

## Library to get Rich (& tuneful friends)

♣ A collective of local musicians organized as “Rich and the Goodtimers with Norman Grey” will perform an eclectic assortment of tunes at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 3, at the Asheboro Public Library.

The show, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is free and the public is invited.

“Rich” is multitalented singer-songwriter and recording artist Richard Johnson. The Goodtimers are Lonnie Cranford on guitar, Raeford Brady on vocals, Renette Cranford on guitar and vocals, Jim McCleary on vocals (and comic relief), and Jennie Comer on vocals.

Grey, on hammered dulcimer, fiddle, guitar and vocals, is a tennis buddy of Johnson’s who shares Johnson’s love of music.

Together, the combo will perform what Johnson calls “eclectic ditties” — a unique blend of folk, pop, country & western and spirituals that will include such songs as “Lonesome Town,” “Carolina Moon,” “The Devil and the Farmer’s Wife,” “Galway Bay” and many more.

Grey and Johnson met on the tennis courts in the 1970s, and twice played each other in the finals of city tournaments. They began playing music together in 1993, focusing on traditional celtic and old time music.

They adopted “Ashegrove” as their name in recognition of an old Welsh tune, and of their places of residence (Asheboro for Johnson and Seagrove for Grey). Since then, they’ve played such venues as Farrington Village, the Biltmore Estate, Rising Meadows Farm Festival, Earth Day at the North Carolina Zoological Park and Asheboro’s Sunday in the Park at Bicentennial Stage.



***Rich and the Goodtimers with Norman Grey (featuring, seated, Norman Grey, Richard Johnson and Lonnie Cranford; standing, Raeford Brady, Renette Cranford, Jim McCleary and Jennie Comer), will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 3, at the Asheboro library.***

Johnson met The Goodtimers in 2005 and felt an instant rapport. He began performing with them at rest homes, Habitat for Humanity events, Community ‘50s Night at McCrary Park and Relay for Life fundraisers. Meanwhile, he continued to perform with Grey in Ashegrove.

It all came together when Grey sang along with Rich and the Goodtimers in a Christmas performance at the library in December. Earlier this month, the combine helped Holly George-Warren kick off her Gene Autry book tour by warming up the crowd with some Singing Cowboy classics.

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

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336-318-6800  
Fax 336-318-6823  
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Sat 9-5

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Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 10-1

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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**



## Libraries have economic impact

♣ **A recent article from the Urban Libraries Council made a strong case for public libraries as drawing cards for economic development.**

The library has evolved “from a passive, recreational reading and research institution to an active economic development agent” to play a vital role in such issues as literacy, workforce training, small business development and the cultural life of a community.

The knowledge base is supplanting the old infrastructure of water and sewer as business incentives, as new businesses shift from manufacturing and service sectors to high tech and information economies.

What sets libraries apart from the Internet is their ability to offer “knowledge” as opposed to “information” through our trained staff and databases. Even Craig Silverstein, Google’s director of technology, commented on CBS “Sunday Morning” in March 2004, “My guess is about 300 years until computers are as good as, say, your local reference library in doing research.”

Indeed, any number of small businesses have gotten their start at the library. Gallo winemakers Ernest and Julio relied on a pamphlet from the Modesto Public Library to start their trade seventy years ago. Closer to home, Replacements, Ltd. founder Bob

Page used the business reference section at the Forsyth County Public Library when he began to take his hobby to market in 1981.

According to a 2006 study by the American Library Association, 61% of small-business owners living in the United States said libraries were “important” in getting them started. Many owners credited the librarians as the most valuable resource in helping them locate, narrow down and validate the vast amount of information available (*Business Week*, May 30, 2006).

In addition to our business reference library, we have the many resources from NC LIVE, available either onsite or remotely, including Reference USA, with information on more than 14 million businesses in the U.S., and Business Source Premier, a full text database of business publications.

We also are fortunate to have SCORE hosting weekly counseling sessions for beginning entrepreneurs at the library.

At a recent conference of the North Carolina Public Library Directors Association, Bill Millett, president of the Charlotte business development firm Scope View Strategic Advantage, encouraged libraries and librarians in North Carolina to market knowledge, this huge “strategic advantage” that we do have at our fingertips, for a larger share of the legislative pie.

**randolph county  
public library**  
**news**

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# Summer Reading's not just for kids

♣ Children, teens, adults — everyone can join in this year's Summer Reading Program.



Each year, libraries around the state participate in a themed summer program designed to keep children reading during summer vacation. Kids can sign up to participate and receive rewards for the number of books or pages read.

Now all age groups can join in the fun. The theme is built around mysteries: for kids, and adults, it's "Get a Clue @ Your Library, and for teens, it's YNK @ Your Library (YNK is online shorthand for "you never know).

The children's program will include the usual variety of weekly storytimes for all ages, preschoolers and toddlers;

## Collection effort yields big returns

♣ Efforts by a collection agency specializing in lost and overdue library material have generated a return of almost \$4,000 worth of lost items in just three months.

More than \$2,000 in overdue fines and lost fees has been recovered.

The library began working with Unique Management Inc. in January to retrieve a portion of the tens of thousands of dollars worth of material checked out and not returned annually. Indiana-based Unique focuses on libraries, and makes multiple mail and phone contacts seeking the return of material from scofflaw borrowers.

Borrowers who do not respond are credit reported after 120 days.

The library has turned over 289

weekly school-age programs; and special events taking place at each library.

The Teen Summer Reading Program will feature weekly programs such as "CSI Asheboro," a scavenger hunt and a cookout to wrap things up.

For the Adult Summer Reading Program, adults can submit brief reviews of any books they read or audiobooks to which they listen from the library's collection. A grand prize and other prizes will be awarded on August 1, and every participant will receive a "Library Buck" good for one hardback or two paperbacks at the Friends book sale.

The program will run from mid-June through July. Look for times, dates and details in next month's newsletter.

accounts to Unique, covering all borrowers who reached a specified threshold beginning on October 15, 2006. The threshold includes having more than \$25 in material overdue more than 60 days, or more than \$25 in overdue fines.

About 42 percent of the 289 delinquent borrowers responded — a high return compared to the average of 25 percent after three months.

Of the \$21,202.29 outstanding in fees of fines, \$3902.24 worth of material was returned to the library. Another \$2109.90 was collected in fees and fines.

The library will continue turning over currently delinquent accounts on a weekly basis, and may pursue older accounts up to three years old.

## Agency Fair

The Extension Services department will participate in an Agency Fair sponsored by the Randolph County Partnership for Children and the Committee to Help Infants and Preschoolers during morning and afternoon sessions on Monday, May 21 at First Presbyterian Church in Asheboro.

The Agency Fair will enable organizations that work with children through age five and their families to learn about the activities of and exchange information with other service providers.

## Asheboro Reads

Next up for Asheboro Reads is *Can't Wait to get to Heaven* by Fannie Flagg, 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 24. The title for May 29 is *Three Dog Life* by Abigail Thomas.

The title for June 26 is *The Faith Club : a Muslim, a Christian, a Jew — Three Women Search for Understanding* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner; and for July 31, it's *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

## Book sale

The Friends of the Library book sale will take place from 9-3 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Friends Book Store off the Asheboro Public Library parking lot.

## Extension Services keeps on trucking with Asheboro schools

The Extension Services department will participate in the Asheboro City Schools Truck Day on Tuesday, May 1, at Rand Plaza. Truck Day exposes third graders to

people's careers, focusing on those that involve vehicles. Extension uses library vans to provide library service to people who cannot visit a library.



# 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:

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**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

- Student ..... \$5
- Adult ..... \$15
- Family..... \$25
- Patron ..... \$100
- Benefactor..... \$250
- Lifetime..... \$500
- Corporate Sponsor..... \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Friends of the Library**  
**P.O. Box 2806**  
**Asheboro, NC 27204**  
*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

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**Randolph Room..... 318-6815**

**Reference & Information.. 318-6800**

## memorials & donations

**In Memory of: Henry F. Allred, Jr.**  
By: Joan M. Allred

**In Memory of: Lora Allred**  
By: Phil and Janice Brady

**In Memory of: Myrtis Ruth Lowe Burgess**  
By: Bobby and Denise Lowe Burgess

**In Memory of: Donald R. Chisholm**  
By: Edie and Jack Ogburn  
Peggy B. Woodruff

**In Memory of: Roy D. Cox**  
By: Ramseur Library Staff

**In Memory of: Martha Morrison McCrary**  
By: Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Adams  
Louis W. and Rachel Y. Armstrong  
Clark R. Bell  
The Boone Family  
Susan and Charlie Bossong  
Patricia T. and Henry A. Brown, Jr.  
David and Janet Jones  
Jim and Wendy Kinlaw  
Carol and Ted Matney  
Bill Morrison, Don and Barbara  
Morrison  
Edie and Jack Ogburn  
Carolyn and Howard Redding  
Elizabeth M. Roughton  
Julia and Harper Thayer

**In Memory of: S.L. "Tommy" Cranford**  
By: Neil, Sandra and Sam Allen

**In Memory of: Evelyn Kearns**  
By: Thomas and Pam Coward  
Harvey and Nellie Kinney

**In Memory of: Wade A. Lowe**  
By: Denise Lowe

**In Memory of: Helen Spivey**  
By: Phil and Janice Brady

**In Memory of: Jonathan Teague**  
By: Lindsey Joyce