



Sigmon is back with “Mouse Saves Christmas”

♣ On Christmas Eve, one tiny hero with a big heart sets out to save the day — and the whole holiday season.

That tiny hero will visit all seven libraries during the week of December 8 as Sigmon Theatrical presents *Mouse Saves Christmas*, an all-new, interactive stage adventure brought to life with breathtaking puppetry, toe-tapping music and a cast of professional performers that will leave audiences of all ages laughing and cheering, and may even tug on your heartstrings.

The schedule is as follows:

- Archdale, 10 a.m. Thursday, December 11;



- Asheboro, 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 8;
- Franklinville, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 10;
- Liberty, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 9;
- Ramseur, 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 10;
- Randleman, 4 p.m. Thursday, December 11;
- Seagrove, 1 p.m. Thursday, December 11.

The performances are free and are sponsored by the Friends of the Library. It's a holiday celebration for the entire family, mouse-sized and magic-packed.

More holiday activities, see page 3.

True Grass to return for ‘Country Christmas Concert’

♣ The popular and long-lived local bluegrass and gospel band True Grass will present a “Country Christmas Concert” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 2, at the Asheboro library.

The performance is free and the public is invited.

Over 20 years, the group has played numerous local venues including the Sunset Theatre, the NC Zoo, Randolph Community College, at churches and at corporate events for Klaussner and Energizer, among others.



Founding members Tim Moon and Gary Callicutt remain with the group. Moon, a well-known music teacher for over 30 years, plays mandolin and sings lead vocals. Callicutt plays bass and sings tenor vocals.

Matthew Nance plays banjo and sings baritone vocals. William Britt plays guitar and sings most lead vocals. Moon's son Nolan plays blistering fast solos as well as

beautiful waltz styles on fiddle.

The performance is supported by the Friends of the Library.

Arctic Express to roll into Randleman

Amazing Teacher Steve Somers will bring his “Arctic Express” to the Randleman library, 4 p.m. Thursday, December 18. “All Aboard!” as Conductor Steve invites kids on an imaginary train trip to winter holidays around the world, to discover the spirit of giving and the magic of sharing. Stops include Hanukkah in Israel, Kwanzaa in America, Diwali in India, Lunar New Year in China, Winter Solstice in Europe, and Christmas around the world.



Archdale

336-431-3811
Fax 336-431-4619
10433 S. Main St.
Mon-Thur 9-8;
Fri 9-6; Sat 9-1

Asheboro

336-318-6800
Fax 336-318-6823
201 Worth St.
Mon-Thur 9-9; Fri 9-6;
Sat 9-1

Randolph Room

336-318-6815
Mon-Fri 9-12:30; 1:30-5:30
Sat 9-12:30

Franklinville

336-685-3100
111 Sumner Place
Mon-Thur 10-6; Sun 1-5

Liberty

336-622-4605
Fax 336-622-2665
239 S. Fayetteville St.
Mon, 9-7, Tues 11-7,
Wed, 9-5, Thur 11-5
Fri 9-5, Sat 9-3

Ramseur

336-824-2232
Fax 336-824-2232
1512 S. Main St.
Mon-Fri 9-6
Sat 9-1

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.
Tues-Fri 10-6; Sat 11-3

Extension Service

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

*from
the
director*

Ross A. Holt



Navigators continue to navigate

♣ Recently out of prison, a man landed at Shelter of Grace, a shelter for homeless men in Asheboro.

Working with our Community Navigator Angi Polito, the man found a full-time job and was able to move in with relative.

The Navigator program has helped find housing for three other shelter residents since the start of our fiscal year in July. This brings to 36 the number of people the program has moved into housing since its inception in February 2022.

The Navigators — veteran social workers Angi Polito and Rachael Pontillo — engage with people in the community who can benefit from services provided by local agencies and organizations, and connect them with those services. The program is library-based because people view us as a safe space where they can find trusted assistance.

The idea is to reach and help people before they slide into a greater level of need that might have a greater cost to themselves and to the community. The Navigators not only refer people to services, but provide a measure of case management to ensure clients can access those services — which is the program's measure of success.

So far this year, the Navigators have served 115 clients, linking all of them with services. Because a client can represent more than one person (a family, for example), the program has served a total of 144 people including 20 children. That brings the all-time number of people served to 2,197, including 447 children.

Lately, about 24 percent of the Navigators' cases involve housing, but that number is somewhat lower than in recent

years. Helping people apply for benefits such as food assistance, Medicaid and Social Security disability — and navigating the system until benefits can be received — make up a significant portion of referrals.

The Navigators continue to work with over 100 local agencies, organizations, businesses and professionals to refer clients and receive referrals — as I've noted before, they have become integral to the community safety net, and are as important to other local support agencies and organizations as the agencies are to the Navigators. About half of referrals come from community partners.

Since 2023, the Navigators have headed up the local Point-In-Time Count, an annual census of homeless persons in the county. The count is designed to ensure that federal housing funding gets to the places where it is needed most; the Navigators are advocating with the regional housing agency to help Randolph County get its fair share. The next count is coming up in January.

Recently, Angi and Rachael attended the first national Social Work in Libraries Conference, and were able to meet colleagues nationwide amid this new trend in library service. Angi presented at the North Carolina Library Association conference in October.

They recently have shown the flag at community events including Archdale's Night Out, Ramseur's Back to School Bash and the Housing Authority's back-to-school event.

The Navigators have office hours at all seven libraries. An upcoming schedule change will rotate a Navigator through Archdale Randleman and Liberty in week-long residencies, to be more accessible to potential clients and build stronger ties with local support groups.



Bah, humbug!

Shakespeare troupe to stage 'Christmas Carol'

♣ Charles Dickens' beloved Christmas classic will come to life in Shepherd Shakespeare's production of *A Christmas Carol*, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, December 18 at the Asheboro library.

Miserly old Ebenezer Scrooge is visited

by the ghost of his old friend Jacob Marley, who warns him that three more spirits are on their way. Will Scrooge change his ways and learn to care for those around him?

Find out in this interactive, hilarious and heartwarming theatrical experience.

Cookies!

Libraries slate holiday activities – and more

♣ **Cookies — and Santa — are themes as the libraries gear up for the holidays.**

Asheboro will host **Cookies with Santa**, 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, December 13. Chow down and take a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Franklinville and Seagrove also will offer **Cookies with Santa**. Santa and Mrs. Claus will read books, pose for photos, and share their favorite cookies — homemade from the Franklinville Diner — with children of all ages.

Franklinville, 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 2; Seagrove, 10:30 a.m. Thursday, December 4.

In Archdale, it's **Cookies and Cocoa with Santa**, a festive family event filled with holiday cheer, at 5 p.m. Friday, December 19. Enjoy a cozy story read by Santa himself, create holiday crafts, munch on cookies and sip hot cocoa, and take photos with the jolly man in red.

Liberty doesn't have Santa, but does have **Cookies, Cocoa and Canvas Painting**, 5:30 p.m. Monday, December 8, repeated at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 13. The all-ages event features a simple painting of a snowflake.

Call 336-622-4605 to register.

'12 Books' at Liberty

The Liberty library is offering "12 Books

Before Christmas" again this year. The library will specially wrap 12 surprise books that have been checked out to you, one for each evening before Christmas to unwrap and share. Celebrating Kwanzaa or Hanukkah? The library can also make a package of "12 Books Before Kwanzaa" or "8 Books Before Hanukkah."

Sign up by December 5 to pick up your package December 15-20.

Create, print a Christmas card

Create a personalized Christmas card using your photos and the computer design tool Canva in a workshop with Digital Services Librarian Harris Mason, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 3.

Bring a digital image and go step-by-step to craft a festive and unique card. Take 10 free printed copies on cardstock to share with family and friends.

Call 336-318-6803 to sign up.

Hand-built Pottery

Join NC Pottery Center educator Kat Viera for a hands-on tutorial to create hand-built pottery pieces from clay at the Franklinville and Seagrove libraries. All experience levels welcome. Registration is required. Seagrove, 4 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, 336-873-7521; Franklinville, 4 p.m. Wednesday, December 10, 336-685-3100.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads:

Holiday Lunch, Noon Thursday, December 4, Black Powder Smokehouse.

Archdale Book Break:

The Christmas Pearl by Dorothea Benton Frank, 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 16.

Franklinville: Snippets

Book Club. Discuss articles from *The Sun* magazine, 12:30 p.m. Monday, December 15.

Liberty Book Club: Eddie

Winston is Looking for Love by Marianne Cronin, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 11.

Liberty Readers Meet-

Up: *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah, 1 p.m. Monday, December 15, Liberty Senior Center.

BYO book groups

Talk about books that you've read recently.

Archdale, Book Bites,

2 p.m. Tuesday, December 9.

Ramseur Page Turners,

2 p.m. Tuesday, December 2.

Randleman Readers

Recommend, 3:30 p.m. Friday, December 5.

Randleman Teen Talk

Book Club will not meet in December.

Seagrove, Un-Book Club,

4 p.m. Friday, December 19.

Liberty food distribution continues

Food distribution at the Liberty library continues at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, December 20. The Out of the Garden Project's Mobile Market will hand out about 50 pounds of fresh produce,

bread, meat and shelf-stable items to families with children age 0-18 and that qualify by income.

Enter the library parking lot off South Fayetteville Street.



BE A FRIEND!
The Friends of the Randolph County Public Libraries is an amazing group of people just like you, who believe in, support and value making our library the very best.

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☐ **Patron (\$100)**

☐ **Benefactor (\$250)**

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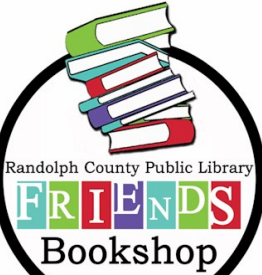
Complete this form and mail with dues payment to: Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 2806 Asheboro, NC 27204. **Or scan the code to join online at randolphfriends.org** ►

Randolph County Public Libraries

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 Asheboro, NC 27203

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memorials & donations

In Memory of: Ellen Greer

By: Joan M. Allred

C.A. Auman

Elaine and Arthur Auman

Alice and Rusty Hammond

In Memory of: Tex Hoover

By: Ed and Nancy Bunch

In Memory of: Brenda Leonard Pickel

By: First Evangelical and Reformed United

Church of Christ

Alice and Rusty Hammond

Douglas K. Pugh

In Memory of: Bill Spencer

By: Seagrove High School Class of 1969

Ellen Greer

We remember Ellen Greer, who passed away on October 22. Ellen had served on the Randolph County Public Libraries Board of Trustees since 2021. She also served on the Friends of the Library board, and was a volunteer at the Franklinville library.

COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS

2026 Point In Time Count

DONATIONS WELCOME

Help our neighbors experiencing homelessness

The Point-In-Time Count is an annual census of people in Randolph County experiencing homelessness.

Needed: Hygiene items, emergency blankets, hand warmers, consumable food items (pop tarts, apple sauce, etc.)

TO DONATE: Call 336-318-6825 or drop items at any library by January 9.