Volume 3, Issue 12 | December 2020

Connections

North Dakota State Library

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Your monthly news & updates

The North Dakota State Library is Hiring!

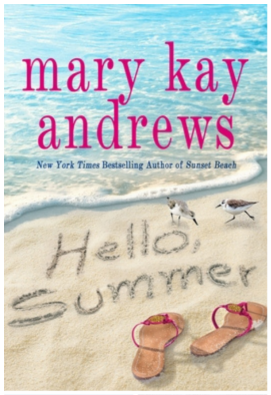
The North Dakota State Library is hiring for the position of Academic, Special, and Tribal Library Specialist. This position will:

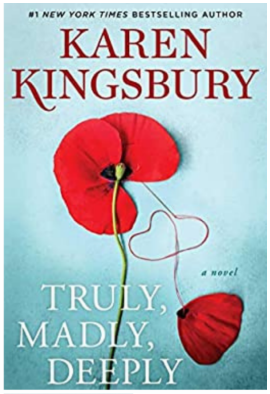
- Provide development, assessment, collaboration and technical assistance to academic, special, and tribal libraries throughout North Dakota
- Assist librarians and administration with developing plans, policies, and procedures
- Provide guidance on library services and trends unique to these constituencies
- Develop resource materials for librarians, library staff, administration, patrons, and communities
- Provide professional development training for academic, special, and tribal libraries
- Identify and facilitate grant opportunities and provide grant writing assistance
- Work scheduled rotations staffing the ND State Library reference desk

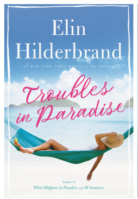
Applicants must possess an ALA-accredited MLIS and have two years of professional library experience. **Learn more and apply today!**

New Items Available at the North Dakota State Library

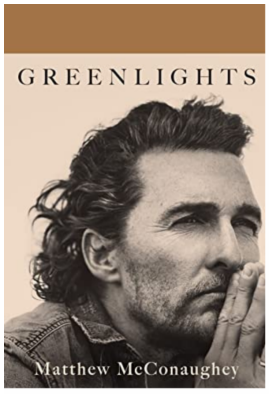
New Fiction Books

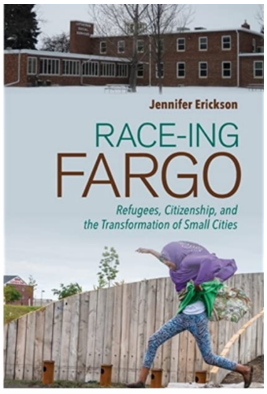


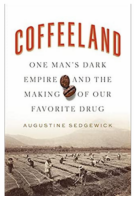


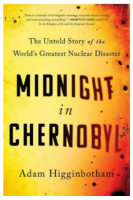


New Nonfiction Books









December Course of the Month

How to Bake Cookies

The holiday season is here, which means many people will be in the kitchen creating scrumptious creations, such as cookies.

If you need a little refresher or are just learning how to make cookies, Universal Class has a course for you. This course will teach you how to make cookies from scratch by showing you which utensils to use, how to choose the correct ingredients, and what to do to ensure that you get the desired outcome. Learn all about chocolate, icing, sandwich cookies, cookie cakes, and macarons while completing some delicious recipes that are sure to impress your family.

This course is comprised of 12 lessons, nine exams and assignments, and will take roughly four hours to complete. This course is also available as a video audit, which means you will only be able to see the lesson videos.

Most Popular Courses Available on Universal Class

1. **ABCs of English Grammar**
2. **Accounting & Bookkeeping for Everyone**
3. **Typing and Keyboarding 101**
4. **Excel 2019**
5. **Excel 2016**
6. **GED Test Preparation**
7. **Health Education 101**
8. **American Government**
9. **Personal Finance 101**
10. **QuickBooks 101**

Are you interested in learning something new? Sign up for Universal Class today to enroll in free continuing education courses with your library card. There are over 500 courses to choose from.

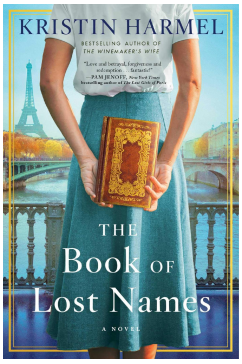
Recommended STEM Books

STEM is a core element of contemporary K-12 education, as well as Governor Burgum's Transforming Education initiative. The leading library and publishing magazines all regularly publish lists of their favorite current or upcoming STEM books to help guide purchasing decisions. But an additional resource is the scientists themselves.

Many science organizations are also producing lists of the books they think will best prepare students for science and technology careers, developing both skills and enthusiasm. One such **list** is released annually by Perdue University, one of the top engineering schools in the country. They have an entire Research Institute for Pre-College Engineering to help promote STEM education, and the institute produces an annual holiday gift guide of toys, games, puzzles, apps, kits, and **books**.

New Book Club Kit

The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel



This month, we are highlighting one of the State Library's newest book club kits: *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel.

Harmel writes a thought-provoking, historical fiction novel based on the true story of a woman who helped children escape from France to Switzerland during World War II by forging identity documents. However, during the process, she forged a code in The Book of Lost Names to help preserve the real names of the young children she was helping erase. Now, 65 years later, Eva is reunited with the book that went missing after the war and revisits the memories she thought she had left behind. Told with an emotional dual-timeline and heartfelt voice, this novel is a character-driven World War II novel that will capture the hearts and minds of your book club.

"You can't judge a person by their language or their place of origin—though it seems that each new generation insists upon learning that lesson for itself." — K. Harmel.

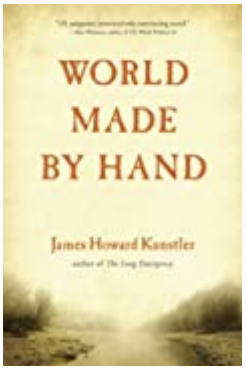
This kit comes with ten books, one discussion guide, and a sign-in sheet.

Kits can be checked out for eight weeks and reserved up to one year in advance. Book club kits can check out to libraries or individual patrons; no more than three kits can be checked out at one time. Kits for schools or classroom use need to be checked out by the Library Media Specialist. To see when this book club is next available, check out **KitKeeper**.

Book Review

"The Cold Dish" by Craig Johnson

Reviewed by Trevor Martinson



The Cold Dish by Craig Johnson, the first entry in the Longmire series, opens with a foreboding quote from an 18th-century French novel: "Revenge is a dish best served cold."

From there, the novel trots along slowly but deliberately. However, this isn't necessarily a bad thing. The pace makes the story more realistic. The author carefully presents his story and characters, most notably Walter "Walt" Longmire, the sheriff of Wyoming's Absaroka County.

Walt is a seasoned, old-fashioned lawman who has recently fallen on hard times personally and professionally. A few years before the story opens, Walt's wife died. The widower sheriff has let himself become overweight and his house to fall into disrepair. A year or two after his wife's death, four high school boys were given suspended sentences for raping a Cheyenne girl. This case still haunts Walt.

Coincidentally, this case resurfaces with the death of one of the boys, and this becomes the focal point of the novel. Walt must determine if this death was accidental or if someone is seeking vengeance for the past. If it's the latter, the suspect list is long.

The book has its serious moments, as the main story follows the investigation of the death, but it also has humor. Walt and his long-time friend Henry Standing Bear are continuously locked in a verbal jabbing match, but their friendship hasn't reached the level of *Grumpy Old Men*, yet.

If you watched the *Longmire* TV series, you'll notice some subtle differences in the book, particularly with Walt's deputies. Fans of the show and those interested in a modern western should enjoy this book. Craig Johnson has crafted a compelling story.

The Cold Dish is available from the State Library in Large Print and as an e-audiobook on RBdigital.

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