Flickertale

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Cozy and Creepy Season Issue

Beanstack's November 2026 Challenge

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

The Beanstack Challenge for November is *Read Grateful*!

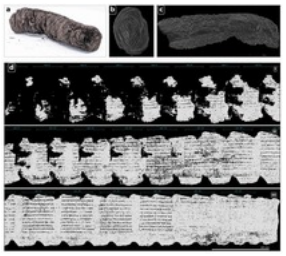
November is nearly here, the perfect time to reflect on what we are grateful for and snuggle up with a great book. Grab a warm drink, log your reading, and earn festive badges. This challenge runs November 1-30 and is open to all ages.

Beanstack

A Cozy Research Find: Positive AI Work Within The Humanities

Submitted by Jennifer Long

Translating carbonized Herculaneum scrolls from the destruction of Mt. Vesuvius with AI research in the humanities. The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is backing open-science that uses AI to recover information once thought lost to history, including lost voices from the Roman Empire.



When Mount Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79, it buried Pompeii and its neighbor Herculaneum. In the 1700s, excavation work uncovered more than 800 papyrus scrolls at Herculaneum, unfortunately the scrolls looked more like logs after a bonfire than actual documents (see image a). Early attempts to unroll them destroyed many. For centuries, they were considered unreadable and possibly lost for good. Now, researchers have ***virtually unwrapped*** these scrolls using X-ray scans, revealing the text hidden inside (images b and c). AI then helps recover the ink and decode the writing (image d).

Continue Reading

Dickinson Area Public Library is displaying seven oil paintings created by local artist **Bonnie Wells** through November 2. They also hosted a **Teen Halloween Lock-In** on Friday, October 23, with snacks, pizza, a costume contest, games, and more.

The Reading Nook

By Jessica Robinson

2026 Horror

Millennial fans of the 1991 film *Drop Dead Fred* will find something to love in Robert Brockway's *I Will Kill Your Imaginary Friend for $200*. At turns both hilarious and horrifying, this book centers around Ivan, middle-aged but still missing his imaginary friend, who makes a living ridding other adults of their unwanted pretend pals. He draws the line at offing the imaginary friends of children, but an eight-year-old named Kay changes his mind when her prank-loving imaginary friend Eddie Video goes way too far one day. However, Eddie Video won't go down without a fight.

Continue Reading

They Refuse to Disappear

Submitted by Cyndi Olson

Libraries are in the business of preserving stories, but not every story is sitting neatly on a shelf. Some are hiding down gravel roads, behind weathered buildings, and below town signs that have population numbers declining.

Have you ever heard of Bonetraill, North Dakota? Neither had I. But recently, while in Arizona, I met a woman who, after hearing I was from North Dakota, told me she had grown up there. She went on to explain that there really isn't much of a town left anymore. It was named for its location on an old trail used by pioneers when hauling buffalo bones to Williston. Well, that was all I needed to hear. Bonetraill immediately went on my list of places to see before Mother Nature, time, or surrounding farmland slowly takes the town back.

Most people would probably say, "How interesting," and move on. I wanted to know where it was, what happened to it, and whether there was anything left to see. Apparently, working around libraries has taught me that once you find one interesting piece of information, you are obligated to keep digging until you've gone completely down the research rabbit hole.

Continue Reading

Cozy and Creepy Tales on Libby

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

Are you a fan of cozy or creepy seasonal reads? This list gives 5 of each available on Libby. Since Libby offers a mix of reading and interest levels, these cozy and creepy reads also span across age and interest levels.

Cozy

The Little Book of Pumpkin Spice: Celebrating the Cozy Comfort of Autumn Days by OH

This cozy lifestyle read highlights pumpkin spice throughout history and around the world. It offers tips, gift ideas, health benefits, recipes, and activity ideas to make the best of the pumpkin spice season! *The Little Book of Pumpkin Spice* is available as an e-book.

Continue Reading

The Horror!!!

As a child of the '90s, I grew up on *Are You Afraid of the Dark* and *Goosebumps*. I still can't think about "**The Tale of the Nightly Neighbors**" without shuddering, and **Slappy** is the reason ventriloquist dummies are still mildly terrifying to me. As I got older, my taste veered more toward the psychological thriller, but I have read my share of Stephen King and shouted at the characters in The Ring and The Grudge to not watch the movie and to stay out of the dark, scary attic. This begs the question: Why do we get scared on purpose?

As much as I wish I could tell you that there is a lot of objective research out there on the subject, a lot of this boils down to opinion. However, as there is no shortage of educated opinions out there, we will use them as a jumping off point.

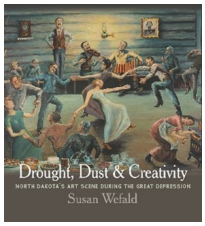
1. Horror helps build resilience. The characters are thrown into the worst situations imaginable. However, they don't give up. They find strategies to beat evil and win the day. Reading about people successfully overcoming obstacles can build resilience in the reader.
2. Reading/watching horror gives the same hormonal response as being in an actual frightening situation. Horror activates the amygdala which releases adrenaline. It is a safe way of thrill seeking.

Continue Reading

"Drought, Dust & Creativity: North Dakota's Art Scene During the Great Depression"

Susan Wefald expertly explores the emergence of the American Scene in North Dakota art – a movement of artists who drew inspiration from everyday life and shared experiences – in her new book released on October 13, 2026.

From the back of the book:



The Dust Bowl and the Great Depression wreaked havoc throughout America in the 1930s. While dust and grasshoppers destroyed farms across North Dakota, stifling families' incomes and ways of life, government-funded and independent arts programs ignited sparks of creativity.

The rise of the American Scene during one of the most trying times in the nation's history is revealed in pieces that tell stories of tradition and North Dakotans' unwavering pride. These works of art formed ND's American Scene, noted for the ways in which it encapsulated the resilience and determination of Great Depression artists.

With 127 images, this book includes six parts that showcase art's essential role in providing hope during difficult times. Readers will find inspiration for their own creative projects as they explore the 1930's North Dakota art scene.

Part One: North Dakota Themes for North Dakota Buildings
Part Two: Painting the North Dakota Scene
Part Three: "All That Is Needed to Write Is Pencil, Paper, and an Emotion"
Part Four: North Dakota's Artisan Workshops
Part Five: Talented Fingers at Work: North Dakota Folk Artists
Part Six: Live Theater in 1930s North Dakota

Susan Wefald served for sixteen years on the ND Public Service Commission and is a violinist with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra. A University of Michigan graduate with an MA in Public Administration from the University of North Dakota, she is the author of ***Spectacular North Dakota Hikes - Bring the Dog*** and ***Important Voices - North Dakota's Women Elected State Officials Share Their Stories, 1893-2013***.

If your library would like to host Susan for a book talk either in-person or via Zoom, please contact your **Library Development Specialist** for her contact information.

More Information

Learn to Quilt: Cozy Throw Quilt

Join Amy Gibson, quilter and designer, to learn how to make a cozy throw quilt, perfect for the winter months. Quilter and designer Amy Gibson begins with tips and tricks for:

- fabric selection
- ripping your backing fabric quickly and accurately
- efficiently strip-piece panels to create dynamic blocks
- assembling your quilt top with strategies for cutting, pressing, & squaring up
- adding sashing
- how to add quilting and crisp binding

This class includes six lessons and takes a little over two hours to complete. A supply list, helpful resources, and instructions can also be downloaded.

Craft & Hobby

Cozy or Creepy? Fall Reads for Every Reader

Submitted by Kathy Cline

As summer transitions to fall, and fall quietly sneaks toward winter, the evenings grow longer and cooler while the days become shorter. With fall comes the return to school and the anticipation of holidays such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, each a perfect time to curl up with a book. Whether the story is creepy or cozy, engaging with a book promotes reading and builds essential skills.

Some readers prefer creepy books in the fall, as the change in weather and the surroundings naturally become settings for such stories. The nights stretch longer, leafless trees take on more sinister silhouettes, and the darkness seems deeper as it settles in. Spooky stories build suspense and curiosity, pulling the reader deeper into the characters and events. They are an excellent fit for anyone who enjoys mystery or mild horror. Spooky stories can enhance comprehension skills as readers use critical thinking to make inferences and predictions.

Continue Reading

Haunted Libraries Around the World

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

"Libraries are full of ghosts, books being the most haunted things of all." -- Maya Panika

Libraries have been rumored to be haunted for centuries. Really, so many possess an ideal atmosphere for eerie feelings: old buildings with lots of hiding spaces, strong connections to the past, and stories galore that stick with readers long after the back covers are closed. Throughout the world, libraries have laid claim to hauntings. Let's explore five!

Willard Public Library of Evansville, Indiana

The Grey Lady, Louise Carpenter, is rumored to haunt the **Willard Public Library**. Louise was the daughter of entrepreneur, Willard Carpenter, for which Evansville's library is named. Louise's husband ran up massive gambling debts and later divorced her. Looking for financial help, Louise reached out to her father but was not given assistance. Even Willard's will did not grant her any aid! In response, Louise sued the library but lost. After her own death, Louise haunts the Willard Public Library out of spite (Journey, 2012).

Continue Reading

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To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at ndslpa@nd.gov.

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