

The ND State Library Presents:


PATHWAYS THROUGH THE PRAIRIE

PODCAST




EPISODE 28: MOLLY HERRINGTON
ND CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER

HOSTED BY ND STATE
LIBRARIAN MARY SOUCIE



Tammy's Top Picks

By Tammy Kruger



Adult Books Set in North Dakota

When deciding to focus on adult titles set in North Dakota, I did not know what I would find. I was pleasantly surprised! This *Top Picks* is a mix of eleven (there is a bonus one this month) of fictional and nonfictional titles that portray North Dakota living. If you have a topic for *Tammy's Top Picks*, please email me at tlkruger@nd.gov.

The Farmer's Lawyer: The North Dakota Nine and the Right to Save the Family Farm by Sarah Vogel

Publish Date: 2021

Publisher: Thorndike Press

Summary: Sarah Vogel, lawyer and single mom, takes on a national class action suit due to the farming crisis of the 1980s. (This suit later results in the passing of the [Agricultural Credit Act of 1987](#).) A combination of drought, failed political policy, land and yield pricing, and past debts from when farming was more profitable results in several farmers across the country not being able to pay back their balances. This leads to massive foreclosures, freezing of bank accounts, and overall hurt to farms and their local communities. The U.S. has not seen such economic devastation since the Great Depression! Many of Sarah's clients do not pay her – they simply could not afford to – which results in Vogel losing her house and having to move herself and her son in with her parents. Sarah's father, also a lawyer, along with numerous other law-practicing friends and associates, help this "writing" lawyer take on her first trial and win! This book contains quite a bit of political and economic background, as well as some insider knowledge of how farms operate. Sarah Vogel's *The Farmer's Lawyer: The North Dakota Nine and the Right to Save the Family Farm* was North Dakota's Great Reads from Great Places adult pick for 2022.

Best For: Adults



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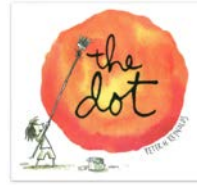
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International Dot Day

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

International Dot Day, observed on September 15, celebrates the publication of Peter H. Reynolds's *The Dot*. In *The Dot*, Vashti thinks she is not an artist because she cannot draw. Her art teacher tells her to make a single dot and sign it. From there, Vashti finds out that everyone can be artistic, as well as make others feel better about themselves. This story is a sweet (and short) tale into leaving our own mark on the world and others.



Celebrate with Us!

This year, North Dakota State Library would love to celebrate people leaving their own marks by filling social media with dots from across the state!

How to Get Involved:

- From September 15 through the 19, read *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds.
- Encourage patrons (and/or staff) to create their own dots. (Even if you are not a library that serves birth-elementary school patrons, we would still love to see dots from you!)
- Take pictures of these creations and send them to BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.
- Share pictures of the creations across your own library's social media.

[Register for Free Resources](#)

Fall 2025 Graphic Novel Preview: Middle Grade

Submitted by Kathy Cline

This list of upcoming graphic novel titles is for informational use only. Neither the State Library nor I recommend any titles. An early reader title list will appear in the next Flickertale issue.

Below are the top ten middle grade comic titles from *Publishers Weekly*. Click on the source link for a complete list of upcoming books. *Amazon* links provide short reviews from paid subscriptions such as *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, *The Horn Book*, etc.

According to *Kirkus*, [Scott Campbell's *Cabin Head and Tree Head*](#) is "A wildly original tale with the buddy-based charm of Frog and Toad but imbued with a wacky energy all its own." This graphic novel for readers aged 6-10 earned a starred review from *Kirkus*. It will be available on September 30. Other reviews: [Amazon](#), [NetGalley](#).



[Dear Jackie](#), written by [Jessixa Bagley](#), was published on September 9. This title deals with self-acceptance and individuality during the middle-school years. *Kirkus* described it as "A funny, heartfelt look at growing up and pushing back against narrow expectations." *Dear Jackie* is a work of fiction for ages 8-12. Other reviews: [NetGalley](#).

[Continue Reading](#)



Engaging Reluctant Readers

A new school year is underway—how exciting! Even with a fresh start, challenges from past years, such as engaging reluctant readers, will likely arise. This article presents two book series that may help reach such readers.



Jessica Levine quotes Sarah Forbes, publisher at DK Learning, as follows:

"We know that struggling readers need engaging, decodable texts that build vocabulary, background knowledge, comprehension, and cultural capital as well. We're trying to blend all the threads of the reading rope—that's the science of reading—into all of our materials, so educators, librarians, and children get everything they need from our books."

[Continue Reading](#)

IMLS Sponsors Freedom Trucks to Celebrate America's 250th Birthday

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded America250, the bipartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a grant to launch six mobile exhibits known as "Freedom Trucks" to travel across the country throughout 2026, sharing the story of our nation's founding. The project directly supports the January 29, 2025, Presidential Executive Order, "[Celebrating America's 250th Birthday](#)."

The mobile exhibits will highlight the key people, places, and events that gave birth to American independence, and will stop at local libraries, schools, and community gatherings. At a time when 64 percent of Americans cannot pass the citizenship test, these key exhibits aim to make our nation's history more accessible and reinforce patriotism among Americans of all ages.

"As we approach America's 250 birthday, it's never been more important to teach the next generation of our nation's proud history and founding principles," said IMLS Acting Director Keith Sonderling. "Our new Freedom Trucks aim to reignite patriotism, celebrate our shared heritage, enhance local community celebrations, and ensure every American has the chance to learn about the ideals that made our country the greatest in the world. IMLS is proud to have sponsored this traveling exhibit and invite participants to learn more about our rich history at their local libraries and museums."

Inspired by the [VA250 Mobile Museum Experience](#), the Freedom Trucks will bring history to life with inspiring, factual content, including digital and interactive material. Based on the concept of the Freedom Train, one of the most memorable and educational aspects of the bicentennial, they are poised to become the largest traveling exhibit on America's founding.

"The Freedom Trucks will bring the story of America's founding directly to communities nationwide — reminding us that our nation was built by the courage, sacrifice, and vision of everyday patriots," said Jennifer Condon, Executive Vice President at America250. "This initiative embodies America250's mission to unite our nation, spark civic renewal, and encourage reflection on the values that continue to guide us today."

Libraries, museums, and other organizations will be invited to participate in the mobile exhibit tour, and audiences nationwide will be able to engage with the content virtually throughout 2026.

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

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

[Gordon and Emma Anderson Collection](#)

- Boy Scout group, 1959
- Helicopter demonstration at Boy Scouts camp, International Peace Garden, 1959



[North Dakota Histories](#)

- 50 Years of Service: Farmers Union Oil Company of Carpio, North Dakota
- 50th Anniversary, Farmers Union Oil Company, Aneta, North Dakota, 1930-1980
- Fifty Years of Service: 1931-1981: Farmers Union Oil Company, Embden, North Dakota
- History of Stanton, North Dakota to 1982: In Commemoration of the Centennial
- History of the Buxton Farmers Union Elevator Company
- North Dakota: A Few Facts Concerning Its Resources and Advantages
- Service Record Book of Men and Women of Mercer County
- Washburn, N. Dak. Centennial, 1882-1982: 100 Years on the Missouri



[North Dakota Memories](#)

- Hotel Dacotah, Grand Forks, N.D., circa 1897
- Knights of Pythias Band, Grand Forks, N.D., 1891
- Portrait of Christian M. Dahl, circa 1906
- Portrait of Frank J. Viets, circa 1897
- Portrait of William H. Standish, circa 1897
- Union National Bank, Grand Forks, N.D., circa 1897



[Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Portrait of George A. Bangs, circa 1917



Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

Category – Library Staff Training and Development

New Tutorial: [Library Foundational Training \(LiFT\)](#).

This is a new series developed by WebJunction and the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL), Library Foundational Training (LiFT). For those of us old enough to remember Alternative Basic Library Education (ABLE), this program was developed by the Idaho Commission for Libraries back in 1998. These courses were designed to provide non-degreed librarians with professional development opportunities to help them become better informed and trained librarians by providing the basics in reference services, collection management, early childhood and young adult services, and technical services. The Library Foundational Training (LiFT) courses are an upgraded version of ABLE, starting with their Collection Development sequence. These courses are intended to address the training needs of predominantly non-degreed library staff who are new to their current position, or new to working in libraries. You will need to sign into WebJunction or create a free WebJunction account to take these courses.

Other Newly added North Dakota State Library tutorials:

[NDLCC Library Visions Grants](#) found in the category of Grant Writing and Management.

[Board Resources](#) found in the category of Library Boards, Friends Groups, and Volunteers.

[Resources That You Can Use to Support English as a Second Language Students and Patrons](#) found in the category of NDSL and ODIN Online Library Resources.

[Empowering School Librarians with State Library Resources](#) found in the category of School Librarian Resources.

Niche Academy

Library Tidbits

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library and Bismarck Burleigh Public Health partnered to host a [Community Table event](#) on September 7. This event was free and open to the public in the library's parking lot.

Williston Community Library held their [24th Annual Tables of Contents](#) event

Digital Delight

State School for the Blind, Bathgate, N.D.

This photograph shows a large brick building. A staircase leads up to the front entrance. Notice the architecture on the roof at center.



Between 1908 and 1961 this building served as the State School for the Blind in Bathgate. The School for the Blind was moved to Grand Forks in 1961. After that the building in Bathgate was made into a rest home for 60 residents. Today it is owned by Bethlehem Community. The Community publishes books for Home-School families.

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

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Kit of the Week

Making Cents of Money: A Financial Literacy Kit for K through 2nd Grade

This kit contains sections about basic money concepts, wants and needs, budgeting, earning money, borrowing versus buying and additional activities to do at home as a family. Objectives, materials needed, reproducibles, activities and resources are included.



This kit includes a binder with lesson plans and reproducibles; six sets of money counting game; six sets of memory match game; large laminated copies of seven bills and five coins; six dice; and three books - "Let's Talk About Money" by Stan and Jan Berenstain; "Money Counting Book" by Unity B.; and "I Am Money and I Don't Grow on Trees" by Julia Cook and Garrett Gunderson.

Request This Kit

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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 ndslpa@nd.gov.

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