

# Southern comfort

## Food writer Sheri Castle to share Southern cooking stories

♣ Blending storytelling, humor and culinary expertise, award-winning food writer Sheri Castle will share stories about Southern cuisine and its cultural impact at 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 13, at the Asheboro library.

Her appearance is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. It's free and the public is invited.

Castle, author of *The New Southern Garden Cookbook* among more than a dozen other cookbooks, will tell stories and reflect on the roles that food traditions play in Southern families, lives, history and culture.

A contributing editor for *Southern Living* magazine who writes regularly for a number of magazines and newspapers, Castle is the subject of five short documentaries on Southern food produced by A Spoken Dish, a storytelling project of the Southern Foodways Alliance. She also is a popular speaker and demo chef at culinary events across the South and is asked to cook on television from time to time.



**Sheri Castle**

Photo by Sharon Brody

Her cooking classes garner a loyal following. One journalist observed, "Sheri Castle is one of the most brilliant recipe developers I know, a terrific writer, and her cooking classes are equal parts crucial info and laugh-until-you-drop trenchant observation." Her colleagues say she has one of the best palates in the industry.

A native of Watauga County, Castle now lives in Fearington Village. She says she is fueled by her beloved Appalachian Mountains, farmers' markets, excellent bourbon, and the pursuit of the right word.

### **Friends of the Library Cake-Off**

Want to get in on the action for Sheri Castle's visit? Bake a cake!

The Friends of the Library will hold its first ever "Cake-Off" in conjunction with Castle's appearance. Cakes will be juried by three local bakers on the day of the event based on taste, appearance and ease of preparation. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Find an entry form inside this newsletter, or visit [www.randolphlibrary.org/cakeoff](http://www.randolphlibrary.org/cakeoff). Forms must be submitted by November 6.

## Archdale library to host 'Author Open House'

♣ Area writers will flock to the Archdale library from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, November 23, for an "Author Open House."

The free event will feature a meet-and-greet with 10-15 authors who have published books. Books will be available for purchase and the writers will be happy to personally inscribe their books.

At press time, authors participating include: Mary L.

Ball, who pens Christian fiction; Carol Fleming, cooking, poetry and art instruction; Rebecca Fleming, "Austen-esque" romance; Cindy W. Hollingsworth, children's; Ross Holt, biography/local history; Heather Rosselle Irwin, memoir/horses; Blake Leonard, children's inspirational; Cameron Pendergraft, children's; Hillary B. Spangler, children's; Valeria Sweet, self help/relationships; and Lynn C. Willis, mystery.

**Follow elusive Bigfoot trail to Asheboro library** — see back page

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

**John W. Clark**  
(Franklinville)  
336-685-3100  
111 Sumner Place  
Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 2-6;  
Wed 10-2; Sun. 2-5

**Liberty**  
336-622-4605  
Fax 336-622-2665  
239 S. Fayetteville St.  
Mon, Wed-Fri 9-5;  
Tues 9-7; Sat 9-1

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

**Randleman**  
336-498-3141  
Fax 336-498-1139  
142 W. Academy St.  
Mon-Fri 9-6;  
Sat 9-1

**Seagrove**  
336-873-7521  
530 Old 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

*from  
the  
director*

**Ross A. Holt**



## Adventurous life inspired by library

♣ **A major gift from Betty Jean Varner Webster will enhance the Randleman Public Library's children's book collection for the next 10 years.**

Rather than earning accolades for her generosity, however, Webster wants her gift to inspire other donors to give so the Randleman library will continue to serve the community and make a difference in the lives of young people for many years to come.

Webster's \$50,000 gift will provide \$5,000 each year over 10 years for the purchase of children's books.

"Betty Jean Varner Webster's long term gift will ensure the children and teen areas of the Randleman Public Library will be consistently filled with books that will spark learning and ignite dreams in the minds of children of all ages," Randleman Library Director Donna Toomes says.

This latest donation is on top of \$15,000 in gifts Betty Jean and her husband Paul have made to the Randleman library over the last two years.

The Websters' first donation in 2017 provided an additional 750 children's books for the library and led to the creation of "Betty Jean's Corner" — a nook with cozy furniture where children can share Betty Jean's experience with books.

Betty Jean Webster's generous gifts are motivated by the life-changing experiences she had as a child at the Randleman library



**Randleman library patrons since birth, four children enjoy quiet reading time in Betty Jean's Corner at the Randleman library.**

and a desire to ensure the library continues to have the impact on young people it had on her. Donna Toomes relates Webster's story in a narrative placed in Betty Jean's Corner (summarized here):

Through her childhood and teen years, books carried Betty Jean to a world far away. These adventures — lived out in a quiet corner of the Randleman library — ultimately led her to seek opportunities beyond her home town.

While pursuing a career in nursing, she met and married Paul Webster and their adventures in life took them to Texas, France, Minnesota, North Carolina, Georgia and, finally, Lancaster, South Carolina.

Through all of those adventures, Betty Jean never forgot the Randleman library and the role it played in her later successes and overall contentment with life. With her gift, Betty Jean wants to help today's youth have the same opportunity to see a world beyond their everyday life.

# Asheboro launches in-house laptop lending

♣ **Computer users at the Asheboro library now can check out laptop computers for use anywhere in the library.**

Ten laptops are available for anyone with a library card or REAL2 student ID who is 16 or older, or 11-15 with parental authorization to access the Internet at the library. The library card or student ID must be in good standing, with less than \$5 in fees and fines.

The laptops can be checked out from the Circulation desk for the day, but must be returned by 30 minutes before closings.

## Genealogy and the holidays make a match ...and other exciting events for all ages around the county

♣ **With extended family often present, the holidays are a great time to get started on family history.**

Get tips for collecting genealogical information in **Family History during the Holidays**, 7 p.m. Thursday, November 14 at the Asheboro library and 1:30 p.m. Thursday, November 21, at the Asheboro Senior Center. The class will focus on recording family stories, interviewing relatives, family history gifts and decorations.

In Randleman, Connie's Corner for ages 16 and up will feature **Let's Give Thanks** at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 5, for those interested in researching their family tree. Learn about library genealogy resources and make a Blessing Tree craft to celebrate the season. Call 336-498-3141 to sign up.

Meanwhile, the Liberty library will offer one-on-one **Climbing Your Family Tree** sessions beginning November 1. Experienced genealogy hobbyists or those just starting out can gain personalized insight from an experienced librarian. Call 336-622-4605 to sign up for a session.

Depending on how demand develops, a waiting list system may be established and stricter checkout time limits put in place.

The laptops feature WIFI printing and are available with a power cord and a mouse on request. To protect patron privacy, all information from a previous use is erased when the laptop is shut down or restarted.

Needless to say, there's a stiff fine for laptops not returned or removed from the library.

If laptop lending is well-received at Asheboro, it will be expanded to other branches.

### **Thanksgiving centerpieces**

Kids age 5-18 are invited to join Randolph County 4-H for a "Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop," 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 19, at the Franklinville library. Create a fun and festive centerpiece for your family to enjoy on the Thanksgiving table. Call 336-685-3100 by November 14 to sign up.

### **Family Trivia Night**

Test your trivia knowledge in a "Family Trivia Night" for all ages at 4 p.m. Tuesday, November 26, at the Asheboro library. Create a trivia team, answer questions and win prizes. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult participant.

### **Napkin rings for fall**

Do you need a special touch for the place settings on your Thanksgiving table? Make unique and beautiful "Napkin Rings for Fall" at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, November 21 at the Liberty library. For teens and adults.

### **Seagrove screens "Free Birds"**

The Seagrove library's Family Movie, 1 p.m. Saturday, November 9, will feature the film "Free Birds."

*All libraries host a variety of storytimes, special events, hands-on activities and other events for children, teens and adults. Find out more at [www.randolphlibrary.org](http://www.randolphlibrary.org) or visit your local library.*

## **Book discussions**

**Asheboro Reads:** *Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See, 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 26.

**Book Break (Archdale):** *The Cottage by the Sea* by Debbie Macomber, 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 19.

**Book Bites (Archdale) "Un-Book Club":** Talk about the most exciting or interesting book you've read since the last meeting. 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 12.

**Liberty Book Club:** *Still Life* by Louise Penny, 6 p.m. Thursday, November 14.

**Afternoon Delights (Liberty):** *The Last Castle* by Denise Kiernan, 2:30 p.m. Monday, November 4.

## **Mobile app**

A mobile app for the Randolph County Public Library catalog is on the way. Currently in development, the app will be available for Android and Apple phones and tablets. The app will enable users to search the catalog and place holds, and easily download ebooks, e-audiobooks and magazines.

It also will provide access to new books, library research resources, and hours and locations. Users also will be able to scan or key in their library card/student ID number and use their devices to check out.

The app is expected to arrive in the Apple and Google Play stores in November.

## **Edwards and Davis Bluegrass Christmas to return**

Mark your calendars for the return of bluegrass/old time music duo Tommy Edwards and LaNelle Davis for a "Country Bluegrass Christmas," 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 3 at the

Asheboro library. Featuring original and traditional tunes, and sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the performance is free and the public is invited.

# Follow trail of elusive Bigfoot to Asheboro library

♣ Researcher of the Bigfoot phenomenon will share findings about the presence of the elusive creature in western North Carolina, and also discuss sightings in the Uwharrie Mountains, in "Bigfoot at a Glance," 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 18, at the Asheboro library.

The talk is free and the public is invited.

John Bruner, a Bigfoot researcher for over 40 years, started Bigfoot 911 in 2014 in Marion, N.C., to document the presence of the creature in McDowell



County. He was instrumental in establishing the Western North Carolina Bigfoot Festival in Marion, now in its second year.

During the talk, he will show documents and other evidence from the Native American era to the present demonstrating the existence of Bigfoot.

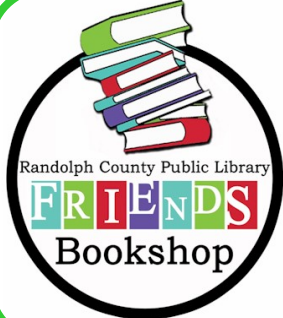
Bruner will be joined by Lee Woods, a Randolph County native who has spent more than 11 years researching the presence of a Bigfoot in the Uwharrie Mountains.

## Randolph County Public Library

201 Worth Street  
Asheboro, NC 27203

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**10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Tuesdays,**  
**Thursdays,**  
**Saturdays**  
**226 Sunset Ave.**  
**Asheboro**

## memorials & donations

**In Memory of: Charles Brown**  
By: Joyce Harper Spoon

**In Memory of: Branson Langley**  
By: Laurine Varner and Lisa Adkins

**In Memory of: Debbie Reader**  
By: Diane Trogdon

**In Memory of: Marian Tillman**  
By: Clair and J.B. Davis  
Billie Durham  
Ray and Louise Hudson

**In Honor of: Barbara Luther**  
By: Seagrove Ladies Book Club



**CLASSICAL MUSIC FROM  
AROUND THE WORLD**  
with

**GUITARIST JEFF BIANCHI**

**6:30 p.m. Tuesday,**  
**November 5**  
**Asheboro Public Library**  
**FREE!**

**Music from 18th century  
Germany to 20th century  
Argentina**