



**EPISODE 29: SARA WESTALL  
NE/SE CLINICAL CAMPUS LIBRARIAN**

**HOSTED BY ND STATE  
LIBRARIAN MARY SOUCIE**

## National Preparedness Month

Submitted by Monica Struck

FEMA's Ready Campaign began celebrating National Preparedness Month in 2004. During the month of September, FEMA and their partners work together to encourage Americans to prepare for disasters. This year's theme is Preparedness Starts at Home, and resources focus on returning to the essentials of preparedness.

Ready.gov recommends four actions you can take to protect yourself and your families in the event of a disaster.

1. Know your risk. This ensures that you are preparing for the most likely disasters.
2. Make a family emergency plan. A little preparation gives you peace of mind and can save money in the long run.
3. Build an emergency supply kit.
4. Get involved in your community by taking action to prepare for emergencies.

How can you put these actions into practice as a library?

1. Develop a [Disaster Plan](#). A Disaster Plan is not required for the Developing Level Standards for Public Libraries, but that doesn't mean that you shouldn't have one! It doesn't need to be elaborate or fancy. Focus on the most likely risks. A Disaster Plan will give you and your staff a clear path to follow in emergency.
2. Make sure you have a well-stocked emergency kit. This includes first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, snacks, and water. Plan for what you would need if you got stuck in the library.
3. Conduct programs that help the community prepare for emergencies. Host a CPR training. Have a Winter Survival Kit program. This helps patrons connect the library with disaster preparedness.
4. Build partnerships. These connections will help tie the library into community preparedness.

Let's get ready together! Check out the resources below for more information.

- <https://www.ready.gov/september>
- <https://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/september-preparedness-month>
- [https://www.weather.gov/bmx/outreach\\_npm](https://www.weather.gov/bmx/outreach_npm)
- <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies.html>
- <https://www.ready.gov/2025-national-preparedness-month-toolkit>

Find Out More

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## North Dakota State Poetry Day

Submitted by the North Dakota State Poetry Society

The North Dakota State Poetry Society (NDSPS) has formally announced the inception of October 16 as North Dakota State Poetry Day.



"For this first year of its observance in over 60 years, we invite local communities, schools, and organizations to observe October 16 in their own ways, preferably by reading and celebrating North Dakota poets," said Jamie Parsley, the organization's president. "It is our hope that more organized celebrations of the day will be observed in coming years."

Poetry Day was originally started by Prudence Gearey Sand (1906-1984) in 1950, but the state ceased officially observing it in the 1960s. Recently, however, the North Dakota State Poetry Society decided to resurrect the event. The NDSPS will also be publishing the Collected Poems of Prudence Gearey Sand within the next few months.

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## Fall 2025 Graphic Novel Preview: Early Reader

Submitted by Kathy Cline

This list of upcoming graphic novels for early readers is for informational use only. Neither the State Library nor I recommend any titles.

I have chosen to present ten titles out of almost twenty provided in the *Publishers Weekly* article. Click on the source link for a complete list of upcoming books. *Amazon* links provide reviews from paid subscriptions such as *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, *The Horn Book*, etc.



[Ben Clanton](#), author of the *Narwhal* and *Jelly* books, adds a new sea creature to his stories in *Aquamanatee*, which introduces Marlow the manatee! This graphic novel is created for readers aged 5-7. The title was published September 2.

[Continue Reading](#)

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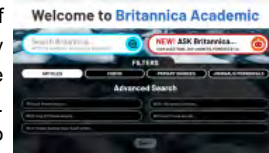
The field of artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly evolving, and it can be challenging to stay on top of the recent developments. To help with this, here is a highlight of some of the more interesting updates from the last several days.

- [Alphabet, Meta, OpenAI, xAI and Snap face FTC probe over AI chatbot safety for kids](#) – CNBC
  - [Amid Lawsuit Over Teen's Death by Suicide, OpenAI Is Rolling Out 'Parental Controls' for ChatGPT](#) – Time
  - [Apple's rumored AI search tool for Siri could rely on Google](#) – The Verge
  - [Encyclopaedia Britannica and Merriam-Webster claim copyright infringement by AI startup Perplexity](#) – Courthouse News Service
  - [Judge puts Anthropic's \\$1.5 billion book piracy settlement on hold](#) – The Verge
  - [OpenAI is building an AI jobs platform that could challenge Microsoft's LinkedIn](#) – CNBC
  - [Warner Bros. Joins Studios' AI Copyright Battle Against Midjourney](#) – Variety
  - [Why AI chatbots hallucinate, according to OpenAI researchers](#) – Business Insider
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## ASK Britannica

Submitted by BreAnne Meier

Combining AI technology with Britannica's collection of content, ASK Britannica gives students the opportunity to ask questions and receive accurate and concise answers directly from the Britannica knowledge base. ASK Britannica uses natural language processing to interpret queries and pulls insights only from Britannica's extensive library of articles.



Not only does ASK Britannica give you the answer to your question, it also cites its sources, allowing users to explore the original materials to gain a deeper understanding. You will also receive suggested follow-up questions to guide further exploration, helping you navigate complex concepts and expand your knowledge. ASK Britannica is not open source and will not write papers or essays for students. It also will not answer any inappropriate queries outside of its educational scope.

ASK Britannica is available as a secondary search function within Britannica Academic and the High School level within Britannica School, offering students and educators a more efficient way to research and find accurate, relevant answers.

Britannica



### Gutters That Don't Get Clogged with Autumn Leaves!

We all know gutters carry rainwater away from houses and sometimes get clogged with leaves this time of year. However, there is also a gutter in a book. The gutter is the inner margin of a bound book. It's where you would tuck a bookmark to mark your place. Some libraries write in the gutter of the book on the first page or two. They may use it to record acquisition details such as where they bought the book, the date, and/or the price they paid for the book. But its main use is as a margin, to make the book more readable by preventing the text from getting too close to the binding. For more definitions about book parts, you can go to <https://www.abaa.org/glossary>.



The [Dickinson Area Public Library](#) held a groundbreaking ceremony for its ongoing expansion project on September 16.

The [Minot Public Library](#), [Minot Public Schools](#) and [Ward County Public Library](#) are hosting the event, which will feature guest readers sharing their favorite stories, visits with READ Dogs and hands-on activities and projects with community partners. Children will receive a free book, and door prizes will be available throughout the evening.

The [Gordon B. Olson Library at Minot State University](#) unveiled a unique collection of Dante Alighieri's "The Divine Comedy," donated to the university by a former faculty member, on September 10.

# Digital Collection Spotlight

By Trevor Martinson

## Korean War Propaganda Leaflets

During the Korean War, North Dakota native Albert G. Brauer served as Chief of the Projects Branch, Psychological Warfare Division, G3 section. He was responsible for overseeing the creation of propaganda pamphlets that were airdropped over North Korea. The "Korean War Propaganda Leaflets" collection contains propaganda leaflets produced by the United States Army as well as leaflets produced by the communist forces in Korea.



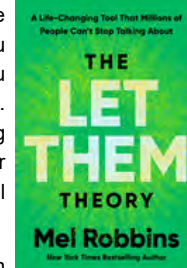
This digital collection is provided by NDSU Archives, and it is available for browsing and searching on [Digital Horizons](#).

[View The Collection](#)

## Kit of the Week

### "The Let Them Theory" by Mel Robbins

"If you've ever felt stuck, overwhelmed, or frustrated with where you are, the problem isn't you. The problem is the power you give to other people. Two simple words--Let Them--will set you free. Free from the opinions, drama, and judgments of others. Free from the exhausting cycle of trying to manage everything and everyone around you. The Let Them Theory puts the power to create a life you love back in your hands--and this book will show you exactly how to do it."



This kit includes ten books, a discussion guide, and a sign-in sheet.

[Reserve This Kit](#)

## Libby Updates Hold Suspensions

Libby has simplified how hold suspensions work! Now, users no longer select an end date for a hold suspension. Instead, a user will manually unsuspend a hold when they're ready for it.

In Libby, users with existing holds will see a notice letting them know about this change on their Holds screen. Users who don't have holds will see the updated behavior if they choose to suspend a hold in the future. OverDrive library websites will not show a notice like this; users will simply see the updated behavior.



Additionally:

- If a user misses their hold or its first delivery, it'll be suspended until they unsuspend it. It no longer unsuspends automatically after seven days.
- Holds will be canceled if they're suspended for 365 days in a row.
- The term "Deliver Later" has been replaced by "Suspend." Now, any time you want to delay getting a hold - before or after it's delivered - you'll suspend it.



## Child Safety for Teachers

Submitted by Al Peterson

As we start the new school year, let's all remember the crucial role that teachers play in not only shaping young hearts and minds, but also identifying and addressing the multifaceted challenges that students face. Recognizing the profound impact a teacher can have, this course seeks to equip educators with a deeper understanding of their students' worlds, empowering them to foster holistic well-being. Through this course, teachers will delve into the myriad challenges that students grapple with, from dietary concerns to the psychological toll of trauma and the dark recesses of cyberbullying. By unraveling these issues, educators can develop tailored strategies that not only counteract threats but proactively nurture resilience and positive growth. This course is more than just a guide; it's an invitation to be an architect of change, sculpting a brighter, safer future for every student under your care. In addition to K-12 public school educators, this course would also benefit your patrons in the childcare profession including daycare, preschool, and private school teachers.

This 15-lesson course will take approximately nine hours to complete. As always, Universal Class courses are self-paced and taken at your convenience on your own time. To sign up for this course and other great Universal Class courses, click on <https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com> to get started. You can find this course in the category of Teacher Resources or look it up by typing the title in the search box.

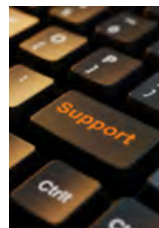
Universal Class

## WordPress Website Open Call

Submitted by BreAnne Meier

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to discuss your library's WordPress website, the State Library will be hosting a Teams call on Monday, September 22. Feel free to pop in anytime between 9:00 and 10:30 (please note the change in time) by going to <https://bit.ly/WordPressCall>.

If that day or time doesn't work for you, use the link below to book a time slot or contact me at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov) or 701-328-4656.



Book A Time

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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](http://www.library.nd.gov)

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale,  
please contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov).

Times referenced are Central Time.

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