morton Mandan Public Library \(KX News\)](#)

At the start of the month, the Morton Mandan Public Library challenged kids to design a donut out of clay. According to a news release, kids could submit the designs for "Santa's Dream Donut" for the chance to win free donuts from Bearscat Bakehouse.

Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

Education, Not Politics (Part 2)

Last month's column (part 1 of 2) highlighted how I came across an interesting piece of North Dakota history involving the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Library. My "investigation" started simply enough by uploading an image of Minnie Nielson to the State Library's digital collections, and it expanded from there.

Let's briefly recap part 1 (to refresh your memory or in case you missed it). The outgoing state superintendent, Neil C. Macdonald, refused to leave office because he adamantly believed that Nielson didn't meet the necessary requirements to hold the office. He was quickly forced out after a ruling by the ND Supreme Court. Shortly after, the NPL-controlled legislature met in the 1919 regular session and created the Board of Administration. The state superintendent was made a member of this board, but the board assumed many of the duties of that office.

[Read More](#)

Summer Symposium 2022

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) hosted the 2nd annual "Summer Symposium" on December 8, 2022. The Symposium is a half day virtual offering for public library staff to connect, learn, and collaborate together as we plan for summer library programming around the upcoming theme.

- Welcome and keynote with ALA Executive Director, Tracie D. Hall
- Summer Library Outreach to Underserved Children & Caregivers
- All Together Now with Intergenerational Summer Programming
- Decorating Together
- Bonus recording from the CSLP Inclusion Committee, "Inclusive and Affirming Library Programs for LGBTQIA+ Youth" with the Kaleidoscope Youth Center (recorded 11/22/22).

The recordings, chatboxes, and handouts are now available at <https://www.csllpreads.org/all-together-now-2022/>.



Request your library's copy of the 2023 Summer Reading Manual at <http://library.nd.gov/summerreading.html>.

Upcoming WebJunction Webinars

Practical Strategies for Engaging Veteran and Military-Affiliated Patrons at Your Library Wednesday, January 11, 2023 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Register: <https://bit.ly/3hJy9WM>

Virtually every library has patrons who are veterans, military service members, or military family members. Join us for this webinar as library staff with experience developing programming for the veteran and military communities share best practices and practical ideas for engaging veteran and military-affiliated patrons. The presenters will also share the Libraries & Veterans Toolkit, a new resource to help workers at all types of libraries garner new ideas for veteran-related exhibits, book clubs, events, collections, celebrations and more.

Science Literacy: It's Not Just for Kids Tuesday, January 24 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Register: <https://bit.ly/3Va8zYE>

While libraries have enthusiastically met the challenge to positively influence kids' and teens' attitudes, skills, and knowledge about STEM topics, adult-centered science programs are scarce in libraries. Youth have access to many creative, engaging, hands-on programs that use informal learning to develop exploration, experimentation, and computational thinking. But why are kids having all the fun (and skill enrichment)? As citizens and voters, adults are asked to make decisions that increasingly involve complex science. Join this webinar to learn about programs that make adult science learning fun and enticing, and that get people involved in investigating their environment. Join the conversation about expanding adult learning to include identifying environmental issues, applying science-based strategies, and working together to find solutions and take action for their communities.

Native Stories, Native Peoples: Opportunities for Library Engagement Wednesday, February 15 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Register: <https://bit.ly/3FP363M>

The history and current experiences of Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations are complex, rich and diverse. Libraries can play an important role in counteracting damaging myths and narratives about Native peoples, as well as exploring contemporary struggles and joys. This webinar will highlight opportunities for libraries to connect their communities to accurate and respectful information, fostering understanding and support of Indigenous peoples past and present. Resources for learning about treaties, Tribal Nations and lands, as well as insights into the experiences of Native communities today will also be shared. With a better understanding of these distinctive histories and cultures, library staff can promote learning and knowledge, support engagement with Native issues and peoples, and better serve all individuals in their community.

WebJunction offers over 400 library-specific courses and webinar recordings, along with other practical learning resources. Their Course Catalog is free and open to library staff everywhere whenever you are ready to learn.

Certificates of Completion are available to help library staff meet CE and LEU credit requirements. Create your free account and start learning today.



Traditions

What is a tradition? According to dictionary.com, a tradition is “a long-established or inherited way of thinking or acting” (Tradition, n.d.). Traditions can occur daily, weekly, monthly, or even just once a year. They are also often tied to cultural and social norms. Traditions can be both big events (such as attending a tree lighting ceremony each Christmas season) or small happenings (like Friday family movie nights on the couch).

Unusual Traditions Around the World

Gävle Goat, Sweden

Each year at the beginning of Advent, the world’s largest straw goat is assembled in Gävle, Sweden. This 13- by 7-meter structure first appeared in 1966. It remains in this location until after New Year’s Day. A new goat is produced each year. This tradition’s original intent entailed attracting tourists to the south side of the Gävlean River. However, throughout its history, this structure has earned a different tradition from people’s insistence upon trying to ruin it, typically through means of arson (The various, n.d.)! For more information, view this video.

[Read More](#)

2023 Summer Reading Workshops

Training Dates and Locations:

Valley City Barnes County Public Library on February 3

Grand Forks Public Library on February 13

Morton Mandan Public Library on February 14

Minot Public Library on February 17

Williston Community Library on February 22

Register at <http://library.nd.gov/summerreading.html>

Kit of the Week

Airblock STEM Kit

Airblock is a modular programmable starter drone. It can be assembled as a drone, hovercraft, and other configurations. It can be controlled and block-coded via Bluetooth.

The kit includes two packs that each contain one master controller module, one charger, two batteries, one charging cable, six protective top covers, four protective bottom covers, three red propeller power modules, three black propeller power modules, one hovercraft base, one bag of spare parts. There's also a 6-port USB desktop charger, a user manual, inventory guide, packing guide, general information and problem solving tips sheet, and two start-up guides.



For ages 8 and up.

System requirements: Tablet or smartphone running iOS 9 or later or Android 4.1 or later.

Sponsored by the Air Force STEM program and the Grand Forks Air Force Base, School Liaison Office.

Request a STEM kit today at <https://polaris.odinlibrary.org/>. STEM kits can be checked out by libraries, schools, and organizations for eight weeks.

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