

March 2017

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### Bash brothers

Local boys Kyle and Corey Seager establish themselves among baseball's best.

by **MIKE LONDON**

**On this page:** Darrell Harwood and his band perform at Nashville Nights on New Year's Eve. — *Photo by Jon C. Lakey.*

**On the cover:** Seattle Mariners' third baseman Kyle Seager during a game against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif., on Sept. 13, 2016. — *Associated Press photo*

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# O, say can you Seager?

As evidence I have no life, for the past 30 years I have dedicated huge chunks of my time to playing a variation of fantasy baseball — the original version called Rotisserie.

Every April, I am one of a dozen guys who gather at Gary's Barbecue for a draft day in which we spend about four hours bidding fake money on American League players to add to the handful we have decided to keep from the previous season.

We become owners of a team — players for every position — and from then until the end of the season, we follow the statistics of our 24 guys and hope they rack up as many points as possible in eight different statistical categories such as home runs, runs batted in, batting average and the like. From the beginning, my team has been called the "Mark's Brothers."

Sportswriter Mike London has been part of this fantasy league for many years, and in recent seasons I have been jealous of Mike's team because his roster has included third baseman Kyle Seager of the Seattle Mariners. Mike surely will keep Seager on his team again this year because of just how good Kyle is.

In this issue, London brings us the story of the Seager family, the Kannapolis clan that has produced two major league stars in brothers Kyle and Corey, with possibly another brother, Justin, waiting in the wings.

Joe Hubbard had the pleasure of coaching all three Seager brothers at Northwest Cabarrus High, so it's understandable he closely follows their baseball careers. Hubbard traveled to Seattle last season and saw Kyle Seager smash a home run, one of 30 he hit for the Mariners in 2016.

Corey Seager, the reigning National League Rookie of the Year, plays for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"This year it's going to be L.A., to see Corey," Hubbard told London. "I know how fortunate I am. A lot of guys coach high school baseball a long time and never coach a major leaguer. I got to coach two really good ones."

I think you'll enjoy London's story on the Seagers, with a focus on Kyle, and come away appreciating just how talented — and unassuming — they all are.

Elsewhere in this issue, Josh Bergeron writes about singer Darrell



Harwood, who is one of our major league music talents from China Grove. As you will see, Harwood and his band have a dedicated following of fans and family.

Deirdre Parker Smith has cooked up some great recipes for a food that was a staple of mine in college — macaroni and cheese — except mine was out of a box, not these sumptuous dishes Deirdre describes.

You'll enjoy meeting travel writer Robert White-Harvey, who easily could be nominated for the world's most interesting

man title. We also visit the historic Henry Connor Bost House and Farm, once a cherished getaway for the Lomax family and now a unique special events venue.

Rebecca Rider brings us two great stories related to schools. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at how Food for Thought provides weekend nourishment for students in need, and Rider reminds us what a treasure we have in the one-room Setzer School, still a valuable educational tool at Horizons Unlimited.

This month's Rowan Original is Reid Leonard, the great director Piedmont Players Theatre has depended on for more than 30 years.

But back to baseball: London notes that Kyle and Corey Seager have yet to oppose each other in a major league game, and the regular season schedule doesn't have it happening this year, either. Hubbard, their old high school coach, told London he'll stay neutral if that matchup ever occurs, and he's careful never to say one Seager is the best.

"People tell me there's no way anyone ever had a better senior season than Corey did," Hubbard told London, looking back. "But I had one senior who was just as good — and that was Kyle. I don't remember Kyle missing a pitch his senior year. If he got a pitch to hit, he hit it hard."

Ah, baseball. Ah, spring training. There are no better words to hear this time of year than "Pitchers and catchers report." 

**Mark Wineka,**  
*Editor, Salisbury the Magazine*

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# Stark reality and flights of fancy

Spring brings exciting possibilities for readers, with seasoned authors publishing new books in all genres.

I enjoy discovering new authors I can follow through book after book. I also enjoy new books from old friends. It's a pleasure to live in their worlds for a while and hear their language.

By now, you should be able to find "A Book of American Martyrs," by Joyce Carol Oates, a prolific modern American writer. Here she brings together two families linked by murder. One is Luther Dunphy, an evangelical who kills an abortion provider, and the other belongs to the victim, Gus Voorhees. It is being called a heart-wrenching look at one of the country's most divisive issues.

Oates focuses less on the actual shooting and more on the impact it has on the daughters of the two men. The evangelical Dunphy's daughter, Dawn, becomes a championship level boxer, while the victim's daughter, Naomi, becomes a documentary filmmaker.

The novel contains graphic violence and raw descriptions of death, but Oates manages to describe the quality of grief and the weight of family legacy.

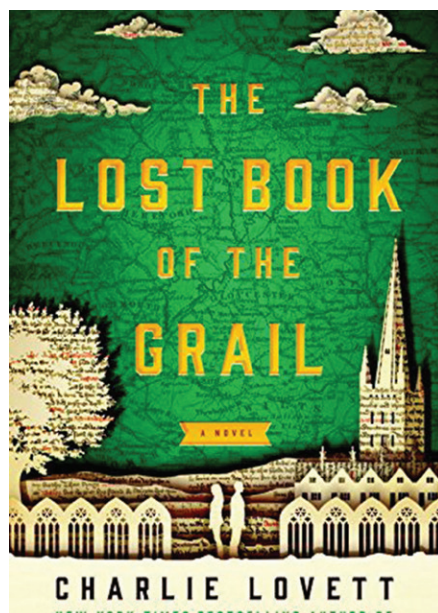
In the same vein of family legacy, George Saunders has written "Lincoln in the Bardo," a work of historical fiction about Abraham Lincoln and his son, Willie.

It is the first novel by the multi-award-winning short story writer and creative writing professor. His collection, "The Tenth of December," was named to a host of best books of the year lists in 2014 and was a finalist for the National Book Award.

This novel starts with the historical fact that Willie lay dying in the White House in 1862, a year into the Civil War. Despite predictions of a recovery, Willie dies, and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery, where newspapers reported a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone, to the crypt several times to hold the boy's body.

Saunders leaves off history and reality and takes Willie to a weird purgatory, where ghosts argue, do penance and commiserate. The Tibetan tradition calls this the bardo — a transitional state. A huge struggle erupts over Willie's soul. All of the action takes place in a single night.

The publisher, Penguin Random House,



says, "Saunders has invented a thrilling new form that deploys a kaleidoscopic, theatrical panorama of voices to ask a timeless, profound question: How do we live and love when we know that everything we love must end?"

Early reviewers agree it is an outstanding work that must be experienced to be understood.


For something a bit lighter, let's catch up with Charlie Lovett, sometime Winston-Salem resident (he has a cottage in England) and author of the New York Times bestselling "The Bookman's Tale."

His new one is "The Lost Book of the Grail."

Lovett, who has a fierce love for books, revels in creating new stories about favorite characters, like Jane Austen, in "First Impressions."

In this new book, bibliophile Arthur Prescott has an obsession with the Holy Grail. Happiest with ancient texts, he is uncomfortable in a concrete building teaching English.

A young American arrives to digitize Arthur's beloved library. Bethany Davis becomes his target, until he discovers they share a love for books and the Grail. The two set out to find the lost Book of Ewolda, an ancient manuscript telling the story of the Barchester Cathedral founder. When the cathedral is threatened, the two must discover its secrets, as well as more about the Grail, and each other.

Lovett has a lively way of mixing history with mystery and fiction. This will be a fun read for lovers of old books, dusty manuscripts and ancient mysteries, a great way to escape. 

*Deirdre Parker Smith is book editor of the Salisbury Post.*

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THROUGH THE LENS / *by andy mooney*

Due to the earth's rotation, stars will move in the night sky. With a camera on a tripod taking continuous photos over a period of time, the photos can be combined together so that the stars will create a streak, called star trails. This image is a combination of 228 30-second exposures looking south near Rockwell.



# Stage presence

Reid Leonard always gives Piedmont Players a command performance.

*By* DEIRDRE PARKER SMITH



Piedmont Players Theatre director Reid Leonard sits during a photo call to promote the production 'Act One' at the Meroney Theater. — Photo by Jon C. Lakey.

# Reid Leonard has been a fixture in Salisbury's theater scene for more than 30 years.

And before he became director of Piedmont Players in 1986, he graduated from Catawba College, where you might have seen the Lexington native on stage as well as back stage.

Leonard's Catawba degrees in theater and English served him well. He taught at Page High School and at the Weaver Education Center in Greensboro. There he received the Terry Sanford Award for innovation and creativity in teaching.

He also taught for 12 years at North Carolina's Governors Schools.

He has a master of fine arts degree in directing from Northwestern University and taught at Catawba College for several years.

You probably don't know he was the Fire Hoop Dancer at "Horn in the West" in Boone for several summers. "Who knew jumping through flaming hoops would prepare me for my job as director of Piedmont Players?" he asks.

Reid has always been a private, camera-shy man who prefers working behind the scenes — or behind the scenery, in some cases. Salisbury the Magazine recently caught up with this Rowan Original, an inveterate punster known for his groan-worthy zingers:

## Q. Who has been your mentor?

McC, Epp and Parkie. (Hoyt McCachren, Jim Epperson and James Parker, all theater professors emeriti at Catawba College.)

## What do you read?

Bios — "Dazzler, The Life and Times of Moss Hart" by Stephen Bach and "George

S. Kaufman" by Howard Teichmann (background of "Act One"). History — "World Without End" by Ken Follett. Theater books — "Year of the Fat Knight" by Anthony Sher (about playing Falstaff for the Royal Shakespeare Company). Thrillers — "Without Fail" by Lee Child. Scripts — "A Midsummer Night's Dream." ... Also I could list favorite writers — Ann Patchett, Peter Taylor, David McCullough and go on and on and on.

## What are your favorite plays?

Extremely difficult, but "Hamlet" is the main one. I read it in high school and have seen productions and movies through the years. Studied it in Bethany Sinnott's Shakespeare class at Catawba. I have directed it. The play keeps on changing, but I always find it interesting. It's an amazing play that can keep providing interest and entertainment over 50 years. Not bad for a 400-year-old play.

## What are your favorite productions with Piedmont Players?

I made a quick list when I saw the question and immediately had over 30 shows. Firsts — first show for PPT — "Pump Boys and Dinettes" (Graham Carlton is still the PPT guitarist); first full season show — "Little Shop of Horrors" (made the plants and toured the South with them for 10 years). ... "Evita" with Scott Holmes as Che and Debbie Hubbard-Pastore as Evita. While doing the show, PPT purchased the Meroney Theater building. "Jesus Christ Superstar" (first show in the Meroney Theater). "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" (first show in Norvell Theater).

But that leaves out wonderful casts and experiences — "Into the Woods" and "Sweeney Todd" with David Hagy and great casts. "Noises Off," first farce with Gary Thornburg and great cast. "Dreamgirls" and "Chicago" with Tod Kubo. ... The "Smoke on the Mountain" shows (three of them, all with the same cast) ... There are a lot of talented people in this area, and we have had a lot of fun doing some — I hope — wonderful shows.

## What is your favorite part of a production?

We call it the long rehearsal. Some theaters call it a 10 out of 12. Usually on the Sunday before a show opens, we rehearse each scene slowly and carefully with all sets, lights and costumes for most of the afternoon and evening. This rehearsal usually locks the production into the performance the audience sees the next several weeks.

## What's your pet peeve?

People who don't realize the implications of their actions.


## What two foods are always in your refrigerator or pantry?

Preserved lemons and white wine.

## What's the best advice you could give a young person today?

Put your phone away when you get behind the wheel of a car.

## What do you want for theater in Rowan County?

Continued improvement. Clyde always waits for someone to say, "This is the best thing you've ever done." We always reply, "Until the next one." There is always room for growth for actors, scenery, box office, audiences. The process is slow, but it's one of the reasons we are here. Oh, and we can always use more money. 

They called it  
**macaroni**  
(and cheese)



written by deirdre parker smith  
photography by jon c. lakey

Is there any food more comforting than macaroni and cheese? Is there any food that stirs memories quite like it? Maybe it was the one edible item in your school cafeteria line. Maybe your grandmother made it a special way that you can't find anywhere else. Maybe it was the one food you could cook in your dorm room.

We can't have a holiday meal without it, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, birthdays. It is an essential that knows no state borders, yet has many variations.

Your choices could be too numerous to count. Pick a pasta shape, any shape, from traditional elbows to the sauce-hugging twists of gemelli. Pick any cheese — cheddar, of course, or are you Velveeta, of course? Dress it up with cream cheese, sour cream or vary your base cheese to a blend of creamy, rich cheeses like havarti, muenster and gouda. Go local with cheese from the friendly water buffalo at Fading D Farm.

For many a parent, sneaking in a vegetable, say, peas, or broccoli, is the one way they can get their kids to eat something green.

Whether your macaroni and cheese is ooey-gooey with cheese or firm and custardy with a browned top, it's special and worth sharing, as some readers have done.



### SUZI'S MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 4 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 4 Tbsp. flour
- ½ tsp. ground mustard
- 2 cups milk/cream/evaporated milk
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 1½ to 2 cups shredded cheese
- 8 ounces elbow or other shape pasta (rotini is good)

Cook the pasta according to package directions, leaving it slightly undercooked if it will be baked in the sauce.

Melt butter in a saucepan and add the flour and mustard, cooking for 3-5 minutes until mixture is bubbly. Slowly add the milk or cream, stirring constantly so no lumps will form. Add the cream cheese and stir to melt.



Add the shredded cheese by handfuls, stirring well with each addition until cheese melts and sauce is smooth.

Pour sauce over the pasta in a casserole dish or slow cooker and top with more cheese and bake (at 350 degrees) until delicious.

You can also serve this immediately after adding sauce to pasta.

**Variation:** Add 1 tsp. ground mustard and ¼ to ½ tsp. cayenne pepper.

From Suzi Wallace Fire.

### FADING D FARM MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 4 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 4 Tbsp. flour
- 2 cups milk
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 4 ounces Fading D Sapore cheese, shredded
- 4 ounces Fading D Bel Bufala cheese, shredded
- 6 cups cooked pasta — elbows, shells, etc.

Melt butter in a saucepan and sauté garlic until fragrant. Stir in flour, cook for 2 minutes, then slowly add milk, stirring to make a thickened sauce. Then melt the three cheeses in and add to the cooked pasta.

Fading D Farm store is open Wednesday and Saturday, 2-5 p.m., call 980-330-8189, or go to Salisbury Wine Shop.

Chef Jason Nain of Morgan Ridge Vineyard and Brewhouse happened to be making macaroni and cheese for a dinner buffet one day and shared the ingredients. The proportions are an approximation, as he was making enough for 80 or so diners.

### CHEF JASON'S MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 4 Tbsp. butter



- 4 Tbsp. flour
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1 cup cream
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce (or more, to taste)
- 4 slices American cheese
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- About a cup cubed muenster cheese
- About a cup cubed havarti cheese
- 4 to 6 cups cooked pasta (gemelli preferred)

First, make a roux by melting butter and stirring in flour and allowing that to cook for a couple minutes. Add chicken stock and stir until sauce is smooth. Add 1 cup cream. Stir in Worcestershire sauce and add each cheese separately, stirring after each addition. The sauce will be very thick and cheesy. If you want a thinner sauce, add more chicken stock or cream as desired. The chef prefers gemelli pasta because it holds onto the sauce. Combine cheese sauce and cooked pasta and serve, or make a mixture of bread crumbs and melted butter and scatter over the top and bake at 400 degrees until crumbs are browned.

**Variation:** Stir in a little Louisiana hot sauce to taste.

**Variation:** Use cheese tortellini as the pasta.





**Variation:** Use fresh mozzarella and fresh ricotta cheese for a lighter sauce.

Dan lle Cutting sent this recipe for macaroni and cheese that will serve a large number of people.

### DAN LLE'S MACARONI AND CHEESE

- 2 lbs. macaroni, cooked al dente
- 2 lbs. sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 2 cans cheddar cheese soup
- 12 eggs
- 1 quart half and half
- 1 pint sour cream or Greek yogurt (more tangy)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Butter


Grease the bottom and sides of a large baking dish. Pour the cooked macaroni in the pan. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs, half and half, cheddar cheese soup, sour cream or yogurt and one pound of cheese together. Pour on top of macaroni and blend. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Remove from

oven and cover with the rest of the cheese. Dot the cheese with slices of butter and bake another 20 minutes or until a knife comes out clean. If the cheese looks like it is turning too brown, lightly cover the dish with foil.

### TRADITIONAL MAC & CHEESE

- 4 cups cooked elbow macaroni
- 2 cups grated cheddar cheese
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup sour cream

- 4 Tbsp. butter, cut into pieces
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 tsp. white pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook and drain the macaroni, and place in a large bowl. Add the cheddar cheese. In a separate bowl, combine the rest of the ingredients and add to the macaroni mixture. Pour all into a baking dish and bake for 30-45 minutes. Top with additional cheese if desired. 

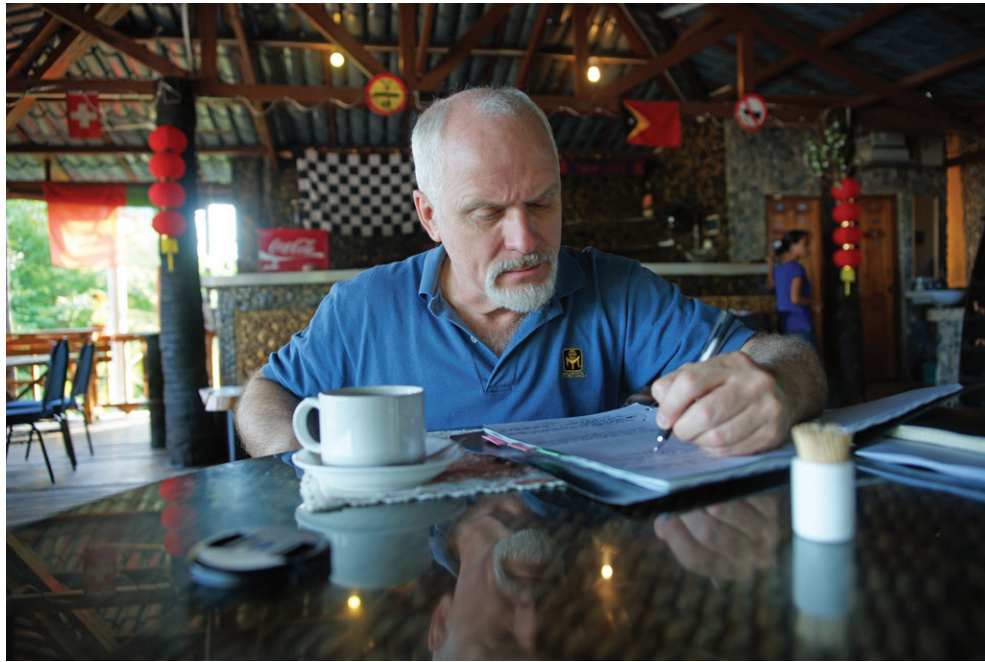




# Traveling man

Writer Robert White-Harvey has lived 'a geographically complex life'

*Written by* MARK WINEKA | *Photography by* JON C. LAKEY



**G**OLD HILL — While walking this farm with Robert White-Harvey, you could easily mistake him for a homebody. As he winds through the woods, he apologizes for all the leaves on the 2.5 miles of trails he and his wife, Sarah, enjoy. He takes you down by a picturesque pond and points out the “sea monster” poking through the surface of the water. White-Harvey carved it out of Florida cypress.

He also fashioned concrete stepping stones to a bridge connecting the opposite side of the pond. It’s one of 15 tiny bridges he has built on the property, including a Japanese version that is part of the garden he is creating close by.

White-Harvey talks about the satisfying feelings of solitude, accomplishment and getting back to the land when he’s down here. He speaks wistfully of the smell of honeysuckle and wild roses or describes “bullfrog baritones” and “tree frog tenors.”

White-Harvey has become a travel writer to help pay for his many trips abroad. One business card identifies him as a columnist and feature writer for *Asian Journeys*. Another card describes his own enterprise, *Parabolic Expression*, and says he offers legal and freelance research, writing and editing.

White-Harvey has spent extended periods of time in places such as Prague and Singapore, and all of the meticulous travel journals he has kept serve as background for a trilogy of novels he has been working on since his odyssey began.

But the inside of his modest house betrays a much more adventurous side of White-Harvey, the side that has taken him on a travel odyssey of seven continents and 50 countries since 2000.

The walls, shelves and corners of every room prompt stories from him about things such as meeting the president of East Timor, flying out of Antarctica during a blizzard, hiking to a Buddhist monastery in Bhutan, collecting tea in Morocco and Turkey or buying fresh fruits and vegetables from truck farms in Jerusalem.

A lawyer by schooling and a scribe by grit and determination,

**Above:** White-Harvey writes in a travel journal while having a coffee at Hotel California in East Timor. *Photo courtesy of Robert White-Harvey.* **Opposite:** White-Harvey walks across the concrete stepping stones to a bridge on his property.



Above: Robert White-Harvey stands on the stairs to his basement. A large map hangs on the wall, with lines connecting the places he has been.

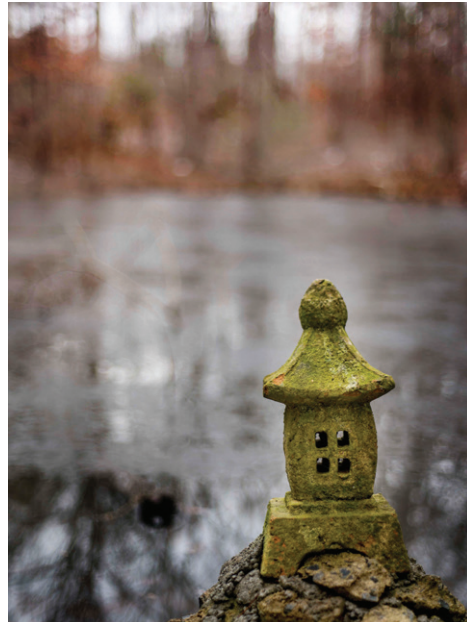
Right: The mudroom off the garage has been turned into a luggage room.

On top of that, the 63-year-old White-Harvey has lived in a diverse collection of places: Nova Scotia, Upstate New York, Arizona, Toronto, British Columbia and North Carolina.

“Here’s a quote for you — I’ve lived a geographical-ly complex life,” White-Harvey says.

His many occupations over the years have been as interesting as his addresses. He has worked as a lawyer, banker, writer, draftsman, oiler, tea and coffee salesman, truck driver, and a map maker of copper mines





**Left:** White-Harvey took this photograph of a fire dancer in Phuket, Thailand. *Photo courtesy of Robert White-Harvey.* **Middle:** A Japanese ornament near the pond on the property. **Right:** White-Harvey has photographed his world travels.

and Native American reservations. He even worked as an assistant tax mapper in Stanly County and as an urban planner in Charlotte.

Truth be known, White-Harvey says, his wife probably travels more in her job for Oracle. “I travel less often,” he says, “but I go farther.” He stays away longer, too.

“You don’t want to cross the Pacific Ocean and come back in 10 days,” White-Harvey says.

The mudroom off his garage has been turned into what he calls a luggage room. Racks are filled with different travel packs for different countries. Any pack with a Nova Scotia flag is a camera bag, White-Harvey explains.

“This is my Prague backpack,” he says, and he also pats the pack he carried to Kathmandu.

“I took this one to Antarctica,” he says of another.

White-Harvey considers Prague, Victoria, Singapore, Florence, Paris, Lisbon, Stockholm and Seattle among his favorite big cities. On a smaller scale, he likes Pokara, located in Nepal, describing it as “the greatest hiking city

in the world, an amazing environment.”

The steps down to his basement library reveal, on one of the walls, photographs of animals from his various trips. On the opposite wall is a giant map of the world. A bold red line on the map represents his trip around the world. The black line shows the direct route he took to Antarctica.

“I just find him interesting on a variety of subjects,” says Charlie Walters, who sometimes has coffee and conversation with White-Harvey at Salisbury’s Panera Bread. “... He seems to be a man of all seasons. He’s obviously a scholar, and he can talk about mundane things.”

Walters discovered he and White-Harvey have traveled to a lot of the same places. They also have Tucson, Ariz., in common, because Walters has a grandson attending the University of Arizona, the school where White-Harvey spent plenty of time.

Born in Nova Scotia, White-Harvey moved to Upstate New York near the Canadian border when he was a boy and graduated high school there. His father was a Wesleyan preacher. At Arizona, White-Harvey gradu-

ated with concentrations in geography and creative writing.

He met Sarah White in Arizona, and the couple, who have been married 40 years, moved for a time to her native North Carolina. White-Harvey worked briefly for the Stanly County tax office in Albemarle.

He eventually returned to the University of Arizona to pursue a master’s degree in journalism, but he left before completing his thesis. Later, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, he earned a law degree from Dalhousie University while working a variety of other jobs.

Stops in Toronto and Victoria followed, but White-Harvey says he hated being an attorney and a trust officer for a bank. “I just found it to be fascinating that he trained for the law and didn’t want to do the law,” Walters says.

Meanwhile, on the writing side, White-Harvey says he “fought and clawed” his way occasionally into trade journals, magazines and newspapers. He did a lot of academic writing in the 1990s, which he says was “like passing kidney stones.”

Sometime after he and Sarah moved back to North Carolina in 2000 and ended



White-Harvey stands close to a hand-carved 1946 sculpture from China.

up living on the farm where she grew up, White-Harvey conceptualized his trilogy and made himself a travel writer. “I had to totally retool,” he says.

A travel writer doesn’t make a lot of money, White-Harvey says, but he found ways to do it on the cheap for the love of the stories he found.

Just the living room and kitchen at his home are like a travelogue. White-Harvey’s own featured photographs show a couple dancing the tango on a street in Buenos Aires, a fire dancer in Thailand, young girls in India, three skinny priests in Nepal and a woman walking within a cluttered marketplace in Kathmandu.

“She’s like my Mona Lisa,” White-Harvey says of his favorite photograph.

Prague is White-Harvey’s favorite city in the world, and one of the photographs on the living room wall lends a view of Prague

Castle from one of the apartments he rented. “When I’m in Prague, I have a strange bond,” White-Harvey says.

He loves a photograph displayed in the kitchen of the Tiger’s Nest, located in the foothills of a mountain range in Bhutan. He recalls the rough, steep and slippery trail he took hiking to this Buddhist monastery set into cliffs at an elevation of 11,300 feet. To get the photo he wanted without a veil of fog, “I shot maybe 100 pictures,” he says.

Also in the dining area of the kitchen is a modernist-looking carving inspired by the Twin Towers terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. White-Harvey carved the piece out of Western red cedar and Alaskan red cedar. “I called it the ‘Age of Rage,’” he says.

On another wall of the kitchen is a representation of the Buddhist Wheel of Life, which Bruce Wilson framed for him in Salisbury. Nearby, he has placed an Asian-in-

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spired piece of pottery he bought at Pottery 101 in Salisbury.

“I am a Salisbury guy,” White-Harvey says. His doctor, veterinarian, mechanic and favorite places to write, have coffee or dinner are in Salisbury. Besides Panera, he’s a regular at places such as Koco Java and the Salty Caper.

With his trilogy — he is still in search of a publisher — White-Harvey says he is trying out a fairly new genre: romantic drama, or dramatic romance. The three books take place in 2001, 2010 and 2019, respectively, in places around the world.

White-Harvey is most recently back from a trip to Prague. That city and Eastern Europe as a whole are, for example, the setting for the first book in his trilogy.

In his living room, Harvey stands close to a 1946 sculpture from China. It was hand-carved out of China black walnut and is one of the three star gods, which stand for happiness, fortune and longevity.

White-Harvey’s sculpture represents longevity. Long may he write and travel. 



Photos that White-Harvey has taken from around the world hang on the walls of his home.



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The historic Henry Connor Bost House off Potneck Road.





# CHARM *on the* FARM

Henry Connor Bost House finds new life as events venue.

*Written by* MARK WINEKA | *Photography by* JON C. LAKEY

**T**hrough it all, the Henry Connor Bost House and the 135-acre farm on which it stands have hardly changed. Brides in weddings, employees on company retreats, executives on overnight stays or donors at local fundraisers still take in pretty much what three families who have owned this slice of country experienced every day over almost 150 years.

Misty sunrises over the pasture. The gnarly limbs of black walnut trees. Long lines of fences. The Williamsburg-like smell of tall boxwoods. The crackling wood in fireplaces. Heart pine floors. The old horse barn.

Blossoms of magnolia and camellia. And rocking chairs on the porches of one of the older homes in Rowan County — a National Register of Historic Places landmark built just after the Civil War.

It's the charm Dr. Donald Lomax and his wife, Marie, saw when they purchased the Potneck Road property in 1961 and made it their family's constant getaway. They later dug a swimming pool, built a major two-story addition to the old house in 1993 and moved here permanently, so their grandchildren could enjoy visits as much as their seven children had.

To make sure the land would never be developed, the Lomaxes donated a conservation easement to the

LandTrust for Central North Carolina.

After Donald died in 2003 and Marie moved to Raleigh in 2014, the Lomaxes' children and their spouses confronted a tough question: What should happen to the house and farm?

The historic property held too much sentimental value to sell, but it also needed to be maintained without becoming a financial drain on the family. The children decided they should make the property a special events venue, thinking it was the best way to pay the bills while keeping the place fresh and vital.

They also realized their venture would only work with a full-time manager, someone who could schedule events, arrange for all amenities, promote the venue and be on site when needed.

Laurie Lomax Barwick, the second youngest



This long kitchen table always provides ample seating for a crowd. It was needed because Don and Marie Lomax had seven children.

*Story continues on page 30.*

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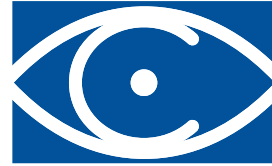
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Clockwise, starting at top left: A signpost marks the driveway entrance to the Henry Connor Bost House & Farm, now a special events venue off Potneek Road; a center door off the kitchen leads onto the serene side porch; a lamp provides a warm glow to an upstairs bedroom; on a fireplace mantel, the photographs of all seven Lomax children are displayed.

Opposite, clockwise from top: The downstairs includes a comfortable living room in the original portion of the 1869 house; the home's unique staircase branches off in opposite directions on reaching the second floor; the expansive kitchen area includes a cozy sitting spot.



of the Lomax offspring, gave up her career as a medical speech pathologist in Raleigh to take that job. Slowly but surely, word is getting out about the availability and uniqueness of the 1869 Henry Connor Bost House and Farm.

“If it’s what you’re looking for, we fit the bill,” Barwick says. “It’s kind of niche-y,”

**A bridal couple pose for a wedding photograph amid the sprawling limbs of the farm’s black walnut trees.** — Elizabeth Marie Photos

For weddings, for example, bridal parties can have full run of the 3,000-square-foot-plus house, which has six bedrooms and a spacious living room, kitchen and porches. A double-decker side porch, part of the 1993 addition built by contractor Alfred Wilson, looks out into a yard dominated by the venerable black walnut trees.

Brides ready themselves in the upstairs master

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All Ages



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bedroom, big enough to accommodate many doting bridesmaids. The 8-foot-wide porch outside this bedroom, which is mirrored off the kitchen on the floor below, becomes one of the favorite spots for photographs.

But there are photogenic locations like this throughout the grounds — a gazebo, the red barn, wrought-iron benches, an original well pump, a hammock between two trees, the boxwoods lining the front sidewalk of brick, a swing off a long tree bough and a charming dollhouse Lomax once built for his grandchildren.

Barwick says the place is flexible, able to accommodate a rehearsal dinner, wedding or reception — or all three. She is even starting to promote the house and farm as a place for destination weddings, and she stresses that she never schedules more than one wedding on any given weekend.

“This isn’t a factory,” she says, “and that’s kind of our appeal.”

Basic packages include a parking attendant and a preparation kitchen for caterers. Renters also can add a golf cart valet, dance floor, stage, an enclosed tent, heaters, fans, tables, linens, chairs and more, depending on their custom packages.

Plenty of parking is available, thanks to a large mown field between Potneck Road and the house.

Beyond word of mouth, Barwick has been trying to have the Henry Connor Bost House & Farm mentioned in wedding magazines and on websites, while she also has started going to wedding shows, a whole new frontier for her.

“It’s a process,” she says. “... I just ap-

**Laurie Lomax Barwick** serves as site manager for the venue.



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proached everybody.”

The family also sees the property as ideal for corporate events, fundraisers, retreats, reunions and even executive overnights.

When she’s on site, Barwick stays in the groomsmen’s cottage located down a tree-lined lane — part of the old Mocksville Trading Path that Daniel Boone had used on his trips to and from the back country. Barwick and her husband bought the late 1800s cottage several years ago, moved it to the farm from its former home on U.S. 601 and restored it.

Whenever the Barwick family visits Rowan County, they stay in their cottage. And the main house itself remains a gathering place over holidays for the large Lomax family. “We’re pretty good about getting together,” Barwick says.

Inside the house, the comfortable furnishings make it seem as though Don and Marie

Lomax never left. The portraits of their seven children — Susan, Don Jr., Melissa, Sally, Ann, Laurie and John — are displayed on mantels or on the wall beside the unique staircase.

Rooms still have built-in, floor-to-ceiling shelves holding all manner of books and mementos. The kitchen, though thoroughly modern, includes an old warming drawer Marie had moved from the family’s old Salisbury home in Forest Hills.

The large kitchen also has the nine-and-a-half-foot-long table Don Lomax bought from an antiques dealer years ago. It has 10 chairs around it most days, but Barwick has seen as many as 16 people squeezed around the table.

The oldest portion of the house retains its

Shadows cast by nearby trees paint a picture on the side of the Henry Connor Bost House.



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original windows with some of the wavy panes still intact. The wood framing from the 1869 portion of the house was duplicated in more modern areas of the interior.

The Bosts, the Kellys and the Lomaxes have been the only three families connected with the Henry Connor Bost House.

Henry Connor Bost lived from 1840 to 1887 and was educated at Trinity College (later Duke University). In 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War, Bost entered Company F of the Ninth Regiment Cavalry, rising to the rank of captain.

On furlough in 1865, Bost married Dorcas Fraley. Their house was one of the few built in the years immediately following the Civil War. Davyd Foard Hood's book, "The Architecture of Rowan County," said the frame house "illustrates the continuation of the vernacular Greek Revival style from the antebellum period into the postwar era."

Bost won a seat in the state legislature in 1878. He also served as vestryman at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, where he is buried.

His daughter Fannie Bost Kelly and her husband, W.F., lived in the house after Henry's death. The heirs maintained ownership of the property through April 1948, when the house and its surrounding 144 acres were sold to W.F. Kelly and his daughters, Mary Elizabeth Kelly Hannah and Frances Bost Kelly Hannah.

The family retained ownership until selling it to the Lomaxes in 1961. A family physician in Salisbury, Lomax made the house and farm his family's retreat. They would make the short drive from Salisbury and work and play on the farm Wednesday afternoons, weekends and during the summers.

Barwick says her father loved nature. While other doctors might spend their free time golfing or playing tennis, Lomax preferred mending fences, tending to animals, walking in the woods and identifying plants, flowers and birds.


The Lomax farm had plenty of cats and also chickens, until a fox raided the proverbial henhouse.

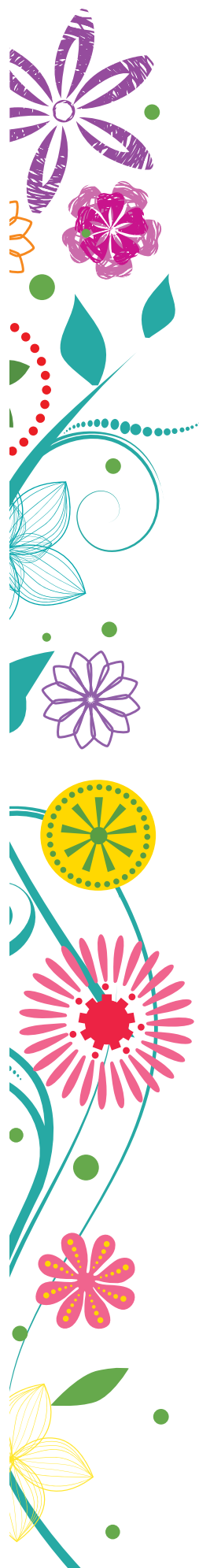
Barwick says her father wasn't real handy, but he always seemed busy with a project at the farm. She rode her horses, and Barwick and her siblings grew up doing things such as exploring Second Creek and collecting Native American artifacts.

On the farm, they often were "cut loose" to provide their own entertainment, Barwick says. Marie Lomax always cooked huge family dinners at the house.

"It was an ideal childhood, an amazing childhood," she says. "Look how it paid off. Look how dedicated I am (to the farm)."

The property extends on both sides of Potneck Road, and as evidenced sometimes by the hay in the front pasture, portions of the land are still being farmed.

Those interested in renting the Henry Connor Bost House & Farm at 285 Potneck Road can contact [henryconnorbosthouse@gmail.com](mailto:henryconnorbosthouse@gmail.com), or 919-792-8154. The venue also has a website and Facebook page. The farm is located six miles north of Salisbury, not far off U.S. 601. 



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SINGER DARRELL HARWOOD'S SMILE, POPULARITY KEEP GROWING.



WRITTEN BY JOSH BERGERON  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON C. LAKEY

**D**arrell Harwood had never run for public office before, much less been elected, but on this October night he stood at the front of China Grove Town Hall as he delivered a short speech.

It was Oct. 4, and the town of China Grove had just proclaimed a new holiday — Darrell Harwood Day — in recognition of its native son. Darrell, in typical fashion, accepted the honor by listing the names of people in the audience who contributed to his country music success so far.

“I really wasn’t expecting this,” Darrell said during the short speech, smiling beneath his baseball cap. “I think this is really cool. I did invite a few friends that made a lot of this possible. It started on May 1, 2010, with my sister’s husband. We went from seven songs to Labor Day weekend at Kenneth Shell’s house in 2010. We had 600 people to kick this wild party off.”

The resolution Darrell received in October now sits in a frame at the entrance to his Rowan County home. On the same table is an award for Country Male Singer of the Year from the Carolina Music Awards. A picture from the Carolina Music Awards ceremony also holds a spot on the table, but the resolution is the honor Darrell said he cherishes most.

Today he’s a country music singer with thousands of fans. In 2010, however, Harwood was just a guy who agreed to sing in a benefit event for his brother-in-law Darren Fesperman. Darrell had been convinced by Eric Upton, who runs a music school in China Grove and is one of Darren’s good friends.

“We did karaoke for years, and Eric had always thought that I could sing,” Darrell said. “I never would have thought that I would have gotten in front of a bunch of people like that.”

Eric tells the story a bit differently, giving Darrell more credit.

“When we were doing karaoke, everyone would tell him how good he was and that he ought to be in a band,” Eric said.

Darrell’s parents put it in even more dramatic terms.





Darrell Harwood and his band gather at Harwood's shop to practice a new song. A China Grove native, Harwood is an electrician by trade. He and the band play 130 shows a year.



Top: Fans attend the Darrell Harwood concert at Nashville Nights on New Year's Eve. Above: A Marshall amp in Harwood's shop during a practice session. Left: A selection of guitars in a case at Nashville Nights.

“People just went crazy over him,” said Ronnie Harwood, Darrell’s dad.

After some prodding, Darrell slowly formed a band. It started as Darrell Harwood and the Coolwater Band, and at the beginning, Ronnie was a band member. They dropped the “Coolwater Band” moniker. Now, band members include Darrell on vocals, Eric Upton and Chip Coleman on guitar, Chad Talbert on bass guitar and Junior Howell on drums.

From Nashville Nights in Salisbury to Nashville, Tenn., the band has played in an array of places. Most are bars, but there are other locations, too. In the first year, Darrell says the band played 60 shows. It grew to 80 shows per year. Then 100. Darrell estimated the band performed 130 shows in 2016.

On weekdays, Darrell, 46, works as an electrician in Charlotte. He and his wife, Karen, have two daughters, Tayler and Sarrah, and a family dog named Roadie. On weekends, Darrell is traveling across the state or somewhere else in the Southeast to play a show. Almost always, Karen goes along for the trip. She runs the merchandise table during concerts.

“I think it’s really good that we go together,” Darrell said. “It would be real easy, and I don’t just mean this any way, but there is trouble out there around the corner at a bar. It would be easy to get in trouble and I’m glad she’s with me.”

Darrell joked that he has paraded Karen through every bar in North Carolina and Virginia and she’s still married to him.

During trips, the band uses a bus to travel between shows, driving an estimated 40,000 miles or more per year. Often, it’s also a place to sleep between shows.

“We played the oyster festival at Ocean Isle at 12 o’clock noon on a Saturday and came back to Concord to play that same night,” Darrell said. “We probably played something that Friday, too.”

Rhonda Harwood Fesperman, Darrell’s sister, recalls a slow build-up to Darrell’s current popularity level.

“He played the little bars around here and one



Guitarist Eric Upton plays during a sound check at Nashville Nights before a New Year’s Eve performance.

*Story continues on page 42.*







Above: Darrell received the Carolinas Music Awards Country Male Performer of the Year of 2016. Right and below: Darrell Harwood and his band perform at Nashville Nights on New Year's Eve.

Opposite, clockwise from top: Chip Coleman, Chad Talbert and drummer Junior Howell perform; Harwood poses with Babi Nance (left) and Nancy Fuller; the band gets the equipment set up for a performance at Nashville Nights.





in China Grove until it wouldn't even hold the amount of people that wanted to come," Rhonda said.

As his popularity grows and the schedule of shows increases, Darrell has performed for record labels, but the offers haven't been quite right. Darrell said he eventually would like to make music a full-time job, but it would have to be a "no-brainer deal."

"With the kids growing up and looking to go to college, now something big would have to hit to take it," he said.

It wouldn't necessarily need to be a major record label, either. In the age of digital music and streaming, artists can find success on their own, he said.

Between traveling far and wide for the regular shows, Darrell has played concerts for Special Olympics athletes and Relay for Life — the ones he says he enjoys the most. The fans love it, too. He described the regular shows as a "big party," but the special-needs shows' fans take the usual par-

ty and crank it up a few notches, dancing their hearts out. Darrell's bright, infectious smile spreads among the concert attendees, who have a chance to play an instrument in addition to watching a full show.

"I hope that's something we never have to cancel," Darrell said about the special-needs concerts. "If there was a way we could do that show twice a year, I would do it."

Fesperman, Darrell's sister, says he's the same man on stage, playing in front of hundreds of people, as he is in private. From childhood to present day, Rhonda said she has dozens of stories to tell. She recalled one in particular from when he had his wisdom teeth removed.

"I was sitting out in the waiting room, and I could just hear him back there, getting his wisdom teeth removed, just busting out laughing as if he was on stage," she said. "He's just bright and energetic, a very caring person."

Besides being a father, a brother, a son, an

entertainer, an electrician, a South Rowan High Raider and China Grove native, Darrell is also a cancer survivor — something Rhonda said might be surprising given Darrell's personality. Darrell was diagnosed with melanoma in 2012 and had it removed. It was on his left leg.

"It does kind of make you a little bit nervous, and I wasn't ready to hear that," he said. "Cancer,' that's the worst word to me."

He still goes for checkups regularly. In January, he noticed a spot on his back that caused some concern, but it turned out to be scar tissue from a prior accident. In just over a week, he was back to his usual schedule of shows.

In 2017, Darrell says he hopes to spread out further and play in different venues, perhaps in different states. For now, he'll just keep singing, no matter the location.

"I sing walking through work, at home, all the time," Harwood said with a smile. S



Above: Darrell Harwood's support group of family members and friends. Below left: Guitarist Eric Upton breaks out the container of DH Style guitar picks. Below right: Harwood exits his bus before a performance at Nashville Nights.





Los Angeles Dodgers' Corey Seager watches his home run against the Atlanta Braves during the sixth inning in Los Angeles on June 3, 2016.

— Associated Press photo

# bashbrothers

Local boys Kyle and Corey Seager establish themselves among baseball's best.

WRITTEN BY MIKE LONDON



Seattle Mariners' Robinson Cano, left, celebrates his two-run home run with Kyle Seager after hitting a pitch from Oakland Athletics' Raul Alcantara during the first inning on Sept. 30, 2016, in Seattle.

— Associated Press photo



On May 14, 2016, Los Angeles Dodgers' Corey Seager, right, hits a solo home run as St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher Dean Kiekhfer watches during the seventh inning in Los Angeles. — Associated Press photo.

It seems like last week that Kyle Seager was tormenting Rowan County opponents as a slugger and smooth-fielding infielder for Northwest Cabarrus High and Kannapolis American Legion baseball teams, but the years flow by.

Seager is 29 now, a veteran of five full seasons as the Seattle Mariners' starting third baseman. He's hit 136 homers, played in an All-Star Game and won a Gold Glove. He's also a devoted family man. His wife, Julie Bentley Seager, graduated from Kannapolis' A.L. Brown High. They shared many mutual friends before they officially met over Christmas break when Kyle was a junior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill when Kyle and Julie were married in Salisbury in the winter of 2011. They have two children, 3-year-old son Crue and infant daughter Remi. Not run-of-the-mill names.

"My wife came up with those names — she wanted something simple, yet unique,"

Kyle said with a laugh. "She was nice enough to run them by me before they put them on the birth certificate."

A perk of being the son of a big leaguer is that Crue has swung a bat on MLB diamonds and has put on post-game shows for adoring fans. Crue is a right-handed hitter, a choice that separates him from his father and his uncle, Corey, the 22-year-old Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop. Kyle and Corey swing from the left side.

"Crue can hit — it's crazy how he can swing a bat," Kyle said. "I've tried to get him to bat left-handed, but with no success. I tell him to swing like Daddy. He says he wants to swing like Crue."

Kyle is well-compensated for his work



Over the Christmas holiday in December, the Seager family posed for this picture in Kannapolis. Corey Seager is standing in the middle. Kyle Seager is holding his son in the back right, and Justin Seager is back center. All three Seager boys play professional baseball. Mom Jody Seager took this photograph. Dad Jeff Seager is at the right. — Photo courtesy of Jody Seager.

with the Mariners. He signed a seven-year, \$100 million contract prior to the 2015 season. He received \$7.5 million in 2016 and will be paid \$10.5 million for the 2017 season. His contract, loaded toward the back end, will peak with a salary of \$18 million in 2021. Seattle has the option to retain his services at a lofty fee (at least \$15 million) for the 2022 season.

While that sounds like a staggering stack of dollars, pro athletes have a brief earning window. Seager will be 35 in 2022. Assuming continued health and assuming he can keep drilling line drives, he should get one more windfall payday before his career winds down. He has made a mature investment in his family's future and life after baseball — a five-bedroom, 5,000-square foot home on the

waterfront at High Rock Lake, 20 minutes from Salisbury.

"Seattle has been wonderful to me and my family, and we've got a great place there, not far from the ballpark," Kyle said. "But North Carolina is home. This is where our family is."

Kyle, 6 feet tall and 210 pounds, looks like an ordinary working stiff ... well, an ordinary guy who works out a lot. His forearms and



biceps bulge impressively, but his hair has thinned, and his standard off-season attire is blue jeans and a sweatshirt. Kyle made a recent trip to Salisbury's Chick-fil-A in

**Jody and Jeff Seager pose with son Justin, a minor league ball-player.** — Photo courtesy of Jody Seager.

blissful anonymity. He turned Crue loose on the playground and sat for a relaxed meal, with Remi dozing peacefully on a table between her parents. There was no

fuss, no autograph requests.

"Kyle comes in here a lot," Salisbury Chick-fil-A owner Bo Hawkins said.

Kyle used to roll through the drive-through window, but Hawkins, a major sports fan, recognized him. He told Kyle he'd be able to eat inside without hassle if

he had the time, and that's proven to be the case.

It's not much different in Seattle.

"I asked Kyle if he could go out in public in Seattle, and he said he does get recognized once in a while," said Joe Hubbard, who coached all three Seager brothers (Kyle, Justin and Corey) in high school and American Legion ball. "Sometimes someone will stare at Kyle and say, 'Wait a minute ... nah, that can't be him.' Seattle is a perfect fit for Kyle. It's right for his personality. He's not looking for a lot of attention."

Anonymity is becoming difficult for Corey, who plays for the higher-profile Los Angeles Dodgers and already has competed twice in the post-season circus that has eluded Kyle. The National League

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Rookie of the Year and third-place finisher in the MVP voting, Corey is one of the game's rising talents, a muscular, wavy-haired heartthrob for America's teenage female population.

If a baseball general manager started a new team tomorrow and could pick any player to build around, he might take Corey, who has youth, plays a demanding defensive position, knocks the ball out of the park — and sells tickets and merchandise. He's a big deal, and he's going to get bigger.

"Corey can't go anywhere in L.A., without someone showing a camera in his face or someone wanting to shoot a video," Hubbard said. "I'm sure it's crazy for him."

Kyle Seager, right, stars as third baseman for the Seattle Mariners.




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Seattle Mariners' Kyle Seager gives one of his bats to a fan following the final baseball game of the season, against the Oakland Athletics on Oct. 2, 2016, in Seattle. — Associated Press photo.

Kyle will have plenty of stories to tell Crue and Remi when they're old enough.

One will involve a Christmas tournament basketball game in high school. It was Northwest Cabarrus vs. Charlotte Christian a dozen years ago. Kyle had a rather demanding defensive assignment.

"I was congratulating myself for playing great defense because I'd forced this guy a long way from the hoop," Kyle said. "But the problem was he kept making shots, no matter how far away he was."

He's still making shots. That Charlotte Christian guard was Stephen Curry, now the all-world bomber for the Golden State Warriors.

"That night went better for Steph than for me, but I feel better about it now that he's been MVP," Seager said. "I'm sure he doesn't remember me, but I'll never forget him. I held him under 30, so that's my claim to fame in basketball."

Seager also played against a Central Cabarrus whiz named Ish

Smith, now a Detroit Pistons guard.

“Getting to play against two NBA guys in high school — pretty cool,” Kyle said.

Kyle got an up-close-and-personal look at another teenager who would become a household name in the sports world. That one grew up in the same house in Kannapolis. Corey, 6½ years younger than Kyle, smashed 26 homers and 40 doubles in his first full big league season in 2016, while batting .308 and playing a remarkably smooth shortstop for a 6-foot-4, 215-pound masher.

Kyle, 12th in the American League MVP voting in 2016, is less spectacular, but he’s put up five straight consistent seasons at the plate. Considered a singles hitter when he broke into the majors in the summer of 2011, he’s fooled everyone. His long-ball totals have escalated each season — 20, 22, 25, 26, 30.



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The Seager brothers, Corey, Justin and Kyle, ready themselves to ambush other family members at their parents' home in Kannapolis. — Photo courtesy of Jody Seager.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Corey Seager, left, gets splashed by left fielder Scott Van Slyke after Seager hit three home runs during a game against the Atlanta Braves in Los Angeles on June 3, 2016. — Associated Press photo.

“Kyle and Corey are both superstars in my eyes,” Hubbard said. “It’s happened so fast for Corey. Five years ago, I was seeing him in gym class every day. Now he’s the National League Rookie of the Year. That’s unbelievable.”

Kyle knew all along Corey was bound for stardom. He knew he’d be a first-round pick out of high school, and he was. Corey had signed with South Carolina but never made it to a class. The \$2.35 million signing bonus offered by the Dodgers after the 2012 draft made certain of that.

“I remember getting called up to the big leagues in 2011,” Kyle said. “I learned great new drills, and I couldn’t wait to get home to share them with my brothers in the off-season. But then we’re doing those drills, and it didn’t take long to see that Corey — he was 17 then — had a better arm than me and was a lot quicker. I thought once we got in the batting cage, I could show him something, but he was hitting the ball harder than me. I was in the big leagues and my brother in high school was better. So I saw this coming. I’m extremely proud of Corey and thrilled he was Rookie of the Year, but it’s not like I’m surprised. I’ve been telling everyone for years he’d be the best in the family.”

Late last season in Miami, Corey launched his 25th homer on the

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same Saturday that Kyle clocked his 28th. Corey's blast gave the Kanapolis brothers a unique distinction. No set of major league brothers had ever reached the 25-homer plateau in the same season. Not the Boones. Not the Uptons. Not the Giambis. Not the DiMaggios. No one.

"To accomplish history like that as a family was a great feeling," Kyle said.

Jeff and Jody Seager, parents of the ball-playing brothers, were athletes. Their children are an extension of them. Jeff's game was baseball. Jody competed in softball, volleyball and track. Both graduated from Arlington High, near Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in 1977.

Jeff was a hard-hitting infielder who etched his name in the record books at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey. He had pro aspirations before a wrist injury discouraged scouts, but he got his education.

IBM transferred Jeff, a statistician, to North Carolina in 1985. Kanapolis will be eternally grateful.

**Young Ava, a student in the special education class of Jody Seager at W.R. Odell Elementary School, seems moon-eyed over Corey Seager, who plays shortstop for the Los Angeles Dodgers.**  
— Photo courtesy of Jody Seager.



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Seattle Mariners' Kyle Seager throws his bat after flying out to end the 10th inning against the Oakland Athletics on Oct. 1, 2016, in Seattle. — Associated Press photo.

The Seagers could write a how-to book on raising sports-obsessed children. Both are low drama. While their sons were stars, they were regular people who cheered for everyone on the team, kept the scorebook and sold peanuts in the concession stand. School came first for their kids. Baseball was next on the priority list, but other sports weren't banned. The

Seagers took thousands of swings growing up, but they also took their share of jumpers. All three boys were sweet shooters for Northwest Cabarrus. Who knows? Hoops may have prevented them from burning out on baseball.

"I learned a lot from watching how my parents dealt with everything," Kyle said. "I hope to do as well with my own kids."



Kyle Seager helped the Kannapolis Legion team win Area III championships and he helped Northwest Cabarrus reach the 3A state championship series in 2005.

“He was smart,” Hubbard said. “I remember we’re playing West Rowan, and Kyle comes up to me and said their pitcher was tipping his pitches. I hadn’t picked up on it, but he had. His next time up, he hits a laser off the wall, and then he’s out at second base grinning at me.”

There were summers and falls when Kyle played for the strong Dirtbags travel team. He competed alongside future major leaguers such as Tampa Bay’s Chris Archer and Cleveland’s Lonnie Chisenhall.

**Kannapolis Legion’s Kyle Seager in game with South Rowan on June 5, 2006.** — Photo by Jon C. Lakey.



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Northwest Cabarrus' Corey Seager slides into home and knocks the ball out of the glove of West Rowan's Matt Miller and was called safe during a game on Apr. 27, 2011. — Photo by Jon C. Lakey.



Kyle signed with UNC. His parents let interested major league teams know he'd go to college unless he was taken reasonably high in the 2006 draft. The Kansas City Royals were the most interested. There were calls as the draft unfolded — “Would Kyle sign if we take him in the sixth round?” — but the Seagers stuck to their plan.

Going undrafted out of high school proved no setback. Kyle excelled for three seasons at UNC as a high-average, doubles-stroking infielder. He made annual trips to the College World Series in Omaha on powerhouse clubs, and then it was time for pro scouts to give him a second look.

Seattle drafted him, mostly because the Mariners scouted UNC frequently to examine Dustin Ackley, the touted athlete Seattle selected with the No. 2 overall pick in the 2009 draft. Seattle's scouts may not have loved Seager, who had rapped only 17 homers in three years in Chapel Hill, but at least they liked him. They used a third-round pick, hopeful that Kyle had a future as a utility infielder.

Kyle surged past expectations in 2010 when he led the minor leagues with 192 hits, including 40 doubles and 14 homers for the High Desert Mavericks in advanced Class A ball.

“Fourteen homers, but I played that season in a hitter's paradise, where the wind howled out,” Kyle said modestly.

By the summer of 2011, Kyle was with the Mariners. He played in 53 games, rotating

among shortstop, second base and third base. He batted .258 and showed limited power. Seattle's backup catcher Josh Bard was nearing the end of a 10-year career in the majors, but he provided advice that changed Kyle's career — and maybe saved it.

“I knew I wasn't fast enough to keep playing shortstop in the majors,” Kyle said. “I asked Josh what I needed to do to stay in the league, and he told me I had to hit with more power. So I started concentrating on building myself up, getting stronger.”

When the 2012 season dawned, the Mariners were playing in Japan, and Kyle probably was an 0-for-8 away from being sent to Triple A. But a rash of injuries occurred. When Mike Carp got hurt diving in the outfield, third baseman Chone Figgins shifted to left field as his replacement. That left Seager to man third base — and he's never relinquished the position.

Bulked up and beefed up, he belted 20 homers in 2012, and the homers have kept coming. Last season, he walloped 30. Remember, this was a guy who never hit more than nine in a season in college or more than 14 in the minors.

“Hitting 30 was pretty special,” Kyle admitted.

He had 99 RBIs.

“I would've had 100, but a hit that would've knocked in the 100th run, struck an umpire,” Seager said, shaking his head. “I didn't think

much about it because we still had some games left, but then I stayed stuck on 99. Still, it was my best offensive season.”

It surely was. The folks who calculate WAR (Wins above Replacement) and factor in everything imaginable, list Kyle as the seventh-best player in baseball for 2016, so he's a much greater player than most people realize. Corey ranked 18th on that same list.

The three Seager brothers combine to play 460 or so games a year. Their parents, with double-stacked, 59-inch TV screens, watch almost every game. They can follow Corey and Kyle at the same time. They also watch Justin's minor league games on a laptop.

Kyle and Corey play late on the West Coast, but their parents still make it to their jobs — Jody, as a special education teacher, and Jeff as an information technology guy for a bank. The only unusual thing about them is that they get to watch their children at work.

That includes Justin, 24, who hit 13 homers last season and finished strong in Bakersfield, Calif. Conference co-player of the year his last year of college ball with the Charlotte 49ers, Justin was a 13th-round draft pick in 2013 by the Mariners.

“Justin is a phenomenal baseball player,” Hubbard said. “He works as hard as anyone. It's just a matter of him finding consistency, and maybe this will be his year. Like Kyle and Corey, he's not just a great player, he's a great person.” S





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After living in Chapel Hill for 11 and 10 years respectively, Kathryn Bauk and Adam Campbell thought they would have met everyone. They were surprised by how much they had in common in December of 2014 when they were introduced at a friend's Christmas party.

Kathryn and Adam were engaged a year later and married in Chapel Hill on June 18, 2016. The ceremony was at the Newman Catholic Student Center, and the bridal party and guests had a short walk across the street to

the Carolina Inn where the reception was held.

Guests sipped bourbon with Cheerwine rock candy in the beautiful Bryan Courtyard during the cocktail hour before dinner in the Hill Ballroom. The happy couple danced the night away surrounded by family, friends, an unusual wedding crasher - a dancing chicken who has attended all three of the Bauk weddings so far.

The day was perfect thanks to a clear Carolina blue sky.



# Power packs

Food for Thought keeps up with the changing faces of hunger.

*Written by* REBECCA RIDER | *Photography by* JON C. LAKEY



Chuck and Marge Karr deliver 62 bags of food to Overton Elementary School. In spring of 2008, a concerned mother started 'Backpack Buddies' to provide weekend meals to a handful of students. Today, the program has expanded into the non-profit Food For Thought, which reaches 650 students in 21 Rowan-Salisbury Schools.



Communities in Schools Student Support Specialist Fran Lescoe places a food bag in a black backpack in her office at Overton Elementary School. Backpacks like this one will be given out to students.

It takes two trips to get all the bags inside. Chuck and Marge Karr work in the cold, grabbing one in each hand out of the trunk of their green Volkswagen and loading it onto a wood and metal dolly.

A parent leaving the red doors of Overton Elementary pauses a moment to watch the two unload the mountain of plastic bags filled with canned vegetables, soups, crackers, fruit and pudding.

“That is a blessing right there,” she tells them.

The pile remaining inside the car fills the open space, even with the back seats folded down. Marge Karr said she was “flabbergasted” when she found out how many Rowan County children don’t have steady access to regular meals.

“I think we as Americans should be ashamed that we have so many children that are food insufficient,” she said.

The Karrs make the trip to Overton Elementary every Thursday, dropping off bags packed and loaded at Food for Thought’s warehouse space at Rowan

Helping Ministries. On Friday, just before the last bell sounds, 62 students will report to the office and receive a backpack with the food snug and safe inside.

It’s a dance that plays out in 21 schools across the county every week. And it started, as most things do, with a concerned mother.

In 2008, Amy Welch noticed many of her child’s classmates at Overton going hungry, and feared they lacked access to food outside of school.

“It bothered her and she couldn’t shake it,” said Carol Herndon, executive director of Food for Thought.

Welch began packing meal bags to last the children through the weekend. Back then, it was 10 children, and Welch worked out of her kitchen. Welch’s project soon flourished, growing into the non-profit Food for Thought, which this year served 650 students in 21



Tom Childress and Catherine Soderberg walk past pallets of canned foods as they fill plastic bags during a packing party at Rowan Helping Ministries.



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area schools.

Welch moved from Salisbury several years ago, but her legacy lives on in Food for Thought. Instead of a kitchen, the organization now operates out of a warehouse space in the basement of Rowan Helping Ministries' Robertson-Stanback Center.

The area, a bare concrete floor marked off with red tape, is a hub of activity as volunteers pace grooves around the perimeter, moving in a circle to pick up a bag, fill it and drop it off. Herndon checks each one, lifting it briefly to test its weight before tying it off with a neat knot.

"I've done this so much I can tell if it's over or under," she said.

Herndon, who formerly worked for Food Lion, is the organization's only paid employee. Everything else — the packing, the deliveries — is done by volunteers.

"Everything that happens in our work happens through the hands and feet of lots and lots of volunteers," Herndon said.

The space has been a lifesaver, allowing the organization to order food in bulk from Food Lion and to stage packing parties. It's also allowed Herndon to springboard Food for Thought into a period of rapid growth. When she joined three years ago, roughly 280 to 300 children took home a Food for Thought backpack. This year they've topped out at roughly 650, and Herndon said the warehouse space is becoming just a bit too small.

The organization is growing, but Herndon said she's never had a shortage of volunteers — and she's never had a group that didn't ask to come back.

Working with Food for Thought is a labor of love with immediate results.

"We can lift our heads and see that a warehouse full of grocery bags are gone by noon on Thursday and on their way to students," Herndon said.

It doesn't matter if volunteers are age 2, or age 84 — Herndon will find a job for them. And sometimes, they surprise her. Herndon recalled one occasion where a group of middle school students arrived to help pack. As Herndon walked the group through the process, one girl raised her hand.

"I just want to let you know I get one of these bags every week," she said. "But I want you to know that I'm not ashamed that I get a bag, and I'm proud to be here today so that I can help others the way so many others have helped me."

As she relays the story, Herndon tears up and has to pause to collect herself.

"There are moments where you wonder if



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all of this matters,” she said, “and this young, sweet girl reminded me that it matters a whole lot.”

Few volunteer opportunities have that level of tangible gratification.

But once the bags are out of the warehouse, it’s up to school liaisons to see that each child gets his or her backpack.

Fran Lescoe is one such liaison. She’s the Communities in Schools student support specialist at Overton, but she also gives out backpacks on Fridays, hauling each book bag off a hook and into a child’s waiting hands.

**Donna Beilfuss reaches into a tote to grab a pudding cup to place in the food bag.**

It’s not hard to spot the kids who are going hungry if you know what to look for, Lescoe said. She and others at Overton keep an eye out at breakfast — especially at the beginning of the year.

“They are shoving it in,” she said. “They are eating as fast as they can.”

But there are other indicators that Food for Thought trains its liaisons to look for.

Children who are going hungry may have frequent absences or illnesses. They may lack energy or the ability to focus, have poor grades or frequent behavior issues. They may self-isolate or wear the same clothes to school each day.

But the “face of hunger is changing,” Herndon said.

“In our world, hunger does not necessarily look like it used to,” she said.

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“It is by far the most rewarding work I’ve ever done.”

— Carol Herndon

It’s not just families who are out of work or down on their luck. Herndon explained that many children Food for Thought serves may live with both parents, who both have jobs. But by the time all the bills have been covered, funds are thin.

“I think some of the stereotypes that people have for hunger just don’t apply anymore,” she said.

So identifying students in need isn’t a just a checklist — it takes a personal relationship. And sometimes, the parents approach liaisons and ask to register their child.

At Overton, Lescoe tries to look out for the kids she knows need help. After a snow day, she calls them to her office for an extra meal.


“A lot of these kids have been out for days,” she said. “They’re starving.”

If a student hasn’t been registered with Food for Thought yet, she’ll walk over to a corner of

her office, packed with cans and dry goods, and pack them a bag herself.

The organization doesn’t have a solution for longer breaks like spring, summer and winter break — but it’s a problem Herndon and others are gnawing on. She said she’d love to arrange a program similar to Meals on Wheels, but that’s still far in the future. Meanwhile, Food for Thought does what it can — slipping flyers about the school system’s summer feeding program into each bag or encouraging churches to host Christmas meals.

While Food for Thought strives to reach as many hungry children as possible, the day the number of bags reaches zero will mean that hunger has been eliminated in Rowan County. And to Herndon, there’s no better cause to fight for.


“It is by far the most rewarding work I’ve ever done,” she said. 

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The 1847 Setzer School stills serves as a teaching classroom. The school sits in the woods near Horizons Unlimited.





# Rustic 'rithmetic

Setzer School has taken countless students  
back in time.

*Written by* REBECCA RIDER

*Photography by* JON C. LAKEY

**L**ike all great treasures, it was lost. For 68 years, the Setzer School stood alone and forgotten as the field around it grew into forest, and the children that once studied there grew old. It was the summer of 1960 when a former Salisbury Post reporter, Mack McKa, stumbled upon the overgrown building during a walk through the China Grove countryside. The article he wrote caught the attention of Claude J. Pickett, a teacher at Knox Junior High, Harold D. Isenberg, the school's principal, and J.H. Knox, then superintendent of Salisbury City Schools. McKa may not have quite realized the value of what he'd found — but they did.

Knox dug into his own pocket and purchased the building for \$150.

He was later reimbursed by the school board and spearheaded a community-driven fundraising campaign to relocate the school and stock it — but he gets the praise for that first leap of faith.

Over the years the people of Rowan County have leaped and leaped again, and Setzer School has always caught them.

"It's endearing to everyone," Amy Pruitt, executive director of Horizons Unlimited, said.

These days, the school sits on Horizons' land, and the science

*Story continues on page 68.*





Clockwise from top left: The headmaster's desk in front of the school house; small chalkboards are placed on the desks for students to use; second-grader Finley Hassenfritz sounds out the words listed in the remake of a primary school book on display at the old Setzer School; the fireplace keeps the room warm.

Opposite, from top: Teacher Kyle Whisenant dismisses the girls first; the old school sits in the woods; a photo of LSW Bost, the last headmaster of the one-room school.



center uses the historic building to teach students about the past. No one knows exactly when Setzer School opened its doors for the first time — it could have been 1839, or even earlier, in the 1820s. But local historians have determined it was in operation in the 1850s, and experience days are structured around that time period.

When it was built, Setzer was one of maybe 100 small county schools in the state, said Susan Waller, a former teacher who ran lessons in Setzer for more than 20 years.

And it was truly the heart of the community. Area farmers cut the logs for the walls, hauled the rocks for the chimney and filled in the cracks between the boards with chinking made from sand, clay and pig hair. And when the cold season arrived, when there was no planting or harvest, they sent their children to the school for a chance at an education.

Now, walking up the bowed wooden steps into the schoolroom is like walking through a door in time.

“You just get a sense of what it was like, I think,” Waller said.

There was something magical about it — about walking into the single room, feeling the chill of the shade, hearing the chatter of children and birds from outside and smelling the ashes from the fireplace. Waller said in her time at Horizons those who worked in Setzer could be identified by the smell of a wood fire.

“I always smelled of smoke,” she said. “The girls in the office called it ‘Eau de Setzer.’”

It’s been half a century since the school was pulled from the heart of China Grove and carted up the road to Salisbury, and it has worked its way into the lifeblood of the county.

“You can’t replicate it,” Pruitt said, “It’s the real deal.”

Over the years, every school child in Rowan County has come through Setzer, sitting in the straight wooden benches, scratching out arithmetic problems on old slates and flipping through the cloth-cover readers. During breaks in the lesson, students go outside, dressed in borrowed bonnets and aprons, to play with hoops or other toys from the time.

“We just re-created the day,” Waller said.

Pruitt frequently runs into grandparents who tell stories about how they once spent a day at the school.

“We have generations come back and ask if it’s still here,” she said.

Out back, Pruitt shows off a beech tree carved with the initials of generations of students. The long, dark wooden benches inside bear the same marks.

Waller and Pruitt estimate Setzer is one of the only schools of its kind in the state, if not the nation — a one-room schoolhouse of that age still being used for education.

“It apparently is quite unique,” Waller said.

As the school has aged, it has begun to show a few wrinkles — a sagging ceiling, some patchwork chinking. Last year Horizons “went around the block” searching for someone willing to help restore the building

piecemeal, while still keeping as much of the original as possible. They’re still looking, Pruitt said.

And while the building itself is irreplaceable, it’s the lessons learned inside that are truly priceless.

“(Students) need to understand the progression of time and how it changes our lives,” Waller said.

During her time as Setzer’s schoolmarm, Waller underscored each difference — from the way lessons were conducted to classroom rules. She made boys and girls sit on separate sides of the room, and told them they couldn’t play together during recess. She also made a point of showing off the classroom’s hickory switch.

“I never used it, but I let them know what it was there for,” she said.

It brought the past to life in a way no other experience could. Some schools would make a day of it. Waller remembers a teacher who would bring her students up a dirt track from Overton Elementary on a cold day of the year. The students were dressed in costume and carried metal pails that had been packed with fried chicken and sweet potatoes by the cafeteria staff.

Everyone — students and teachers — clamored to come back.

“Because they were living history,” Waller said. “They weren’t studying it, they were living it ... touching it, feeling it.”

It still holds true today.

“When those students go in there, they



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think they're in a different world," Pruitt said.

Waller would ask each student to make a list of the differences between Setzer School and their own, more modern classroom as they left for the day, and to talk to their parents and grandparents about what school was like when they were children.

"Reading a book is one thing," Waller said, "but seeing it and doing it is totally different. How can you appreciate what you've got if you don't know what you had before?"

Waller retired in 2003, but she said her time at the school is still bright and vivid.

"It doesn't fade from my memory much," she said.

Some days, when there wasn't a school group, Waller said she'd sneak down to Setzer anyway, "where the phones wouldn't ring and nobody would ask me stupid questions," to complete her work in front of a dying fire.

"I loved every minute of it," she said. **S**



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Gary Stoats, from Franklinville, cleans off his motorcycle during last year's Charlotte Concerned Bikers Association bike show and swap meet at the Rowan County Fairgrounds. This year's event is March 25-26. — Photo by Josh Bergeron.

# March 2017

Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

**FEB. 23-25 MARCH 2-4**  
**'The Diary of Anne Frank'**

• *Lee Street theatre*

7:30 nightly. Presented by St. Thomas Players and Center for Faith & the Arts. Based upon "Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl." Anne Frank is a Jewish girl who has to go into hiding during World War II to avoid the Nazis. See the story that unravels from her diary entries during two years in hiding.

For more information: [www.leestreet.org](http://www.leestreet.org), or 704-310-5507.

**MARCH 7**  
**Chapter Chats Book Club**

• *Rowan Public Library, Rockwell*  
A weekly book club for teens 14-17, primarily for participants with developmental or intellectual disabilities, but all are welcome. Chapter Chats meets in the East Branch

Meeting Room at 5 p.m. every Tuesday.

**MARCH 9**  
**'Our State's Finest'**

• *Keppel Auditorium, Catawba College*  
7:30 p.m. See North Carolina's finest musicians, the North Carolina Symphony, perform under the direction of David Glover. For more information: [salisburySymphonync.weebly.com](http://salisburySymphonync.weebly.com), or 704-637-4314.

## MARCH 11

### Through the Looking Glass

• *Lee Street theatre*

7 p.m.-midnight. Center for Faith & the Arts' annual gala. \$75 per person. Ticket includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, entertainment and open bar. Entertainment by Rowan Youth Symphony and Catawba Danceworks, with scenes from "Alice in Wonderland." For more information, go to [www.faithart.org](http://www.faithart.org), or call 704-647-0999.

## MARCH 14

### Meals on Wheels BBQ

• *First Presbyterian Church*

A fundraiser for Meals on Wheels, 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. All proceeds to benefit Meals on Wheels of Rowan County. Help the organization feed the need. For more information: [mowrowan@charlotte.twcbc.com](mailto:mowrowan@charlotte.twcbc.com).

## MARCH 14

### 'Cycles of Life'

• *Rowan Museum*

7 p.m. Presentation of the History Club. Tim Moore will speak about the importance of bicycles through history, with discussion to follow. Light refreshments offered. Free and open to the public. The Rowan Museum is located at 202 N. Main St.

## MARCH 16-18, 19, 22-25

### 'Sister Act'

• *Meroney Theater*

7:30 nightly, except for March 19, which is 2:30 p.m. "Sister Act" is a feel-good musical comedy smash based on the 1992 Whoopi Goldberg film that has audiences jumping to their feet. For more information: [www.piedmontplayers.com](http://www.piedmontplayers.com), or 704-633-5471.

## MARCH 18

### Bloom Industrial Gala

• *N.C. Transportation Museum*

This fundraiser for Salisbury Academy will be held in the renovated Back Shop area of the museum, 411 S. Salisbury Ave., Spencer. For more information, contact Development



Chatham County Line performs last year during a show at the Lee Street theatre. This year's show is March 24. — Photo by Josh Bergeron.

Director Tracey Baird at [tbaird@salisburyacademy.org](mailto:tbaird@salisburyacademy.org).

## MARCH 22-24

### Student Art Show

• *Salisbury Civic Center*

Sponsored by the Carolina Artists Guild. Students of Rowan-Salisbury Schools display their works in this annual exhibition. The Guild will be hanging the show March 22. A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. March 23, and awards will be handed out later in the evening. The public viewing will continue the morning of March 24, before works are taken down that afternoon.

## MARCH 24

### Chatham County Line

• *Lee Street theatre*

Part of the Lee Street Concert Series, live performance, 7:30 p.m. Chatham County Line members began their musical lives as root rockers before heading down the path of traditional bluegrass. For more information: [www.leestreet.org](http://www.leestreet.org), or 704-310-5507.

## MARCH 25

### Mt. Hope Church 5K Run for Missions

• *Salisbury Community Park*

5K Missions Run starts at 9 a.m. Fun Run starts at 10 a.m. Proceeds to benefit Mt. Hope Church Missions. For more information: [www.salisburyrowanrunners.org](http://www.salisburyrowanrunners.org).

## MARCH 25-26

### CBA Spring Swap Meet & Bike Show

• *Rowan County Fairgrounds*

This annual CBA swap meet and bike show attracts over 5,000 bikers. This is the chance to see a unique array of motorcycles and cars. Lots of accessories and car parts will also be available for sale. Doors open at 10 a.m. For more information: [www.charlottecba.org](http://www.charlottecba.org), or 704-577-1546.

## MARCH 30-APRIL 1

### 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee'

• *Florence Busby Corriher Theatre*

A Catawba College production. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves. At least the losers get a juice box. Shows begin at 7:30. For more information: [www.catawba.edu/theatre](http://www.catawba.edu/theatre).

## MARCH 30-31, APRIL 1

### Voices from the Margin


• *Lee Street theatre*

7:30 nightly. The Covenant Community Connection with Center for Faith & the Arts and Lee Street theatre present "Thin Lines Between Blue Lives and Black Lives."

## MARCH 30-APR. 2, APR. 6-8

### 'Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing'

• *The Norvell Theater*

Based on the popular title by perennial favorite Judy Blume, "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" is a humorous look at family life and the troubles that can only be caused by a younger sibling. For more information: [www.piedmontplayers.com](http://www.piedmontplayers.com), or 704-633-5471. 



# Girls on the Run 5K

The Girls on the Run 5k, presented by Novant Health, was held on a freezing morning at Catawba College. The 5k was the culminating event for the nearly 500 elementary and middle school girls from Rowan and Iredell counties who had participated in the program involving girls in fitness, dynamic discussions, community service and helping them recognize their inner strength and what makes them unique. The run's finish line was just the beginning.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Left: Dani Parks, Taylor Parks, Katie Parnell and Madison Garcia were representing Elizabeth Hanford Dole Elementary.

Below: Lisa Lucas and Jaidin Smith.

Below left: Mikayla Ortiz and Venus Eaborn also were representing Hanford Dole Elementary.



Kendall and Hillary Semenske.





Right: Representing Cornerstone Christian Academy in Statesville were Emma Cone, Jennifer Hobbs, Ashley Mahaffey, Charlotte Miller, Gabby Eccles and Kimberly Eccles.

Below: Jenna Joubert, who attends Woodleaf Elementary, with her dad, Brett.



Right: Lindsey Beaver, Ava Scarborough and Madison Beaver are students at Enochville Elementary.

Far right: Before the run, Olivia Kyles, right, sprays some purple color into the hair of Vivian Goforth.



Above: Muhammad Wilson, Abdul Wilson, Ibrahim Wilson, Hasinah Sargeant and Mariam Wilson.

Left: Kasey Kerley, dressed as an elf, runs with little Ansley Greene during a Fun Run around the Catawba College track.



Above: Nicco Robinson and Joanne Stewart.

Right: Pete Prunkl carries a sign, and Elaine Howle holds the American flag as they march with others on the South Church Street segment.



Several hundred people participated in a March for Love in downtown Salisbury, giving residents a chance to come together in love, unity and a celebration of diversity. It was among several “love” demonstrations happening statewide during the same day in December. Songs from Catawba College students Destiny Stone and Mia Shuster, along with remarks from Dr. Regina Dancy of Hood Theological Seminary, were part of the day.

— Photos by Emily Ford

# March for Love

Right: Rainey Dunham, Clara Brown and Nellie Brown

Below: T.J. Wooten and Destiny Stone





Above: Zara Huffman, Olivia Cunningham and Ava Holtzman. Left: Bonnie Duckworth, the Rev. Robert Black, John Hartpence, Sarah Hartpence, Luke Hamaty and Fle Griffith, all of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, stand with the Rev. Carol Hallman of the United Church of Christ.



Above: Thomasina Paige and Al Heggins

Below: Alexis Singleton, Mia Cowan, Camry Singleton, Toni Cowan and Renee Cowan



Left: Aleciya Rucker, Wesley Hickling, Reshaud Brown, Mia Schuster and Sarah Smith

Below: Evelyn, Sam and Sascha Medina





Salisburians rang in 2017 with the annual New Year's Eve celebration at the Bell Tower. The night included music from Live House and DJ Doublebass, food vendors, games, activities, and a live, big-screen feed from Times Square in New York. For the first time in many years and because of recent restoration work, celebrants were able to ring the Bell Tower's bell at midnight.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Above: Live House performed from the Bell Tower Park gazebo during the New Year's Eve celebration. Above left: Adrienne and Walter James.

# NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE BELL TOWER



Left: Sheila Dobson and Vivian Vess. Middle: Miles Abramson and Robin Rogers dance to the live music at the Bell Tower New Year's Eve celebration. Right: Laura Littrean and Charles Gray.



Left: In front of the purple-lit Bell Tower, Roy Freeze holds granddaughter Aryanna Bailey.



Right: Yazmin Montes, Victor Zavaleta, Martha Dovey, Jesus Montes and John Galvez.



The sound of brass rules the night.

The Rowan Big Band All-Stars light up a number.

# ROWAN BIG BAND ALL STARS

The Rowan Big Band All Stars, an 18-piece ensemble playing a wide variety of music under the direction of Dr. Ron Turbyfill, recently had a sold-out audience rocking in the aisles at Lee Street theatre.

— Photos by Len Clark and Jon Taylor



Left: Trombone player Chris Wilson of Concord.

Right: Singers Carol Harris, Leslie Rich, Bill Bucher and Randy Overcash do their pre-show warm-ups.





Daniel and Nicole Holmes Matangira (left) pose with Elaine Spalding (right), president of the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce, after winning the Chamber Champion Small Business of the Year Award for their family business, Matangira Recycling.



Attendees enjoyed their dinner while listening to Tim Norris, new chair of the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce board, talk about the board's priorities during the 91st annual Chamber Gala.



Alisha Byrd, Chris Sifford, Alex Clark and Councilman Kenny Hardin.

# Chamber of Commerce GALA

More than 300 business and community leaders attended the 91st annual Rowan County Chamber of Commerce gala and awards ceremony at the Livingstone College Hospitality Center. Novant Health Rowan Medical Center served as the title sponsor, and the gala was held in cooperation with RowanWORKS Economic Development and the Rowan County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

— Photos by Amanda Raymond



Above: Bettina Dickert, Elaine Spalding, Denise Hallett and Michael Hallett.

Right: Melanie Denton, Nick Means, Kyndall Moore, Sandy Moore, Henry Alexander, Aaron Kaklamanos, Starling Kaklamanos.





A ribbon-cutting and holiday open house were held at the Pregnancy Support Center, located at 847 S. Main St., Salisbury. Visitors were able to tour the completely remodeled center, which Executive Director Shari Evans described as “a brand new facility with a brand new vision.” Services are offered free to clients, and they include such things as pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, education on abortion, abstinence counseling, material assistance for mothers and babies, parenting education and referrals.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Above: Executive Director Shari Evans prepares to cut the ribbon at an open house for the newly renovated Pregnancy Support Center. Beside her, at left is Ashley Currin, Bonny Valentine, Leeah Morgan (little girl), Kayla Eagle and Melodie Fleming. Rusty Shuping is the Santa Claus in back with Randy Meeks to his right. Above left: Joan Palmer and Shari Evans.

# Pregnancy Support Center



B.J. Duncan, Ashley Duncan and Tammy Ellis.



Above: Nancy Fielding, Kathy Huenink, Bonny Valentine and Sandra Wall. Right: Kayla Eagle, Ken Clark, Chris Shelton and Randy Meeks.





Photo by Wayne Hinshaw



Photo by Wayne Hinshaw

Above: Erin Brockovich waves to the crowd with Dr. John Wear, executive director of the Catawba College Center for the Environment.

Left: Erin Brockovich speaks at Catawba College.

# Erin Brockovich

visits Center for the Environment

Famed consumer advocate Erin Brockovich was a Catawba College speaker and also a dinner guest of the advisory board of the college's Center for the Environment. Guests included Ken Cook, president and cofounder of Environmental Working Group; Heather White, president and CEO of Yellowstone Organizations; Marty Pickett, managing director of Rocky Mountain Institute; Larry Shirley, chairman of Interstate Renewal Energy Council; Bill Ross, former secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Kacey Hoover, strategic relations manager with N.C. Sustainable Energy Association; and Wanda Urbanska, writer and host-producer of "Simple Living with Wanda Urbanska."



Carrie and Paul Bardinas, Greg Alcorn, Erin Brockovich and Nicole Magryta.

Photo by Katie Farrell



Near the front, Wanda Urbanska, John Wear and Lane Wallace lead the reception crowd in greeting Erin Brockovich.



Above: John Wear, Heather White, Lane Wallace and Erin Brockovich.

Left: Ed and Susan Norvell with Susan and Hayes Smith.



Right: Fred Stanback and Meg Kluttz Dees.

Left: Larry Shirley, Brien Lewis and Jay Dees.

Photos by Katie Farrell



# A diamond that shines

Past generations made Salisbury unique; we must keep it going

Salisbury is the place for me. Although I spent most of my growing up years in Fayetteville, Salisbury has always been like home. I lived here for a few years as a young child and visited my grandparents often.

I remember the tradition of coming each year to see the holiday parade. My grandfather would put a ladder up in the front window of the Maynard Music Company on North Main Street so I could sit atop it in anticipation of seeing Santa Claus. And I recall our visits to Bernhardt Hardware to see the wonderful mechanical Christmas window display.

I cherish the memories of spending the afternoon at Dan Nicholas Park to watch as they dug and filled the lake and in later years attending the Autumn Jubilee.

In 1984, I decided to make Salisbury my home.

I have always known Salisbury was unique — life here is special, as well as the people and the places. Salisbury is a community that values quality-of-life opportunities for its residents.

I love to meet and visit with newcomers to our community to find out why they chose Salisbury as home. They tell me it is because of the arts and culture, the climate, the close proximity to the mountains and the coast, the historical and architectural landscape, or for all these reasons.

Those who are new to Salisbury soon re-

alize that they are welcomed and there are many ways to become involved. There are options for volunteering, supporting events, joining clubs or taking classes. Sometimes those opportunities lead to more.

I have always had a deep love for art, so it was only natural I found myself volunteering with Waterworks Visual Arts Center, first helping with special events, later serving on the Board of Directors. During my tenure on the board, we were raising funds for the new art center. I saw firsthand another fine example of community support, raising funds to renovate what was once an automobile dealership into a state-of-the-art art museum.

Waterworks, a nationally accredited art museum, has an amazing 58-year history. It serves as an important cultural resource for our town, providing extraordinary visual arts experiences and arts programming.

Salisbury has more to offer than most cities its size. We owe that to the vision and perseverance of the groups of like-minded

individuals who came together during the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. They envisioned a town of opportunity, prosperity and culture.

These incredible visionaries were able to establish all the amenities you would find in a larger metropolitan area. They were the founders of a history museum, a sportswriters and sportscasters hall of fame, an art gallery, a performance theater,

a symphony, a shelter for displaced individuals, a 300-acre park, a historic preservation organization, and the list goes on.

Their generosity of time and money also contributed to the development and improvement of organizations and facilities that met the humanitarian and recreational needs of the community.

Today we continue to help sustain these organizations while adding to our cultural fabric.

We are the beneficiaries of this rich cultural heritage. We all have a part to play in preserving our inheritance and keeping it alive for future generations. We need to impart to our children and our children's children a strong sense of pride in Salisbury and a tradition of giving back.

Salisbury is the place, a diamond that shines bright! 

*Anne Scott Clement is executive director of Waterworks Visual Arts Center.*



by  
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