



# Flickertale

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## Summer Reading Grant

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

It's baaaack! Summer reading is just around the corner and I'm so excited to announce that the Department of Public Instruction is doing their Summer Reading Grants again! This grant is open to any library or school that hosts some kind of summer reading program or event, including participating in the Bank of North Dakota's Summer Reading Champions program. (Which the majority of public libraries already participate in!)

At the end of the challenge/engagement period (but no later than August 5, 2024), participating entities must complete and submit a "Summary of Engagement" form to NDDPI. Applicants will be able to provide an overview of any unfinished plans/initiatives that will take place after the application deadline.

[Apply for a Summer Reading Grant](#)



## Public Library State Aid Application April 1-30

[Click here for more information](#)

## State Aid to Public Libraries

State Aid applications will open April 1, 2024, and need to be completed by April 30, 2024. Library directors can access and submit the application via the [Counting Opinions](#) website.

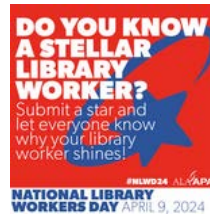
If you have any questions regarding State Aid to Public Libraries, please contact NDSL Administration, Allie Suko, at [ndsladmn@nd.gov](mailto:ndsladmn@nd.gov) or (701)328-2492.

[Learn More](#)

## National Library Workers Day

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, is National Library Workers Day, a time to recognize library professionals for their expertise and leadership skills in transforming lives and communities through education and lifelong learning.

To show appreciation for North Dakota library workers and the work they do throughout the year, patrons are invited to Submit a Star and provide a testimonial about a favorite library employee.



[Submit A Star](#)



## Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Services

### Free Virtual Conference

April 18 & 19 (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)



The world is changing before our very eyes. Artificial intelligence, a reevaluation of traditional services we offer in our libraries and changing demographics in our communities are just a few examples of the changes taking place. To meet these changes, librarians must develop the knowledge and skills today to meet those changes we face tomorrow. Please join us for this virtual conference where we will learn today's skills for tomorrow's services.

[Register](#)

## Spring Into 2024

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

Spring is all about new life and new growth! Bring that new energy into your reading choices. This month's challenges are all about springing into something new with our Spring into 2024 challenge.

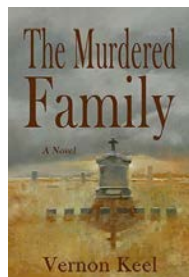
April is also National Poetry month. While poetry is not usually my cup of tea, I am challenging myself to read one poem a day. To make it easier on myself, I am utilizing the Library of Congress's [Poetry 180](#). Originally designed so students could hear one poem every school day, this program makes it very easy to integrate some poetry into everyday life.

March proved to be another month of great reading from across the state with over 24,000 minutes read! Here are last month's stats:



[Sign Up For A Beanstack Reading Challenge](#)

## 2024 Book Bracket Winner



This year's Book Bracket was comprised of books by North Dakota authors, including this year's winner "The Murdered Family" by Vernon Keel.

This novel is based on the true story of the brutal murders of the Wolf family and their hired boy just north of Turtle Lake, North Dakota, in April 1920. It includes the investigation, confession, appeals, and more.

"The Murdered Family" is available in regular print, e-book, and as a book club kit from the ND State Library.

[Check It Out](#)

# Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

## [North Dakota State Library Webinar: Writing SMART Goals](#)

April 23 (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM)

Goal writing can be a daunting task. By using the SMART Goals parameters, you can not only ensure that the goals are attainable within the time frame, but also help clarify your goals, focus your efforts to meeting your goals, and use your time and resources productively. Join Mary Soucie for an overview of the SMART goals framework and how you can apply this method to write goals for Library Vision grants and other grant opportunities.

### Recorded Webinars

In case you missed the following recent webinars presented by the North Dakota State Library, here are the recordings that were uploaded to our YouTube Channel.

## [Bank of North Dakota College Save: Summer Reading Champions](#)

Presented on March 12, 2024

## [Adventure Begins At Your Library: Summer Reading Workshop 2024](#)

Presented on March 26, 2024

## [State Aid to Public Libraries Walk-Through 2024](#)

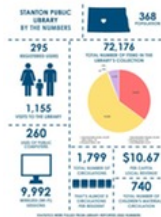
Presented on March 28, 2024

Webinars

## Public Library Infographics

Each year, the State Library provides a personalized infographic based on the numbers your library submitted for the Public Libraries Survey/Annual Report. These infographics usually include the number of visits to your library, registered users, items, wireless sessions, programs, and circulations, but we can personalize it to meet your needs.

For more information, please contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov).



Request An Infographic



## English (Shakespearean)

William Shakespeare's birthday is observed on April 23 (actual date of birth is unknown). English poet and playwright, he is responsible for introducing hundreds of invented words into the modern English language.

If you'd like to learn more about Shakespearean vocabulary, check out Mango Languages! This quick course includes 9 lessons that will go through parts of "Romeo and Juliet" to teach you some Shakespearean language.

If your library would like assistance with promoting Mango Languages or Rocket Languages to your patrons, visit <https://www.library.nd.gov/marketing> or contact BreAnne at 328-4656 or [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov).

### Reference

"William Shakespeare." In *Gale In Context Online Collection*. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2017. *Gale In Context: College* (accessed April 1, 2024).  
[https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/MYSDSE471056565/CSIC?u=ndpubl\\_58505znds&sid=bookmark-CSIC&xid=d32cc2e7](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/MYSDSE471056565/CSIC?u=ndpubl_58505znds&sid=bookmark-CSIC&xid=d32cc2e7).

Language Resources

# WebJunction Highlight: Solar Eclipse Resources and Activities for Libraries

Submitted by **Al Peterson**

Are you ready for the next solar eclipse, coming soon on April 8, 2024? Eclipse totality will be visible first in Mexico, coming to Texas just after noon local time. The eclipse then moves northeast through Oklahoma, Missouri, Ohio, New York, and Maine, to name just a few of the states, and into Canada. Libraries all over the country are gearing for solar eclipse activities and programs. Are you needing ideas to pull a program together? From interactive workshops to hands-on activities, this article from WebJunction offers resources and ideas to help libraries inspire curiosity and foster learning about the solar system.

[Resources and Fun Facts](#)



## Summer Olympics and the School Library

There is approximately a month and a half left of the 2023-2024 school year; both educators and students are feeling antsy! How about taking some time to get a little active...the 2024 Summer Olympics is the perfect inspiration!

### A Little History about the Olympics

#### *Scheduling*

The Summer Olympics occur every four years. Paris, France hosts in 2024. This year, the Olympic Games run from July 26<sup>th</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup>. There is a Winter Olympics, which also occurs every four years. The scheduling of the Summer and Winter Olympics alternate so that one section of the Games occurs every two years. To help clarify, the next Winter Games will be in 2026, with the following Winter Games in 2030; the next Summer Games is in 2024, and the following Summer Games will be in 2028 (Olympic, 2024).

[Continue Reading](#)

## New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.

### [North Dakota School for the Deaf](#)

- Hayek family, Devils Lake, N.D., circa 1967-1981
- North Dakota School for the Deaf Biennial Report, 2019-2021
- Portrait of Alan J. Mealka, circa 1986-1990
- Portrait of Allen J. Hayek, circa 1967
- Portrait of Dennis J. Fogelson, 2000s
- Portrait of Gary L. Holman, 1980s
- Portrait of Jaime D. Galloway, 1990s
- Portrait of Rocklyn Cofer, circa 1998-2005



### [Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Cathro gives money to McGovern [political cartoon, 1919]
- Journal of the North Dakota House, 1917
- Journal of the North Dakota Senate, 1919
- Laws Passed by the North Dakota Legislative Assembly, 1923
- Portrait of C. K. Gummerson, circa 1919-1920



[Digital Horizons](#)

# Promoting and Supporting Literacy in North Dakota Through Mobile Libraries

Submitted by Kathy Cline

Every year library outreach is celebrated on the Wednesday of National Library Week. National Library Outreach Day, previously known as National Bookmobile Day, is April 10. This day is an opportunity for library patrons and advocates to highlight and thank libraries, library staff, communities, and community leaders who offer and support bookmobile services (Ahayes, 2024).

National Today defines bookmobiles as "...mobile libraries that help transport books from one local community to another." These traveling libraries promote reading by providing individuals who can't visit larger libraries or who live in underserved areas access to literacy materials. In the early 20th century Maryland librarian Mary Titcomb, became the first librarian to meet literacy needs of individuals living in rural communities by coming up with a means to transport books to them. Mary's idea to use a horse-drawn wooden carrier filled with boxes of books is said to be the first bookmobile in the United States. In 1912, the horse-drawn mobile library was replaced with motorized bookmobiles that reached rural and urban schools, senior communities, and remote mountainous areas (Ahayes, 2024).

[Continue Reading](#)



## [Celebrating 100 years \(Wahpeton Daily News\)](#)

"The Leach Public Library is 100 years old and in honor of this milestone, a celebration event has been planned. On Monday, April 8, there will be a reception sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Wahpeton Literary Club. The event will run from 1-4 p.m. and will feature a short program and special guest, North Dakota State Librarian Mary Soucie."

## [Check it out: Spring Used Book Sale happening soon at Morton-Mandan Public Library \(Studio 701\)](#)

"The Friends of the Morton Mandan Public Library are hosting a Spring Used Book Sale on Friday, April 26th, and Saturday, April 27th. You can also get a sneak peek Thursday, April 25th from 5 to 7 p.m."

## [Eclipse parties and other events in Bismarck, Mandan, and Minot \(KX News\)](#)

"A [partial solar eclipse will be visible](#) on April 8 and there will be several events to celebrate it across the great state of North Dakota."

## [Making digital collections more discoverable, Part 1: Wikimedia \(Minitex\)](#)

"The Minitex Wikimedia pilot was inspired by the work the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) has done. Since 2020, DPLA has worked with contributing partners to upload their open access digital content to Wikimedia Commons. Contributors then have the option to find related Wikipedia articles to connect to the Wikimedia Commons images."

## [Off the Beaten Path Return Trip: The Watts Free Library \(KFYR TV\)](#)

"The Watts Free Library was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. After more than 100 years, it's still open to the public and continues its mission of borrowing books to avid readers."

## [Roof to be rebuilt on 120 year old library in Valley City \(Valley News Live\)](#)

"The community of Valley City, North Dakota, is coming together to help restore the roof of their 120 year old library. Before opening their doors in 1903, the history of the Valley City Barnes County Library can be traced even further. In 1898, a group of women came together and started raising money to fund a town library."





# The Libbys

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

In case you missed it, Libby held its first annual awards last week. These awards, selected by a team at OverDrive, represent the best books of 2023 and were voted on by over 1700 public librarians and library staff!

Here they are. How many have you read?

1. **Best Fiction** - *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
2. **Best Nonfiction** - *The Wager* by David Grann
3. **Best Young Adult** - *Divine Rivals* by Rebecca Ross
4. **Best Audiobook** - *I Have Some Questions for You* by Rebecca Makkai. Read by Julia Whelan and JD Jackson
5. **Best Book Club** - *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang
6. **Best Comic / Graphic Novel** - *The Talk* by Darrin Bell
7. **Best Debut Author** - Ana Reyes, author of *The House in the Pines*
8. **Best Diverse Author** - Michelle Min Sterling, author of *Camp Zero*
9. **Best Fantasy** - *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros
10. **Best Historical Fiction** - *Let Us Descend* by Jesmyn Ward
11. **Best Mystery** - *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Q. Sutanto
12. **Best Romance** - *Georgie All Along* by Kate Clayborn
13. **Best Romantasy** - *Emily Wilde's Encyclopedia of Faeries* by Heather Fawcett
14. **Best Science Fiction** - *System Collapse* by Martha Wells
15. **Best Thriller** - *Bright Young Women* by Jessica Knoll
16. **Best Cookbook** - *Start Here* by Sohla El-Waylly
17. **Best Memoir** - *Pageboy* by Elliot Page

[More Information](#)

## Elections 101: Elections Resources

Submitted by Misty Curn  
Communications Director at the ND Secretary of State Office

Librarians provide a wealth of resources to patrons and show extra care in ensuring that the information they provide is accurate. Finding sources of truth can be difficult in an age where people have the Internet at their fingertips and are inundated with messages from traditional media, social media, and family and friends.

When it comes to information about North Dakota elections, the Office of the Secretary of State is the trusted source, and there are materials available that you can provide to your patrons about the security and integrity of North Dakota elections.

The ND Secretary of State website was recently revamped, and the [Elections](#) section has been reorganized to make it easier for people to find information. Examples of information that may interest library patrons include where to vote, how to update an ID, how to vote absentee, and facts about elections and voting equipment.

Printable flyers are also available in the [Voter Resources](#) area. You can share these with your patrons electronically or by printing and making them available for people to take with them. There are general voting information flyers and ones that pertain to more specific voter audiences and situations. The "Elections & Voting in North Dakota" and "Elections Processes in North Dakota" flyers are available as hard copies, and you can request to pick some up at the ND Secretary of State office in Bismarck by contacting Communications Director Misty Curn at [micurn@nd.gov](mailto:micurn@nd.gov).

Information about elections and voting is frequently posted on the ND Secretary of State's social media channels. This is a great way for you to stay informed about elections information and to learn when new resources become available for you to share. You can find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#).

Election officials and the North Dakota Secretary of State are your trusted source for election information. If you have questions about elections-related topics, visit [vote.nd.gov](http://vote.nd.gov), email [soselect@nd.gov](mailto:soselect@nd.gov), or call 701-328-4146.

NORTH DAKOTA  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**

[Find North Dakota Elections Info & Resources](#)

# Opioid Crisis Support Kit for Public Libraries

## WebJunction

To aid staff at public libraries in determining how their library can address opioid use disorder in their community, WebJunction has developed the "[Opioid Crisis Support Kit for Public Libraries](#)." This resource will help strengthen libraries—and, more broadly, the communities they serve—as the nation continues to struggle with the opioid crisis.

The Support Kit was tested by staff in 15 public libraries across the US and enhanced by their feedback. The content includes pragmatic strategies, tools, and other resources to help libraries—including those in rural areas—as they determine their specific communities' needs and define the roles and activities their library is most suited to carry out. The kit will help libraries assess their staff strengths and capacity, identify key partners with whom to collaborate or coordinate, and plan and implement programming and services that support local needs.

[Access the Kit](#)



## Codeybot

Codeybot is a smart programmable robot. He's a wedge-shaped, expressive, dance machine who shoots lasers and teaches you to code.

This kit includes 5 packs, each containing one Codeybot, one docking station, a user manual, a USB charging cable, and an LED laser turret.



System requirements: Codeybot requires a tablet or smartphone running iOS 7.0 or later; currently, Codeybot does not support Android devices.

[Reserve This Kit](#)

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Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian  
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[www.library.nd.gov](http://www.library.nd.gov)

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.

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