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EATURES Winter 2018-19 Community outreach **Hurley Family YMCA** touches many people by MARK WINEKA Falconry 101 A woman and her hawk go on the hunt by MARK WINEKA **Doctors of** philosophy Brothers Ranjan and Sam Roy invest in their patients, On the cover: Cindy Bernhardt, a general each other class falconer, takes the 2-year-old redby SUSAN SHINN tailed hawk, Belle, on a hunt. On this page: The pool at the J.F. Hurley TURNER YMCA is used for high school swim meets. — Photos by Jon C. Lakey

DEPARTMENTS



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Taking advantage of the chance to become Hawkeye Fierce

n this business, we often get to do things in the great outdoors that are part of "researching" our stories.

Photographer Jon Lakey and I have flown in vintage planes and Black Hawk helicopters. We have canoed rivers, hiked mountains and searched for meteorite fragments. I don't know about Jon, but I also have herded sheep, bungee-jumped and gone hunting at night for raccoons.

We can add something else to our list. For a story in this issue about Cindy Bernhardt and her love for falconry, Jon and I accompanied Cindy and some other licensed falconers on a squirrel hunt with her red-tailed hawk, Belle.

The experience gave Jon and me a much greater appreciation of the power and grace in nature and an admiration for the hunting partnership that forms between falconers and their hawks — and what the falconers are doing to help more hawks survive in the wild.

On one of our other visits with Cindy, she allowed me to put on her heavy glove, hold some fresh pieces of mouse meat between my thumb and index finger and watch the majestic Belle fly to my hand to eat

That's a cool thing, though I apologize to the mouse that made it possible.

While falconry represents a practice only a handful of people dedicate themselves to, it sometimes seems everybody has a connection to the YMCAs in Rowan County. This issue takes a closer look at one of them — the J.F. Hurley Family YMCA, which might be the most inclusive place in Salisbury.

Don't put down this edition until you read about Salisbury Drs. Ranjan and Sam Roy and learn what their families and patients mean to them. Susan Shinn Turner and Lakey beautifully tell their story.

Elsewhere in this edition, Liz Moomey catches up with longtime educator Don Knox, who in retirement is heavily involved in woodworking and, more specifically, the intricate planning and cutting involved with intarsia.

Our resident foodie, Deirdre Parker Smith, reveals the back story of Matt Trexler, who most recently found a niche in preparing

ready-to-eat dinners for a growing base of customers.

Elizabeth Cook and Lakey visited the South Fulton Street home where Don and Cindy Hesprich are beautifully restoring their older house, and you'll see why these home renovations can always be works in progress.

Elsewhere, the energetic and interesting Adele Goodman provides answers as this issue's Rowan Original. Smith lends three reading recommendations in Bookish. Zelia Frick gives us

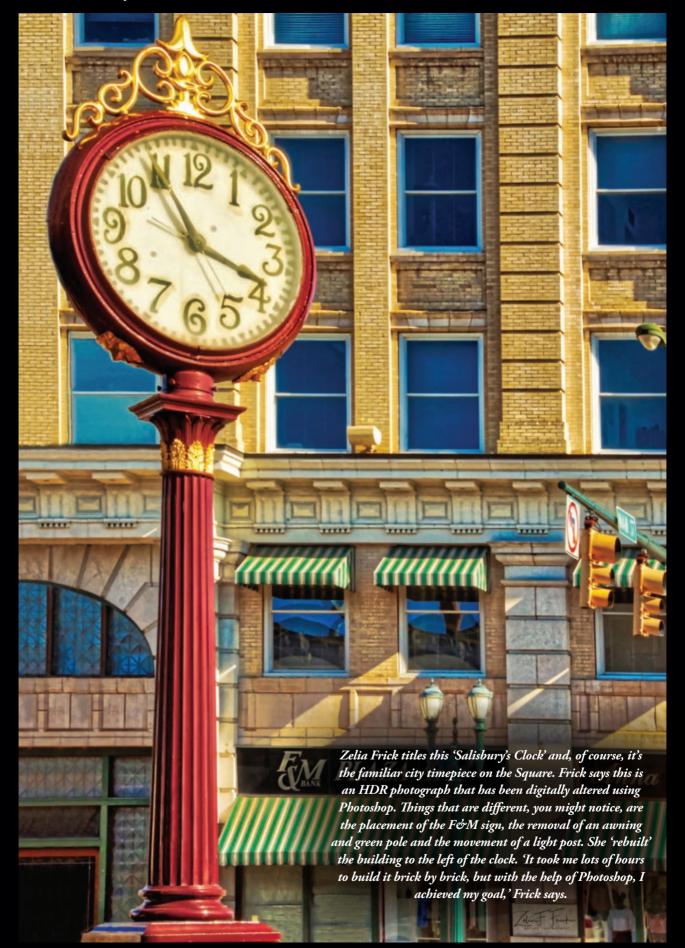
a poster-worthy picture in her Through the Lens contribution. Likewise, Andy Mooney returns with a beautiful pen-and-ink drawing for Salisbury's the Place.

As always, look for family and friends — maybe even yourself — in the Scene photos toward the back of the magazine.

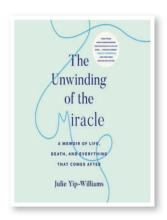
All told, it's an issue full of inspiration and insights, including this one: If you're a squirrel or mouse, don't forget to look up. **S**

Mak Wore for

Mark Wineka,
Editor, Salisbury the Magazine



Come in from the cold with these three reads



"The Unwinding of the Miracle" By Julie Yip-Williams

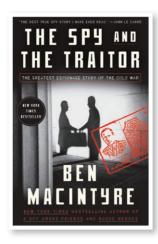
As a young mother facing a terminal diagnosis, Julie Yip-Williams began to write her story. What began as the chronicle of an imminent and early death became something much more — a powerful exhortation to the living.

Born blind in Vietnam, she narrowly escaped euthanasia at the hands of her grandmother, only to flee political upheaval in the late 1970s. Julie made it to Hong Kong and, ultimately, America, where a surgeon at UCLA gave her partial sight. She became a Harvard-educated lawyer, with a husband, a family, and a life she had once assumed would be impossible.

Then, at 37, with two little girls at home, Julie was diagnosed with terminal metastatic colon cancer.

This is the story of a vigorous life refracted through the prism of imminent death. When she was first diagnosed, Julie sought clarity and guidance through the experience and, finding none, began to write her way through it — a chronicle that grew beyond her imagining.

Motherhood, marriage, the immigrant experience, ambition, love, wanderlust, grief, reincarnation, jealousy, comfort, pain, the marvel of the body in full rebellion — this book is as sprawling and majestic as the life it records. It is inspiring and instructive, delightful and shattering. It is a book of indelible moments, seared deep — an incomparable guide to living vividly by facing hard truths consciously.



"The Spy and the Traitor" By Ben MacIntyre

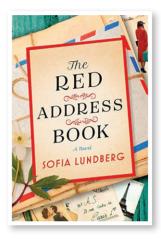
If anyone could be considered a Russian counterpart to the infamous British double-agent Kim Philby, it was Oleg Gordievsky.

The son of KGB agents and the product of the best Soviet institutions, the savvy, sophisticated Gordievsky grew to see his nation's communism as both criminal and philistine. He took his first posting for Russian intelligence in 1968 and eventually became the Soviet Union's top man in London, but from 1973 on he was secretly working for MI6.

For nearly a decade, as the Cold War reached its twilight, Gordievsky helped the West turn the tables on the KGB, exposing Russian spies and helping to foil countless intelligence plots, as the Soviet leadership brought the world closer to the brink

MI6 never revealed Gordievsky's name to its counterparts in the CIA, which in turn grew obsessed with figuring out who he or she was.

The CIA's obsession doomed Gordievsky: The CIA officer assigned to identify him was none other than Aldrich Ames, the man who would become infamous for secretly spying for the Soviets.



"The Red Address Book" By Sofia Lundberg

Meet Doris, a 96-year-old woman living alone in her Stockholm apartment. She has few visitors, but her weekly Skype calls with Jenny — her American grandniece and only relative — provides great joy and reminds Doris of her own youth.

When Doris was a girl, she was given an address book by her father, and ever since she has carefully documented everyone she met and loved throughout the years.

Looking through the little book now, Doris sees the many crossed-out names of people long gone and is struck by the urge to put pen to paper.

In writing down the stories of her colorful past — working as a maid in Sweden, modeling in Paris during the 1930s, fleeing to Manhattan at the dawn of the Second World War — can she help Jenny, haunted by a difficult childhood, unlock the secrets of their family and finally look to the future? And whatever became of Allan, the love of Doris' life?

This is a charming novel that prompts reflection on the stories we all should carry to the next generation — and the surprises in life that can await even the oldest among us.

"The Red Address Book" introduces Sofia Lundberg as a wise — and irresistible — storyteller. S

rowan originals





dele Goodman just might be one of those people with an old soul. She cherishes the deep roots her family has in Rowan County through names such as Corriher, Heglar, Goodman, Overcash and Beaver.

"Since my grandma died, I'm known as the family historian," she says. "I host two reunions at the farm and relatives come to me, even some of the older ones, to ask questions, which is fun, or I'll call the oldest generation left and write their stories down so we can keep them."

Goodman says she dreams of writing a book someday for all the people in her Corriher Grange community on what life was like 100 years ago and point out where all the things were such as cotton gins, the wagon road and family homes.

By day, Goodman works in Mooresville for Penske Racing as executive assistant to Jonathan Gibson, the vice president of marketing and communications. But she wears so many other hats.

In recent years, Goodman has been the key inspiration behind a proliferation of barn quilts in western Rowan. Enough of these pattern squares have been erected — and more are planned — that they have become worthy of car tours and calendars.

Goodman also has been a big advocate through the years for open space preservation, working closely in the past with the LandTrust for Central North Carolina in saving farmland from development.

She serves as missions coordinator and United Methodist Women's president for Centenary Church. She belongs to the Mount Ulla Preservation Society and the Corriher Grange, founded by her great-great grandfather Henry C. Corriher.

This past June, Goodman organized at the Penske race shop a 300-guest kick-off party. It was for the N.C. State Special Olympics USA Games team before it left for Seattle.

Goodman serves as guardian for her Uncle Lee, who has Down syndrome, "which is why I love Special Olympics," she says. At 56, Lee still competes in Special Olympics and has for 48 years.

Oh, yeah, Goodman also is a pretty good artist. Salisbury the Magazine recently caught up with this Rowan Original for a brief Q&A:





I remember you saying once that one of your favorite smells is Rowan County red clay. Why have you always held such a close connection to the western Rowan area where you call home?

I refer to our county as "Rowan" and she's blessed with fertile soils (including the red clay!), beautiful rolling countryside, deep history and wonderful people with Salisbury as her crowning jewel. That sounds corny, but it's how I feel.

What makes it so special are the small communities that are all interconnected. Everybody looks after everybody else. I can't go anywhere

in the county without running into somebody I know. There are annual fundraisers I attend just to see certain folks I may not see throughout the year, and we just pick up where we left off.

I have a soft spot especially for our farmers who work so hard and sacrifice a lot for something they love dearly. It's that connection to and respect for the land and God's creation that is the common bond for most of us.

You're a talented artist. How was your art influenced by these feelings you have for farming, country life, family and the simple pleasures you enjoyed growing up?

My artwork was an escape growing up. I still like to spend time alone in the quiet of my studio painting when I can. ... There is joy in creating

something that never existed before, except in our minds. And to gather together with other artists and create gives off an energy that's exhilarating to me. It slows the world down.

I was surrounded by fields and gardens as a child, so gardening is like painting, deciding where to put flowers and what colors to combine as complements. I have always loved animals, especially horses, and specialize in animal portraits. Animals soften the harshness of life, and it's a blessing to immortalize animals for the ones who love them so much. I completely understand the agony and grief when we lose one.

I add the letters "s.d.g." as a sort of co-signature on each portrait across from mine. It stands for "Soli Deo gloria." Bach and Handel used it, so it's not my idea, but it feels good to give credit to where this gift came from that can't be taken for granted.

Adele Goodman works in her studio at her home on Corriher Springs Road in southwestern Rowan County. Goodman's medium is pastel.

What do you like about your role at Penske?

The pace is fast and we get to interact with a lot of legendary drivers and race folks because of Roger Penske's storied history. Our team has been together for 52

years and I've been here nearly half of those.

I have learned a great deal from Roger; we respect him as a brilliant businessman, but we love him as a person. He's the epitome of integrity, respect, wisdom and kindness. As successful as he is, there is nothing pretentious about him.

My boss (Jonathan Gibson) heads the marketing division for all 12 of our race teams; he's a genius at marketing/branding and I've learned a great deal from him.

I can take an idea and make it come to life, like the barn quilt trail.

| rowan originals

When we decided to try to organize one in 2014, I laid out a marketing plan in stages which has come to life, but we have a ways to go. It's just how my mind works naturally. My job requires juggling a lot of details and being highly organized so I take those skills and apply them to every project whether it's at church or at home with daily chores. They call it "The Penske Way" (Effort Equals Results), and it works.

Why do you think you have such a passion for barn quilts?

It goes back to quilts in general which ties us to a simpler, slower-paced way of life, something I long for — a time when people made things by hand to use in their daily lives. Then the artistry came into play with women creating these lovely patterns in quilt squares.

My great-great grandpa (Henry C. Corriher) built a quilting frame for his wife, Clarissa Beaver Corriher, and I still have it. My great-grandma and my grandma used to quilt with ladies at the house I now live in on the same quilting frame. I have a quilt made by my great-grandmother that I still use and my mother did the backing for it. It's comforting to know their hands made it; like being wrapped in their love.

So from this appreciation of quilts, we have these gorgeous pieces of art (quilt squares) painted to adorn our beautiful barns and outbuildings in Rowan County. For me, it's like driving through an outdoor art exhibit. They are beautiful but also very sentimental, as each one tells a story of the family, their history or an individual. I think that's what makes them really special — the stories behind them. As you drive around our county, a sweet story evolves about how many of these quilts, and families, are connected — a common "thread" running through our communities.

What book — or maybe it was a piece of art — made the biggest impression with you?

"To Kill A Mockingbird" is still my favorite book. I read it at 11 years old and it broke my heart. It made me so angry at the injustices and racism of the world. I watched the movie not long ago and sobbed at the end realizing that the world hasn't changed much since those times.

... My favorite painting is by H. Siddons Mowbray called "The Rose Harvest." The original hangs at the Mint Museum downtown and it's breathtaking. Every time I visit, I want to grab it off the wall and run for the car. It would look so good in my house! I researched the history and it took me to the story it was based on but then to a lovely poem by Thomas Moore called "Oft In the Stilly Night," which has become a favorite. Sometimes art, whether it's paintings, poetry or writing, is all interconnected as well.

What's your pet peeve?

I do not like dishonest, manipulative or cruel people. Have zero tolerance for them and evil doers — the world is difficult enough with trag-

edies, illnesses and struggles that we can't control. For people to create issues, hardships or drama for others, that is intolerable for me. Toxic, negative people make me tired.

What's something about you most people don't know?

I'm dying to learn how to polka dance.

What are your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

Gardening, gardening and more gardening! I love plants, flowers, trees, insects and animals. I've studied invasive species and forestry just for fun. I'm a beekeeper, so honeybees are a passion. They are the perfect example of teamwork and a flat organization. My great-grandpa (John Corriher) was a well-known "country vet" who covered five counties. My grandma used to tell me I was like him because I can doctor on animals and understand insects/life cycles like he did.

Just like our communities are connected, we're also connected to creation and dependent upon each other. I just wish folks could truly understand that and respect, protect, nurture it vs. destroy it or use it up.



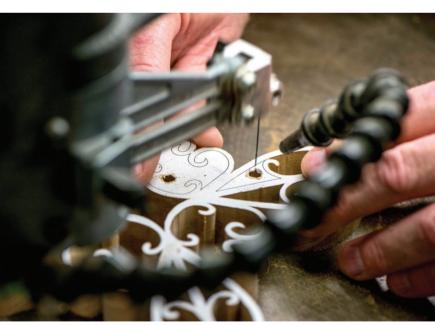
What two foods are always in your fridge or panty?

Protein shakes and milk.

If you could go back 25 or 30 years and talk to a younger version of yourself, what advice would you offer her?

"Go to N.C. State, study horticulture/botany/Ag and become Rowan's agriculture extension agent, then retire at 50 and farm!" S





Top: Don Knox poses next to the saw in his shop. Behind him is the wood he uses for intarsia, varying in colors to provide details. **Above:** Knox cuts out a piece of wood. **Right:** Knox made the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on the week of Memorial Day as a way to honor soldiers' sacrifices.



THE ARTS



Peace by piece

Educator Don Knox cuts to his creative side through intarsia.

Written by Llz Moomey | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

on Knox worked 60 hours a week as an educator in Rowan County. On Saturdays, he escaped to his shop to create.

He did stained glass and then cross-stitch while watching sports. Now retired, he spends his days making intarsia, maybe best described as a mosaic of wood.

"I would come out to my shop and get out here at 8:30 in the morning and stay till about 3 and (my wife) Jennifer was always good with just giving me that time to do the crafts and have the music going," said Knox, a onetime princi-





Knox sits at the saw in his shop. He said he is currently working on about a dozen different projects.

pal at South Rowan High School and athletic director for Rowan-Salisbury Schools. "I could just get lost in what I was doing. I could get just involved."

He started out with an eagle. He had a pattern. He had a jigsaw. He had paint. Now, he has made countless other patterns, including two more eagles.

"It started as a lark," he said. "I didn't even know what it was. When I found out about it, I was like this is really, really cool and I can feel like I'm doing something with wood."

Knox soon found Judy Gale Roberts in Tennessee, who became a mentor to him.

"She's like in the woodworkers hall of fame," he said. "She's phenomenal. I went up and I took a class with her and spent three days up there just cutting and got to use a saw like this one and I fell in love with it and came along."

After 12 years, this lark has become a full-fledged passion and has allowed him to set up









Clockwise from top:

Knox's property is filled with crafts he has done with his grandkids. Sometimes Knox will sit on the porch at his shop and watch life go by; Knox made the owl for his wife, Jennifer; Knox said pieces like the horse require delicate carrying, because the points of contact are limited. Sometimes he will alter the design if he thinks the connection is weak and will break; Knox sands a piece of wood for a project.

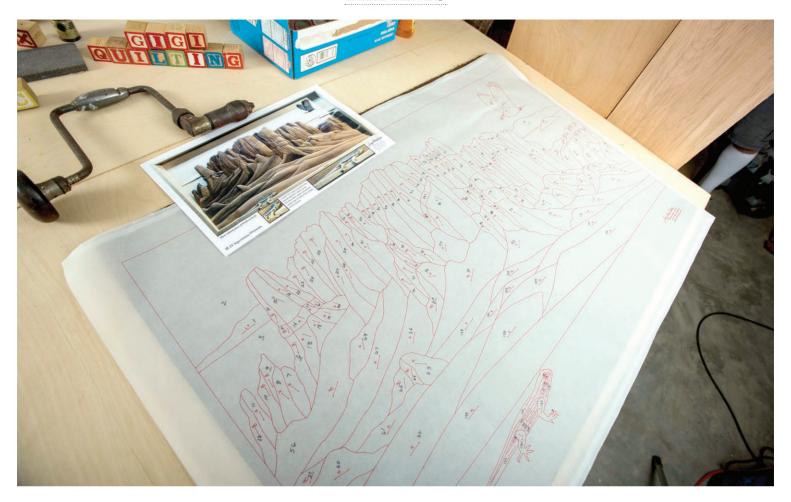








THE ARTS



in the heritage crafts section at Autumn Jubilee and make pieces for sale as he continues to improve his craft.

"I now have to look at shapes and I can't be as fast at my sanding," he said. "I can't be as fast with my cutting. I'm slowing way down to make sure my cuts are better. If you look at a lot of my earlier pieces, like the fawn and the deer, the eagle, that type of stuff, you'll see a lot more gaps. If you look at the tiger, there's a lot of gaps. The tiger was one I did a long time ago. There are more gaps because I wasn't good at my cutting. As I've improved with my cutting, the pieces fit together more, which then allows you to shape better, which then allows you to have a better piece of presentation when you're done, and I can be proud of that."

Knox said seeing others create has given him a sense of community.

"I love going to see what other people are doing," he said. "I think what they're doing is so creative, so unique, so cool, and they're like me: 'Well you know I wish I would've done this better,' and it's like 'Man, this is great.'

The pattern for a desert scene is displayed with a picture of what will be the completed product. Knox receives patterns from Judy Gale Roberts, his mentor.

You're always appreciative of other people's stuff. You're your worst critic. You look at your own stuff like, 'God, I wish.'

"When you walk around you realize others are in the same boat with you, that's helpful. It's not just me. I still need to improve. I can still get better."

He particularly enjoys people who are introduced to intarsia understanding the complexity of the craft.

"I love when they do that double take and they stop and they get drawn in and they start really looking at the pieces," Knox said. "The ones you know get it are the ones that don't say, 'Oh, that's just like a puzzle.' No it's not a puzzle. This is different woods. This is getting different things fit in, shaping. It's a lot more complicated than a puzzle.

"Does it take time and patience? Yes. Is it a

process? Yes. You can't expect to do this on a Saturday morning. It's not a DIY project. This is not DIY. This is, I will do this as a process and know that. When people come over and I show them, they realize."

He explained selling his pieces is sometimes complicated for him. Some can take two days to make, others 200 hours.

"This is part of me," Knox said. "That's why it's so hard to sell sometimes, because it's so much of you. It's so much of your time and efforts and just a lot of thought."

In the end, Knox does it for himself. He goes to the shop. Sometimes his grandkids will come to make crafts. Sometimes he'll paint. Sometimes he'll think.

"The older I get the more I enjoy that creative outlet," he said.

The shop has become his escape and to remember the simple pleasures in life.

"This helps me unwind and consider what's important," he said. "I've been through enough garbage in life. Between illnesses and things like that, this is what I want to do."



Galloping gourmet

Matt Trexler finds niche with ready-to-eat dinners.

Written by Deirdre Parker Smith | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

FOOD



Above: Chef Matt Trexler works at his kitchen to prepare ordered meals for longtime customers. Trexler pauses before deboning one of the many turkeys that he was cooking to fill Thanksgiving orders. Right: Pimento cheese spread is one of the popular items customers order.

ou know Matt Trexler, right? He's been around forever, cooking, smiling, uttering a favorite phrase, "Dammit, y'all."

He's an extremely busy man. He caters and has for many years. About two years ago, he started offering ready-to-eat meals from the huge kitchen attached to the family home.

"I spend half my life in the grocery store," he says, laughing.

He figures he's been in the chef business 32 years, but he's not a chef. "I'm a glorified line cook with a flare for gourmet tastes and presentation."

He never had a cooking class in his life. "I look and learn, and learn what not to do again."

Trexler started by washing dishes in the Elks Lodge for Dick Palmore, who went on to own a number of restaurants. He started there when he was in the ninth grade. "I thought I was a fat cat back in 1974 with \$20 in my pocket."

Now, he has a lot more than that. He's invested in himself, and he has a reputation that brings customers back.

Trexler remembers meeting Chef Santos — when Matt was a lobster short for a catering gig, Santos gave him a whole box. Santos didn't charge him. "Just bring lobsters back," Santos said.

Matt knew Marilyn Harrison at Sweet Meadow, Hap Alexander, who started Hap's Grill, and Greg Culp, who once owned Hap's, too. "You're not going to be anywhere in the business if you don't have professional courtesy," he says. He's helped out with freezer space if someone's power goes out, and figures they'd do the same for him.



FOOD



When he started preparing nightly meals for sale, he had 314 friends on Facebook. "I'm not really into all that." He has 2,800 now, mostly through promoting the meals and posting menus.

It's so much easier with his kitchen. When he started catering, "I bought a '73 Econoline van for \$1,500." He got four chafing dishes and dived in. His cousin, Anne Eller, had serving items and hot boxes her father built.

He had some setbacks and extra expense.

"But by the grace of God and my customers, I made it back. I want to offer something convenient that I won't take a beating on. If I sell out, wonderful! I have no waste. I can give you quantity and quality and have it warm. I get to see my clientele, that's the added bonus.

"People come knowing I'm the only one who has handled their food from start to finish.

"I feel that's integrity and it speaks about your product and the people I serve. I give a fair price to those people. I mean, we all have to eat." prepare food for someone, it is the most intimate thing you can do. ... Your heart's got to be in it. ?? He doesn't want to get bored. "I want to change it up." Customer favorites are ribs — "that sells out a lot," and barbecued chicken. "I'm getting ready to add a dipped chicken to the rotation," Trexler says.

His favorite thing is seafood, but it's expensive. Trexler has to pre-sell before committing.

He's considering adding delivery to the eastern part of the county because he's on Old Mocksville Road and there's a demand.

"I think I'll add a Reuben sandwich. A good one, well put together so you can eat it."

His favorite vegetables are collards and greens, pinto beans, corn — "Southern boy food," he says, "It's what I grow in my garden. Talk about farm-to-table, I've been doing that all my life."

Trexler remembers shelling beans as a kid. He had to do them by 6 p.m. so he could watch "Hee Haw," "The Wonderful World of Disney" and "Perry Mason."

Matt is the youngest of five and was always with his Mamaw and Nanny, learning to cook from



FOOD

grandmother Alma Bost Trexler. His uncle Henry Peter Alexander Trexler started the Trexler Bros. men's store.

Another relative, Hilbert, retired from Spencer Shops, where he had been foreman for 50 years.

Matt was a music major. He can sing, play the piano and cello. "I've always been in a musical family. My mother was a percussionist in the Army.

"I just exchanged one passion for another, that's all. People have to eat. I got tired of seeing Mama cooking for all the extended family. That's why we built the kitchen out here, and I expanded it in 1999."

The kitchen is bigger than some restaurant kitchens, with equipment large enough to cater for groups in the hundreds.

Trexler needs a protege to carry on the recipes from his grandmother and great-grandmother. "I still use their cast iron skillets," he says. "... I try to maintain the heritage and authenticity that taught me and inspired me.

"Your heart and mind and soul should be in



your faith. When you prepare food for someone, it is the most intimate thing you can do. The emotion, the intent, the caring, nurturing, picking what you've grown, fixing it, serving it. You got to love it for it to be what it should be. Your heart's got to be in it."

Trexler mixes ingredients for dressing in large tubs, adding celery and seasonings.







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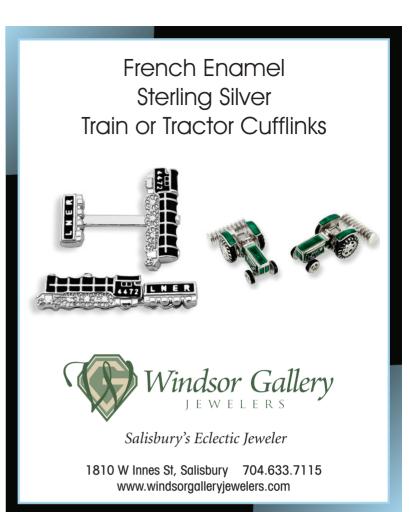
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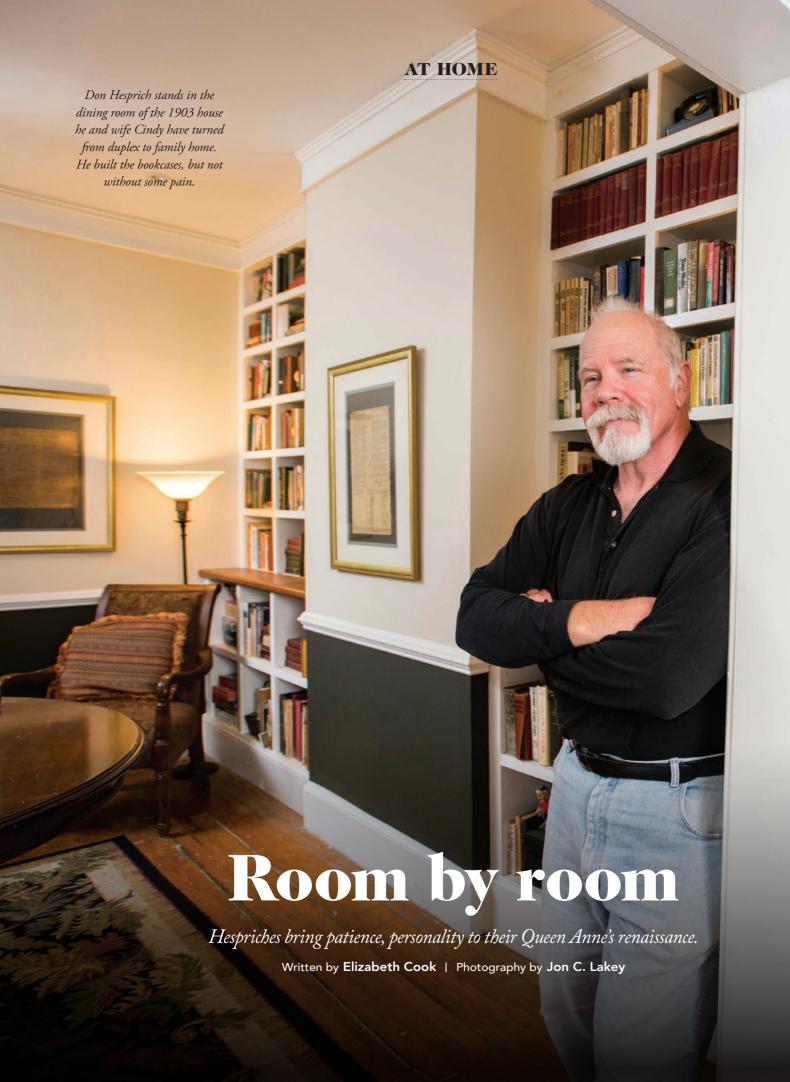
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he cathedral ceiling in Cindy and Don Hesprich's kitchen soars 15 feet overhead, with sunlight streaming through a trio of windows set up high.

The kitchen is one of countless projects the Hespriches have undertaken, room by room, as they bring together a South Fulton Street house that for decades was divided in two.

But this room, the kitchen, is a milestone. They're no longer making do in a temporary space; they're settled in for sure. And they just might have the toughest part of this remodeling journey behind them.

"This was worth waiting for," Cindy says.

Don spotted the house when it was in foreclosure and thought it had good bones. A lover of all things old and interesting — and a resourceful person herself — Cindy agreed to take it on.

G.T. Kluttz had the Queen Anne-style house built in 1903 near what was about to become Fulton Heights, Salisbury's first subdivision.

A later owner turned the house into a duplex during the post-World War II housing crunch, splitting it right down the middle of the large, central hall. A landlocked, windowless bedroom and bath were added.

Remodeling done by different owners through the years was at times more like "remuddling," as Cindy calls it.

AT HOME



Some of the wallpaper uncovered during remodeling was worthy of framing.

"Windows and molding on one side are different from those on the other side," she says. "We're working to replace them all." Floor levels vary throughout the house. Layers and layers of wallpaper were found, some of which they framed, "a la the Hall House," she says.

Don is a retired mechanical engineer; Cindy works at the Salisbury Post. Bit by bit, they want to restore the look that would be typical of an early 20th century house situated miles from downtown.

They removed green asbestos shingles on the exterior and painted the house barn red.

Out came the knotty pine paneling and brick-veneered fireplace added to the living room in the 1960s. In went a new fireplace mantel that Don built from a kneeling bench and wooden uprights found in a Spencer junk shop.

He also built the dining room bookshelves and much of the crown molding in the living room, dining room and hall. A contractor helped finish that work after Don broke two ribs while putting in the massive bookshelves

Work became more challenging as Don's eyesight

began to falter about eight years ago. Bilateral central retinal vein occlusion was the diagnosis, a blockage in the vein from the eye — in his case, in both eyes. "It's hard to hit a nail," he says.

But he can tackle less detailed work and get help with the rest. And he marvels at the solid construction of the house, despite its many alterations and quirks. "It is allergic to a level and a square."

He has come across two basic carpentry books from the era and is awed by the level of knowledge they required.

"I would challenge a degreed architect to take a test from those two books and pass it," Don says. "What these carpenters knew back in the day — I'm very respectful of those people, 'cause they knew how to do it."

The Hespriches have taken a lot of walls out and put a lot of walls back where they used to be. Doorways have been moved.

With kitchens on both sides of the house, they got by with the smaller one for about 15 years while they saved up. Finally, last year they tackled the big kitchen, originally a bedroom. They hired contractor Clinton



Above: Formerly covered with green asbestos shingles, the Hespriches' house on South Fulton Street is now barn red. **Below left:** Don built this fireplace and mantel to replace dated brick veneer, a remnant of past 'remuddling' projects. **Below right:** Booboo, one of the household's two cats, rests on a stool in the kitchen.









Clockwise from top: Weathered doors from a former downtown business decorate a wall in the kitchen, near the coffee nook; the black farmhouse sink blends in with dark granite counters; a small hole in the wall leads to a compost chute; a before picture of the kitchen.







AT HOME

Mitchell, who opened up the attic over the room to create a cathedral ceiling.

New sheetrock went in, as did custom cabinets Mitchell made of beadboard. "We wanted it to be modern but look like a farmhouse," Cindy says.

A black farmhouse sink fits right in the dark, granite countertop. A hole in the wall next to it is the opening of a compost chute that leads to a bucket outside. (The Hespriches like to garden, too.)

The 4-foot-by-8-foot kitchen island has ample space for food prep, eating and storage.

"I always wanted an island that people could sit at and I could spread out on," Cindy says.

The island has ample counter height, too. With Don standing 6-foot-1 and Cindy a quarter-inch short of 6 feet, they had all the counters built 2 inches higher than the standard 36 inches.

There's a separate counter for fixing coffee and toast, and a large pantry off one side.

And on a large wall across from the windows, they



The Hespriches like to garden and collect things, and they have room for both.

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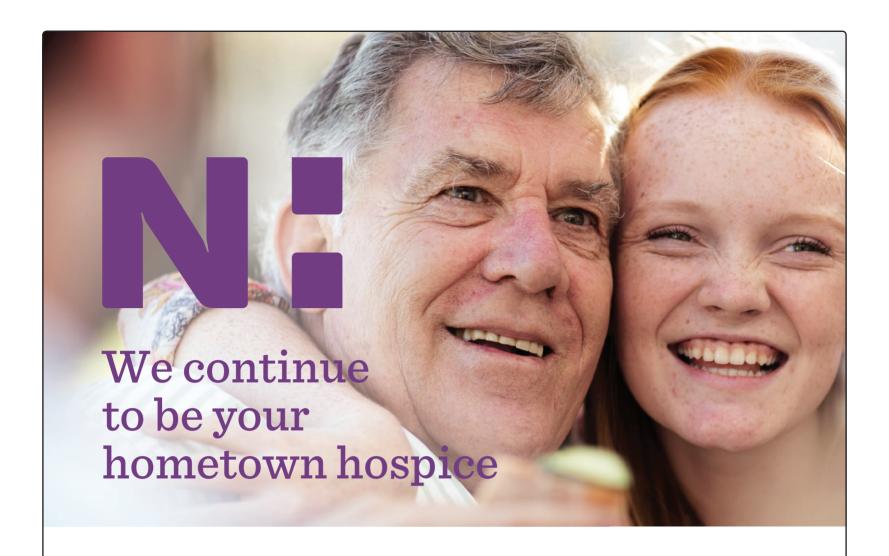


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AT HOME



The couple's favorite spot in the house is this corner, where they can relax after working in the garden or share a cup of coffee in the morning.

hung a treasure found at Historic Salisbury Foundation's Ice House architectural salvage warehouse — a pair of 120-year-old 10-foot-6-inch doors that once opened to the alley behind Uncle Buck's restaurant when it was on East Innes.

They kept the doors' rustic look by knocking off loose paint and applying a clear coat over what was left. Planters were added.

The kitchen walls are painted a light coral. "When the sun is really bright, it reflects a kind of rosy glow," Cindy says.

Finding interesting items and materials for the house has been a shared adventure.

"Almost everything is up-cycled," Don says. "We've collected for 15 years from yard sales, curb shopping, thrift shops, flea markets, handme-downs, clearance sales. We like to think that everything in the house has a story; some of the stories we know, some we don't."

On the shelf over Cindy's desk in the kitchen are little cowboy boots that she and her brother wore long ago, a sugar-creamer set from her grandfather, a miniature iron that was her mother's childhood toy, a basket that son Patrick made and a tiny lamp whose shade she stained by dipping it in old coffee.

Then there are the house's stories.

One day, when Cindy and Don were working in the yard, a car slowed down and stopped in the middle of the street. "They sat there for the longest time, two women," Cindy says.

The younger woman told Cindy she and her mother were in town for a birthday event and spotted the house where her mother had lived in the 1930s — their house. Traffic started backing up, so Cindy got the woman's email address and they started a correspondence.

The woman sent a sketch of the floor plan from that era — very different from what it is now — and wrote about walking to Wiley Elementary School. "I went home just about every day for lunch," she wrote.

Stories accumulate, just as the various house materials have been accumulating through the years. Cindy and Don have ample space to store their yard-sale and flea-market finds. The property has a large garage that former owner John Rink built, along with friend Jack Kepley, for storing Boy Scout equipment. For some reason, when the Hespriches got it, the garage was full of French doors.

There's a potting shed, a carriage house, a smokehouse.

They've created a spot for relaxing when they come in from the garden, a corner with two old thrift store chairs and a rug rescued from a curb. They also sit there each morning, sipping coffee as Cindy reads the paper to Don.

They can see the rosy kitchen from there.

There's plenty more they want to do to the house. Finish updating the bedrooms and master bath. Resurrect the wrap-around porch. But they can appreciate what their collecting, hard work and patience have accomplished.

"If the house were to burn to the ground, it would take us 25 years to recreate everything. You can't buy ...," Cindy says.

Don chimes in. "We don't have so much in it, but if we had to buy it, it would cost an arm and a leg to try to replicate the stuff."

"Or re-collect it all," Cindy finishes. **S**

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J.F. Hurley Family YMCA might be the most inclusive place in Salisbury.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



Some years back when St. John's
Lutheran Church was angling to bring
in the Rev. Rhodes Woolly as its new
pastor, Franco Goodman, head of the call
committee, made sure to take Woolly and
his wife to two Salisbury places.

One was Hap's Grill for a hot dog. The other was the J.F. Hurley Family YMCA.

"I think he kind of hit both on the head," Krista Woolly says. Goodman's strategy worked. The Woollys moved to Salisbury, they both became faithful members of the J.F. Hurley YMCA, and now Krista sits on the advisory board for the Salisbury Y, located at 828 Jake Alexander Blvd. W.

Rhodes Woolly carves out time every day to work in some kind of exercise at the Y. Krista usually makes it three times a week to walk a treadmill or take exercise classes, including Saturday morning yoga.

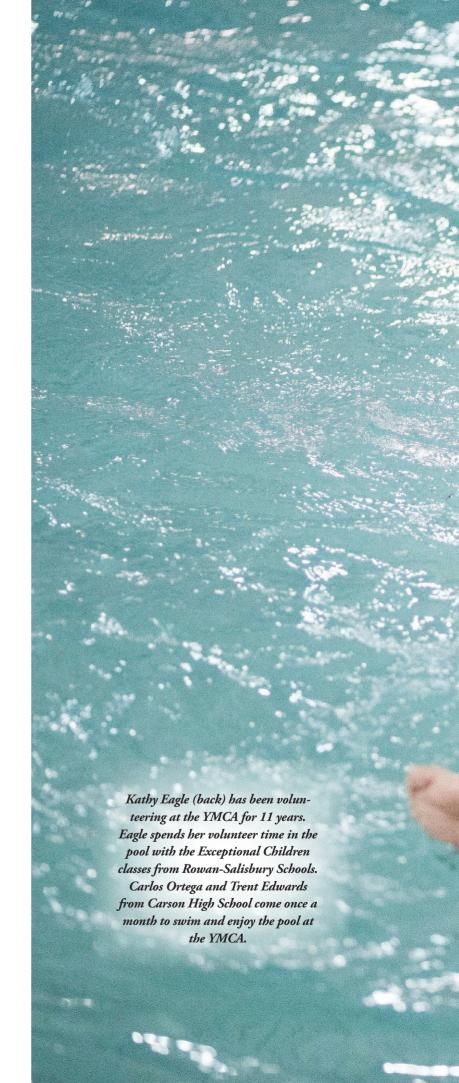
"We just love it because everyone can go," Krista says. "We love seeing the old and young in there. It's really community outreach, I think. The community needs to realize how fortunate we are to have something like that, that's open to everybody."

Lynchpins of the Y philosophy are honesty, respect, caring, responsibility and faith. The YMCA overall is a non-profit organization founded on Christian principles. Indeed, "Christian" is part of its name, and the Salisbury Y has a chaplain available and a chapel not far from the front entrance. Prayers are held before youth sports games.

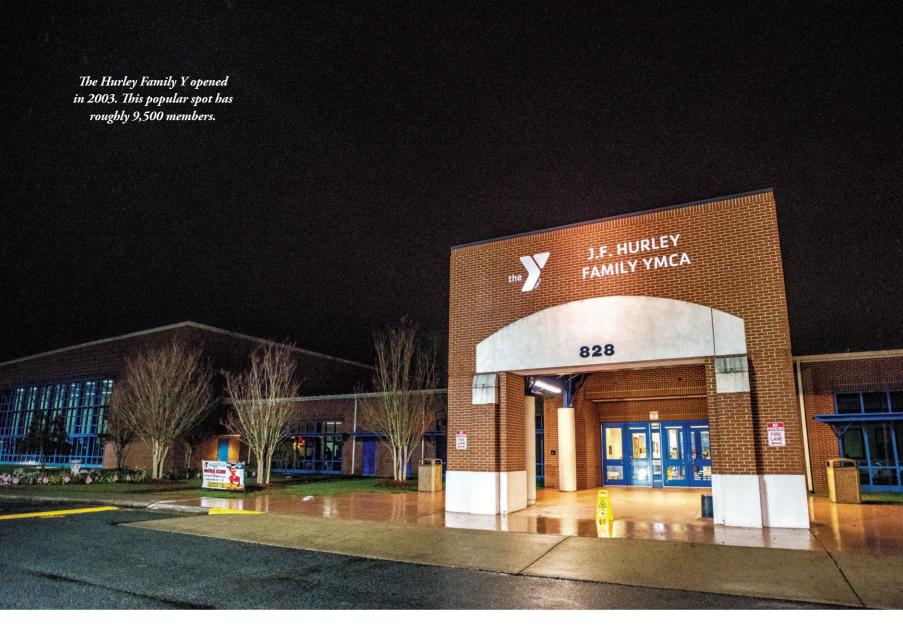
Putting Christian principles into action is the foundation to the Y's mission. But this isn't a church, and Y officials emphasize the open-door policy for all faiths, races and ages.

In 2017, the Hurley YMCA branch provided more than \$400,000 in financial assistance for members who needed it.

"We're a great mixing bowl," says Tom Childress, who in early 2019 will be the incoming chairman of the Salisbury Y's 20-member advisory board.







Richard Reinholz, executive director of the Hurley Family YMCA, puts it another way.

"This is the most inclusive place in Salisbury," he says. "We're here for all, and there's something for everybody."

"Everybody" takes in 6-week-old infants in



Reinholz

the nursery to folks coming for daily swims or workouts well into their 90s.

Cora Shinn, 87, exercises in the Y fitness center four times a week, hopping on a recumbent bike to keep her heart healthy and taking to

the weight machines to help with upper body strength.

"I've always been very active," Shinn says. "The Y has just been a big, big part of my life for a long time."

She has been a member of four YMCAs since

1953, when she served as director of the women and girls physical education program at the Cannon Memorial Y in Kannapolis — a job she held for more than a dozen years.

Shinn's other memberships have been with the South Rowan and Lexington Ys and the Hurley Y in Salisbury since its opening in 2003.

"The YMCA is a very, very important organization," Shinn says. "We as residents of this town should be grateful for what we have."

The Hurley Y's facilities include two swimming pools, a fitness center, functional training center, group exercise studio, cycle studio, three sports gymnasiums, two racquetball courts, several multi-purpose rooms, a drop-in childcare area with a jungle gym, walking/running tracks inside and outside, athletic fields on Majolica Road, locker rooms, sauna, a whirlpool, steam room and outdoor splash pad.

The 15-year-old facility covers roughly

100,000 square feet.

Reinholz says people who visit the Salisbury Y from other parts of the country "are amazed at the facility we have," and a lot of it was made possible through the generosity of the Hurleys, Stanbacks, Johnsons, Robertsons and other significant donors.

When former Wake Forest basketball coach Dave Odom spoke in Salisbury for an annual YMCA breakfast, "He was blown away by what we offer," Childress says.

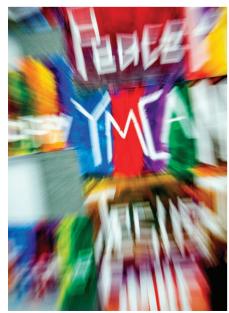
Maybe more impressive than the facilities are the programs and activities falling under the Hurley YMCA's umbrella.

Its youth sports take in soccer, basketball, volleyball and flag football. The Y-based Rowan Aquatic Club is a year-round, competitive swim team; the Salisbury Cyclones, a summer swim team.

The Hurley Y offers before- and after-school



Above and next page: Donnell Poole and his wife, Natalie, lead their 3rd-5th grade girls team called the Jets through a hourlong practice. Right: Deonte Foxx helps students with their tablets in the after-school care at Isenberg Elementary School.







activities at Isenberg, North Rowan, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, Overton and Hurley elementary schools. "For some youngsters," Childress says of these programs and the Y in general, "this is a safe haven, a safe place to come."

There are swim lessons for adults and youth and all-day summer camps for children, as well as half-day specialty and sports camps.

The group exercise classes for adults include Zumba, strength, functional training, step, cy-

cle, yoga and Pilates. The Y is a place for racquetball, basketball and pickleball. There's a climbing wall for youth and adults.

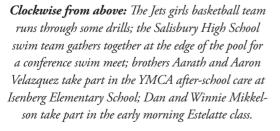
Water classes for exceptional children are held through another Rowan-Salisbury Schools partnership and funded by a Proctor Foundation endowment.

Novant Health Rowan will soon be a partner in water therapy, as it is with a Parkinson's disease program. There's also a bariatric program called "Bodies in Motion," and with the East Rowan and South Rowan Ys, the Hurley branch participates in the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program.

The Hurley Y's Active Older Adults program — beyond exercise offerings — also includes bingo, the Y Wonders Book Club, a bridge club, day trips to interesting places, lunch-and-learns and socials.

Beyond all of this, the Hurley Y's pool is the











place for county swim meets and high school swimming practice. It has become a destination for dinners, United Way report meetings and the Kiwanis Pancake Festival.

During weather-related events such as ice storms, hurricanes and flooding, the Y is a go-to shelter and relief center. This past fall, a festival with neighboring Life Church attracted more than 2,500 people.

Tom Disseler, current advisory board chairman, says it's simple — the Hurley Y is more than a swim and gym.

Another Y regular, the Rev. N. Fred Jordan Jr., says the "Silver Sneakers" benefit pays the Hurley Y membership of his wife, a retired N.C. teacher. Other memberships for seniors might be covered by "Silver and Fit."

"I think there are other facilities in town for adults to work out," Jordan says, "but the thing that is important is the Y has something for all ages and all abilities. Nothing fills in the gaps like the Y.

"I think we have excellent facilities here. I know everything is first-class."

Reinholz often wonders to himself, what would this community look like without a Y? And it's difficult to imagine. It definitely would leave a major void, he says.

With its Hurley, East Rowan and South Rowan branches, the YMCA of Rowan County has three excellent sites. At roughly 9,500 members, the Salisbury Y represents a little more than 50 percent of the total YMCA membership in the county.

That's a high membership number for a city Salisbury's size. It could be said, Disseler and Childress note, that about a third of the city's population are Y members.

Membership dues, an annual campaign and the United Way provide resources, including the financial assistance the Y offers. That financial help, Disseler says, makes it possible for "anyone to come in and be a member."

For summer camp, 60 to 70 percent of the



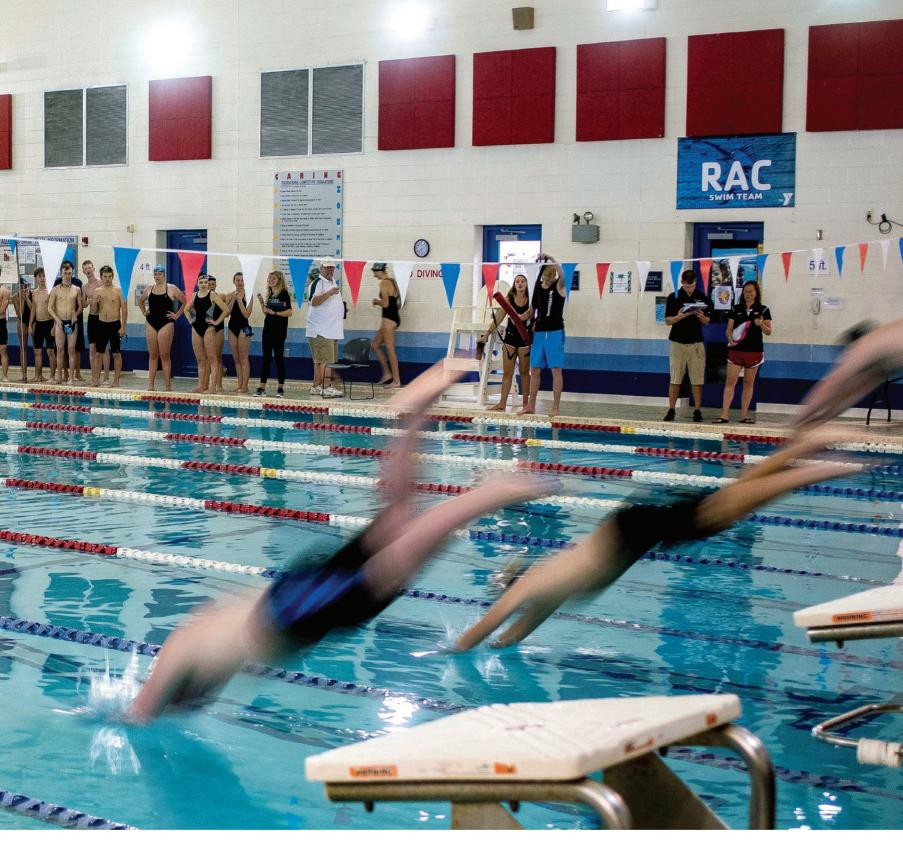
of financial aid.

The Hurley Y also has a partnership with Rowan Helping Ministries. If someone has a letter from a RHM caseworker, he or she can use the Y facilities for free for a month, then apply for assistance to keep going.

The United Way covers the funding for the Y's youth programming.

Y are \$70 a month for a family; \$44 a month, adult memberships; and \$39 a month, seniors.

Disseler says a great aspect of Y membership is its nationwide reciprocity. It's often easy for people who work out of town to find a Y on the road. Disseler pops into the Salisbury Y after work and on weekends. His wife, Shirley, also is a regular at the Y.



The Hurley Y operates with only nine full-time staff members and counts on some 100 volunteers otherwise. "We couldn't do it without volunteers," Reinholz says.

All the coaches for youth sports are volunteer. The only paid coach on staff is Hannah Hawkins, who is director and coach for the Y swim teams.

Hurley Y officials say it costs a lot to make

sure the 15-year-old facility is operational and cost-effective. The leadership has been trying to reduce energy costs with LED lighting and roof repairs in advance of solar panels.

"It's a little bit like Food Lion," Childress says. "You have to keep it open and operating, but you also have to make repairs."

Childress comes almost daily to the Hurley Y fitness center, doing weight training one day

and cardio the next. His wife, Judy, teaches a yoga class.

Childress always arrives early in the morning, but is never first. "There's about 20 folks in the fitness center at 6 a.m.," he says.

The Hurley Y seems as though it's always open. Hours are 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 5 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. S







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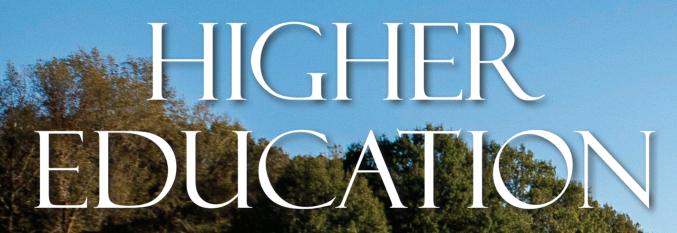
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On the hunt, a falconer and her hawk learn from each other.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey





Belle's hood is off. The bells and telemetry are attached to her legs, and Cindy Bernhardt gives one last bit of encouragement to her red-tailed hawk.

"There we go," Bernhardt says, as they walk toward the tree line. "Now let's get serious about this."

In a few moments, Belle takes flight and effortlessly finds a high tree branch from which to perch and watch the movements below her. This is a partnership, Bernhardt explains, while she and the other licensed falconers with her crunch the carpet of leaves underfoot and stop to pull and shake the vines hanging from trees.

They hope to stir movements from squirrels on the ground or in the nests overhead and make them unknowing targets for the keen eyes of Belle.

On occasion, Bernhardt looks back to take note of Belle's position and delights as the hawk keeps up with them by flying to new perches high in the trees.

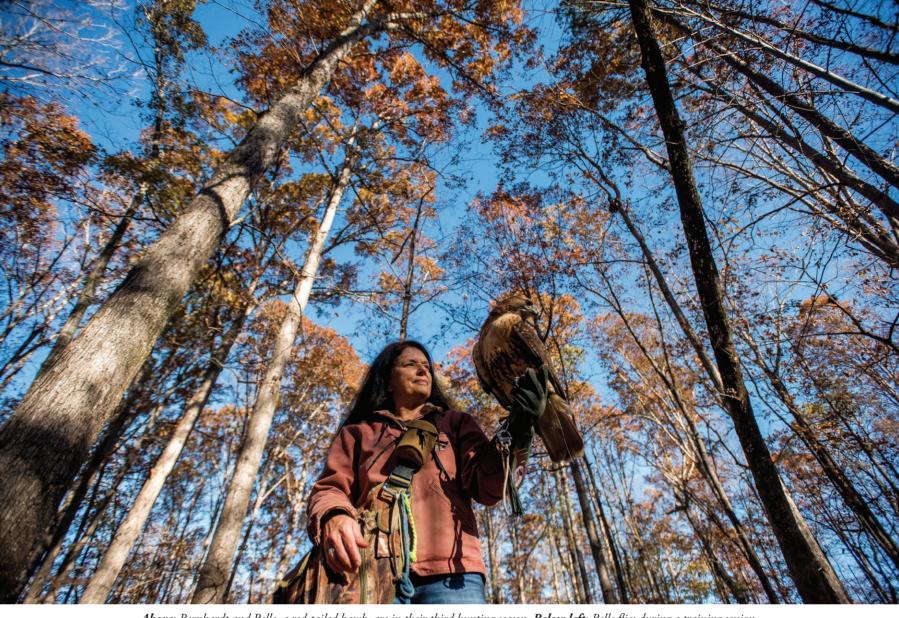
"I am a by-gosh squirrel hunter, and I love it," says

Bernhardt, who's also a second-grade teacher. "It is so much fun to go through the woods, be in nature, see a wild animal do what it does and allow me to be a partner. To me it's like a gift from God."

Falconry is believed to predate written history. It often has been described as a sport of kings, queens and nobles. Henry the Eighth and Shakespeare were falconers and, most likely, Genghis Khan.

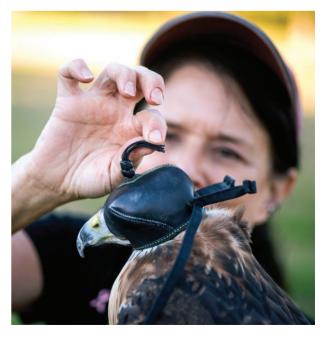
The falconers' birds of prey are not pets, but rather hunting partners. The red-tailed and other variety of hawks falconers hunt with are protected, not endangered.

"We just have a license to hunt with them," says Bob Pendergrass, a master falconer who served as



Above: Bernhardt and Belle, a red-tailed hawk, are in their third hunting season. **Below left:** Belle flies during a training session. **Below right:** Bernhardt prepares to take off Belle's hood right before a hunt.















Clockwise from top right:

Bernhardt prepares to release
Belle for hunting; a hood goes
over Belle's head while in transport and just prior to a hunt or
training; Belle in flight during
a hunt; the eyesight of a hawk
is eight times better than a human's; Belle's distinctive red tail;
during training, Belle swoops in
for food in Bernhardt's gloved
hand.





WINTER 2018-2019 **53**

Bernhardt's sponsor when she was an apprentice.

Falconry is a federally regulated sport which is administered in North Carolina through the Wildlife Commission. There's just over 100 licensed falconers in the state.

To Bernhardt, the sport reflects nature at its purest, revealing something she wouldn't see on a normal walk through the woods.

"She's a wild animal who trusts me to watch what she does naturally," Bernhardt says of Belle, who is two-and-a-half-years-old and in her third hunting season.

An emotional day is coming for Bernhardt. She plans to release Belle back into the wild this coming spring.

With their hawks high above, handlers try to spot squirrels that are in trees or escaping to them. The human partners will run to those trees while usually yelling "Ho, Ho," and also beat on the trunks, hoping their hawks catch a glimpse of the prey and swoop in.

"Everything is about movement for the bird and seeing what is and isn't prey," Bernhardt says.

When Belle is successful, she snags a squir-

"She's a wild animal who

trusts me to watch what she

does naturally."

rel off the tree and takes it to the ground somewhere in the distance. Bernhardt is hot on her trail, trying to catch up.

Hawks can easily kill a squirrel, but it takes considerable

time for them to break into the body for the meat they're after. It's during this time, when Belle has set about the task, that Bernhardt brings out a pre-loaded lure from her game bag.

Belle sees the more easily accessible food Bernhardt has provided in the leather pouch morsels such as juicy pieces of mice — and the hawk will jump off the squirrel and go to the lure.

This also provides an opportunity for Bernhardt to shove the dead squirrel into her game



bag, then get Belle back to her glove and clip her on.

All the game Belle catches goes toward feeding her. Bernhardt will freeze the squirrel to kill any parasites and give it to Belle in pieces later on.

If you are feeling sorry for the squirrels, take some satisfaction knowing they probably outwit the hawks at least half of the time. They're

> smart, and on hunts, the hawks are learning more and more of the squirrels' tricks.

> It's an education that will serve them well when they are released back into the wild.

Squirrels are adept at finding holes in the trees, hollow logs and culverts to hide in. "It literally sounds like they're laughing sometimes," Bernhardt says.

Belle might average capturing one squirrel per hunt for every four or five chases. Bernhardt recalls that Belle caught 21 heads of game in 11 weeks during their first season of hunting.

Bernhardt and Pendergrass often attend

events with their hawks to educate people about falconry.

Belle and Randy were perched at this fall's Old Fashion Day at Morrow Mountain State Park. Randy is Pendergrass' immature bird which did not have his red tail feathers yet.

An enthralled Brenda Davis of Albemarle stood next to their tent as people were two and three deep, listening to the presentation.

"I think it would be a wonderful hobby for someone to take up," Davis said. "I can understand how people fall in love with it."

Possum, squirrel, rabbits, mice, voles — all can be part of a hawk's menu in the wild. But Bernhardt and Pendergrass often explain that 65 to 70 percent of red-tailed hawks die during the first year of being on their own.

Stresses in the wild include internal parasites, a deadly lung fungus, eating animals that have been poisoned, being hit by vehicles and starving to death because of limited hunting skills or sources of food.

In the wild, the red-tailed hawks that survive have an average lifespan of eight to 15 years; in captivity, they can live as long as 30 years. Falconers such as Bernhardt and Pendergrass almost always return what have become more competent birds to the wild after only a few seasons of hunting.



The Audubon Guide to North American Birds says red-trailed hawks are "the most widespread and familiar large hawk in North America, bulky and broad-winged, designed for effortless soaring."

"An inhabitant of open country, it is commonly seen perched on roadside poles or sailing over fields and woods," the guidebook says.

The hawks' eyesight is eight times better than humans. One way to describe it, Bernhardt told her Stanly County audience, is that a hawk in one football end zone could spot a mouse crawling in the other end zone 100 yards away.

It also could discern the individual blades of grass around the mouse. Said another way, the hawk could read a newspaper from 100 yards out.

"This hood is just about calmness," Bernhardt said in answer to one question. "The hood is kind of lights out for her. If she can't see

it, she's not going to hunt it."

She took the hood off so Bell could eat from her gloved hand. Asked what Belle was dining on, Cindy replied, "That was a mouse. That was her third one today. I'm a waitress to her. I'm nothing but a chuck wagon."

Falcons, hawks, and eagles are among the birds used for hunting. Some falconers have tried owls, but Bernhardt says they are "as dumb as a box of rocks."

Bernhardt has never been a gun or bow hunter, knowing those weapons just weren't for her. Pendergrass introduced her to falconry, and she became invested after the first hunt she watched, seeing how the handlers and hawks worked as partners.

Bernhardt said she was invited on a hunt one day and "that was it for me, hook, line and sinker."

Bernhardt had to take a falconry test and hunting test to gain a license. Then came her two-year apprenticeship. She is now considered a general class falconer, with master falconer in her future.

To house any hawk she captured, Bernhardt also had to build a mew — a home for a hawk that basically is 8 feet tall, wide and high. A state wildlife officer inspects the mew, making sure it meets other specifications such as having a south-facing window and no protruding screws or nails.

The falconers must obtain a permit to trap young hawks.

Belle was trapped in Charlotte in 2016 after a Carolina Panthers football game. She was about seven months old at the time.

Bernhardt and Pendergrass had noticed her waiting and hovering over an area that had been

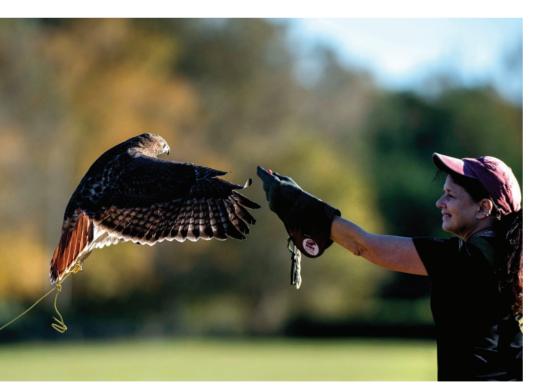








Cindy Bernhardt, center, and Bob Pendergrass, right, talk about their hawks at Old Fashion Day at Morrow Mountain State Park.



Above: Belle goes in for a piece of food. Right: Belle takes a break during training.



used by tailgaters. She wasn't interested in the litter of crumbs left behind. She was waiting for the mice that would come to this area once everyone had gone home.

"It couldn't have been easier," Bernhardt says of Belle's capture. "I literally talked to her all the way back from Charlotte."

After Bernhardt had trained Belle for two weeks and it seemed she was ready for hunting, Belle became seriously sick. "Her health crashed, and she crashed quickly," she says.

Bernhardt had no way of knowing, but Belle had contracted a lung virus before she had been trapped. A veterinarian who specializes in birds of prey returned Belle after a couple days saying there was probably no hope for her survival.

Bernhardt didn't give up. She read Bible verses to the bird and asked friends to pray for Belle. The bird rallied one night, and suddenly was demanding food. Bernhardt spent the

next eight weeks giving the hawk liquid medication twice a day — not an easy task with a hawk.

Belle — named for the lead character in "Beauty and the Beast" — completely recovered.

"Basically, in my opinion," Bernhardt says, "she is a miracle."

Training a hawk to hunt with a human partner takes constant practice. A lot of repetition is involved, and the training is all about building trust and having the hawk realize its human partner is a reliable food source.

First, Belle took food from Bernhardt's fingers, then bigger chunks of meat from her gloved hand. Tethered flying from perch to gloved hand came next.

Bernhardt makes sure Belle is a certain hunting weight prior to the season. For her, it's 1,255 grams.

"If she's overweight, I wouldn't even think of

hunting her," Bernhardt says.

Belle's diet back at her mew includes snakes, mice, rats, voles, day-old cockerels and whatever game she catches on hunts.

The first time out with your hawk on a hunt can be a scary thing. Once the jesses are removed and the hood comes off, the hawk flies free off toward the trees, and there's a chance you might not see him or her again.

Bells and telemetry are attached to help keep track of the bird as it moves. But again, it's all about the trust that has developed, as to whether or not the bird hunts with you as a partner — and returns to you when it's time to go home.

The hunting season for falconers follows the fall-winter dates for bow and gun hunters. Falconers also can hunt game lands on Sundays.

"To me, there's just nothing better than squirrel-hunting with a red-tailed hawk," Bernhardt says. "It's really an amazing sport." **S**

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THE BROTHERS ROY

Doctors Ranjan and Sam invest in patients, family and each other.

Story by Susan Shinn Turner | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

Years ago, Dr. Ranjan Roy made an investment that has paid off for him professionally and personally. And it's given him a weekly golf partner.

He invested in his kid brother.

If it seems like Dr. Sam Roy idolizes his older brother, he does. By 2000, Sam had already completed residencies in dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery. As a requirement for completing medical school, he did a rotation with plastic surgeons.

"I liked the variety," he says. He couldn't imagine limiting his future to oral surgery.

So with the blessing of his wife, Angela — by then, they had three young children — he decided to complete a residency in plastic surgery. That would take six more years.

"Write this down," says Sam, who's given to speaking in sentences that end with exclamation points. "You make nothing in residency! Ranjan and his wife would send us a check every month so I could keep going. It's unbelievable! It's amazing!"

To clarify, Angela says, "Sam did earn a salary during residency, but not enough to support a family of five."

Sam continues, "Ranjan never asked for the money back. He afforded me the ability to do all that. When the time came to look for a job, Salisbury was paradise."

"I am so thrilled to have him here," says the more reserved Ranjan. No exclamation point in sight.

Ranjan came to Salisbury in 1997 after a stint in Greensboro. Four years later, he founded Piedmont Neurosurgery and Spine. In 2006, Sam founded Piedmont Plastic & Oral Surgery Center.

Ranjan operates four days a week, seeing patients in clinic the other day. Sam is typically in surgery two to three days a week. Saturdays have typically been spent with family, although now Sam and Angela and Ranjan and his wife, Janice, are all empty nesters.

On Sundays, their mom, Mina, cooks an authentic Indian meal for her brood, which includes the grandchildren when they're in town. "It is better than any Indian restaurant food you can have," Sam says.

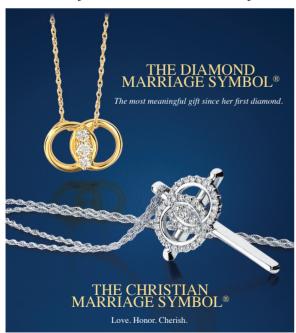
Ranjan and Janice have two daughters: Jessica, 22, who's studying architecture at Tulane University, and Miriam, 18, a freshman at the University of Georgia. Sam and Angela's daughters, Erin and Lauren, 22, have just started dental school at the University of North Carolina, and son Ben, 18, is a freshman at N.C. State.

After Sunday lunches, the brothers hit the links, either playing at their home course, Salisbury Country Club, or at the Warrior. Over Labor Day weekend, they played two courses in two days.

Their mother also keeps active. Mina, who's had two back surgeries — Ranjan was able to do the first before the rules changed — swims six mornings a week at the Y. Sam sees her going home as he's going to work. He waves wildly, but she never takes her eyes off the road,

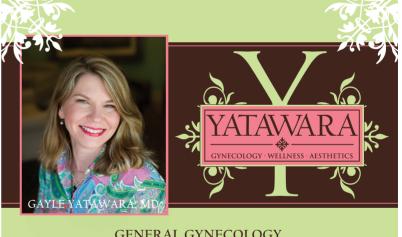
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Sunday lunch at the Roys. From left, Sam Roy, mother Mina, Sam's wife, Angela, and Ranjan and his wife, Janice (blocked).





he says.

Because heart disease runs in their family — their father and brother died of heart attacks — the brothers do their best to stay healthy. Ranjan jogs, while Sam prefers an indoor bike. He's lost 20 pounds after a heart attack in 2015, so he in particular is eating healthier.

Both say that they don't think their jobs as surgeons are necessarily more stressful than other jobs.

"It's just what we do," Sam says. "Is it stressful? Sure. But any job would be. It's just part of the deal."

Because Ranjan arrived first in Salisbury, Sam says, "I had patients waiting for me! They were waiting for me because of him."

"And now people come to me and say, I met the other Dr. Roy," Ranjan says. "If you're half as good as he is ..."

Both surgeons have a full patient load. Sam has about 17,000 patients — many of whom

are high school and college kids who've had wisdom teeth removed — but he also has breast-cancer patients who are long-term patients. Ranjan has 15,500 patients. His patients, he explains, are often repeat patients, given the nature of spinal problems often requiring more than one surgery.

In mid-September, Jamie Morgan, CEO of the Rowan County Y, had back surgery to correct a ruptured disc.

"Ranjan did a surgery for me 10 years ago in a completely different area, and I saw Sam for an issue a few years ago that was causing pain across my face," he says. "Both have incredible bedside manner and are just tremendous human beings. They are tops in their field, and it's nice we don't have to go to Charlotte or Winston-Salem to get that level of care."

In January, Janet Haynes will be a threeyear breast cancer survivor. Janet, F&M Bank's administrative officer, sees Sam every three months for a minor issue.

"He wants to keep in touch medically," she says, "but also because he is so passionate about his patients. He and Ranjan are a rare breed. It's refreshing to have surgeons of their caliber practicing in a small community like Salisbury."

The brothers are close, but also share similar interests. They recently went to a Bruno Mars concert together, and saw Billy Joel in Winston-Salem in October. In the community, they're huge arts supporters.

"We admire people who are so good at their craft," Sam says. "We know we could never do it."

At this point in their careers, both men are aware of the sacrifices they've had to make.

"I didn't really see my kids as much as I wanted," Ranjan admits.

"The kids knew we were providing for them," Sam adds. "And we try to make our offices family-oriented. We try to let patients come here







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and know that they're being seen like a family member."

Setting that kind of tone, Ranjan and Sam say, came from their dad.

"He wanted everybody to sit down and talk and have a good time," Sam says. Sam often remembers that their father, Ram, always had him fetch drinks for company. Sam still has that habit, offering bottled water to visitors or patients.

And Ranjan treats his staff like family. He's had the same office staff since 2000.

"This family thing you talk about — we treat them that way," he says. "My office staff knows everything to do. I just say the word and they take care of it. My office staff is second to none."

Rhonda Elliott has been his physician assistant for 18 years. He wears a lot of hats, she says. "He is a husband, dad, physician, brother, son and boss. He is outstanding in all regards. But because of his chosen profession, he is a physician first. He truly cares about his patients and their outcomes. I told him when I interviewed with him that I would make his life easier. I try to take away as much of the nitty-gritty so he can be the neurosurgeon he was trained to be."

The Roys' parents moved to the United States from India in 1968, when Ram was a visiting professor at MIT, Princeton, Washington and Michigan. In Michigan, Ranjan saw snow for the first time. Sam was born that spring, and the



The Roy family. Mina and Ram Roy (seated) with brothers Samuel, Ranjan and Sashi (left to right).

family decided to stay.

Ranjan was a resident at New York University when he kept "running across" a dietitian on the same floor. Six months later, he finally asked her to lunch, which became a three-hour lunch. Janice's father was a general surgeon, so she knew what her life would be like.

Sam and Angela met in college. Trained as a dental hygienist, she now runs his practice, while Janice oversees Ranjan's practice. Both



Mina Roy and her son Dr. Ranjan Roy.

men praise their wives for running their respective households.

"Tell the grocery store story," Angela says over Sunday lunch, where Mina's menu includes chicken curry, fried okra, basmati rice and pakora (an Indian version of falafel).

Janice asked Ranjan to pick up four items from the store, and he wandered around until the manager asked if he could help. Another time, he thought he'd help out by doing laundry. He couldn't figure it out.

"There were so many knobs," he says.

Sam says, "Our wives are our backbone. They've made our lives easy — from beginning to end — so we can practice medicine."

"I have no other knowledge but medical knowledge," Ranjan says.

Sure, their patients rave about them. But out on the golf course later that afternoon with frequent golf buddies Gerald Hunter and Bob Casmus, the brothers are asked about their faults.

"I'm a control freak!" Sam says. "I micromanage everything. These patients become my family."

As for Ranjan, he admits he's a worrier.

"I get lost in my own world," he says. "I worry about patients at the expense of my family life."

Sitting in the golf cart waiting for his turn, he explains his brother Sashi — younger by only two years — taught him to play golf. The three brothers only played once or twice together, he says. You get the sense that he wishes it would've been more.

"Life moves on," he says, quietly.

Finding a foursome more complimentary toward each other would be a difficult task. The brothers say they play the course, not each other. They're fairly evenly matched, typically shooting in the 80s.

"Good shot, Ranj!" Sam says on the first tee.

After that first shot, their golf balls land pretty close to one another — except Ranjan's is in the fairway and Sam's isn't. On this particular day, they both shoot 83.

Now about that investment.

Ranjan says he never expects anything in return from his brother.

"He needed help at that time, and I had what it took," he says. "I knew he was going to do well for himself. I knew I was investing in something great. He's become what he always wanted to be. What an investment!"

Finally!

Ranjan makes an exclamation of his own. S

Susan Shinn Turner is a freelance writer living in Raleigh.









Above: Amanda and Mackenzie Bates. Right: In back: Daron Phillips, Alan Gray, Joy Clement and Elizabeth Gray; in front, Marcus Phillips and Emma Gray.





Above: Breanna Hughes, Kennedy Lambert, April Lambert and Angie Leonard. Below: Maggie Dawkins, Leon Dawkins, Tiffany Dawkins and Martha Lipscomb, who had her Martha's Flowers tent at Autumn Jubilee.



Autumn Jubilee

The 39th annual Autumn Jubilee was held in October at Dan Nicholas Park, and huge crowds attended both days of the event, which featured more than 100 craft vendors and all kinds of activities for the family. Autumn Jubilee also is known for its food and live music.

— Photos by and Mark Wineka



Hannah Franco



Nisha Kumari, Naina Pandey and Ankur Pandey



Above: Landyn Novak, Kelly Reinholz, Ayden Reinholz and Shirley Corriher. Right: Robert Covington, Amber Covington and Aleiah Martin.

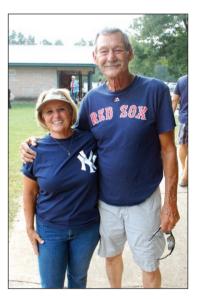




Carter Kluttz, Aiden Bryant, Abel Bryant and Isabel Bryant found a shady spot in the park.



Above: Ethan Duft and Trinity Bolt. Right: Renee and Dennis Hogan put aside their baseball rivalry and came to Autumn Jubilee.







Above: Rick Brown, Penny Brown and Janet Hatley just happened to be camping at Dan Nicholas Park during the Autumn Jubilee weekend.

Left: Devin, Alex and Zack Clancy take a break for some ice cream.



Above: Waterworks board member Ed Hull. Right: Jeremy Ferden, David Trexler and Amber Brown.





Kim Smith and Ravonda Britt

Big Chili Cookoff

Waterworks Visual Arts Center's 10th annual Big Chili Cookoff was a fun night for all at the F&M Trolley Barn. Nearly 300 guests tasted chili from 12 of Rowan County's volunteer chili-makers who served their favorite recipes. Traditional, nouveau, sweet, savory, meaty and vegetarian renditions filled the air with amazing, mouth-watering aromas. Voters chose Team Lettered Lily as the winner. The night also honored Henry Alexander, who had the idea for the original Big Chili Cookoff. Over the past decade 132 cooks have participated.

— Photos by Josh Terrell of JL Terrell Photography







Left: Susanna Hollingsworth and Lily Wetzel. Middle: Crystal Heath and Sierrah Welch were serving drinks at the Mega Margarita Bar. Right: Quintin Wilson, Donny Clement and Thomas Wilson. Clement and Nathan Valentine's Team Clement captured second place in the Big Chili Cookoff.



Above: Janine Rhodes likes what she hears on the dance floor. Right: Tim and Mary Jo Agner with Phyllis and Herb Steimel.









Left: Peter Euto and Debra Brason. Middle: Deejay Errin Brown gets a chance to dance, too. Right: First-time competitor Eli Fisher of Little E Sauces came in third. Here, he poses with Waterworks Executive Director Anne Scott Clement.





Above: Tickets to a Carolina Panthers game were among the favorite silent auction items. Left: The 2018 Chili Pepper Award went to the Lettered Lily team of Megan Ferden, left, and Taylor Durham, right. Between them is Diana Keith of fourth-place finisher Salisbury Academy.



Cali Proper, Anna Grace Woolly and Ava Cookley



Ann Hatchett, Pastor Laura Henrik, Janet Sims and Alex Kenney



Above; Drs. Luanne and Jimmie Anderson. Right: Piper Mik, a former intern from California; Jessica Borg, a board member from Texas; and Julianna Anderson, a former intern from Salisbury.



Marian Hough and Max Patel



Lauren King and Julianna Anderson stand in front of a painting of Antigua drawn and painted by students at the school.

Quetzal Gala

Cocktails, dinner, dancing and guest speakers made up this year's Quetzal Gala fundraiser at the Vista at Walnut Hill in western Rowan County. The gala supports GRACES, a Salisbury-based organization that raises money in support of the 180-student Escuela Integrada School in Guatemala. Visiting from Guatemala was Victorino Lobos, 29, who attended the school and now contracts with Escuela Integrada in serving as a liaison with visitors from the United States.

— Photos by Nancy Shirley and Jimmie Anderson





Above: Kristen and David Shirley, Nancy Shirley, Bill McDonald and Russell and Sarah Michalec. Sarah chaired the event. Left: Paula Bohland and Donna Winrich



Robin Cohen, Eva White and B.J. Connor



Michael and Pastor Danielle Denise, Pastor Laura Henrik and B.J. and Mike Connor



Left: A special guest from Guatemala, Victorino Lobos was one of the stars of the evening. Right: Trisha Proper, Alex Kenney and Janet Sims.





Above: Patti and John Heilig. Right: Denisse Mendoza-Perez, Yenifer Garcia Ortiz, Sandy Deras-Cruz and Alicia Deras-Cruz



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Krystal Ortiz Rodriguez, Jesus Sebastian Bodine and Perla Hernandez Chanez



Ashley Radtke, Jordan Pickens and Ezra Nance

Crosby Scholars' BBQ, Bands & Boots

Held at the F&M Trolley Barn, BBQ, Bands & Boots served as a major fundraiser for Rowan County Crosby Scholars, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping students in public middle and high schools prepare academically, personally and financially for college admission and other post-secondary opportunities. The night included food from Jim 'N Nick's, beverages and live music from Melonbelly. The event proceeds go toward Last Dollar Grant scholarships.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Kelly Withers and Tonya German



Ashley Lore and Lizbeth Jaimes



From left, Michelle Strong, middle school coordinator for Crosby Scholars; Hanson Saryee, middle school outreach specialist; Jessica Vess, executive director; Flora Calderon, Steck program director; Denise Sheppard, administrative assistant; and Sarah Featherstone, senior program coordinator.



Amanda and Jody Antosek, Bobby and Leahann Honeycutt and Doug and Janet Loeblein



Kevin Cordero, Mason Pryor and Mario Garrido-Lecca



Bryan Overcash, Meredith Overcash, Kim Petty and Mark Petty





Meg Dees, Fred Stanback, Alice Stanback, Cindy Fink and Frank Monk





Left: Kim Wagner gets ready to run with sons Jakob and Jackson. Right: Kristen Harwood crosses the finish line with her running partner, who had a distinct advantage — four legs instead of two.



Milton Monroe talks with Duke employee Jenifer Allen during the health and wellness festival.

Duke Dash 5K & Healthfest

Hundreds of people turned out Oct. 13 for the fifth annual Duke Dash 5K & Healthfest in Kannapolis at the N.C. Research Campus.

The Duke Clinical & Translational Science Institute hosts the run and wellness festival every year to thank the community for supporting clinical research projects like the MURDOCK Study.

One focus of the event is to encourage MURDOCK Study participants to complete their annual follow-up form every year, around the anniversary of their enrollment. These forms provide valuable information to researchers who are working to better understand health and disease and the transitions between them.

To learn more, visit www.duketranspop.org.

— Photos courtesy of Duke Clinical and Translational Science Institute





Above left: Ale Caceres takes time out from volunteering at the event to have her face painted. Above right: Claudia Marquez and father Juve Marquez wait for Claudia's 12-year-old son, Juan Pablo, to finish the race. Right: Noelle Anthony, 10, and Kydall Anthony, 7, show off their butterfly and fairy faces.





Above: Angie Hosack and Judy Hosack, holding Olivia, 2, were watching family members compete in the 5K. Right: Jacquie Fennell leads a Zumba class after the 5K.





Three generations of the Hosack family prepare to cross the finish line together — Grayson Burgess, Ed Hosack and Jay Hosack, who had just returned from military service in Iraq.



Kio James and Yolanda Smith are running in every 5K in the Run Kannapolis race series.







Chili the dog rests after completing the 5K with his owner, Bryan Edwards.



Duke employee Mary Lou Perry entertains Lillian Allen, 11 months, during the event.



Bryan Hurley and Kristen McEvoy, with Bella, 3, and Megan Smit and David Smit, with Connor, 4 months, celebrate after the women completed the Duke Dash 5K.



From left, Lorena Ortega Trujillo, Itzia Pena Flores and Jecenia Ramos-Lava, who volunteered for the Salisbury Human Relations Council and are members of the Rowan County Early College Cultural Awareness Council.



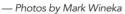
Children stand with the flags they presented during the introduction of Latin countries.



Valary Montes in her Mexican dress.

La Fiesta de Rowan

Since 2005, the annual La Fiesta de Rowan has celebrated Spanish and Latin American culture in the county. This year's festival was organized by the Hispanic Coalition and was held at South Church and West Fisher streets in an area that will be part of the future Bell Tower Green. The day included food, music, vendors, a parade of flags and proclamations.





Ali Khatib, Aicha Kahia and Fares Khatib



David Correa Chaparro



Above: Darryl and Joyce Meadows of D&J Catering of Lexington were offering ribs and other delicious meats as part of their dinner plate specials. Right: Leona Guy holds the flag of Venezuela.





Zoila Toledo, Letty Alvarez, Geovana Crespo and Maria Mora at the Paparazzi jewelry booth.







Left: Clyde Harriss enjoys a moment of solitude during the reception. Above: On the left, Plein Air Carolina artists Sharon Forthofer and Phyllis Steimel stand with Phyllis' daughter and granddaughter, Mary Jo Agner and Sarah Agner.

Plein Air Carolina show and reception

Artists with Plein Air Carolina held a reception and special showing of some of the locally inspired paintings they've done for the past eight years in connection with October-Tour. The event was held at the Rail Walk Gallery, 409 N. Lee St., and OctoberTour art was on display with many pieces also for sale. The show itself ran during the month of October at the Rail Walk Gallery.



Marietta
Foster
Smith,
left, who
is one of
the artists
at the Rail
Walk Gallery, views
some of
the pieces
with Plein
Air Carolina
artist Amy
Queen.

— Photos by Mark Wineka





Left: Carolyn Blackman, right, stands with aspiring artist Belony Joseph, a native of Haiti. Above: Karen Koritko, left, a Plein Air Carolina artist, chats at the reception with Jolene Kosma. Right: Acey Worthy admires some of the plein air paintings from previous OctoberTours.





Several tables were set up for people to shuck their oysters during last year's Oyster Roast at the F&M Trolley Barn. This year's event is Jan. 26.

— Jon C. Lakey photo

JANUARY

New Year's Eve at the Bell Tower
Dec. 31-Jan. 1: Bell Tower, West Innes
and South Jackson streets — 8 p.m.-midnight. Say goodbye to 2018 and ring in the new
year. Festivities include live music, video feed
live from Times Square, hot chocolate, other
goodies and the ringing of the bell when the
clock strikes midnight. Free admission.

Rowan County Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala

Jan. 10: West End Plaza Event Center — 7-9 p.m. The 93rd annual gala celebrates Rowan County's entrepreneurial spirit with awards, dinner, and entertainment. Visit www.rowanchamber.com/annual-gala/ for more information.

17 'The Mystery of Irma Vep' Jan. 17-19, 24-26: Lee Street theatre — 7:30 p.m. Set at Mandacrest, an English country estate, this satire follows the estranged Hillcrest family after Lord Edgar Hill-

Jan-Feb. 2019

Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

crest loses his beloved wife, Irma Vep. Call the Lee Street theatre box office at 704-310-5507 or go to www.leestreet.org for more information.

Waterworks Oyster Roast
Jan. 26: F&M Trolley Barn — 6:3011 p.m. 14th annual event. This is a major
fundraiser for Waterworks Visual Arts Center's
education and outreach programs. All you can
eat, drink. Includes oysters, shrimp, barbecue,
beer and wine. Must be 21 to attend. \$80
members/ \$85 non-members. Tickets: www.
waterworks.org/events/oysterroast or call 704636-1882 or visit Waterworks at 123 E. Liberty

St. during gallery hours.

'Stars' — A Family Concert
Jan. 27: Keppel Auditorium,
Catawba College — 4 p.m. The Salisbury
Symphony Orchestra will perform a variety of
celestial-themed pieces, accompanied by the
All-County Fifth Grade Honors Chorus and
the Salisbury Symphony Chorale. Selected
high school student "stars" will be featured as
soloists. Visit salisburysymphony.org or contact
director@salisburysymphony.org for more information and tickets.

'Shakespeare in Love'

Jan. 31- Feb. 3, 6-9: Meroney Theater — 7:30-9:30 p.m. Young William Shakespeare has writer's block and the deadline for his new piece is approaching quickly. He has no inspiration — until he finds his muse, Viola. Against a background of mistaken identity, ruthless scheming, and backstage theatrics, William's love for Viola inspires him to write his greatest masterpiece. Visit piedmontplayers. com or contact boxoffice@piedmontplayers. com for tickets and more information.

FEBRUARY

Classic Country Concert

Feb. 1-2: Lee Street theatre — This town favorite returns, featuring Salisbury's own Graham Carlton, Tripp Edwards, Mary Gillespie, Carol Harris and Matthew Weaver. Call the Lee Street theatre box office at 704-310-5507 or go to www.leestreet.org for tickets and more information.

Wine about Winter

Feb. 1: Downtown Salisbury — 5-9 p.m. Why not warm up with some wine and a little wandering? Downtown Salisbury Inc.'s signature wine-tasting event takes place throughout the downtown in the bars, restaurants, specialty shops and boutiques. Ticket includes a souvenir wine glass, wrist band and tasting pass. Ticket-holders get to sip and sample a variety of 20-plus wines from Rowan County and beyond. Information: downtownsalisburync.com or 704-637-7814.

49 Days of Gratitude: A Celebration of Thanks

Feb. 9: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — Held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the arrival of North Carolina's Merci train car, a gift from France, in Raleigh on Feb. 8, 1949, this opening ceremony will be held at the N.C. Transportation Museum featuring the Merci car, an exhibition of the car's original artifacts, a display of several World War II era vehicles, and more. Visit nctrans.org for more information.

Wine and Dine Valentine's Train Feb. 9: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — Enjoy cocktail hour before a leisurely ride through the 60-acre historic



Folks gather at the Bell Tower during the new year celebration last year. — Jon C. Lakey photo

site. Dine on-board with a three-course meal. Contact the museum at 704-636-2889 for more information and booking.

'The (Curious Case) of the Watson Intelligence'

Feb. 12-16: Florence Busby Corriher Theatre, Catawba College — 7:30 p.m. A Madeline George play presented by the Catawba College Theatre Arts Department. For tickets, go to www.catawba.edu/theatretix or inquire at boxoffice@catawba.edu. Free for Catawba College students, faculty and staff. Otherwise, adults, \$15; non-Catawba students and senior adults, \$10. Box office hours 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at the McCachren-Epperson House, 2121 W. Innes St. Call 704-637-4481 for information.

Night at the Museums III
Feb. 16: Starts at Rowan Museum,
202 N. Main Street, Salisbury — 5 p.m. The
Rowan Museum and the North Carolina Museum of Dolls, Toys, and Miniatures will jointly
host the third annual Night at the Museums
event. Board the trolley and enjoy seeing
history come to life with interactive scavenger
hunts, a buffet dinner, characters such as Daniel
Boone, Theodore Roosevelt, Egyptian pha-

raohs, and more! Ticket prices are as follows: Adults, \$25; Children, \$15; Family of 4, \$75. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.ncmdtm. com or rowanmuseum.org for more information.

'The Cake' Feb. 21-23, 28- Mar. 2: Lee Street

theatre — 7:30 p.m. Della makes cakes, not judgment calls — those she leaves to her husband, Tim. But when the girl she helped raise comes back home to North Carolina to get married, and the fiancé is actually a fiancée, Della's life gets turned upside down. For more information, call the Lee Street theatre box office at 704-310-5507 or go to www.leestreet. org.

Rise Above Traveling Exhibit
Feb. 27-Mar. 2: N.C. Transportation

Museum, Spencer — Telling the story of the Tuskegee Airmen, the famed all-black fighting squadron which shattered barriers with courage and determination to serve in the military during WWII, the Rise Above Traveling Exhibit is a mobile movie theater touring the United States year-round. Featuring a 160-degree panoramic screen in a climate-controlled semi-trailer, the exhibit accommodates 30 visitors in each showing. For more information, visit nctrans.org.



'EAST BANK STREET IN THE SNOW'

By Andy Mooney

Pen and ink

Artwork for Salisbury's the Place may be submitted to mark.wineka@salisburythemagazine.com



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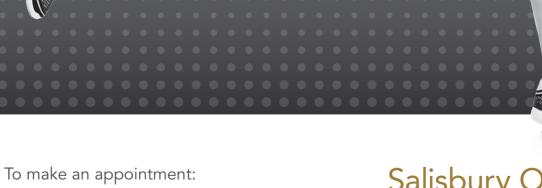
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