



Prevent the Summer Slide with PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next

Submitted by Kathy Cline

Librarians, share this interactive activity with your young patrons and parents to help students stay on track with their learning. Children can celebrate America's 250th while exploring our nation's amazing national parks. Participants will "travel" and discover the towering mountains, desert landscapes, and animal habitats all for FREE! Use the link below to learn more and share this exciting opportunity with your patrons.



[Summer Reading Road Trip to Celebrate America's 250th](#)

Students in grades 3-5 can also use the PebbleGo Next States resource to design their own state license plate. Everything you need to introduce and promote this creative activity is included in the link below.

[State License Plate Activity](#)

PebbleGo

The Light and Dark Side of AI in Academic Libraries

Submitted by Bethany Rants

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming higher education, and academic libraries are becoming key players in helping students and faculty navigate this new technology. Tools like ChatGPT and other generative AI platforms can assist with brainstorming, summarizing research, improving writing, and streamlining repetitive tasks. At the same time, they raise important concerns about academic integrity, misinformation, privacy, and bias.

For libraries, AI offers exciting opportunities to improve services and access to information. AI-powered search tools can help users find resources more efficiently through natural language searching, while AI-assisted research tools can summarize scholarly content, organize information, and identify research trends. Libraries are also exploring AI for accessibility services such as captioning, translation, and text-to-speech support.

Continue Reading



2026 Historical Fiction

Eve J. Chung's *The Young Will Remember* has both a gorgeous cover and a fascinating premise, set during the height of the Korean War. Chung's novel follows Ella, a Chinese American journalist looking for the story of a lifetime, who winds up behind enemy lines and is "recognized" as the daughter of a grieving Korean mother called Emma. Ellie is grateful to her rescuer and as the war heats up around them, she convinces Emma to travel down south where they hope her real daughter is still alive. Click to edit this placeholder text.



Continue Reading

Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

Bishop-Brissman

One of the newest additions to the digital collections of the North Dakota State Library is one of the smallest. It is a [small advertisement](#) that appeared at the bottom right on page 13 of the January 14, 1921, issue of the "American Jewish World" newspaper, which was published in the Twin Cities.

The ad is for the Bishop, Brissman & Company accounting and auditing firm. The Bishop-Brissman firm had offices in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Fargo. The ad was uploaded to the [Political Prairie Fire collection](#) on Digital Horizons. Why is this ad so significant? Because there is an incredible story behind it.

[Continue Reading](#)

Library Tidbits

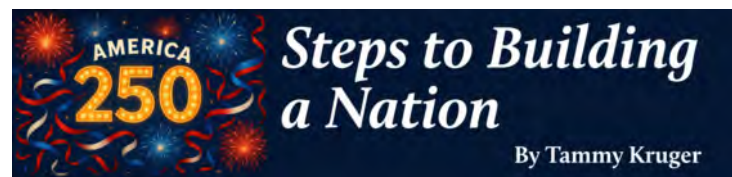
[James River Valley Library System](#) is hosting a Fantasy Faire on Saturday, May 30, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Attendees are invited to dress in their finest themed attire, sip enchanting potions, play games, and embark on a thrilling side quest.

[Carrington City Library](#) will be hosting six Freedom 250 Mobile Museums, known as Freedom Trucks, on June 17-19.

[Edgeley Public Library and Bookmobile](#) was selected as a recipient of a 2026 Summer Reading Grant from the Dollar General Foundation. This funding will help bring their Unearth a Story Summer Reading Program to life through books, hands-on activities, learning opportunities, and memorable experiences for local youth.

[Bowman Regional Public Library](#) celebrated their 20th anniversary in their "new" location on Tuesday, May 26, with 20 cent Ice Cream & Cupcake Bar, \$20 sponsor a carpet square, trivia, prizes, and more. All proceeds go to help fund the carpet replacement.

[Enderlin Municipal Library](#) received a flower donation from the CLIO club. The Tri-County Ag 4-H Club planted and cleaned up the grounds and flower beds for the library.



Frank Wills

America 250: Steps to Building a Nation is a series that highlights historical happenings that have helped shape our country! This twelve-part series will highlight events, symbols, and people.

This month's topic is Frank Wills.

A Scandal Comes to Light

Frank Wills was a Washington, D.C., security guard. In the early hours of June 17, 1972, he noticed a piece of duct tape covering the lock of a door to the Watergate Office Building. Workers would sometimes cover locks with tape to avoid needing to handle keys multiple times when working in the same area, so the initial discovery was not worrisome. Frank promptly removed the tape, only to see it replaced 30 minutes later. Upon seeing the replacement, Frank contacted local law enforcement. Police came to the building, and along with Wills, searched it. They discovered five men hiding in the Democratic National Committee Headquarters office – men who were all connected to Richard Nixon's reelection campaign. While Nixon initially denied knowing anything about this break-in, Frank Wills' discovery set in motion Nixon's 1974 resignation from the presidency.

[Continue Reading](#)

In Other News

ND Commerce: Workforce Development is offering a free webinar to explore strategies for ND businesses and nonprofit organizations to overcome communication barriers, including language-learning tools. "[Fueling Growth: Bridging the Language Gap for ND Employers and Nonprofits](#)" will take place on Monday, June 1 at 12:00 PM.

The next Libby Reads Global Title is "[I See You've Called in Dead](#)" by John Kenney. Readers can check out this title with no waitlists or holds in the Libby app July 9-23.

The STAR Library Education Network is interested in hearing how public libraries are incorporating (or thinking about incorporating) AI and similar tools into their programs, activities, and work. Survey results will inform future STAR Net projects and training opportunities. Complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPPDWL5>

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) Vendor and Artwork committees are currently accepting feedback for the 2028 theme/slogan. The theme is Mythical Creatures and the slogan is Libraries Are Legendary. To give your feedback on artwork/design choices and potential products in the store for summer 2028, please fill out the [2028 Artwork and Vendor Survey](#) before June 7.

Applications are open for cohort 2 of [Science Across America](#), the newest campaign from Spark of Science@ My Library. Libraries that register for cohort 2 will receive a Science Across America map for their state or territory, digital informal activity guides, project logo stickers, and sticky notes to facilitate patrons adding their own "moments in science" to your state/territory map, and other resources.

A statewide survey was launched to gather input on responsible technology-use policies in North Dakota classrooms. Parents, educators, students, and community members are invited to share their perspectives on how technology can best support learning across the state. Take the survey at <https://forms.office.com/g/PqMeZdCaUu>.

The School Library Journal is hosting the SLJTeen Live Free Virtual Event on August 20. Spend the day diving into the latest releases for teens and tweens with author panels, conversations, and keynote talks. They are still working on the program, but you can register at <https://vshow.on24.com/vshow/SLJTeen2026/registration/19660>.

WebJunction Highlight

By Al Peterson

Finding Your Voice: Public Speaking Tips for Library Staff

Does your heart race or your palms sweat when you think about public speaking? Do you get absolutely freaked out to speak in public before a group? You're not alone.

Most people experience some degree of fear regarding public speaking. But public speaking is a key skill you need and you can learn. All library staff should be advocates who can talk publicly about the library's value.

This is the third story in our series on effective communication. The goal is to help library staff build clear, confident communication skills they can use every day, whether speaking, writing, or presenting with different audiences that have different needs. Here's the good news, many library staff lead story times, afterschool programs, or book clubs but don't see themselves as speakers. Those are public speaking skills!

The first step is to know your audience and purpose, which has been a common theme in all articles in the series. Is the setting formal or casual? Are you solo or on a panel? In-person or virtual? Why are you speaking? Is it to promote a levy or kick off summer reading? Different audiences need different tones. This article will discuss the importance of preparation, how to strongly communicate your content, and how to keep developing and improving your public speaking skills.

If this sounds like a skill you need to develop, check out this article through WebJunction at <https://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/public-speaking-tips.html>.

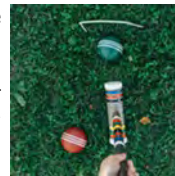
If you missed the first two parts in Webjunctions communication series, here are links for the articles. [Clear, confident communication in your library](#) and [Say it loud, say it clear: Writing for everyday library communication](#).

WebJunction

Kit of the Week

Croquet Outdoor Kit

Croquet is a family-friendly game and great for honing the entire family's math and science skills. Practice keeping score, measuring probability, and mentally calculating angles, distance, force, and momentum. Games help develop new brain cells, assist in number and shape recognition, grouping, counting, visual perception, hand-eye coordination, and manual dexterity. Additionally, children can be taught important social skills, such as verbal communication, sharing, and taking turns by playing games.



This kit includes one bag, six mallets, nine gates, six balls, two stakes, and a folder that contains an inventory/questions sheet and instructions guide.

[Reserve This Kit](#)



NDLA News
AWARD NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

WE ARE ALL DESERVING OF ALL THE AWARDS, BUT IF YOU KNOW OF PEOPLE PARTICULARLY DESERVING OF THE ACCOLADES LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR OR MAJOR BENEFACTOR FROM OUR AMAZING ORGANIZATION, NOW IS THE TIME TO NOMINATE THEM!

NOMINATIONS FOR BOTH AWARDS ARE DUE BY JUNE 30th, 2026

LETTERS OF NOMINATION SHOULD BE SENT TO **PRESIDENT-ELECT MADDIE SHARPE!**

LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR **CLICK ON EITHER AWARD FOR MORE INFORMATION!** **MAJOR BENEFACTOR**

IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR USERNAME & PASSWORD, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

NDLA

Award Nominations Needed!

We are all deserving of all the awards, but if you know of people particularly deserving of the accolades Librarian of the Year or Major Benefactor from our amazing organization, now is the time to nominate them!

Nominations for both awards are due by June 30, 2026.

Letters of nomination should be sent to President-Elect Maddie Sharpe at president.elect@ndla.info.

If you'd like help drafting a letter, please reach out to the Communications Council at communications@ndla.info.

[Librarian of the Year Award](#)

[Major Benefactor Award](#)

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Any mention of services or products in this newsletter does not constitute any endorsement or recommendation. The use of any services or products should be evaluated on an individual basis.

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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