



# Flickertale

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## Hanging On To What We Gained When Life Slowed Down

State Librarian Mary Soucie

I was visiting with my sister-in-law, Mel, and mentioned how excited I am to *not* be getting on a plane in August or December. I haven't been flying every month, but April was packed with work and personal travel, and I'm exploring Scotland this week for a wonderful vacation. I truly love to travel and feel fortunate to have so many opportunities to do it. But it can be tiring, and I'm looking forward to a couple of months at home to slow my pace a bit.

Mel shared how busy she has been too, saying life finally feels back to pre-COVID levels of busyness. I certainly feel that in my work travel. COVID was difficult on so many levels, yet one of the few positives was the way it forced us to slow down—reconnect with people, rediscover hobbies, and make space for things like reading. I hope the habits we relearned then will stay with us. I hope we'll remember to put down our electronics and connect intentionally with the world around us.

For school and academic libraries, this time of year is often an extremely busy stretch as the school year winds down. Public libraries are gearing up for Summer Reading, which is typically one of the most energetic and bustling seasons of the year. I don't often miss working in a public library—except right now, because Summer Reading was always my favorite. And even in the midst of all that activity, there are still small moments where we can pause and appreciate the joy that comes with serving our communities.

Amid the busyness, let's remember to slow down—to appreciate the people we work with, the patrons we serve, and the resources we share. Reach out to someone you haven't talked to recently. Take your current book outside and enjoy a few peaceful minutes with it. Life is speeding up again, but intentionally slowing down still matters.

## Participation Wanted: Library Services and Technology Act Evaluation Survey

Submitted by Dani Kappel

This year, we are conducting an evaluation of our current five-year Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) plan to better understand the impact of LSTA-funded programs and services across the state. As part of this process, we are seeking input from library staff at public, school, academic, tribal, and special libraries through this survey.

Please complete the attached survey before 6:00 PM on Friday, May 22. Your feedback is valuable in helping us identify successes, assess community needs, and inform future planning and funding priorities. We sincerely appreciate your time and participation in this important evaluation effort.

[Complete The Survey](#)

# NOW HIRING

## Library Programming Specialist

Apply by May 25





## Picture Books About Unicorns

This month's *Tammy's Top Picks* highlights picture books about unicorns. This is the first of three *Top Picks* about these magical creatures because there are SO MANY book options! (I will spread them out, so it won't be three straight months of unicorns.) If you have a topic request for *Top Picks*, please email me at [tkruger@nd.gov](mailto:tkruger@nd.gov).

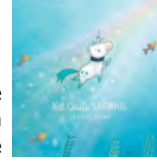
*Not Quite Narwhal* by Jessie Sima

**Publish Date:** 2017

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

**Summary:** Kelp, born in the deep ocean, never quite fit in with the narwhals. One night, after coming to the surface, Kelp discovers a creature who looks like him! This is a sweet book about acceptance of ourselves and others, as well as making new friends while keeping the old.

**Best For:** Preschool through First Grade



[Continue Reading](#)



## Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

May is known as Mental Health Awareness Month, but it is also Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Month (MMIP). This month brings attention to the alarming number of missing and murdered Indigenous people and highlights the urgent need for justice, support, and action in our communities and across the state.



In 2017, in response to the murder of Hanna Harris on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Montana Senators Steve Daines and Jon Tester introduced a resolution recognizing May 5 as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Red, which symbolizes awareness, advocacy, and support for MMIP, may be worn throughout the month, but people are especially encouraged to wear the color on May 5.

[Continue Reading](#)

## ND/SD ILL Network Name and Logo Contest!

**Calling all the creative and talented folks out there!**

The North Dakota and South Dakota State Libraries, in partnership with the Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN), are thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of a region-wide Interlibrary Loan (ILL) network supporting all libraries in North and South Dakota.

We are still finalizing the RFP process and can't share too many details just yet, but we can't wait to get started! To that point, we are seeking submissions from the public to help name and brand the network with a look and feel that reflects our region and the spirit of collaboration, resource sharing, innovation, and library joy. The contest is open to anyone, and multiple submissions are allowed so share as many ideas as you wish! Whether you are a professional graphic designer, a librarian with a Canva account, a student with a great sketch, or a patron that loves libraries, we want to see your ideas.

The deadline for submissions is **June 5**.

While we can't offer a cash prize, the winning contributor(s) will receive full public attribution (or remain anonymous, if desired) and the satisfaction of seeing their work represent the network across the region for years to come.

[Submit Your Ideas](#)



*Congratulations 2026 Flicker Tale Winners! Young Readers = "The Bear Out There" by Jess Hannigan; Middle Grade Readers = "The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman" by Jennifer Choldenko. Thanks to everyone that voted!*

# Digital Delight

## A Suggestion for Memorial Day (pro-NPL cartoon, 1916)

Politician cartoon depicting a man, or farmer, wiping a tear of joy from an eye with a handkerchief. His other hand holds a hat. The man is standing before a gravestone, which reads, "Here lies Big Biz killed deader than a doornail by the Nonpartisan League." A 10,000,000 pound boulder sits atop the grave. An owl, in a tree above the man, says, "First time I ever saw a weeping willow weeping for joy."



[View This Image](#)

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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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