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NEWS

Parker novel offers historical insight

♣ Randleman author April Parker will talk about her novel *Watching the Innocent: A Tale from the Andover Witch Trials* at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 2, at the Asheboro library.

The program, sponsored by the Friends, is free and the public is invited.



April Parker

In *Watching the Innocent*, 16-year-old Sarah Hawthorne risks being caught up in 17th Century Massachusetts witch trials in order to help a falsely-accused friend.

Parker, a second grade teacher at Pius the X School in Greensboro, combines historical tales with solid research to provide readers with insight into the period. She is at work on a second novel based on the lives of two female pirates.

Find more about Parker and her work on her publisher's website at www.tafford.com/05-1636.



Jerry Bledsoe and Jerry Neal (photo by Larry Penkava, courtesy of *The Randolph Guide*)

Neal builds on rock of family, faith, place

♣ Entrepreneur Jerry Neal and author Jerry Bledsoe will talk about their latest collaboration, *Built on a Rock: A Memior of Family, Faith and Place*, during a program at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 16 at the Asheboro library.

The book is a companion to Neal and Bledsoe's *Fire in the Belly*, which chronicled Neal's experiences as co-founder of RF Micro Devices, the wildly

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Discussion to focus on Paolini's *The Eldest*

The library's own K&A Programming will host a discussion of Christopher Paolini's *The Eldest* at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 23, at the Asheboro Public Library. The *Eldest*, second in the author's *Inheritance* series, is the sequel to *Eragon*. The discussion is geared for teens, but anyone who has read and wants to talk about the book is invited. The event is free, and refreshments will be provided.



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 Tues, Thur 9-8;
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 Fax 336-824-2232
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**from
 the**

county manager in transition

by Richard Wells



Thank You

♣ The Randolph Public Library is in good shape.

I do not leave without mixed feelings: it will continue to flourish without me as I am but a part of an organization. Suzanne and her assistant director, Ross, have the respect of the staff, their profession and the community. This is hard to believe, but between the two of them, they have 50 years of experience at this library! They are both professionals who have spent their entire careers serving the citizens of Randolph County.

Their staff is dedicated, hard-working, and very experienced. A majority of the staff have more than ten years on the job. They are creative self-starters who have met every challenge a public library system can face. They accomplish their goals and the daily "opportunities" with aplomb and the ever-present sense-of-humor. They are indefatigable!

For a system like ours to operate smoothly, support has to come from all concerned. County government and seven municipal governments cooperate in order to offer citizens a good library in their communities. All are proud of the service they offer and all do their part. And yes, the state of North Carolina participates in this support too. The system would not be what it is today without State Aid and the many grants we have been fortunate to receive.

The Randolph County Public Library Board of Trustees, the Asheboro Public Library Foundation, the trustees of Franklinville, Liberty, Ramseur, Randleman, Seagrove, the Archdale Library Friends, and the Friends of the Library are all volunteers who give untold amounts of time, energy and yes, even finances to the support of the libraries. They believe in their communities and in what their library offers along with what it represents. No library can function well without this type backing from volunteer citizens. This support has been in place for decades.

I have been fortunate to serve with all the people mentioned here. I had the wonderful opportunity to serve as director these past years. The experience has been greatly rewarding and fulfilling. In my humble opinion, being a public library director is simply one of the best jobs possible!

To all of the people whom I have worked with over the years, I can only say thank you for all you have done, and will continue to do to support our public library.

Editors Note: This is Richard's 156th column for the Randolph County Public Library News.

memorials & donations

To the Friends of the Library
 In Memory Of: Wes Moser
 By: Pat & Gene Holder

Rock of family, faith and place grounds entrepreneur Neal

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successful, Greensboro-based high-tech company that makes components for most of the world's cell phones.

Built on a Rock tells a more personal story of Neal's background and family. His grandparents met and courted at the rock of the book's title, which now graces the gardens of Linbrook Hall, the stunning residence that Neal and his wife Linda have built on family land in northwestern Randolph County.

More than just a house, the dwelling plays host to the Neals' efforts to raise funds for charities such as St. Jude's

Children's Research Hospital and the Petty family's Victory Junction Gang Camp.

"*Built on a Rock* is about values and how they affect lives far beyond those who instill them," Beldsoe says. "Two teenagers from poor farm families meet on a rock in Randolph County in the midst of the Great Depression, and that encounter results in Linbrook Hall, a magnificent facility devoted to charity that already has affected the lives of children around the world and will continue to do so."

The program, sponsored by the Friends, is free and the public is invited.

Cartoons chronicle Honest Abe

♣ **A traveling exhibit at the Asheboro library uses editorial cartoons to examine popular opinions of President Lincoln's approach to the issue of slavery.**

"Looking at Lincoln: Political Cartoons from the Civil War Era," created by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and sponsored

locally by the Friends of the Library, will be on display through January.

As the newspapers of the time were the primary vehicles for political discussion, cartoons took on great import. They were sold as prints in shops and by mail. The exhibit looks at cartoons about the 1860 election, the Emancipation Proclamation and the legacy of emancipation.

Quiz Bowl teams to compete Feb. 4

♣ **Area high school will test their wits in the 14th Randolph Public Library Quiz Bowl.**

Toss-up and bonus questions will fly hot and fast beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 4, in the Learning Resources Center auditorium at Randolph Community College.

Teams from Asheboro, Eastern Randolph, Randleman, Southwestern Randolph and Trinity high schools will

compete for the silver Revere trophy and a chance to compete in the District Quiz Bowl on Saturday, March 26.

The Friends of the Library and First National Bank are sponsors of the tournament. The Friends will host a luncheon for all in attendance following the competition.

Last year's champs from Eastern Randolph were narrowly defeated in the finals of the district competition in Lexington.

Book Breaks

The Archdale library's Book Breaks, the reading and discussion group that meets from 2-3:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, will start the year with *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith.

Upcoming titles include: *A Good Yarn* by Debbie Macomber, February 21; *Light from Heaven* by Jan Karon, March 21; *Pawley's Island* by Dorothea Benton Frank, April 18; *Friendship Cake* by Lynne Hinton, May 16; and *Miss Julia Stands Her Ground* by Ann B. Ross, September 19.

Asheboro Reads

Next up for Asheboro Reads is *The Last Days of Dogtown* by Anita Diamant, 2-3:30 Tuesday, January 31.

The title for February 28 is *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett.

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, January 28, at the Friends Book Store off the Asheboro Public Library parking lot.

"For although volume upon volume is written to prove slavery a very good thing, we never hear of the man who wishes to take the good of it, by being a slave himself."

—Abraham Lincoln

Friends of the Randolph Public Library

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By: Roger and Beverly Stout

In Memory of: Mr. William (Bill) Mollman
By: Kerry and Danielle Kesler & Family

In Memory of: Betty McNeely Myatt
By: Irene M. Reed

In Memory of: Max A. Nance
By: Frankie and Linda Shirley
Gail Swaringen

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By: Bobby and Denise Burgess

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By: Bobby and Denise Lowe Burgess

In Honor of: Charlesanna Fox
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In Honor of: Local Community
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In Honor of: Naomi Galbreath
By: Ramseur Library Staff
Sandra Livingston
Sandy Jarrell

In Honor of: Rachel Parks
By: Philathea Class of First Christian Church

In Honor of: Ramseur Library Staff (Sandra and Sandy)
By: Hannah and Nathan Harris