



Flickertale

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Summer Camp Fun

Recently, I had the opportunity to join 37 incoming 6th-8th graders at summer camp. I regularly volunteer with our church's middle school youth ministry program. The Core Team included seven adults and eight high schoolers that regularly volunteer with the program. We served as the camp counselors, overseeing games and activity stations, assisting at meals, and providing support as needed.

I was the leader of the arts and crafts station. I brought my Cricut with me as well as my pens and markers, stickers, jewels and brads, a variety of punches, and stamps as well as all kinds of paper to be used for different things. At the last minute, I threw in my six adult coloring books which were very popular.

In the Cricut Design Space, I found a tabbed box that I could score and cut out which didn't need any adhesives to put it together. The kids decorated the boxes in many different ways, and each one was unique to the creator.

The kids also had the opportunity to make a Rosary or a Rosary bracelet. I learned the hard way that the string I had didn't necessarily work with the beads I had because of the method I'd chosen to get the Rosaries started. Sometimes the kids switched to a different way to string the starter beads or used the other option I had as "string". It was a good reminder that even when we make the best of plans for a program, sometimes we have to be flexible and/or redirect.

One of my favorite camp activities was our "Crazy Olympics". We started with each small group painting with their team color. I asked the groups to paint my shirt for me. I was "Team Everyone". They then ran through a "tunnel" and we threw painted chalk powder at them which was so much fun. First learned lesson, use the colored chalk powder in the grass or an area that you don't mind being colorful. The stations I oversaw were the "human sundae" and "cheesy darts". For both stations, there were three rounds of two teams battling for the most points.



For the sundae, the teams were given shaving cream, chocolate syrup, sprinkles (i.e. m-m's) and up to three cherries. They had to decorate their sundaes and then I asked each team to explain to me their decorating method. They were scored on creativity, deliciousness (looks, not actual taste) and teamwork. The second two teams based their sundae on the "sundae library"; they knew their audience! Their scores were extremely close.



The cheesy darts included shaving cream and cheese balls. The person with the shaving cream stood in a square and their teammates stood behind a line and tossed cheese balls at them. Each round they moved farther back. Again, we had to punt since the timing didn't work as designed. I started my timer and switched them every 10 seconds until the three minutes were up. By the third group, I had the rules down pat. The third group was very creative with the application of the shaving cream and consequently had way more cheese balls stick than the previous two rounds. Here is a picture of the cheesy darts that shows

the innovation applied by not just putting the shaving cream on the face. Or in this case, not on the face at all.

I had a blast and it is the closest I've come to a summer reading kickoff or end program since we stopped doing our kickoff in 2020. There were several lessons or reminders that I had learned from the many years I executed library programs. The need for flexibility and the need to be open to suggestions is so important. The reminder that you can't plan for everything and that no matter how much effort you put into planning for everything, things will still not go exactly as you imagined. It's okay if what is learned is different than what you thought would be learned. Sometimes the program should be held in the grass rather than on the pavement. Finally, remember to enjoy your program as much as the participants do.

The second picture is my shirt after I let each team paint me with their team color. I hope you had a wonderful summer, filled with learning, laughter, and opportunities for flexibility.

Fundamental Skills for Today's Services

Free Virtual Conference

September 2 & 3 (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)



Couch to Reading Training Program

You've all heard of Couch to 5k programs which are designed to help people who aren't runners be able to run at least a 5k. What if there was a program out there that would do the same thing but with reading? It probably wouldn't surprise you to find out that this has already been contemplated, and there is already a training plan floating around the internet.

In her July 5, 2026, [blog post](#), Naomi Alderman proposed a Couch to 5k program for reading. Her thought was that many people are feeling their attention sucked away by smart phones which can make sustained reading difficult. We need to retrain our brains, and this can be a gradual process. Since everything is easier when you have a plan, Alderman proposed a three-track system: [Track One](#) – for those who want to start reading again, [Track Two](#) – for those who are already reading regularly but want to read more, and [Track Three](#) – for those who are interested in reading more advanced material.

[Continue Reading](#)



Destiny or Choice

Destiny or choice... which determines a person's path? *Tammy's Top Picks* for August contains adult novels that address just that! Some focus on fate playing a large part in how our lives develop. Others place free will and choices as what determines our lives journeys. If you have a topic for *Top Picks*, please email me at tlkruger@nd.gov.

Dark Matter by Blake Crouch

Publish Date: 2016

Publisher: Thorndike Press

Summary: "Are you happy with your life?" Jason Dessen could have been an award-winning scientist. Instead, he took the path of fatherhood and marriage. But what could have happened if he hadn't made these choices? In *Dark Matter*, Jason is confronted with multiverses of how his life would have been different based on his decisions. With this information available, would he have chosen differently?

NDSL has a book club kit for *Dark Matter*.

Best For: Adults



[Continue Reading](#)

AI Insights

Submitted by Trevor Martinson

Rogue AI Models

By now, you've probably heard of OpenAI. If not, you've likely heard of their product: ChatGPT. OpenAI has been in the news a lot the last few years, especially lately. Unfortunately, the most recent stories are a bit alarming.

Two powerful AI models that the company was experimenting with managed to escape their test environment. They were essentially prototypes. The scary part is that the AI models did this on their own. No human direction was involved. The models, once they escaped, gained access to the internet and hacked into a separate company's system.

This sounds like the plot to most AI-related science fiction movies.

The company, Hugging Face, detected the intrusion and determined that it was "an autonomous AI agent system." Basically, the company then used AI to fight this AI intrusion. Hugging Face disclosed this incident in [a post on July 16](#). At the time, it was not known that OpenAI's rogue models were the culprit.

[Continue Reading](#)

The banner features a title "Meditation Mastery: Learn How to Meditate" in a dark box. Below the title is a photo of two people meditating. To the right of the photo is a button that says "+ Join this Course" and text indicating it is a "Self-Paced, Online Class" from the "North Dakota State Library". At the bottom, there are four blue boxes with white text: "12 Lessons", "17 Exams & Assignments", "8 Hours average time", and "0.8 CEUs".

12	17	8	0.8
Lessons	Exams & Assignments	Hours average time	CEUs

Meditation Mastery: Learn How to Meditate

August 15th is National Relaxation Day. Can you imagine a life where your mind is a source of peace and strength, where calmness flows through you like a gentle stream? What if you had the power to control your thoughts, steady your emotions, and tap into a deeper well of wisdom within yourself? Universal Class's *Meditation Mastery* is more than a course; it's a path toward true mental clarity, emotional resilience, and enriched creativity. This transformative journey goes beyond the surface, taking you into the profound depths of mindfulness and self-awareness that meditation has inspired for thousands of years. In this course, your patrons will discover the art and science of meditation from the ground up. Your patrons and staff will learn techniques that include classic seated meditation, breathing practices, and the dynamic integration of yoga. You'll not only learn how to meditate, but you'll also gain an understanding of the very essence of mindfulness, experiencing how it can reshape your daily life, your relationships, and your sense of self. *Meditation Mastery* is about embracing a practice that can anchor and empower your patrons and help them find clarity in a chaotic world. This 12-lesson course will introduce you to the foundational skills needed for meditation, from creating a peaceful physical space to practicing different postures that promote both comfort and focus. Your patrons will explore various breathing techniques that naturally soothe the mind and guide you into a state of profound relaxation and presence. Each practice is designed to help you find the right balance: a place where you're fully engaged in the "now," without forcing or judging, simply present and aware.

Universal Class courses are self-paced and taken at your convenience. To sign up for this course and other great courses, go to www.northdakotastatend.universalclass.com/, enter *Meditation Mastery: Learn How to Meditate* in the search box or find this course in the *Self-Help* category.

[Universal Class](#)

Digital Delight

First School in Burt, N.D., 1914



A group of children stand with their teacher, Frank Jache, in front of the first Burt Schoolhouse (Hettinger County) in this photo from 1914. In the background on the right, there are two horses and a wagon.

Courtesy of Digital Horizons (North Dakota Memories Collection, ND State Library).

[Learn More About This Image](#)

Navigating Accessibility

By BreAnne Meier



Website Accessibility Update

Every library should be making strives to ensure that their digital platforms are ADA-compliant. While the deadlines were delayed until April 2027 for those who serve a population of over 50,000 and April 2028 for those who serve a population of under 50,000, it's never too early to look into what needs to be done.

One thing to be aware of is that The National Federation of the Blind is asking the court to block the delays and restore the original accessibility compliance deadlines. If they succeed, it will mean that the original deadlines of April 2026 and April 2027 will be restored.

A great goal would be to have your library's digital platforms accessible before the original deadlines. Watch this column for more information and steps to take to make your website accessible.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at ndsipa@nd.gov or book a time to meet via Teams at <https://bit.ly/LibraryWebsiteSupport>.

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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.

Some of these resources and programs are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

