RANDOLPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
NEWS
Nurturing Readers • Empowering Learners • Creating Connections
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Bah, humbug!

Shepherd Shakespeare's 'Christmas Carol' goes countywide

♣ Charles Dickens' beloved Christmas classic comes to life as Shepherd Shakespeare brings *A Christmas Carol* to all seven libraries in December.



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 as performances take place as follows:

- **Archdale:** 10 a.m. Thursday, December 10;
- **Asheboro:** 6 p.m. Thursday, December 10;
- **Franklinville:** 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 9;
- **Liberty:** 3 p.m. Tuesday, December 8;
- **Ramseur:** 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 9;
- **Randleman:** 4 p.m. Friday, December 11.
- **Seagrove:** 1 p.m. Thursday, December 10.

Shepherd Shakespeare, based in Charlotte, was founded by the husband-and-wife team of Chester and Katy Shepherd, who share a love of theatre and performing for audiences of all ages.

Both are experienced theatre artists and educators who have acted, directed and taught across the country. They have worked extensively with the Children's Theatre of Charlotte and the Actor's Theatre of Charlotte.

Now they are bringing their love of Shakespeare (and other classic stories) to as many people and places as possible.

The performances are supported by the Friends of the Library.

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 8, 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.

Friends Bookshop announces half-price sale

Take 50 percent off most items at the Friends of the Library Bookshop from December 5-31. Everything will be half-price, except for children's books (nonetheless a steal at $1 each). Located at 226 Sunset Avenue in Asheboro, the bookshop is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and will be open Friday night, December 11, for Christmas on Sunset.

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

Asheboro
336-318-6800
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
239 S. Fayetteville St.
Tuesday-Friday 10-6
Saturday 9-3

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

Randleman
336-498-3141
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



Homeschool exploring

♣ Homeschool families have long relied on public libraries to support their educational efforts, much like school libraries support the curriculum in the public schools.

We saw new evidence of this in our 2026 patron survey. Typical was this comment from a Ramseur patron: "The library is an essential part of our homeschool life. It provides resources, assistance and community for our whole family. It enriches our life and my children's education."

One part of service to homeschoolers has been problematic: helping with curricula. In the days of print media, it was hard for libraries to find courses that could meet a broad need while remaining available for many families at once.

That has changed as of November 15, when the library began offering **Educate Station**, an online curriculum for pre-K through 5th grade. It includes learning plans, worksheets, and early reader books for each grade level.

It's not exclusively for homeschools — it can be useful for teachers in any school environment — but homeschool is the focus. The content is created by a team of experienced educators from across the United States with vast subject-matter expertise, teaching credentials, and years of experience as classroom teachers and curriculum developers.

Now is the time for resources like this. Statistics from the North Carolina Department of Administration show that in 2024-2025, Randolph County had 1,984 homeschools with 3,010 students enrolled — ninth among the state's 100 counties.

The demand for homeschool support has been showing up in our programming efforts for some time now. Archdale's Homeschool Explorers, begun in partnership with Randolph County 4-H by Branch Manager Ashley Rose, has seen rapid growth, with 192 families registered and many participating in each month's activity.

Those activities might include in-house, hands-on experiences with agriculture, cooking, gardening or robotics. Also included are exciting field trips to destinations near and far, recently including Town Creek Indian Mound, Randolph County Emergency Services, and, coming up on November 20, Tiger World.

So many families signed up for a trip to Mrs. Hanes Moravian Cookie Factory that it took three trips to accommodate them, and two trips for the 37 families, totaling 130 people, who signed up for the visit to Homeland Creamery.

Archdale's participants come from all over the county. Liberty library, meanwhile, has added a science-focused "Homeschool Lab" at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month for kids in grades K-5 (non-homeschoolers are welcome, too); and Seagrove has begun "Homeschool Adventures" at 1 p.m. each Wednesday for ages 6-11.

And of course, homeschool families are welcome at all library storytimes, hands-on activities, performances and other events.

To try out Educate Station, visit www.randquest.org.

RANDOLPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEWS

The **Randolph County Public Libraries NEWS** is published monthly by the Randolph County Public Libraries and the Friends of the Library. To subscribe, scan the code at right to join the Friends, or visit randolphfriends.org.

Ross A. Holt, Director ● **A. Owen George III**, President, Friends of the Library

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Sellers to visit Archdale True Crime club

♣ *Carolina Haints* author Dan Sellers will visit the meeting of "Unsolved," the Archdale library's monthly True Crime discussion group, at. 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 15.

The topic under consideration is the Lawson family murders, a shocking tragedy that took place in Stokes County in 1929, when tobacco farmer Charlie Lawson shot and killed his wife and seven children on Christmas Day.

Only the Lawson's 16-year-old son, who was away from home, survived.

Nearly a century later, the motive for the devastating crime remains a mystery.

The discussion is open to the public.

Libraries slate events for the holidays

...and other activities around the county

♣ The libraries are getting ready for the holidays with Santa visits and other Christmas-themed activities.

Asheboro will host **Cookies with Santa**, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 12. Join Santa and Mrs. Claus for a story and a singalong, and eat cookies while waiting for a professional photo with the jolly couple. No registration required; call 336-318-6804 for more information.

Kids ages birth-5 are invited to drop in at the Randleman library between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. December 1-18 for activities around **A Charlie Brown Christmas** theme. There will be a photo-op, games, crafts and a read-along. Call 336-498-3141 for more information.

Liberty's **12 Books Before Christmas** is ongoing. Sign up by December 5 to pick up 12 surprise books wrapped for you by library staff — one for each evening 12 days before Christmas. Staff can also create 12-book packages for Kwanzaa and 8-book packages for Hannukah.

Pick up is December 10-12.

The Liberty library also is participating in the town's **Downtown Liberty Parade and Festival**, Saturday, December 5, for all ages. The library will close at 11 a.m. to join the Christmas Parade, and will partner with the Randolph Partnership for Children to pass out books on the parade route.

The Jolly Old Elf himself will visit Liberty for a **Santa Storytime**, 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 16, with Mrs. Claus. The event, for ages 0-6, will feature themed stories, dancing and a photo-op with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Paint botanical leaf prints

"Paint with Us" at the Franklinville and Seagrove libraries will feature botanical leaf prints. Ages adult and teen; bring your own canvas. Seagrove, 12:30 p.m. Saturday, December 12; Franklinville, 2 p.m. Sunday, December 13.

Paint candy canes at Liberty

Create a candy cane painting while sipping hot chocolate and munching on cookies, in "Cookies, Cocoa and Canvas Painting," 3:30 p.m. Thursday, December 10, or 10 a.m. Saturday, December 12, at Liberty. Call 336-622-4605 to sign up.

Christmas cards with Canva

Create a personalized Christmas card using your favorite photos in "Make Your Own Free Christmas Card," 6 p.m. Thursday, December 3, with Digital Services Librarian Harris Mason.

In this hands-on class, learn how to use the free online graphic design tool Canva to design a festive card to present to family and friends. Each participant will receive five free cards printed on card stock.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads: Holiday Lunch, noon Thursday, December 10, at Positano.

Archdale Book Break: *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker, 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 15.

Franklinville: Snippets Book Club. Discuss articles from *The Sun* magazine, 12:30 p.m. Monday, December 21 offsite — call 336-685-3100 for details.

Liberty Afternoon Book Club: On hiatus for December.

Liberty Brunch Book Club: On hiatus for December.

BYO book groups

Talk about books that you've read recently.

Archdale, Book Bites, 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 8.

Manga Meet Up (Liberty), 1 p.m. Saturday, December 19, ages 11-18

Ramseur Page Turners, 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 1.

Randleman Readers Recommend, 3:30 p.m. Friday, December 4.

Randleman Teen Talk Book Club, 3:30 p.m. Friday, December 18.

Seagrove, Un-Book Club, 4 p.m. Friday, December 18.

Asheboro to host Teen Jeopardy! tournament

Teens are invited to compete in a *Jeopardy!* tournament in the Asheboro TeenZone at 4 p.m. Monday, December 7, with finals taking place a week later, at 4 p.m. Monday, December 14.

Participants will be formed into teams for the competition, which will include games of two halves and Final *Jeopardy!* Questions have been devised by library staff.

Randolph County Public Library
FRIENDS

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.

NAME _____

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- ◯ ***Friend ($25)***
- ◯ ***Family ($35)***
- ◯ ***Patron ($100)***
- ◯ ***Benefactor ($250)***
- ◯ ***Donor ($500)***

Complete this form and mail with dues payment to: Friends of the Library, c/o Asheboro Public Library, 201 Worth Street, Asheboro, NC 27203.

Or scan the code to join online at randolphfriends.org ▶

Randolph County Public Libraries
201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203

Return Service Requested

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

Randolph County Public Library
FRIENDS
Bookshop

50% Off Sale*
December 6-18
10 a.m. -2 p.m.
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
226 Sunset Ave. Asheboro
randolphfriends.org
**all items except $1 children's*

memorials & donations

To: Randolph County Public Libraries
By: Tami and Weldon Hinshaw

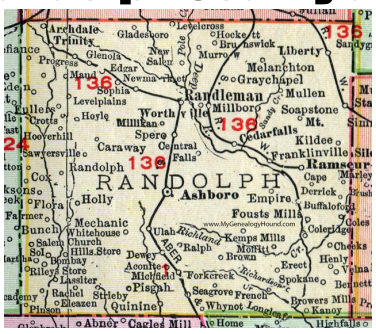
In Memory of: Robert A. Luther
By: Margaret Moore and Sarah Cooley
Mary Ann and Ed Overfield

Greg Patton

We remember Greg Patton, who passed away on November 3. Greg was a lifetime library user and a Friends of the Library board member.

Maps map Randolph County development

♣ Find out how Randolph County has appeared on maps over time in a new display at the Asheboro library.



For the next four months, learn about "Mapping Randolph County" in an exhibit put together by the Randolph Room librarian Joanna Roberts in the upstairs Reading Room display case.

Trace the county's footprint from before there was a Randolph County, to the modern development of the GIS maps you can search online.

Compare colonial drawings of the land in 1733 with the earliest state maps, and specialty maps for the first railroads or for fire insurance rates. The Randolph Room has historical photos, genealogy resources, and local history that is waiting to be discovered.