

# randolph county public library

www.randolphlibrary.org



The very  
best place  
to start.

# NEWS

Volume XIV No. 9

March 2006

## On second attempt, Jones reaches Antarctica

♣ It took two tries, but Janet Jones and her husband, N.C. Zoological Park Director David Jones, finally reached the Antarctic.

Janet Jones will present a travelogue of her January trip at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 30, at the Asheboro library. Sponsored by the Friends, the program is free and the public is invited.

Jones and her N.C. Zoological Society colleagues made it to South Georgia Island two years ago when the ship in which they were traveling struck a submerged rock, aborting the rest of the journey.

"We returned two years later to complete the



**David and Janet Jones on South Georgia.**

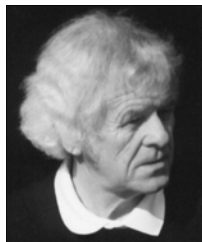
journey," Jones says. "Antarctica was vast, desolate and beautiful, with an imposing mix of snow, mountains, glaciers and icebergs. Majestic albatrosses accompanied our ship as we approached the continent; we encountered whales diving for food, seals lounging on beaches and ice flows, and several varieties of penguins clustered in their hundreds along the shores or wherever they could gather to make their nests and raise their young."

After two weeks landing in various places around the continent, the group visited the Torres Del Paine national park at the southern end of the Andes mountains in Patagonia, Chile, before traveling to Buenos Aires and then returning home.

## Tunesmiths to present performances in April

### Larry G. Davis returns for Glenn Davis concert

♣ The seventh Glenn Davis Memorial Concert will feature a Grand Ole Opry veteran.



**Larry Davis**

Randolph County native and Opry member Matthew Allred will lend a bluegrass flavor to the concert, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 11, at the Asheboro library. Sponsored by First Bank's North Asheboro branch, the event is free and the public is invited.

After the first set, Allred, Larry Davis, drummer Jane Wichard and bassist Lawrence Prevette will turn the program over to the Sounds of Swing, featuring Davis, Wichard, Ed Seagraves on bass and Gary Hastings on trumpet and Louis Armstrong vocals.

Larry Davis organizes the annual concerts in memory of his father, celebrated banjoist Glenn Davis.

### Lane Ragsdale reprises N.Y.-style cabaret show

♣ Singer-actor Lane Ragsdale will present his newest cabaret show, "Your Favorites, From: Lane."



**Ragsdale**

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the performance, scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 27 at the Asheboro library, is free and the public is invited.

Performers Brenda Pulliam, Nico Bauer, Ashley Wicker and Abby Jarrett will join Ragsdale and his accompanist/arranger Max Blizzard for the show, which Ragsdale says promises "entertainment in the style of artists like Elaine Stritch, Bobby Short and Michael Buble." The eclectic selection of songs will be woven together by stories from Ragsdale's life, travels and viewpoints, told with comedy and sentiment.

**'Food for Thought' to feature local cuisine, writers, music, more**

—see inside

**Archdale**

336-431-3811  
 Fax 336-431-4619  
 10433 S. Main St.  
 Mon, Wed, Fri 9-6;  
 Tues, Thur 9-8;  
 Sat 9-5

**Asheboro**

336-318-6800  
 Fax 336-318-6823  
 201 Worth St.  
 Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;  
 Sat 9-5

**Randolph Room**

336-318-6815  
 Mon, Thur-Sat 9-5  
 Tues, Wed 9-9

**John W. Clark**

(Franklinville)  
 336-824-4020  
 111 Sumner Place  
 Mon-Fri 2-6; Sun 2-5

**Liberty**

336-622-4605  
 Fax 336-622-4605  
 239 S. Fayetteville St.  
 Mon, Wed, Fri 9-5;  
 Tues, Thur 9-7; Sat 9-1

**Ramseur**

336-824-2232  
 Fax 336-824-2232  
 1512 S. Main St.  
 Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30

**Randleman**

336-498-3141  
 Fax 336-498-1139  
 122 Commerce Sq.  
 Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 10-1

**Seagrove**

336-873-7521  
 530 Seagrove Plank Rd.  
 Mon-Thur 1-7; Fri 12-6  
 Sat 10-3

**Extension Service**

336-318-6816 or 336-318-6817  
 Mon-Fri 9-5

**Dial-A-Story**

336-318-6833

**from  
 the  
 director**



by Suzanne Tate

# Group plans historic square

♣ **The Female Academy is coming to a location near your library!**



The Randolph County Historical Society plans to move the building, built in 1839 on the corner of Fayetteville and Salisbury streets, to a lot on the corner of Main and Salisbury streets, a site that was Asheboro's original public square and location of the fourth Randolph County Courthouse in Asheboro. The society hopes by moving the academy and other historic facilities here it can again become a public gathering place for citizens of Randolph County interested in local history. The Robins law office, built ca. 1860 and the replica of the original courthouse, the Coldwell Banker Real Estate office, are located on adjoining blocks.

Mrs. Elvira E. Moffitt recorded the history of the academy, which she attended as a child. A plea for financial assistance from citizens of Asheboro interested in erecting a female academy was announced in the February 8, 1839 edition of the local newspaper, *The Southern Citizen*, published by Benjamin Swaim. A committee was formed which included future North Carolina Governor Jonathan Worth. Col Benjamin Elliott gave an acre of land and \$400. The academy opened approximately four months later to 60 female students. Many local citizens opened their homes

for boarding pupils. The Female Academy offered courses in spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, philosophy, rhetoric, needlework and music.

The Civil War interrupted education for several years as the academy served as barracks for Confederate soldiers. Closed in 1892 due to the rise of public education, the academy was purchased by W.J. Armfield Jr. and used for storage and as a playhouse for children. In 1969, the family donated the building to the Randolph County Historical Society. Local historian and long time library supporter Dr. Joseph Suggs was instrumental in the restoration of the old Academy in 1976 after it was moved to land on Walker Street made available by the Asheboro Board of Education. It has since been used for weddings and other festivities. Our own Richard Wells and his wife Kay were married there!

The city of Asheboro and many local organizations and individuals have pledged their support for this project. The move itself will cost at least \$50,000.00.

Contributions may be made to the Randolph County Historical Society, P. O. Box 4355, Asheboro, NC 27204. Brochures will soon be available at the library with details about the project and how you can help. Potential donors may also call Missy Rankin at 629-8171.

## Asheboro man claims

# “FRANKENSTEIN CALLED MY HOUSE!”

♣ **When Mr. John Q. Librarypatron answered the telephone recently, he heard a strange voice.**

“Hello. This *is* a message from Asheboro library for John Q. Librarypatron. We are calling TO let you know that one item you requested is now available to be collected FROM the Asheboro branch,” the mystery voice stated.

Turns out it was no Frankenstein monster, just the library’s new Telephone Messaging system, which now calls patrons who have items on hold or have items overdue.

“We were expecting a mellifluous voice like HAL 9000 in *2001: A Space Odyssey*,” says Assistant Director Ross Holt. Instead, the caller is a choppy, computer-generated speaker that synthesizes each word separately and cobbles together sentences.

Also disconcerting to Mr. Librarypatron was the fact that the message repeated multiple times.

“This is to account for the varying lengths of outgoing messages on voice mail and answering machines,” Holt

says. “The repetition enables at least one full chorus of the message to be recorded by someone’s voice mail.”

Finally, Mr. Librarypatron was prompted for a library card number and PIN, but he didn’t know exactly why.

“The system offers you the opportunity to access your account to review what you have checked out, on hold and so on,” Holt says. When the library moved to its new Horizon computer system, the last four digits of library cardholders’ phone numbers were assigned as their PINs.

Despite his confusion, Mr. Librarypatron is lucky he didn’t get a call about an overdue, which would have told him his borrowing privileges were at risk.

“The script we approved was simply a pleasant reminder, with ‘thank you for your time’ at the end. But now we hear the thing is threatening people,” Holt says.

“We’re working with our automation system vendor to iron some of these things out.”

But the Frankenstein voice, Holt admits, *probably* IS here to *stay*.

## Miles mean magazines for library

♣ **An Enterprising patron has turned her unused frequent flier miles into new magazines for the public libraries in Randolph County.**

Unused miles donated by Barbara Arnold, a former Randolph County

Schools supervisor, has enabled the library to add 17 new subscriptions including, for the Asheboro library, the oft-requested *Financial Times*. Check with you local library for other new additions.

The magazines will begin arriving in April.

## ‘Good to Great’

Randolph Hospital CEO Robert Morrison, a participant in the City of Asheboro strategic planning process “Asheboro 20/20,” has given the library six copies of *Good to Great and the Social Sectors*, Jim Collins’s follow-up to his acclaimed business book, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Other’s Don’t*.

The library highly recommends this little book, which offers insight into how nonprofits and government agencies can stay on top of their game—or turn their fortunes around.

## Asheboro Reads

Next up for Asheboro Reads is *True Believer* by Nicholas Sparks, 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28.

The title for April 25 is *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines.

Asheboro Reads is the discussion group that meets at the Asheboro library on the last Tuesday of each month. Anyone who wants to talk about the month’s book is invited.

## Book sale

The Friends of the Library book sale will take place from 9-3 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at the Friends Book Store off the Asheboro Public Library parking lot.

## Asheboro library to offer library catalog orientation sessions

The Asheboro library Reference Department will offer ongoing orientation sessions for anyone who wants to learn how to use the basic or advanced features

of the new Horizon Information Portal library catalog.

The walk-in sessions will take place at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays; no sign-up is required.

# Friends of the Randolph Public Library

**YES!** I'd like to become a Friend and support the wonderful programs sponsored by the Friends each year:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

- Student ..... \$2
- Adult ..... \$10
- Family..... \$15
- Patron ..... \$25
- Bookworm..... \$50
- Benefactor..... \$100
- Lifetime..... \$250
- Corporate Sponsor..... \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Friends of the Library**  
**P.O. Box 2806**  
**Asheboro, NC 27203**  
*Memberships are tax deductible*

**YES!** I'd like to help: \_\_\_Program planning\_\_\_Program Receptions \_\_\_Book Sales\_\_\_Membership

## Randolph County Public Library

201 Worth Street  
Asheboro, NC 27203

*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Asheboro, NC 27203  
Permit No. 50

3RD PRE-SORT

**Call us!**

Renewals..... 318-6801

Children's Services..... 318-6804

Randolph Room..... 318-6815

Reference & Information.. 318-6800

## memorials & donations

**In Memory of: Leonelle Scruggs Thomas**

By: Hugh and Hazel Anderson  
Susan and Charles Bossong  
Gayle R. Brown and Deette Renegar  
Betty W. Bunker  
Cedar Creek Homeowners  
Association  
JB and Claire Davis  
Marion and Hal Davis  
Marjorie Dworak  
Dr. and Mrs. W. Ken Gobel  
Gene and Pat Holder  
David and Janet Jones  
Sarah L. Jones  
Henriette M. Neal

**In Memory of: Leonelle Scruggs Thomas**

(cont'd)  
Jack and Edie Ogburn  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Redding, Jr.  
Archie and Jackie Renegar  
Scott Renegar and Family  
Larry and Vonda Renegar  
Virginia S. Roberts  
Arlene and Tony Smith  
Lois B. Taylor  
Jerry and Joyce Ward

**In Memory of: Betty McNeely Myatt**

By: Carey and Billie Durham  
Marion McIntosh

**In Memory of: Lela Allison Mackey Cameron**

By: Arlene and Tony Smith

**In Memory of: Jane Herlocker Cranford**

By: Carey and Billie Durham

**In Memory of: Frances Amos Dodson**

By: Et Hacskaylo  
Arlene and Tony Smith

**In Memory of: Jewell Reynolds Morgan**

By: Arlene Smith

**In Memory of: Max A. Nance**

By: Missy and Sam Rankin