Flickertale

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Lawmakers of North Dakota Books

The 70th Legislative Session Edition of Lawmakers of North Dakota Book includes detailed profiles of elected members of the House and Senate with updated committee assignments, staffers, and contact information. It is a resource for learning more about ND's state legislators and legislative leadership. This information can also be found on the **Legislative Council website**.

If your library would like a print copy, **directors** of all library types are welcome to fill out the form below by end of day on Tuesday, November 24. **Limit of one copy per library.**

Lawmakers Book Request Form



Using the Right Tool for the Right Task

Last week, I wrote about making screen time purposeful, which led me to think about print and digital reading. How will school decisions about screen time and technology use affect reading? Is one format better than the other? Is there room for both in education? A recent white paper from Scholastic Education helped answer these questions.

Drawing on current research and educational insights, Scholastic Education's July 2026 white paper, *Why Print Matters: What Research Shows About Reading, Comprehension, and Cognitive Engagement*, highlights the role of print books in literacy development and student learning. The report emphasizes that both print and digital reading have important places in education. As the authors state, "Research suggests that print and digital reading environments each offer distinct benefits for students" (Scholastic Education, 2026).

Continue Reading



Fargo Public Library is marking National Model Railroad Month by hosting **"Train Day at the Library"** on Saturday, November 21. Members of the Red River Modules Model Railroad Club will be stationed in the Community Room from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM with miniature locomotives and custom track layouts.

Leach Public Library is collecting new socks and underwear with their **10th Annual Sock Tree Collection** for the Three Rivers Crisis Center.

Walhalla Public Library will be offering **Mahjong classes**.

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.


Something About That Roosevelt Cabin

North Dakota Histories

- Dodge, North Dakota, 50th Golden Anniversary, 1914-1964
- Talking Wires: The Story of North Dakota's Telephone Cooperatives

North Dakota Memories

- J. R. Waters at the Helm [cartoon, 1911]
- Something About That Roosevelt Cabin [newspaper article, 1917]



Political Prairie Fire

- Absent Voters law, 1919
- BND Bulletin [1919-1921]
- IVA ticket, N.D., October 1922
- League Exchange advertisement, 1916
- Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce building, circa 1919
- Nonpartisan League ticket, N.D., October 1922
- Portrait of David C. Poindexter, circa 1922
- Portrait of William E. Byerly, circa 1927
- Report of the N.D. Attorney General [1918-1926]
- Report of the N.D. Insurance Commissioner [1916-1921]
- Report of the N.D. Railroad Commission [1918-1924]
- Report of the N.D. State Land Commissioner [1918 1922]
- Report of the N.D. State Treasurer [1917-1922]
- Townley Sued by Jim Waters, Brinton to be Arrested Here, Developments in League Feud [newspaper article, 1920]
- Waters Named Bank Examiner [newspaper article, 1916]

Digital Horizons



ND Department of Transportation is inviting North Dakotans to **submit name ideas** for a snowplow in their home district. The contest closes on Monday, November 23.

Next year's **International Observe the Moon Night** will take place on Friday, September 10, 2027.

The Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) is conducting a **Community Needs Assessment** to better tailor what they offer to their target audience: People working in Rural and Small Libraries. All responses are due December 1.

The **2026 Rural Library Network eSummit** is taking place on December 2 (10:30AM - 4:30 PM). This free virtual event brings together rural public, school, and academic library professionals, educators, advocates, and community partners from across the country for an energizing day of inspiration, connection, and practical ideas you can take back to your community.

High school juniors and seniors and college students are either North Dakota residents or attending North Dakota schools are eligible to win a **$1,500 Smart with My Money Scholarship**. Receive one entry into the scholarship drawing for each college planning course you complete. All entries must be submitted by November 30, 2026.



Tumbling Leaf Table Runner

Join Nicki LaFoille in creating a **Tumbling Leaf Table Runner** by combining autumn-colored fabrics. This 55-minute video walks you through the steps to creating your own table runner. It also includes a downloadable pattern that tells you what supplies are needed, cutting instructions, and step-by-step directions.

Supplies needed:

- Scraps of various autumnal colored fabrics
- ½ yard background fabric
- ½ yard backing fabric
- Batting



Craft & Hobby



What's New In Niche Academy

The North Dakota Library Academy is getting freshened up a bit. A bit of reorganizing, some cleaning up of outdated or seldom used tutorials, and new additions to the Academy Categories. The *Current Topics in Libraries* categories has a new topic added, *AI & Technology.* Two new tutorials are now listed under this topic. *Refusal as Instruction: Breaking up with Big Tech* and *Refusal as Instruction: Talking to Patrons About AI.* As AI becomes more and more a part of our lives, tutorials and recorded webinars on AI and other technology relating to libraries and our communities will find their way into this category.

Some changes were made to the layout of the category, *Library Directors. Leading Your Team*, formerly named *Leadership*, is a collection of self-paced tutorials on developing the skills to be an effective leader. A new tutorial was added, *Working Well with Your Team: How to Manage Your Staff.* Another change to the Library Director category was dividing the topic of *Staff Relationships* into two new topics: *Staff Management* and *Staff Support.*

A new topic, *De Escalation* has been added to the category of *Library Staff Training and Development.* Two new tutorials, *De-escalation – Recognizing and Preparing for Tense Situations* and *De-escalation – Responding to Tense Situations* are available to help recognize, prepare for, and respond to those not so pleasant moments we sometimes face. Speaking of unpleasantries, a new tutorial, *Politely Declining Suggestions or Demands* was added to the category of *Customer Services*.

You can check out these tutorials and hundreds of other free, professional development resources in **The North Dakota Library Academy**.

Niche Academy

BITS OF TRIVIA

By Stacey Goldade

Cataloging

Are you a cataloger? Do you wish you knew more about cataloging?

We have gathered a variety of cataloging information, including past cataloging webinars, that we offered in our **Niche Academy platform**. This platform has all our training materials, but the easiest way to find ones related to cataloging is to use the search bar at the top of the page. If you type "cataloging" you will get 4 different ones that have the NDSL logo, which means they were presented by NDSL staff. There are other sessions from different sources there as well, so feel free to check them all out. We also have a **LibGuide** with a variety of resources. If you have a question for a cataloger, you can submit it at **https://www.library.nd.gov/contact**.

Honoring Joy Harjo
23rd United States Poet Laureate

Submitted by Jennifer Long

Honoring the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States: Joy Harjo for the 3rd article on National Native American Heritage Month.

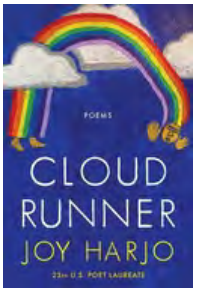
"I release you, my beautiful and terrible fear. I release you. You were my beloved and hated twin, but now, I don't know you as myself. I release you with all the pain I would know at the death of my children." -She Had Some Horses (1983)



It was through the poems **"I Give You Back"** and **"She Had Some Horses"** that I came to most deeply appreciate the work of Joy Harjo. During a period of my life living in Montana and working as a librarian, these poems resonated with me just as strongly then as they still do now. Harjo's writing embraces the raw realities of life, exploring pain, loss, love, heartbreak, and healing with honesty and grace. Her work also reflects the wisdom found in family, community, and ancestral connections, revealing how these relationships can guide us through life's most difficult experiences.

I honor Joy Harjo this month in this article. Harjo is the First Native American to serve (for three terms) as our **23rd Poet Laureate of the United States.** She is a poet, artist, saxophone player, performer, and a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation (Mvskoke Nation). Joy Harjo has received the Poetry Society of America's Frost Medal and a National Humanities Medal and an inaugural Artist-in-Residence for the Bob Dylan Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her list of books can be found on her **official website**, which I highly recommend viewing and seeing if your local library has a copy.

Cloud Runner, Harjo's newest book of poetry published on October 13, 2026, centers on grief, loss, suffering and human resilience. This work also focuses on the loss of Harjo's daughter to cancer and the lasting bond of mother and child:



An excerpt from Cloud Runner:

"I am Cloud Runner, you whispered, as I rinsed dishes and looked out the window, the sun flaring dusky gold through our story. I dried my hands and went outside to read the clouds.
Remember me in my children and their children, you sang.
Remember me in poetry.
Remember me when it rains, when the plants rise up in
Green to drink.
Remember me in butterflies.
And then, you were gone."

References:

Abdoo, Paul. "Joy Harjo: The Whole of Time." *On Being*, featuring biography courtesy of Joy Harjo, On Being Project, **https://onbeing.org/programs/joy-harjo-the-whole-of-time**. Accessed 5 Nov. 2026.

Harjo, Joy. *Cloud Runner*. Goodreads, https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/2468568l5-cloud-runner. Accessed 5 Nov. 2026.

Harjo, Joy. *She Had Some Horses*. W.W. Norton, 1983.

"Joy Harjo." *Poetry Foundation*, Poetry Foundation, https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/joy-harjo. Accessed 5 Nov. 2026.

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www.library.nd.gov

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

Times referenced are Central Time.

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