



Flickertale

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NDLCC Vacancy: At-Large Librarian Position

The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC) serves as the State Library's advisory board. The NDLCC assists with the creation and implementation of the Library Vision strategic plan, including the awarding of Library Vision grants. The Governor appoints NDLCC members according to Century Code §54-24.4. Typically, the Council meets quarterly with two meetings held in-person and two via videoconference. The in-person meetings also include tours of libraries.

There is currently a vacancy in one of the At-Large Librarian seats. The position must be filled by someone working in a North Dakota library.

Nominations, including self-nominations, may be sent to the NDSL Administrative email at ndsldamn@nd.gov by **June 15**. The State Library will compile the list of applicants and forward it to the Governor's office. Nominees will also need to complete the Governor's board application, which can be found at <https://apps.nd.gov/gov/boards/>.

This is an interesting and exciting opportunity to help shape library services in our state so please consider applying. If you have questions about the NDLCC, please contact State Librarian Mary Soucie at (701)328-4654 or msoucie@nd.gov.



General Grants

Small Grant: \$500 - \$1,999

Large Grant: \$2,000 - \$10,000

Apply by: June 30, 2026

Award Date: August 1, 2026

Grant Period:

- Small Grant: August 2, 2026 - October 31, 2026
- Large Grant: August 2, 2026 - December 15, 2026

Talking Books Summer Reading 2026

Submitted by Steve Hammel

From June 15 to August 15, 2026, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), in partnership with Braille Institute Library, will host its annual Summer Reading Program for patrons nationwide. This year's theme is "Unearth a Story" that will explore the histories, landscapes, and voices hidden just beneath the surface of the world around us.

Activities will include author talks, book discussions, a panel about the historical fiction genre, narrated soundscapes, and more. Visit the Braille Institute Library's Summer Reading Program webpage to find all the details and register at brailleinstitute.org/summer-reading-program.

Registration is now open. Participation is open to all; you don't have to have a visual or print disability to join in the fun.

Additional registration information. All activities will be through Zoom which does require an email address when you register. If you do not have an email address, there is the option to register by phone. Call 888-245-2471 and leave a voicemail with your information. Braille Institute Library staff will register for you.



Braille Institute Library's Summer Reading Program

In Other News

- The second annual Second Lady's 2026 Summer Reading Challenge for children in K-8. Participants who read and track 12 books of their choice between June 1 and September 4 will receive a personalized certificate and an America 250th anniversary-themed bookmark. They will also be entered for a chance to visit Washington, D.C., and the White House with a chaperone. Learn more at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/read/>
- North Dakota Council on the Arts is creating a special publication titled "Murals Across North Dakota" as part of their 60th Anniversary celebration in 2027. Submit your community's mural(s) at <https://www.forms.nd.gov/form/murals-across-north-dakota> to be added as a pin on the public interactive map and to be considered for the publication.
- STAR Net is hosting virtual events for libraries. July 13: Join Cody Balhau, Chief Science Officer on board the Marcus G Langseth research vessel, as they return from a global voyage of exploration mapping the seafloor. July 15: Join Dr. Diva Amon, Nat Geo Explorer and Deep Sea Biologist, as she works on the RV Falkor Too research vessel off the coast of her native Trinidad and Tobago. July 15: If/Then Ambassador and Earthquake Geologist Dr. Wendy Bohon will talk about "Earth Shakers: The Science of Earthquakes". Learn more and register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8sHv22uL1QIq8XLV3ivc2eGvPZfoctZCCOBh7EgvHJJNByg/viewform?pli=1>
- School Library Journal's Picture Book Palooza will be held on July 23. Join authors and artists from around the world with keynotes, author panels, and illustrator spotlights. Chat with publishing teams, download digital galleys and resources, and learn more about the books available at the exhibit hall. Register for this free virtual event at [https://vshow.on24.com/vshow/Picture Books 2026/registration](https://vshow.on24.com/vshow/Picture_Books_2026/registration).
- The STAR Library Network and their partners at HHMI/Tangled Bank Studios are beginning to plan for the next Spark of Science program for public libraries. To assist them to better develop a program that meets libraries where they are, please take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z89KJ7X>.
- Community Action Partnership of North Dakota is partnering with North Dakota State University to conduct a Statewide Community Needs Assessment. This survey is open to adults in all ND households and will help Community Action and other partners develop local action plans based on the needs to the communities they serve. Go to https://ndstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8k2E41srSbCh8oK for more information and to take the survey.

Digital Delight

Wedding portrait of John and Barbara Mitzel, 1926

This studio portrait of John Mitzel and Barbara (Marquart) Mitzel is from November 17, 1926. The photo was scanned at the ND State Library's ScanDay event in Napoleon.

This and other great photos can be found in the North Dakota Memories digital collection on Digital Horizons



[View The Image](#)



Crafting

Summer weather beckons to the creative side of me; as such, crafting seems an appropriate topic for the month of June! While this list offers a variety of crafting types, it certainly does not encompass every option out there. Do you have a favorite craft that is not mentioned here?

If you have a topic request for *Top Picks*, please email me at tlkruger@nd.gov.

Hello Hexie!: 20 Easy to Crochet Patterns from Simple Granny Hexagons by Sarah Shrimpton

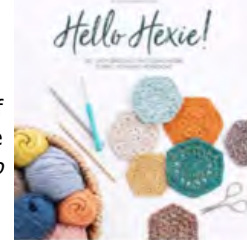
Publish Date: 2021

Publisher: David & Charles

Summary: In *Hello Hexie!* Sarah Shrimpton uses ten types of crocheted hexagons to create clothing, accessories, and home décor. The instructions are easy to follow and detailed. *Hello Hexie!* is available on Libby.

Type of Craft: Crocheting

Best For: Beginning to intermediate crocheters; Ages 10+



[Continue Reading](#)

Walking the Prairie Story Trail

Submitted by Michele Seil, Carrington City Library Director

Carrington now has a story trail! It's called Walking the Prairie Story Trail, and is an enhancement to a walking trail that already exists. It has 16 sign posts. We hosted our Launch Party on Wednesday, May 27, with over 70 people in attendance! This project was provided support by the ND250 Commission Community Initiative Grants funded by the North Dakota 69th Legislative Assembly. We also received funding from the Carrington Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Office. We are changing stories regularly this summer in order to promote the story trail. It was very helpful early on to put a request out for information about story trails in our state. I got a lot of really helpful feedback, which made putting this all together much easier.





Couponing 101

Submitted by Al Peterson

Our patrons may be feeling a little anxious about financial uncertainty and escalating costs of living. Being smart and savvy about one's finances and recognizing what increasing costs we are facing isn't an option anymore, these days it's a necessity. While prices seem to climb ever higher from the grocery aisles and the gas pumps, there's an underutilized weapon in the savvy consumer's arsenal: couponing. It's not just about clipping a few pieces of paper, it has evolved into a dynamic domain, embracing digital spaces and reshaping how we approach purchasing. By demystifying the world of couponing, this course doesn't just offer your community members a temporary respite from rising costs, but an enduring strategy for smarter spending.

This eight-lesson course explores all aspects of couponing, from the traditional print coupons to their digital counterparts. You'll learn how couponing can compound your savings over time, how to decode various retailer's terms and conditions for using coupons, and how to stay on the forefront of sales cycles to maximize your savings. Prepare to unlock unparalleled savings and transform your financial future, one coupon at a time. Couponing 101 can be promoted along with any other money saving books or programs you may have at your library.

Universal Class courses are self-paced and taken at your convenience on your own time. This course can be found by entering Couponing 101 in the search box or by browsing the *Crafts & Hobbies* category.

Universal Class

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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 nds1pa@nd.gov.

Times referenced are Central Time.

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