



Rise, and fight again

Holt's photos to kick off series of talks on Revolutionary War

♣ Get a jump on next year's celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence with three talks on the Revolutionary War at the Asheboro library in March, April and May.

First, get a glimpse of what the war looked like as Library Director Ross Holt presents "Rise, and Fight Again: A Photographic Journey Through the American Revolution," at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13, featuring photographs of Revolutionary War reenactments he has taken over a period of more than 35 years.

Holt developed an interest in the history of the era early in life, and in the mid-1980s began photographing reenactments at historic sites such as Guilford Courthouse and the House in the Horseshoe. Initially focusing on action shots, he became fascinated by the variety of military units represented by the reenactors, their uniforms and regalia, and the battlefield tactics of the day.

His talk, which takes place two days before the 244th anniversary of the battle of Guilford Courthouse, will be an episodic history of the war in this area told in terms — and



The 2nd Continental Light Dragoons fire a volley during the 1988 Guilford Courthouse reenactment in one of Ross Holt's photographs.

pictures — of the brigades and regiments, legions and companies, that fought here.

Col. David Fanning

Picking up where Holt leaves off is local historian Ryan Beeson, with "Revolutionary Randolph: Col. David Fanning and the War at Home," 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17. Beeson will track the exploits of the notorious Loyalist partisan leader who brought the war to Randolph County and left his mark at places like Faith Rock,

Harmon Cox's Mill near Buffalo Ford, and the Andrew Balfour home site.

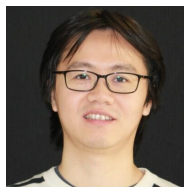
Soldiers views on slavery

Following Beeson, Wake Forest University history professor Dr. Jake Ruddiman will present a talk entitled, "Is This the Land of Liberty: Slavery in the War of American Independence," at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20 (postponed from an earlier date).

Look for information about Beeson's and Ruddiman's talks in upcoming newsletters, and expect to see more Independence-themed events as the celebration moves into 2026.

UNCG prof to consider 'Beauty of Artificial Intelligence'

♣ Join UNCG Computer Science professor Dr. Chunjiang Zhu for "The Beauty of Artificial Intelligence," 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25 at the Asheboro library.



Chunjiang Zhu

Zhu will consider the concepts and applications of AI; the societal impacts and ethical considerations; generative AI (which creates

new content, such as text and images); and Large Language Models (which enable machines to analyze data and respond in human language).

Zhu specializes in algorithm design to solve problems in areas such as machine learning, drug development and cyber-physical systems. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the City University of Hong Kong.

Franklinville schoolkids author book for Storywalk ...see inside

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

Revolutionary Randolph

♣ **With the series of talks promoted on the front page, we're getting ready for the celebration of America 250, the 250th anniversary — or "semiquincentennial" — of American Independence.**

In Randolph County, the celebration will last longer than the country's. Our county was established in the thick of the Revolutionary War — 1779 — and the most critical events of the war here occurred in 1781 and 1782. We will be recognizing 250th anniversaries through 2032.

North Carolina's celebration, "America 250 NC" (america250nc.gov), centers on the question, "When Are We US?" and explores how North Carolinians have continued to engage with the topics of freedom, civic responsibility and the ideals of democracy over 250 years.

The state's celebration incorporates three themes: visions of freedom; gathering of voices; and common ground.

America 250 NC has asked counties to form committees to establish local celebrations and explorations. Randolph County has responded: in July, at the urging of Cam Mills, district field director for U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson, the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution establishing our local committee.

Drawing primarily from the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission, the Col. Andrew Balfour Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and county government, the committee includes Ryan Beeson, Lisa Brown, Warren Dixon,

Hope Haywood, Kendra Lyons, Cam Mills, Hal Pugh, Amy Rudisill, Kathie Thompson, Dan Warren, Mac Whatley, and myself. Mac is serving as chair.

County Manager Zeb Holden, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Dana Crisco and Asheboro Assistant City Manager Trevor Nuttall are serving ex-officio.

The committee has been meeting since August, brainstorming ways that the community can get involved and begin the celebrations, culminating in a grand, countywide event on or about July 4, 2026. The overall theme for the county's activities is "Revolutionary Randolph."

Two projects already are in the works involving interactive maps. Working with Randolph County GIS/Mapping, Kendra Lyons is close to completing a geolocating map of cemeteries with Revolutionary War veteran burials, to be made available online.

Also being compiled is a chronology of events from the founding of the county through the end of the Revolution. The chronology will be incorporated into an interactive online map showing where the events occurred.

As the semiquincentennial (which almost no one is calling it) approaches, look for more programs and activities to take place — and plan to get involved!

Incidentally, "semiquincentennial" is an interesting word. Centennial literally means 100 years, and bicentennial 200 years. But semiquincentennial literally means half of 500 years.

In that respect, it's optimistic, anticipating another 250 years.



Caughron to discuss caregiving

♣ Are you a family member caring for a parent or loved one, or will need to in the future?

Join David Caughron, Hospice of the Piedmont Vice-president of Community Engagement, for a talk entitled "Caregiving: Hard but Good," 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at the Randleman library.



David Caughron

Caughron will engage participants in a conversation about how to encourage the benefits of caregiving while also acknowledging the difficulties and uncertainties.

Caughron has been a part of Hospice staff for 14 years, starting as director of Marketing and Development. Prior to joining the organization, he served four years on its board of directors.

Share country cultures at Liberty fiesta

♣ Help celebrate El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) at the Liberty library during a ¡Multicultural Book Festival!, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 12.

Sign up by Saturday, April 5, to represent a country you would like to

research, then share information about the country's culture, music and food during the community fiesta.

Walk through each station representing a country, and collect stamps on your "passport" for a small prize.

To register, visit the library or call 336-622-4605.

Series continue at Archdale, Liberty

♣ Archdale's Healthy Lifestyles and Liberty's Gardening Series continue in March.

In Archdale, understand "The Power of Sleep" at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, exploring the role sleep plays in overall health and well-being. Randolph County Wellness Administrator Sam Varner is leading the series. Call the library at 336-

431-3811 to sign up.

Liberty's Gardening Series will feature "Landscape Planning Basics" at 3 p.m. Thursday. Learn about site selection and basic design principles. To sign up, visit go.ncsu.edu/libertygardening.

The series is led by Alamance County Master Gardeners with North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

Archdale to spotlight Linbrook museum

♣ Archdale's Museum Spotlight, 5 p.m. Thursday, March 27, will feature the Linbrook Heritage Estate.

Representatives of the estate, which is home to the Neal Agricultural and Industrial Museum, will bring tractor models and talk about how tractors have changed over the

years. The museum collection includes restored tractors, steam engines and other industrial equipment.

The library's monthly Museum Spotlight is designed for all ages and showcases fascinating artifacts from museums in the area, and the stories behind them. Call the library at 336-431-3811 for more details.



Book discussions

Asheboro Reads, Afternoon Edition: *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict, 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 25.

Archdale Book Break: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters, 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 18.

Franklinville: Snippets Book Club, 12:30 p.m. Monday, March 17.

Liberty Book Club: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20.

Liberty Readers Meet-Up: *Must Love Flowers* by Debbie Macomber, 1 p.m. Monday, March 17, Liberty Senior Center.

BYO book groups

Talk about books that you've read recently.

Archdale: Book Bites, 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 11.

Archdale: Silent Book Club, 10 a.m. Saturday, March 8.

Ramseur Page Turners, 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 4.

Randleman Readers Recommend, 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 7.

Seagrove: Un-Book Club, Books about food for Pi Day, 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 25.

Tech classes

"Navigating the World Online," 6 p.m. Thursday, March 6 and 1 p.m. Thursday, March 20.

Ramseur library hosts activities for seniors

Seniors can gather for activities three times in March at the Ramseur library.

Visit the library for Seniors Craft Day, 1 p.m. Monday, March 3.

Play Seniors Helping Seniors BINGO

at 1 p.m. Monday, March 17.

And come to the library for Seniors Game day at 1 p.m. Monday, March 24.

Call the library at 336-824-2232 for more information.



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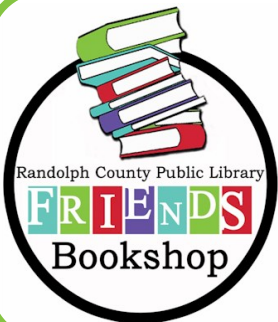
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By: Col. Andrew Balfour Chapter,
Daughters of the American Revolution

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North Carolina Wellness Consultants

Manage multiple cards with Library Elf

♣ **Want to receive email alerts before your library check-outs are due, manage all your family's library cards, and receive text notifications when your holds are ready for pick-up?**

Sign up for Library Elf, a free service that lets you easily keep tabs on your library activity.

Visit libraryelf.com to create an account. Add as many cards as you want to your account, and set it up to receive any of the following:

- Email alerts before items are due;
- Email alerts about overdues and holds; and
- Text alerts for items on hold that are ready for pick-up.

While the library itself provides some of these notifications, multiple card management and text notifications are not available directly.

The library subscribes to Library Elf, so services designated at a "premium" fee are free for Randolph County library cardholders.

Franklinville students pen book for Storywalk

♣ **Students at Franklinville Elementary School are saying *Hello Winter* with a book they have written and illustrated for the library StoryWalk in Riverside Park.**

The project involved first, third and fifth grade students. Each page features one thing that the kids like about winter.

First graders brainstormed things they see, do, hear and smell during winter. Then third graders wrote a sentence for each brainstormed idea.

Fifth graders illustrated the pages, which then were turned into 17 panels for the Storywalk display using a variety of materials to create the pages — scraps of wallpaper, doilies, construction paper, yarn, pipe cleaners, beads and other items. Most of the illustrations were photographed for the panels, but some were glued down and included in the StoryWalk.

Visitors to the park can read the book one panel after the other as they walk along the Rail Trail by the Deep River. *Hello Winter* will be on display through May.

The project was the brainchild of Franklinville



A panel from *Hello Winter*, a book created for the Franklinville StoryWalk by students.

Elementary Principal Katie Henderson, who brought the idea to Franklinville library manager Charity Neave Johnson. School media specialist Ami Meadows took charge of the effort.

The topic was inspired by the book *Winter is Here* by Kevin Henkes, which Meadows shared with the students.

“Each of the grade levels are really enjoying the project. I can’t wait to hear how they took their

families to the Rail Trail to see their story,” Meadows says.

Johnson says, “We are grateful for the opportunity to share their story. Many thanks go out to Franklinville Elementary for the ideas and hard work behind the project.”

Library StoryWalks can be found at Archdale’s Creekside Park, Randleman Park, Seagrove’s Presnell Park, and Liberty’s Freedom and Paul Henry Smith parks. The StoryWalk project was made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Seagrove library displays pottery by area fifth-graders

♣ **Pottery by Seagrove-area 5th graders who are part of the Traditional Arts Program for Students (TAPS) at the North Carolina Pottery Center will be on display year-round at the Seagrove library.**

The ceramic works, on view now, are refreshed each year in June and January as students graduate from the class.

TAPS is an after-school program hosted by the Pottery Center in partnership with Seagrove Elementary School. It is sponsored by the North Carolina Arts Council with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Each fall and spring, 5th grade students can apply for the ten-class sessions, which give them hands-on



Seagrove TAPS participants observe pottery in progress.

experience in wheel-throwing, hand building, glazing and firing of pottery forms drawn from traditional practice.

Potter Sid Luck heads up the program, assisted by Chad Brown and Cat Viera Akerman. Local artists are invited to design and instruct special classes to share their own pottery practice.

At the end of each session, students celebrate with awards and a reception, and give presentations on their TAPS experiences. Each student selects one of

their pieces for display at the library.

The North Carolina Pottery Center, located in Seagrove, promotes public awareness of and appreciation for the history, heritage and ongoing tradition of pottery making in the state.

Celebrate 'Spirit Week' at Asheboro library

♣ Celebrate Read Across America with the Asheboro Children's Room in "Spirit Week at the Library" beginning Monday, March 3.

Dress up & participate in themed activities; there's something new to do every day of the week! Come in anytime during operating hours to craft.

Call 336-318-6804 for more information. Fun for the whole family!

- **Monday, March 3:** *Fox in Socks* — make fox origami.
- **Tuesday, March 4:** *One Fish Two Fish* — craft popsicle stick fish.
- **Wednesday, March 5:** *Wacky Wednesday* — dress wacky and make pipe cleaner glasses.
- **Thursday, March 6:** *The Lorax* — craft truffula trees!
- **Friday, March 7:** *Cat in the Hat* — dress as your favorite book character and play a Stack the Cat's Hat STEAM challenge.

Liberty to launch 'Creative Movement' series for kids ...and other activities at libraries around the county

♣ Let's move at the library!

The Liberty library invites kids to get moving and have fun in "Creative Movement: Intro to Dance," an 8-week series beginning Thursday, March 20, 4-4:30 p.m. for ages 3-5 and 4:30-5 p.m. for ages 6 and up.

Each class will go through a basic choreography, with an opportunity to perform in a recital in May.

Children at all levels of dance experience are welcome. The program is a collaboration with Sapphire Dance Studio.

Book clubs for kids, teens

Liberty: Kids Club, 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 11. Crafts, snacks, activities and sharing about what you like to read.

Liberty: Manga Meet Up at the Library, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 1. Crafts, activities, treats and videos; teens 11 and up.

Randleman: Teen Talk Book Club, 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 21, 6th-8th graders. Bring a book to share.

Lunar lander legend

Celebrate Women's History Month with the Asheboro library Children's Room. Learn about American mathematician Katherine Johnson and how she contributed to the first successful Moon landing in "Lunar Lander Legend," 4 p.m. Friday, March 21. Craft your own lunar lander during the event.

Liberty book sale

The Liberty library will offer gently used books for purchase during a book sale running from Saturday-Saturday, March 22-29. Cash or check only.

'Pop Girls Music Bingo' for Asheboro teens

Teens age 12 and up are invited to play "Pop Girls Music Bingo" for prizes, and to listen to the most popular female stars, 4 p.m. Monday, March 24, in the Asheboro library TeenZone. Snacks provided!

Resin workshop for Archdale teens

Get creative with resin in a Resin Workshop at the Archdale library, 4 p.m. Friday, March 7, for ages 12 and

up. Learn how to mix and pour resin into fun molds to create unique pieces like bookmarks, car coasters and pop sockets. Experiment with colors, glitter and other embellishments to make one-of-a-kind designs.

Supplies are limited; call 336-431-3811 to sign up.

'Peep My Ride' at Liberty

Make a cute — and delicious — vehicle for your Peeps in a diorama contest at the Liberty library, for a chance at a Peeps-themed prize. Community members of all ages are invited to register and pick up Peeps from the library between Monday and Saturday, March 24-29, with displays due by Wednesday, April 5. Dioramas should be shoebox-sized.

Crepe Myrtles at Randleman

Join Lydia Davenport of Randolph County ECA to learn about "Crepe Myrtle Propagation," 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, at the Randleman library, for ages 16 and up.

The workshop will cover taking cuttings, preparing them for rooting, and taking care of them. Each participant will receive a Lavender Crepe Myrtle cutting in a one-half gallon pot to take home to plant in their own yard.

Space is limited; call 336-498-3141 to sign up.

Seed germination at Ramseur

School-age kids can learn about plant life cycles, and make a seed germination bracelet or necklace, in a talk by North Carolina Cooperative Extension agents Jennifer Holmes and Allison Walker Allen, 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, at the Ramseur library.

'60s Music Hangout at Archdale

It's a groovy afternoon of music in a "'60s Music Hangout" at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at the Archdale library, led by Mark Hyde, a retired math teacher and music lover. Listen to iconic tunes, chat about the music that defined a decade and enjoy snacks. Whether you're a fan of The Beatles, The Supremes or Bob Dylan, connect with fellow music enthusiasts. Ages 18 and up.