

April 2019

SALISBURY

the magazine

BRIDAL SWEET

Barnhardts' Lady Bird Farm
also home for weddings

Greater good

Paul Fisher finds he's part
of miracles making Salisbury,
Rowan better

Blind ambition

Loss of sight doesn't deter
Catawba swim coach

Life in a bowl

Build a terrarium and add
to your home's decor



POWLES STATON
FUNERAL HOME

Veteran Appreciation Day



Thursday, April 18, 2019
11 am until 2 pm

at Powles Staton Funeral Home
913 West Main Street ★ Rockwell NC 28138

Free lunch

Register for Door Prizes

We encourage you to bring a worn American flag for our **Retire Your Flag With Honor** program to honor a veteran during cremation and also a new and unwrapped toy for **Operation Toy Soldier** that supports our military and their families.

RETIRE YOUR FLAG
THE DIGNIFIED WAY
WHILE HONORING A VETERAN

OPERATION
Toy Soldier.com

POWLES
STATON
FUNERAL HOME



704-279-7241
PowlesFuneralHome.com

 **Veterans**
Funeral Care™

PUBLISHER -Greg Anderson
greg.anderson@salisburythemagazine.com

EDITOR -Mark Wineka
mark.wineka@salisburythemagazine.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR-Andy Mooney
andy.mooney@salisburythemagazine.com

PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR- Jon C. Lakey
jon.lakey@salisburythemagazine.com

EDITORIAL

Josh Bergeron
josh.bergeron@salisburythemagazine.com

Andie Foley
andie.foley@salisburythemagazine.com

Liz Moomey
liz.moomey@salisburythemagazine.com

Deirdre Parker Smith
deirdre.smith@salisburythemagazine.com

Shavonne Walker
shavonne.walker@salisburythemagazine.com

ADVERTISING

Joel Honeycutt
joel.honeycutt@salisburythemagazine.com

Karen Hurst
karen.hurst@salisburythemagazine.com

Malynda Peeler
malynda.peeler@salisburythemagazine.com

Shanna Pruett
shanna.pruett@salisburythemagazine.com

Jason Slusser
jason.slusser@salisburythemagazine.com

PRODUCTION

Susan Baker
susan.baker@salisburythemagazine.com

Lisa Jean Humphrey
lisa.humphrey@salisburythemagazine.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Tim Coffey, Elizabeth Cook,
Sharon Forthofer, Gene Krueger,
Samuel Motley and Susan Shinn Turner

Project Manager -Len Clark
len.clark@salisburythemagazine.com

On the web:
www.salisburythemagazine.com

On Facebook:
www.facebook.com/salisburythemagazine

To subscribe
call 704-797-4213 or go online at
salisburythemagazine.com

Salisbury the Magazine
P.O. Box 4639
Salisbury, NC 28145-4639

Value \$3.99
Published 9 times / year

Salisbury Dental Care

Efthimios Koveos, DMD

Cosmetic, Implant & Reconstructive Dentistry

704-630-6600

New Patients Are Welcome!

- Free Consultations & 2nd Opinions
- Dental Implant Surgery & Restorations “A to Z”
- Cerec- Same Day Crown Technology
- Mini Implants for Snap in Dentures
- Invisalign/ Clear Braces
- Sleep Apnea Diagnosis & Treatment
- Teeth Whitening/ Bleaching
- Cosmetic Fillings & Smile Makeovers
- Custom made Sports Mouthguards
- All-On-4 Bridge



Efthimios Koveos, DMD

“We pride ourselves in dental excellence!”

Salisbury Dental Care
480 Jake Alexander Blvd. West
Salisbury, NC 28147

704-630-6600
rowdental.com
SalisburyDentalCare1@gmail.com

Bare
FURNITURE
CO.
China Grove



simplyamish



24

Rustic, but elegant

Lady Bird Farm proves to be
place for weddings, family

by ELIZABETH COOK

36

Team player

Paul Fisher finds he's part of
miracles making Salisbury,
Rowan better

by SUSAN SHINN
TURNER

46

On a small scale

Build a terrarium and create
your own indoor garden

by MARK WINEKA

FEATURES

..... April 2019

On the cover: Tommy and Lindsey Barnhardt operate Lady Bird Farm, a wedding and event venue just outside of Rockwell. **On this page:** Michelle Pentoney, owner of Hive in Salisbury, creates a terrarium using soil, sand, rocks and a few small plants.

— Jon C. Lakey photos



DEPARTMENTS

12

IN EVERY ISSUE

Editor's Letter p.7 | Through the Lens p.8 | Bookish p.9 | Rowan Originals p.10
 The Scene p.72 | Events Calendar p.80 | Salisbury's the Place p.82

THE ARTS

12 **In the right direction**

Brad Taylor knows his way around wood

FOOD

18 **Pop-ular snack**

Laurie and Coleman Wilson find a lot of people like kettlecorn

WELLNESS

56 **Sight unseen**

Blind Catawba College coach listens for patterns from his swimmers

REMINISCE

64 **Thanks for the memories**

Through folk art, Kepley found town of his childhood flooding back to him



INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Auto Xpress	43
Bare Furniture.	4
Barnhardt Jewlery	69
Blue Bay Restaurant	34
Cabarrus Eye	71
Carolina Cremation	2
F&M Bank.	17
Godley's Garden	55
Godleys	55
Griffin, Cathy - Century 21	23
J.A. Fisher.	71
Jayne Helms Group	45
Landis Plumbing.	71
Laurels, The	62
Marie Leonard-Hampton	45
Medicine Shoppe.	42
Merrell Family Dentistry.	62
NC Transportation Museum.	35
North Hills Christian School	71
Oak Park Retirement	54
Organ Lutheran Church	55
Ralph Bakers Shoes	61
Rowan Animal Hospital	63
Rowan-Kannapolis ABC Board.	63
Salisbury Dental Care.	3
Salisbury Emporium	45
Salisbury Motor Company	83
Salisbury Orthopaedic Assoc.	84
Salisbury Symphony	68
Salisbury Therapeutic Massage	45
Simply Good.	45
Slim Solutions.	68
Stout Heating & Air	70
Thrivent Financial	61
Timeless Wigs.	45
Transit Damage Freight	60
Trinity Oaks.	44
Windsor Gallery	70
Yatawara Gynecology, Wellness.	69

A humble Paul Fisher says it's all about miracles

Whenever Paul Fisher visits the original F&M Bank building in Granite Quarry, he's like a kid in a toy store.

The F&M chairman emeritus loves cranking the handle of the old Master Safe, which looks more like a Civil War cannon than a money repository. He makes note of the old typewriters, telephones, cash-counting machines and the leather bag in which he used to transport payroll monies.

A framed poster-like print of the bank's 1938 calendar hangs on one of the walls. It shows a woman fishing from a rock, wearing pants and appearing quite sporting in the rest of her attire.

"That's a little forward for that time," Fisher weighs in.

Fisher reaches into a wire basket and pulls out a copy of the original stock certificate for two shares sold to his father in October 1915. Fisher's father went to work for F&M in 1914 and led the institution up until his death 50 years later. Then it was Paul's turn and now his son Steven's.

On a recent visit to the original bank, Fisher points out that where I am sitting was the spot for a pot-bellied stove.

The restored 1909 building, still used for stockholders' and board meetings, also remains the place where the 81-year-old Fisher leads orientation classes for new F&M employees. During those sessions, Fisher hammers home the importance of high ethics and morals, confidentiality, team play, 110 percent effort and battling tough competition.

In addition, he gives examples of how the bank has helped its customers and, in turn, how those customers often have helped the community pull off miracles — things such as building the Saleeby-Fisher YMCA in eastern Rowan County, the new Rowan Helping Ministries building in Salisbury or the Oglesby Community Center in Granite Quarry.

"Miracles" is a word Fisher uses frequently in looking back at those efforts and thinking about the personal sacrifices people

have made to better the community overall.

Photographer Jon Lakey and I accompanied Fisher that particular day as he was helping us take pictures to go along with our feature story on the important role Fisher has often held during the years in raising (and contributing) money for many of our city and county's big projects.

In this issue, Susan Shinn Turner has written a terrific story on those efforts, though Fisher was a bit apprehensive about taking credit or having a story that put him too much in the spotlight.

Again, he's a team player and dispels any notion that he is a "master fundraiser."

All the community projects Fisher has been involved in, he says, have needed a miracle in the beginning to jumpstart things, a miracle in the middle to keep it going and a miracle at the end, or in the final hour, to bring it home and make it happen.

Fisher drove us to the Saleeby-Fisher YMCA in eastern Rowan County, and we stopped inside the lobby to take in the

handsome wall plaques recognizing the people who gave money toward making this Y a reality.

Fisher spoke of all the kitchen-table meetings he and others on his fundraising committee did in that campaign and all the miracles involved. The spirit of generosity was reflected in one of the quotes at the top from William T. McElroy:

"The best of life is made up not of the things we get, but of the things we give."

Thank goodness we were given Paul Fisher. **S**



Mark Wineka,
Editor, Salisbury the Magazine



Lights on these steps facing Caldwell Street give a handsome glow to historic Salisbury High School.

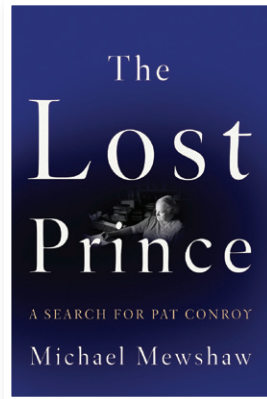
Friend takes closer look at Conroy

Catering, spies, sci-fi also on menu

"The Lost Prince: A Search for Pat Conroy"

By Michael Mewshaw

This offering examines the life of Mewshaw's longtime friend Pat Conroy and his classic novels, "The Prince of Tides" and "The Great Santini." Conroy was America's poet laureate of family dysfunction. A larger-than-life character and the author of popular classics, Conroy was remembered by everybody for his energy, his exuberance and his self-lacerating humor. Mewshaw's book is an intimate memoir of his friendship with Conroy, one that involves their families and those days in Rome when they were both young — when Conroy went from being a popular regional writer to an international bestseller. Family snapshots beautifully illustrate that time.



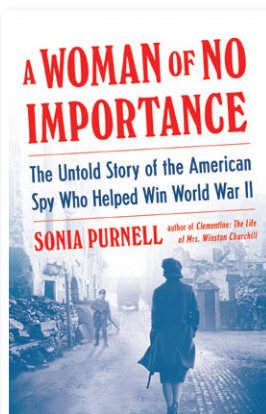
"Lost Roses"

By Martha Hall Kelly

This historical novel centers on Eliza, the mother of Caroline Ferriday, the real-life heroine of Kelly's bestselling "Lilac Girls." As Russia's imperial dynasty begins to fall, Eliza tries to help White Russian families find refuge as they flee the revolution.

"A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II"

By Sonia Purnell



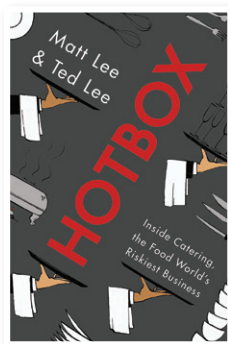
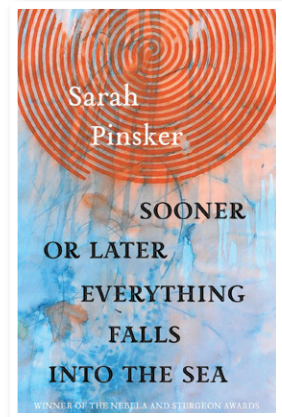
Part of a minitrend of books about woman spies in WWII, Purnell's tells of Virginia Hall, a prosthetic-legged American who spied for the British in occupied France, reporting on enemy troop movements, recruiting and training Resistance fighters and blowing up bridges. In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: "She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her." Hall, a Baltimore socialite, talked her way into Special Operations Executive, the spy organization dubbed

Winston Churchill's "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare." She became the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and helped to light the flame of the French Resistance, revolutionizing secret warfare as we know it.

"Sooner or Later, Everything Falls Into the Sea"

By Sarah Pinsker

This is one of the most anticipated sci-fi collections of recent years. Pinsker has shot like a star across the firmament with stories nominated for multiple awards and Sturgeon and Nebula award wins. The baker's dozen stories gathered here (including a new, previously unpublished story) turn readers into travelers to the past, the future and explorers of the weirder points of the present. The journey is the thing as Pinsker weaves music, memory, technology, history, mystery, love, loss and even multiple selves on generation ships and cruise ships, on highways and high seas, in murder houses and treehouses. They feature runaways, fiddle-playing astronauts and retired time travelers; they are weird, wired, hopeful, haunting and deeply human. They are often described as beautiful, but Pinsker also knows that the heart wants what the heart wants — and that is not always right, or easy.



"Hotbox: Inside Catering, the Food World's Riskiest Business"

By Matt Lee and Ted Lee

The Lee Brothers have visited Salisbury more than once with their cool Southern cookbooks. This latest is described in Publisher's Weekly: "The Lee brothers ('The Lee Bros. Southern Cookbook') pull back the curtain on the catering world, an often-dismissed arm of the culinary industry denounced for its 'rubber chicken and dry salmon,' in this captivating tell-all." Whether they're dashing through black-tie fundraisers, celebrity-spotting at a Hamptons cook-out, or following a silverware crew at 3 a.m. in a warehouse in New Jersey, the Lee brothers guide you on a romp from the inner circle — the elite team of chefs using little more than their wits and Sterno to turn out lamb shanks for 800 — to the outer reaches of the industries that facilitate the most dazzling galas. You'll never attend a party — or entertain on your own — in the same way after reading this book.

So how did Bill Godley come to have his highfalutin middle name, Vanderbilt? The family story goes that his great-grandmother's sister married George William Vanderbilt's brother.

You'll have to work that relationship out on your own, but it led to William Vanderbilt Godley Jr.'s being born in Ringoes, New Jersey, some six decades ago.

Today, when it comes to landscaping, gardening and a wealth of knowledge about them, Godley has enjoyed Vanderbilt-like success in Rowan County. His Godley's Garden Center and Nursery has been in business almost 30 years at 2281 Statesville Blvd.

Depending on the season, Godley's employs 16 to 22 people, and many Rowan Countians return to the garden center regularly for mulch, seed, fertilizer, trees and shrubs, flowers, vegetable plants, and all kinds of inside and outside decor.

Godley's also specializes in commercial and residential landscape design.

After high school, Bill Godley headed to the South, hoping in part to walk on with Catawba College's baseball team. His Catawba baseball career did not last long, but he graduated in 1976 with a degree in business management.

Godley already was working for Rufty's Garden Shop while in school, and in all, he spent 15 years with Rufty's before striking out on his own. Even though Godley's Garden Center opened a week before Hurricane Hugo hit in September 1989, Godley shook off the ominous beginning and never looked back.

Godley and his wife, Peggy, live in an almost 100-year-old farmhouse in Woodleaf that overlooks Third Creek. They have three grown children, Sara, Mary and Billy, and two grandchildren, Henry and John.

Salisbury the Magazine recently caught up with Godley, a Rowan Original, for a quick Q&A:



Garden guru

Spring has arrived, so Bill Godley knows he'll be busy.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

Q. *I imagine spring is the busiest time of year at your garden center. What's the one, two or maybe even three questions or statements you'll hear 100 times this season?*

No. 1: Why did my plant die? No. 2: Are you open and when do you close? No. 3: How much is this or that? No. 4: How much water does this plant or lawn need?

How were you drawn into knowing so much about plants and landscaping?

While in high school in New Jersey, I worked for a conifer nursery. When I moved South, a opportunity (arose) to work part-time for the Rufty Co. at the Garden Shop. I worked there from 1974-1989. I learned so much, and it just came easy for me. It also has helped being a member of the N.C. Nursery Association (landscape/irrigation) for many years. In keeping up with my pesticide and individual landscape contractor licenses, there have been many classes to attend and gain a wealth of knowledge about our industry. Keeping your certification updated allows one to stay on top of the current trends in horticulture.

What things combined to make you stay in Rowan County and establish a long-term business here?

A commitment to serve the community that has and is supporting us. We have a fantastic customer base, and we are truly blessed. Raising a family here has been a blessing, also.

What is the best piece of advice you could give someone who wants a beautiful lawn and/or landscape this spring and summer?

Well, commitment to keep it up. We live in a temperate zone that can be inconsistent. Drainage. Proper soil pH. Water only when needed. Feed at the right time. Insect, weed, fungus control. There is something to do almost every month with the landscape and turf.

Hands down, what will be your biggest selling item at the garden center this spring?

Color!!! Veggies!!! And everything related to the planting of them.

What do you do for fun? What are some of your outside interests?

Spending time with my family — grandkids. Fishing. Golf. Reading — study of the Bible. Study of the Civil War. My wife, Peggy, has done research on this (the Civil War). Both of our families have relatives who served for both North and South.

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

I get a lot of adult stimulation during my week, and I am a bit reserved when not at work. I need down time by myself.

Who had the biggest influence on your life and why?

My parents. Dad was committed to hard work and to his family. Mom had a compassion and love for her children. When I played high school baseball, we traveled in central and northern New Jersey, and many times my mom would be the only fan. I was very proud of her support. Oliver and Nell Rufty — when I worked for the Garden Shop while going to Catawba College — (taught me) so much about commitment, hard work and customer service. My wife, Peggy, has to put up with me and the sacrifices we made to operate our business. She is a true blessing.

If you have a favorite show on television, what is it?

“NCIS.” Shark Tank.” History movies.



What musician or group of musicians would you definitely pay to see in concert?

Pink Floyd. Bruce Springsteen. Fleetwood Mac. Yes. I have been to many concerts years ago, and the one I have missed is Pink Floyd.

What two foods are usually in your fridge or pantry?

We do Blue Apron twice a week and enjoy the dishes that we would never have fixed. It's very interesting to watch it develop, as well as taste. Other than that, Italian, greens and chicken dishes.

If you could go back and talk to a younger Bill Godley, say a 21-year-old Bill Godley, what advice would you give him?

Well! When I was a junior at Catawba, our business administration professor, Millard Wilson, would have guest speakers. Ralph Ketner would visit our classes a couple times a year. The first time he came, he told the class, “I know most of you don't have any spare money, but if you do, consider buying Food Town stock.” I was living off campus and working 30 to 40 hours a week and did not have spare money. I called my dad and told him about Mr. Ketner's program. Well, he bought a few shares, and after many years of stock splits and opportunities, he did very well. You can't look back, but that would be the advice I would give. **S**



True direction

From duck boats to cutting boards, woodworker Brad Taylor finds his north.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

THE ARTS

By day, Brad Taylor toils as a mild-mannered, Clark Kent-type of science teacher at China Grove Middle School.

But at night, on weekends and during the summer, Taylor becomes the Superman of woodworking.

When he's not building a new duck boat, Taylor is making cutting boards, serving trays and other straight-from-his-woodshop gifts that he sells through his website and at places such as the Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte, Autumn Jubilee in Rowan County or the Azalea Festival in Wilmington.

Taylor also has started producing what he calls memento boards. With a high-dollar laser engraver in his basement, he scans cherished items — say a grandmother's recipe for cookies or a boy's first hunting license — and etches them into his attractive pieces of wood.

Yes, Taylor knows his way around all kinds of wood, from cherry, walnut, sycamore, ash, oak, black gum and hickory to more exotic varieties such as Bolivia rosewood, African teak, bubinga, hormigo, katalox and purple heart.

Maybe it's the teacher in him, but Taylor peppers his website or the backs of his business cards with inspirational quotes, many directional in nature, such as "Find your north."


He also likes a Ralph Waldo Emerson quote that says, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

The sayings meld with his newest enterprise's name — Compass Woodworks Co.

With each of the cutting, bread and cheese boards Taylor makes, he brands them with his compass logo, which adds some character to creations which already have plenty.

"I want to be unique," says the 46-year-old Taylor, "and I don't like to make anything the same. ... I kind of have an eye for it."

Taylor coats the wood products with his own "board butter," made from a blend of beeswax, carnauba wax,

A photograph of a workshop. In the foreground, a white plastic bag is partially visible. Behind it, several long, thin wooden planks of various shades (light, medium, and dark) are leaning against a wooden wall. A flexible, corrugated metal duct or hose is also visible, extending from the right side towards the center. The background shows a wooden wall and a window frame.

*In his workshop at home,
Brad Taylor readies pieces of
cutting boards for gluing.*

THE ARTS



***Above:** Some of the extensive wooden infrastructure in the 1870 scull boat. — Photo courtesy of Brad Taylor. **Below:** Brad Taylor used pieces of tigerwood, walnut, padauk and ash to make this endgrain cutting board. — Photo courtesy of Compass Woodworks Co.*

***Left:** Taylor glues wood for a cutting board.*

mineral oil and lemon essential oil. A can of board butter comes with many of his creations, and Taylor says it serves as a good calling card.

Taylor couldn't help but be involved with wood. "My dad is truly an artist," he says, and the Taylor household has several pieces his dad, Robert Taylor, has made to prove it.

In addition, Taylor's stepfather, Gary Russell, is a highly skilled carpenter.

"Both of them influenced me greatly," Taylor says.

In Rowan County, Taylor attended Granite Quarry Elementary, Erwin Middle and East Rowan High before heading off for N.C. State University, where he majored in fisheries and wildlife science. He figured it could lead to a career in aquaculture — raising fish.

While he had been a hunter since he was young — his stepfather was a big quail hunter — Taylor didn't become a duck hunter until falling in with a group of those enthusiasts in college.

"Once I started, that kind of took over everything," Taylor says.

His wife, Teresa, just shakes her head at their garage wall full of decoys and waders.





***Above:** Taylor sands a cutting board. The domestic woods come from Blandy Hardwoods in Gold Hill, and he finds the more exotic varieties from West End Hardwoods in Conover. **Below:** Shown here on High Rock Lake, this is the circa 1870 Brooks Boat Co. scull boat Taylor restored after purchasing it in 2014. — Photo courtesy of Brad Taylor.*

To get an idea of how serious they were, Taylor and his college buddies once had a string of 11 straight years of driving out to North Dakota to duck hunt.

Meanwhile, Taylor surprised even himself and became an eighth-grade science teacher. In 2005, he and Teresa bought a house off a finger of High Rock Lake, and they have an 11-year-old son, Cole, who goes hunting with Brad.

Taylor first immersed himself in woodworking in the summer of 2003, when he wanted to build his own marsh boat, a copy of a Gatorboats Duckhunter model.

At the time, he didn't have a good workshop space, so he rented a 10-by-20-foot storage unit behind the Super 8 hotel in Salisbury. The first month's rental would be \$20, but if he wanted to extend past that, the fee increased to \$100 a month.

So Taylor pushed himself to build his first wooden duck boat in a month's time. "It makes me laugh to think what the first one looked like compared to now," Taylor says.

Taylor constructed his second Duckhunter for someone else in 2004, and as word spread, finding buyers was not a problem. He created Toller Boatworks and came to design five different models,



THE ARTS

including his No Fly Zone, the Air Traffic Control and the Hellcat.

Soon, he was custom-building one to two wooden boats a year, usually during his summer vacations from school.

By July 2016, Taylor had built boats for owners in 14 different states, all the way to Oregon. Magazines such as “Wildfowl” and “American Waterfowler” featured his craftsmanship.

In 2014, Taylor began thinking about vintage boat restoration work when he purchased a circa 1870 scull boat. It had been built in New Haven, Connecticut, by the Brooks Boat Co., and its original owners probably went gunning, or duck hunting, in the marshy Nell’s Island area at the mouth of the Housatonic River or along the Long Island Sound.

“It was rough when it came to me,” Taylor understates, but his total restoration created, for him, a family heirloom.

In 2016, the “Garden and Gun” magazine, published in Charleston, South Carolina, invited him to submit some of his boat designs for its “Made in the South Awards.”

Teresa Taylor says she’s always impressed and proud of what her husband does with wood. “He gets it honestly,” she says. “His dad and stepdad are amazing, and he’s just got an eye for putting different woods together.”

She speaking especially of the Compass Woodworks Co.’s cutting boards, which most often are different kinds of wood cut, pieced and glued together in attractive lines by Taylor.

“The cutting boards have taken off,” Brad says. “I couldn’t pick out a favorite now if I tried. I find one piece that speaks to me, and I roll from there. I’ve probably made more than a thousand.”

It all started with a cutting board for his wife, then his mother, then women at work. By 2016, he had created Compass Woodworks, and he began going to shows. Last year, he sold cutting boards at his third Autumn Jubilee at Dan Nicholas Park.

His elaborate display area at the Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte won “Best in Show” this past year.

“It’s not lucrative,” Taylor says of this side business, “but it definitely adds to our income.



Above: Brad Taylor is building a clubhouse for his son, Cole. **Left:** Something Taylor has been creating more recently are ‘memento boards’ in which he uses a custom engraving machine to make printed keepsakes. Taylor engraved this memento board with a recipe from the cookbook of a coworker’s late grandmother.
— Photo courtesy of Brad Taylor

... I’ve met some of the neatest people.”

Prices of his various boards can range from \$20 to \$275.

Taylor often uses reclaimed wood, and he sometimes adds streaks of color with deliberate epoxy fills.

The domestic woods come from Blandy Hardwoods in Gold Hill, and he finds the more exotic varieties from West End Hardwoods in Conover. “I could wander around there for

hours,” he says.

All the new business with cutting boards and other gifts has cut back on the time Taylor devotes to boat-building. But there’s another totally different project Taylor and his son, Cole, have started.

They’re building Cole a clubhouse out of wood claimed from an outbuilding where the former Shuping Mill operated along N.C. 152. They’re also using doors and windows salvaged from old houses and adding a tin roof and porch for good measure. Cole will end up having a lake-side spot with a good view of the water.

First duck boats. Then cutting boards. Who knows, this clubhouse thing could take off, too.

See Brad Taylor’s cutting boards and other samples of his work at www.compasswoodworksco.com. Visit www.tollerboatworks.com for more on his duck boats. **[S]**

IN FIVE MINUTES, YOU CAN TELL
US WHY YOUR DOG IS NAMED

“SIR SLOBBER.”

You can't tell us about your hopes and dreams,
why buying a house is important to you, or where
you want to be financially in 20 years.

*Mortgage decisions
at F&M Bank take
a bit longer than the
online insta-quotes
because we think
you're worth it.*



fmbnc.com

NMLS #712307



Member FDIC



DELICIOUS. ALL NATURAL. KETTLE CORN THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.



Danny Wilson and son
Coleman sell the family's
kettlecorn at the N.C.
Transportation Museum in
Spencer on Aug. 11, 2018.

— Submitted photo

Classic

Specialties
Limited

Sweet Jalapeno
(cheddar)



Pop-ulists

Wilson's find eager audience for their Old '97 Kettlecorn.

Story by Deirdre Parker Smith



The Old '97 Kettlecorn Co.'s Cheerwine-flavored kettlecorn. — Submitted photo

Things started hopping once Laurie and Danny Wilson got popping.

The Wilsons created, staff and supply The Old '97 Kettlecorn Co.

You've seen them at festivals around Rowan County and beyond. They even spent 22 days braving wind, rain and snow during Polar Express at the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer.

The Wilsons' daughter, Taylor, made some kettlecorn at home one day, and Laurie fell in love with it.

"I got addicted, and my husband wanted some extra money, maybe a part-time job."

The family did some research and said, "Why not kettlecorn?" because they saw how popular it was. Danny and their son, Coleman, went to Danny's father, who agreed to

finance the start-up.

They first popped up at the 2017 Christmas parade in Spencer.

"It turned out to be a little more than we expected," says Laurie, who has driven a school bus in the North Rowan area for 25 years.

"Me, being a perfectionist, I stuck my finger in it and he (Danny) said he knew that would happen."

Laurie is originally from Spencer, and there's something of a family enclave on the street where she lives.

While researching the kettlecorn business, they did softball tournaments in Greensboro, because their daughter played softball. They worked at a big antique show and other events at the fairgrounds.

Then Laurie dug deeper to learn about events, "and that



Laurie Wilson works with her daughter Taylor and son Coleman to make and sell Cheerwine-flavored kettlecorn at the second annual Cheerwine Festival in downtown Salisbury on May 19, 2018. — Jon C. Lakey photo

was daunting, trying to get in with other kettlecorn people.

“You have to differentiate yourself from everyone else, so we came up with the name Old ’97, to tie in to the railroad.” Laurie grew up with trains all her life.

They worked on a logo, with help from artist Sam Morgan, and got to work getting their name out.

“The people of Rowan County have really aided our success,” Laurie says. “We started off with tasters. My husband works at Freightliner, so he took what we popped and they’d tell us what they liked.

Danny went to Father & Son on Sherrills Ford Road and “they let us sit there and pop and people tasted.” They eventually asked the Wilsons if they’d like to sell their popcorn at

the store.

They’re revamping their bags now and should have new product out there soon.

“The Transportation Museum has been super supportive of us, and Cheerwine,” Laurie says. Kelly Alexander, director of the museum, said the kettlecorn sells itself.

They did the first Cheerwine festival and kept running out of supplies, but organizers let them dash to the store to restock.

The 100th anniversary of Cheerwine was an important event for them. At that point, the festival did not have a lot of vendors. So Laurie decided they would make a Cheerwine kettlecorn for the special day. “It took us five months to come up with the recipe,” she says. And Cheerwine helped.

Laurie admits they were “green behind the

ears” when they did the festival.

But they’re learning. They now have a custom tent and a custom cart (that’s very heavy, Laurie says). They have a logo, a way to organize the different flavors and a new web site.

But Laurie wants Old ’97 to be a better kettlecorn business. “We try to be neat, organized and polite. The customers are super fantastic. They send us messages about trying different festivals or tweaking the recipes.”

Laurie and family created and perfected all their recipes. They use no prepackaged mixes. Classic is the most popular flavor, and you can also get caramel, Cheerwine, apple pie, pumpkin spice, cinnamon toast, jalapeño sweet, sweet barbeque and sweet Cajun. In the fall, people love the apple pie and pumpkin spice flavors, and the Cheerwine popcorn is always a

FOOD

hit, too.

“If you see Dr. Pepper or Sprite popcorn,” Laurie says, “that’s from a packaged mix.” The poppers buy the mix and stir it into the corn. The Wilsons do everything fresh.

What is it about Laurie that clicked with this family business? Could it be her energy or her years of experience dealing with children of all ages? Laurie has a degree in fashion merchandising and one in marketing, as well as one from University of North Carolina at Charlotte in art. “I’m a very educated bus driver,” she laughs.

She ended up home schooling the children. Son Coleman has a computer science degree. Daughter Taylor does the logistics. Laurie is the one with the contacts and personality.

Danny does the inventory and hard physical labor.

Laurie made sure to clear the business with all the right sources — the health department, the fire department. “We have all our licenses and permits.”

They found their popping equipment by scouring the Internet, but want to tweak it. “I’m very picky and opinionated,” Laurie says. “I like what we have, but I want to build my own, to make life easier.” Her brother is a welder who’s trying to combine some of Laurie’s ideas.

Laurie is so picky about what she sells, that if she tastes a batch and it’s not quite right, she won’t sell it. “People work too hard for their money to give them a bad \$9 bag of popcorn.”

They use Amish-made spices and pure sugar for their corn. When they did the Brew and Chew festival, Laurie thought the sweet Cajun, the sweet barbecue and the jalapeño would go well with the beer. Some breweries carry Old ’97 Kettlecorn, and Bella’s Barkery and Mary Mae’s, a shop in Spencer, also have it. “We hope to be in more stores.”

Laurie is hoping for a second popcorn popping unit one day, because

*The Old ’97 Kettlecorn Co.’s
partial schedule for 2019*

Wind & Wings

3/23/19 — North Carolina
Transportation Museum, Spencer

Tractors & Trains

4/6/19 — NCTM, Spencer

Cheerwine Festival

5/18/19 — Downtown Salisbury

Firetruck Festival

6/22/19 — NCTM, Spencer

Farmer’s Day

7/20/19 — Downtown China Grove

Celebrity Car & Truck

7/27/19 — NCTM, Spencer

Brew and Choo

8/10/19 — NCTM, Spencer

Western North Carolina

Bigfoot Festival

9/14/19 — Marion, NC

Everybody’s Day

9/29/19 — Downtown Thomasville

Asheboro Fall Festival

10/05/19 — Downtown Asheboro

Historic Salisbury OctoberTour

10/11-12/19 — Downtown Salisbury

Polar Express

Mid Nov.-Dec.22 — NCTM, Spencer



Danny Wilson pours ingredients into a large kettle while making Cheerwine-flavored kettlecorn at the second annual Cheerwine Festival on May 19, 2018. — Jon C. Lakey photo

they like to do large and small events, especially locally. “I’m very community oriented,” she says. “I like to buy local. I like to eat local, too.”

Laurie hopes the future will bring opportunities like company picnics, weddings, corporate events; that’s why a second unit would be so helpful. And they’re working on being at the best events in the area. If they try it once, and the returns are not so good, they’ll try somewhere else next time.

Laurie is glad to work during the school year, so she can spend the summer popping up here and there with Old ’97 Kettlecorn. **S**

To contact Old ’97 Kettlecorn Co., call 980-565-6039 or 704-223-4284.

Your Local Real Estate Team

Representing buyers and sellers with integrity and expertise throughout the greater **Salisbury** area.

Cathy Griffin



TOWNE & COUNTRY

474 Jake Alexander Blvd., West
Salisbury, NC • 704-637-7721



Ashlee M. Flippin
704-267-3371



704-213-2464
www.cathygriffinhomes.com



We closed 199
transactions in 2018

Cathy finished #1 in the state
and #9 in the nation among
Century 21 agents



LADY BIRD FARM

Barnhardts' pursuit of a country dream also leads to rustic wedding venue.

Story by Elizabeth Cook | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



Drapes and finery inside the barn at Lady Bird Farm frame a shot of Ashley Dulin as Steven Sherwood looks on. Both were models for a 'styled shoot' held at the wedding venue in February.



Tommy and Lindsey Barnhardt stand in the barn doorway with sons Bryson, 5; Dalton, 7; and Landon, 8.



A sign on Lowerstone Church Road points the way.

You might say providence led Tommy and Lindsey Barnhardt into the wedding venue business at Lady Bird Farm in Rockwell — providence and hungry cows.

The two met when Lindsey was cutting hair at Karizma Salon in Kannapolis and Tommy was a customer. It was love at first clip. They got married 10 months after their first date, and within three years they had three sons — Landon, now 8; Dalton, 7; and Bryson, 5.

Tommy worked long hours as a manager at the Charlotte UPS hub. That was tough on the family, according to Lindsey, a stay-at-home mom since Bryson's birth.

"We always knew in the back of our head that there was more to life than Daddy being gone from sunup to sundown," she says. "We didn't know what it was, though."

They had a nice house in Kannapolis that Tommy built in 2008; in fact, they'd gotten married on the front porch. But a growing family and a steady diet of home improvement TV shows made them restless.

"We realized that we wanted to buy a fixer upper," Lindsey says.

Tommy would have been happy with a brick rancher, but Lindsey had a white, two-story farmhouse in mind. After months of searching and almost giving up, they found what Lindsey wanted — a 1906 house on Cal Miller Road sitting on almost 20 acres of land, just outside of Rockwell.

Much of the property was overgrown, with no real pasture at the time. But the house had gigantic trees in the yard, original hardwood floors and — most important — plenty of room for the boys to run and explore.

Lindsey fell in love with the house. Tommy was drawn to the land.

He had envisioned his family living on a farm with a pond and a barn, and he saw the potential for all that on the old Miller farm.

"It was kind of a dream I had, kind of a lifestyle that I had always admired," he says. "Then, when we had three boys, that was kind of the last little push that we needed.

"I mean, we have a blast out here."



At first, theirs was sort of a "Green Acres" experience in that they knew little about running a farm but were determined to do it. Tommy set about clearing the land and creating the place he envisioned.

They had an area fenced in for cows, but within two weeks of buying seven black Angus — all pregnant — they realized raising cattle was not as simple as letting them graze in the



The Barnhardts were looking for a fixer upper and more land when they bought this farmhouse facing Cal Miller Road near Rockwell. Now a barn they built on the property is Lady Bird Farm wedding venue.

pasture.

"We knew nothing," Lindsey says. They noticed the cows were mooing a lot. A noisy cow is not a happy cow, they came to realize.

"They're not saying 'hey,'" Tommy says. "They're saying, 'We're hungry.'"

It had been a dry summer, too dry for pasture grass to flourish. The cows needed hay. And the Barnhardts needed advice from someone who knew about raising cows.

Tommy had the idea to hop in the car, go looking for cattle farms and introduce themselves to a farmer who could help. At the end of a long dirt drive they found David and Cindy Shue's beautiful farm and struck gold.

"They were our first friends out here in Rockwell," Lindsey says. "They took us in and they were here almost every day, if not every weekend, teaching us about what we needed to do with these cows."

In addition to hay, the Barnhardts needed a barn to keep it in. They hopped in the car again

and went looking for a barn to move to their property — an old, hand-hewn log barn.

They found several, but the owners were quick to turn them down. Finally they got a "yes" from the owner of a barn off St. Luke's Church Road, behind East Rowan High School.

"We played a big game of Lincoln Logs," Tommy says. With the help of family and friends, he took the barn apart log by log, labeling the pieces and eventually moving them to their farm. Then it was time to play Lincoln Logs again, putting the barn back together.

Tommy replaced seven missing logs with new ones he made from trees on the farm, a task that put him in awe of farmers who once built all their structures by hand. "Those guys back in those days, those were men," he says.

Disassembling and reassembling the barn took a year, with the last log going into place on New Year's Day 2017.

The barn had been up two months when a young woman rang the Barnhardts' doorbell and asked Lindsey an important question. Could she get married on their property, in front of the old barn?

Story continues on page 30.



Above: A swing behind the barn provides the setting for a photo of the couple.
Below: The bridal suite has room for the bride and her attendants to get ready.
Right: Tommy points to a log he had to replace in the old barn he took apart, moved and reassembled back at Lady Bird Farm.





***Above:** Landon, left, and Dalton, right, push Bryson in the swing. They like to swim in the farm pond behind them, which they have stocked with fish. **Right:** Reception food prepared by Jason Smith's Silver Spoon Catering is topped off with banana pudding. **Below:** Steven peers around a door at Ashley as she waits on the porch of the bridal suite.*



Lindsey, of course, said yes.



Social media posts from that young woman's wedding in August 2017 inspired a call from another bride-to-be, and an idea started taking shape in Lindsey's mind. Barns had become popular wedding venues in recent years. She and Tommy were already in the process of designing a bigger barn, since the log barn couldn't hold all the hay and equipment they needed to store. She suggested that the new barn could be a good place to hold weddings.

Landon reaches out to pet a young longhorn named Durty, one of three cattle the family kept on the farm over the winter.



Tommy was slow to embrace the idea. "He kept blowing it off," Lindsey says.

They planned for the new barn to sit on a prime spot at the top of a rise Tommy had pointed out when they first explored the property. That was the spot for something special, they agreed.

"We knew before we even bought that home that it was going to be something sweet one day, but we didn't know what," Lindsey says. "We had no clue."

Now she had a clue. Lindsey sketched her vision of how the barn should look and went to work.

"With my drawing, I started advertising 'wedding venue.' Nothing was here. It was dirt and mud because it was a construction site at the time." But she gave tours of the site to prospective brides.

Soon she had booked 10 weddings.

Lights glow in the barn.

That's when Tommy started taking the idea seriously, she says. "He said, OK ... let's start you a wedding venue."

Their contractor tweaked the barn's design to make the structure suitable for a venue by adding closed-in doors and a concrete floor.

They decided to call the venue Lady Bird Farm, a tribute to their own courting days when they liked to watch "King of the Hill" together.

The main character, Hank, has a beloved bloodhound named — you guessed it — Lady Bird.

To date, Lady Bird Farm has been the site of nearly 20 weddings. Lindsey says the venue is almost completely booked for 2019 and half-booked for 2020. She credits divine intervention.

"I'm telling you, it was the Lord, this whole process," she says. "Because I bought the home to fix it up, and the Lord just shifted me in a

different direction."

Three years later, the house still isn't fixed up. But the barn is a gem.



Drapes at the entrances and inside the new, 70-by-60-foot barn soften its roughhewn look, and strings of lights cast a warm glow. If you drive by on Lower Stone Church Road after dusk and the lights are on, the building appears to sparkle.

Lindsey says the venue is designed to be rustic but elegant. No animals and sawdust.

The barn floor allows plenty of room for dancing, while non-dancers can watch from the loft above. Round tables provide seating on both levels. The rectangular head table for the bride and groom is made of aged wood from the log barn.

Ceremonies can be held behind the barn, where an arbor and swing serve as the focal point, or in front of the nearby "unity tree" that has three trunks growing together.

A short walk away sits the bridal suite, a well-appointed cabin where brides can get ready.

Lindsey, whose mother was once a wedding



Story continues on page 34.



The three-trunk unity tree provides the backdrop for this pose, with a ring of flowers and greenery framing the couple. Videographer Madison Sells, left, and photographer Kara Brown capture the moment.



Clockwise from above: Photographer Marilena Villardi places flowers beneath an artificial wedding cake for the styled shoot; Makeup artist Meredith Miller snaps a shot of the model bride in the bridal cabin; the couple are seated at the head table in the barn; Tommy had to replace some pieces of the old barn by hewing logs himself. — submitted photo



Above: Landon walks along the fence line beside the bridal suite. The barn can be seen in the distance, surrounded by trees. Below right: The arbor and swing sit on a brick pathway with a view of the farm in the background. Below left: A table is set for the reception, decorated by Extraordinaire Events.



planner, sticks with her brides throughout rehearsal and the wedding and reception.

"She does it all," Tommy says. "We don't just host it. She coordinates it."

Tommy acts as parking assistant and otherwise stays out of the way. "I'm here if she needs me."

The venue provides tables, chairs and linens, as well as a slice of cedar at the center of each table suitable for decorating with tea lights, lanterns or flowers.

Most brides keep it simple and let the venue serve as decor, Lindsey says, but not all. A Gatsby-style wedding on New Year's Eve featured pearls, feathers, period dress and music from the Roaring '20s.



The Barnhardts have learned that not all aspects of farm life geehaw with wedding festivities.

"We quickly realized we couldn't do goats

and weddings because we couldn't keep goats in the pasture," Lindsay says. "My little baby goats would be in here jumping on the tables."

If your fence won't hold water, it won't hold a goat, Tommy says he's heard. That proved true, even with a five-strand, high-tensile electric fence.

The great (and frequent) goat escape never happened during a wedding, but a white duck Tommy named Ben Aflac walked through one wedding reception crowd as if he were one of the guests.

Ben Aflac, alas, went the way of their chickens, picked off by hawks, foxes and other predators. Only a rooster remains. The realities of farm life can be harsh.

"We've had to kind of change gears," says Tommy, who now works for Southeastern Freight. They sold off most of the cows, with just three remaining from a high of 20. Of the nearly 50 acres they have now, Tommy says 25 acres are in hay and he plans to convert 12

acres into crop production. He won't try to raise crops himself, though. That's a job for a "real-deal farmer," he says.

The boys get "real deal" fun out of the farm. They climb in and around the log barn, which has become their playhouse, and the newly dug pond is their personal swimming hole.

The new barn stores farm equipment in the winter and is open as a venue from April to New Year's. The Barnhardts say they would also like to use it for community events.

"We want to be here for more than just weddings," Tommy says. "We want to give back to the town of Rockwell. We would love to host different events."

They want to thank the many good people they have met in the area.

Maybe they should thank their cows, too.

Without cows, they wouldn't have needed hay. Without hay, they wouldn't have needed a barn. And without a barn, they wouldn't have met brides looking for a place to hold their

BLUE BAY

DELICIOUS SEAFOOD & Your Favorite Entrees

DAILY SPECIALS

- Senior Citizen Discounts • Children's Menu • Healthy Choices

Voted Best Seafood Three Years in a Row!

2016 ROGO gold
2017 ROGO gold
2018 ROGO gold

No Personal Checks
VISA MasterCard
DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

Two Locations to Serve You
2050 Statesville Blvd. 1007 East Innes St.
704-639-9500 704-633-9585

www.bluebay-seafood.com

weddings.

That chain of events would never have started, though, if the Barnhardts hadn't possessed a degree of fearlessness. Tommy says they got their inspiration from a video by comedian and motivational speaker Steve Harvey. He summarizes the message.

"You can stand on the edge of the cliff of life and never jump, and you'll be fine," Tommy says. "But, until you jump, you never know if your parachute will open."

It spoke to them as they considered major changes in their lives. What were they afraid of? Were they afraid to fail?

"We just said, 'let's go for it,'" Tommy says. "And here we are." 

Lady Bird Farm, located at 1070 Lower Stone Church Road, has a website at www.ladybirdfarmnc.com and is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LadyBirdFarmNCI. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., its phone number is 704-652-1511.

Elizabeth Cook is retired editor of the Salisbury Post.



Lindsey Bernhardt holds model Ashley Dulin's veil so videographer Madison Sells can capture images.



**N.C. TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
APRIL 5-6 9AM - 3:30PM**



1 Samuel Spencer Drive, Spencer, NC

704-636-2889

nctrans.org

**NORTH CAROLINA
TRANSPORTATION
MUSEUM**

**Antique & Steam Tractors
Modern Farming Equipment
Passenger Train Rides
Hay Rides • Tractor Parade
Blacksmith Demonstrations
Master Gardeners Display
Kiddie Tractor Pull
And Much More!**

Friday, April 5 is primarily intended for school groups, while the public is welcome to all activities Saturday, April 6. **REGULAR ADMISSION REQUIRED.**

Support for this event provided by:





*On this page: Paul and Sue Fisher
at their home in Salisbury.*

*Opposite page: In this photo from
the F&M Bank archives, Cleveland
Scheck, Catherine Krider and Paul
Fisher celebrate a mortgage burning
for the Oglesby Community Center in
Granite Quarry.*



CHIEF CHEERLEADER

In fundraising, Paul Fisher captains 'passionate teammates,'
witnesses many miracles

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



Paul Fisher is not so much a fundraiser as he is a storyteller. And he's got any number of stories to tell about projects he's been involved in and "the wonderful people" who have given so generously.

He's helped raise millions of dollars, and he's not finished yet. The chairman emeritus of F&M Bank has always had the desire to make a positive impact and difference throughout our county, he says. Over the years and especially since his retirement in 2014 — he now works about 25 hours a week for the bank's foundation and its community initiatives — he's done just that.

So much so that honestly, it's hard to know where to start.

One project close to his heart is the Geneva Oglesby Community Center. The center, an integral part of the African-American community in Granite Quarry, burned in 1979. It was rebuilt several years later, but the center's members soon realized they couldn't keep making payments, after several months of chick-

en-and-dumpling fundraiser dinners.

"There just weren't enough chickens in Rowan County," Fisher quips.

He wasn't about to give up, and neither were the ladies of the White Rock community. He asked the three women who came to him each to donate \$250. They then came back with 26 captains, representing 26 families with a goal of contributing \$1,000 each.

F&M provided some matching funds, with the balance coming from Fisher's friends. Fisher was there for the mortgage burning and rejoicing with everyone else. The bank has continued its partnership with the center, making building improvements in recent years and installing a playground.

Fisher didn't become a fundraiser without help. He notes that he got his "master's and Ph.D. in fundrais-



*Above: The lobby wall at the Saleeby-Fisher YMCA includes hundreds of names of people who donated to the project.
Below: F&M's original bank building includes this photo of J.E. Fisher, Paul's father, receiving his 50-year banking award.*

ing” from the late Jimmy Hurley — a fundraiser extraordinaire. Not only did Hurley give generously to projects, he knew how much others should give — and he knew if they didn’t give, too.

“I learned not to be bashful in asking,” Fisher says. “I learned that you ask for an investment — not a gift or donation or contribution. I also learned fair-share giving. You give in proportion to what you have.”

Ed Norvell, his frequent fundraising partner, notes that Fisher once turned down a large donation — several times — before he reached his goal with that donor.

“I don’t have the guts to do that,” Norvell says with a chuckle.

But Hurley told Fisher, “I never chaired a fundraising effort in which I was not successful.”

Fisher chose to follow Hurley’s example.

“Not crossing the finish line in a campaign was not an option for Jimmy, nor for me,” he says. “I’ve been fortunate to surround myself with passionate teammates and caring investors, and that combination can produce miracles.”

One time it was pretty close. Fisher was raising money for the





***Above:** In the original F&M Bank building in Granite Quarry, Fisher prepares to crank open its old safe.
Below: Fisher, who seems to know everyone, greets Jim LaFavers in the lobby of the Saleby-Fisher YMCA.*

East Rowan Y. He went to visit Eli Saleeby, a longtime grocer and early Food Town investor. Fisher's father had loaned the immigrant money when no one else would, and Saleeby later became that campaign's lead donor, giving over \$2 million.

The goal was \$5.5 million, and halfway through the campaign, Fisher was worn out. He felt like he and his campaign volunteers had sat at every kitchen table in East Rowan. Then the ladies of Wittenburg Lutheran Church's senior citizens club wanted to hear about the Y. They were all in their 80s and 90s, Fisher remembers.

He recalls one lady in particular.

"She didn't have many resources at all," he says. "She was struggling."

But before Fisher left, she gently pressed something into his palm.

"I know what money feels like," he says, "and when I got to my car, I opened my hand."

He was holding \$2. He cried like a baby.



The image shows the exterior of a brick building with a prominent white archway. The archway features the text "SALEEBY YMCA FISHER" in a serif font. Above the arch is a circular window with a brick surround. The building is constructed of red brick. In the foreground, a man in a brown jacket and dark pants is walking away from the camera towards a set of glass double doors. Two other people are visible near the doors. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

SALEEBY YMCA FISHER

Paul Fisher heads toward the front door of the Saleeby-Fisher YMCA, for which he led the campaign to raise \$5.5 million.

“To me, that \$2 was the equivalent of Eli’s \$2 million,” he says.

The deceptively small donation re-energized and reinvigorated Fisher and the entire campaign. When he told that story “people who had not given began to give.”

“That East Rowan Y would not have been built had it not been for her \$2,” Fisher says. “That’s what I believe. We told that story a thousand times. It was true, and it resonated with people.”

Toward the end of the campaign, Fisher told the story about the woman’s \$2 gift one more time to a still-anonymous donor, and it triggered the campaign’s closing miracle — a \$750,000 contribution.

Fisher gets tears in his eyes, too, when he remembers another project: The Norvell Theater. He and Norvell, his next-door neighbor and friend, needed to raise \$3 million. The first

person they went to see was Norvell’s mother, Lucile. His friend asked Fisher to take the lead for the visit.

“She was dressed to the nines,” Fisher recalls. “She sparkled. She really did. It was like visiting the queen.”

She ended up serving as the lead donor for the campaign — a wonderful way to start things off, Fisher says. “In any campaign, you have to have a good start and good energy.”

With another large donation, Fisher says, they were off and running. Not long after, he and Norvell took lunch to the construction workers — who had basically gutted the space where the theater stands today.

“They had a tough job,” Fisher notes.

He and Norvell had their spiel all ready to thank the workers, but one of them soon said, “Let us thank you. Before my boss got this job, he was fixing to lay us off because he had no

work. If it wasn’t for this job, I couldn’t feed my kids, and I would’ve lost my house. Everybody is in the same shape I’m in.”

Tears run down Fisher’s cheeks as he tells this story. “We went into thank them and they turned around and thanked us. I reckon that was the catalyst to complete the campaign. All of these projects have had a terrific economic impact.”

Fisher also served as the lead fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce’s new building, and was moved to help build a new shelter at Rowan Helping Ministries after he and others, including Jimmy Hurley, had learned women and children were using the woefully outdated space meant solely for men.

A school bus stopped daily at the shelter to pick up a little girl and other kids staying there. It didn’t take long to raise those funds, especially when Hurley pounded the table and led the

STOP BY TODAY AT
1357 WEST INNES STREET IN SALISBURY



Come to a pharmacy that cares

Experience the difference in choosing a local business. Sixty-eight percent of every dollar spent stays right here in Salisbury. We’re independent and answer to you.

Call (704) 637-6120

The Medicine
Shophe®
PHARMACY

MEDICINESHOPPE.COM/SALISBURY

initial charge.

“Hell, let’s build a new building and let’s do it now,” he said.

“With the charge given,” Fisher adds, “the miracle was on its way.”

In his fund-raising pitches to come, Fisher held a toy yellow school bus in the palm of his hand when he told the story of the little girl (and other children) living at the shelter.

More recently, he’s lent the F&M Foundation resources and his own expertise behind the scenes to expansions for Main Street Marketplace and Meeting Place in China Grove, and Prevent Child Abuse Rowan in Salisbury.

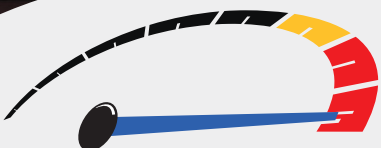
“I have been unbelievably fortunate to live in a community that is committed to improving the quality of life for everyone,” Fisher says. “Salisbury and Rowan County have a long history of sharing their time, talents and treasures to make their community better.

“Occasionally, I get to be the ‘chief cheerleader’ in front of this very passionate fan base — the people of Rowan. It’s my job to get them on their feet and engaged. It’s their job



A yellow school bus and two dollar bills pack significant symbolism for Fisher in fundraising efforts.




AUTOXPRESS
A DIVISION OF SALISBURY MOTOR COMPANY

AutoXpress For All Your Vehicle Wants And Needs

NC State Inspections, paintless dent removal,
window tinting, oil changes, vehicle maintenance
for all makes and models and much more

1501 West Innes Street
Salisbury, NC 28144
(704) 754-5333

www.salisburymotorcompany.com/autoxpress

to push the team onto victory. I'm forever humbled by their generosity."

Fisher doesn't tell any story without mentioning his wife, Sue. The two will celebrate 59 years of marriage this year, and have two adult children and 10 grandchildren. He says that she has always been his encourager, and instilled in him self-confidence when he had little. Fisher, a two-time cancer survivor, needs that self-confidence now, perhaps more than ever.

At 81, he's agreed to co-chair with Norvell what he says is his last project. It's definitely his most ambitious: \$12 million to create Bell Tower Green, a downtown park which will serve as "Central Park" for Salisbury and Rowan County.

His son, Steven, now F&M's CEO, and Janet Haynes, his "sidekick" at the bank for 31 years,

both tried to talk him out of it. But he looked around, and had two realizations. First, his late friend Hurley wasn't walking through the door. Second, he didn't know who could commit the kind of time this project would take.

"I was afraid it wouldn't get done," he admits. "This is the biggie. It is the greatest thing that has happened to Salisbury and Rowan County in the last 100 years. We're gonna get a new chance on life with this park."

"I wouldn't do it without him," Norvell says, also giving extensive credit to the work of the Bell Town Green Board.


Norvell acknowledges Fisher's success with these campaigns.

"He knows everyone in Rowan County, it seems, and so many people know him and love him, and know how committed he is to

the community," Norvell says. "It's hard to turn him down. He gets so excited. He wouldn't take on a project he didn't believe in. We want this park to be for future generations. We both believe this is a critical component to downtown, and it will be the focal point for downtown."

Thus far, \$9.7 million has been raised thanks to 93 individuals, foundations, small businesses and corporations. Fisher feels confident about the campaign, because of the caring and benevolent community in which he lives.

"We'll get there," he says.

If you know Paul Fisher, you know how the story will end. 

Susan Shinn Turner is a freelance writer living in Raleigh and a frequent contributor to Salisbury the Magazine.



SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE & ENHANCE YOUR LIFESTYLE!

Trinity Oaks is a magical place - Trinity Oaks offers a relaxed retirement living with historic elegance, nestled in a beautiful wooded setting. Come visit our gorgeous, newly renovated apartments and cottages and experience the comfortable feeling of home that offers a maintenance-free lifestyle. Our community has activity-filled opportunities, inviting atmosphere, encourages friendships and dining with family and friends to help you shape each day your way.



Contact Us Today
To Come
Take A Tour

704-603-9202
1-800-610-0783

TRINITY OAKS
728 Klumac Road
Salisbury, NC 28144

www.TrinityOaks.net



**DOWNTOWN
SALISBURY, INC.**

NORTH CAROLINA

A Main Street Original

SHOP LOCAL

(704)637-7814



@downtownsalisburync

www.DowntownSalisburyNC.com



Jayne Helms Rodney Queen Melissa Yates



Jayne Helms Group
704-870-8827

100 W. Innes St.,
Suite 103
Salisbury, NC 28144

Helping you find the
property of your dreams!

Marie Leonard-Hampton

Broker/Owner, Accredited Buyer Representative, Graduate Realtors Institute, IT Certified

Consistently ranked one of Salisbury's Top Producing Agents, Marie has been finding solutions for her Clients' Real Estate Goals since 1997. Her new office is located in Historic Downtown Salisbury.



**MARIE
LEONARD-HAMPTON**
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

111 W. Fisher St., Salisbury | 704-239-3096

Marie@LeonardHamptonHomes.com | LeonardHamptonHomes.com



Salisbury Therapeutic Massage

120 E. Council St Ste 400
Salisbury | 704-633-7623

Accupuncture Now With
Tracy Krohn LAc. M.Ac.

Myoskeletal Alignment	Deep Tissue	Facial Reflexology	Facial Massage
Kinesio Taping Treatment	Myofascial Release	Pre & Peri Natal	Sinus Massage
Swedish	Medical	Hot & Cold Stone	Seated Chair

SalisburyTherapeuticMassage.com

Mary H. Zimmerman, LMBT NC License # 1663 | Mary Gillespie, LMBT NC License # 1024
Cindy Corby- RN, LMBT NC License # 4185 | Travis Alligood, LMBT N.C. 8640, CKPT

The Salisbury Emporium

More than just antiques

Some Old • Some New • ALL NICE



**230 East Kerr Street
Salisbury, NC**

Across from Depot
704-642-0039

www.salisburyemporium.com

TUES - SAT 10 AM - 6 PM; SUN 1 - 5PM; CLOSED MONDAY

HAVE **THE HAIR** YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED

Wigs by Raquel Welch, Gabor, Henry Margu, Estetica,
Jon Renau, Motown Tress and more
Toppers, Clip-In Extensions, Jewelry, Hats, Pre-tied Scarves
Wig Customizations & Maintenance



TIMELESS WIGS
& Marvelous Things

121 W. Innes Street, Downtown Salisbury
(704) 633-0169
www.timelesswigsandmarvelousthings.com



Simply Good NATURAL FOODS

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

Salisbury's Most Complete Health Food Store Since 1979

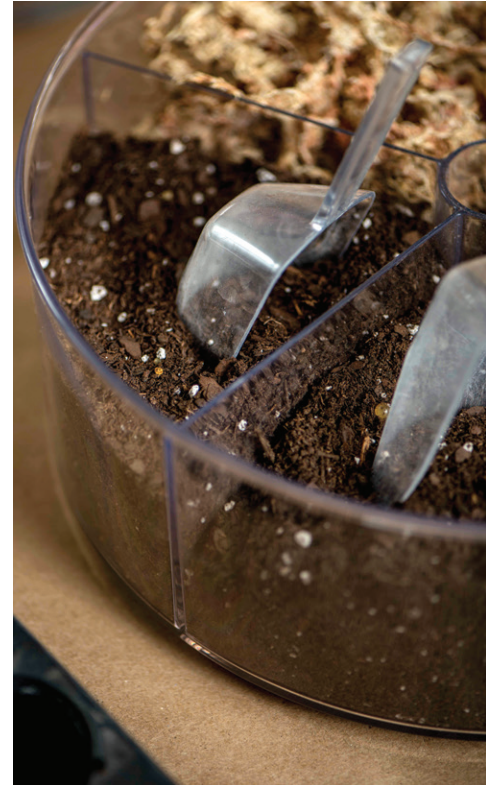
128 E. INNES STREET, SALISBURY, NC
704.636.0889 HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 9 am - 6 pm

25% off all capsule and tablet supplements in stock

www.SimplyGoodNaturalFoods.com



A glass container, succulent plants, moss, potting soil, decorative rocks and a spray bottle are about all you need for an attractive terrarium.



GLASSY GARDENS

With terrariums, it's a small world after all.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

Michelle Pentoney tops off her terrarium as she would a dish of ice cream. She even refers to the decorative rocks and moss as toppings — sprinkles, if you will.

“All right, there she is,” Pentoney says, holding up the clear-glass bowl and taking an admiring look at her creation.

She grabs a small spray bottle and gives the terrarium a quick mist, taking care not to over-water.

“That looks really cool, I’m really proud of that one,” says Pentoney, owner of Hive, a fairly new downtown Salisbury store specializing in handcrafted gifts, lots of wellness products and one of the backbones of her business — art workshops.

Pentoney, a former public school art teacher, sometimes leads do-it-yourself workshops in the making of terrariums, or terraria. In less than an hour, participants create their own terrariums with Hive supplying everything they need — the open glass container, succulent plants, charcoal, potting soil, various mosses, sand and rocks.

The finished products are take-home, self-contained ecosystems.

“And you don’t have to be artistic in any of this,” Pentoney says.

Let us pause here and sing the other praises of terrariums, defined simply as glass containers (they can be open or closed) for growing and displaying plants.

First, they are low-maintenance. They don’t take up much space — it’s a way to have an indoor garden, in miniature. They can add an attractive touch to your home’s decor. They last a long time — years, if you want — and after you have all the materials for one, making others is



These attractive planters were built just like a glass terrarium.

much less expensive.

In addition, terrariums don’t smell. They make good gifts. You can trim the plants to keep them from overgrowing, or you can place them in a bigger pot or terrarium as they get bigger.

Done in groups, building a terrarium becomes a fun way to socialize. Do one on your own, and you might want to listen to music or sit out on a patio or sun porch and commune

with nature.

Closed terrariums grow more moisture-loving plants and are sealed with a lid. In effect, the closed terrariums combine their heat, light and water to create nature’s rain cycle on a small scale.

But the open terrariums use succulents such as cacti, Hawthornia, Echeveria, Crassula and the like that prefer drier conditions with circulating air, low humidity and less soil moisture.

The open terrariums are the ones Hive workshop participants build, and if Pentoney repeats one bit of advice over and over, it’s not to over-



Above: Michelle Pentoney, owner of Hive, installs a plant in her latest terrarium.
Below: Succulent plants ready for insertion into a terrarium. **Right:** Moss that Pentoney has collected gets a quenching dose of water.





water their terrarium plants. Watering might be needed once every three weeks, for example, and the water should never be poured into the open-air terrariums.

"I'm always drilling into their heads spray, spray, spray, mist, mist, mist," Pentoney says. "... A lot of people are intimidated with the care of plants, (but) they'll tell you when they need water."

In her workshops, Pentoney offers two sizes of circular glass bowls as the options. You could, of course, use other shaped containers as limitless as the imagination.

"My favorite shape is a circle," Pentoney says, apologizing. "I know, who has a favorite shape? But I do."

Pentoney buys her stones, rocks, dirt, play sand and orchid moss from sources such as Lowe's, Amazon and dollar stores. She often picks up charcoal from PetSmart.

"I buy a ton of plants, so they (workshop attendees) can pick anything they want," she says.

The succulents come from a greenhouse in Charlotte and even out of the front yard of her home in Concord, where her husband, Chad,





Above: The size of a terrarium is up to you. *Below:* The succulent plants of an open-air terrarium require little water.



grows edibles such as mint, rosemary and cilantro. Neighbors often come up asking to cut a sprig or two to take home.

“It’s basically ground cover,” Pentoney says of their front yard. “Instead of putting down mulch, we put down succulents. ... The front yard is where it’s at.”

The couple’s dining room also has become a place for growing plants.

Michelle’s goal is to grow succulents from seeds and offshoots, so that her shop will have a full, continuing supply. She also has learned over time that moss, other than the orchid or spongelike sphagnum moss she buys, grows about everywhere.

Customers know she and Chad are always looking for moss as a topping or layer for her terrariums, and they tell her where to find it. “This is who we’ve become now,” she says of their moss-hunting pastime.

Workshop participants gather in the back of the store, usually four to a table. Hive accommodates five at a minimum and 16 at a maximum. For each table, Pentoney fills a lazy susan’s compartments with the various materials needed for the drainage layers of the terrariums — the sand, orchid moss, soil and rocks, for example.

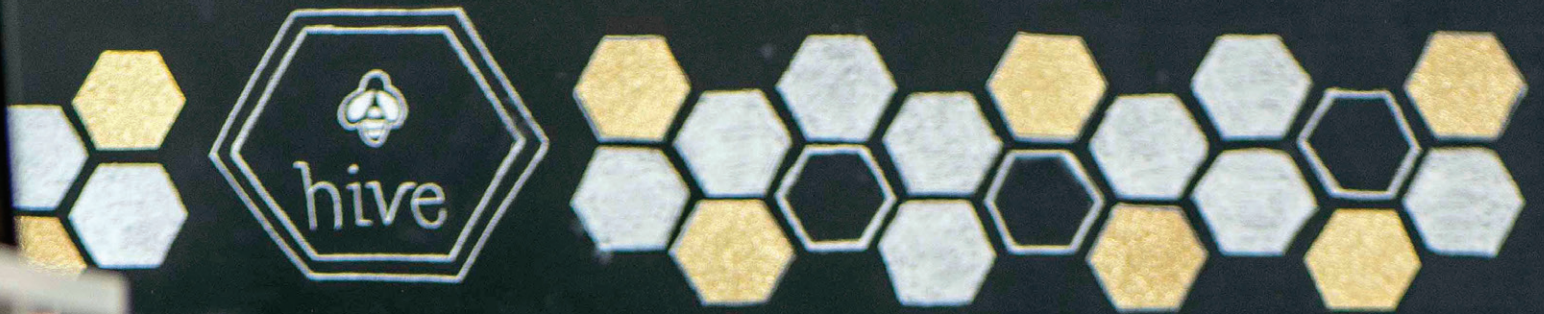
For this particular terrarium, she starts with a bottom layer of sand. “What’s cool with sand is you can have it more on an angle,” Pentoney says, tilting her glass globe.

She follows with a layer of small white rocks or pebbles. You could choose colored rocks, Pentoney notes, adding, “It just depends on what you’re feeling like.”

Next comes a dark layer of soil. “You can build up these layers as much as you want,” Pentoney says. “It’s all about drainage.”

Change the order of layers, as you prefer. Sometimes, Pentoney starts with rocks, then





SCHEDULE TODAY!!

- Private Art lessons
- Child's Birthday Party
- Create your OWN event

Shop Local!

Make + Take \$40
Com



Michelle Pentoney inspects a finished terrarium.



Mini POTS
Various Succulents
\$3/each

a layer of charcoal, followed by a layer of sphagnum moss to separate the rocks and soil that comes next.

It's then time to plant the small succulents and fill with more soil as necessary. Pentoney says installing and deciding where the plants should go is the fun part for her and most terrarium-builders.

"This will grow tall," she says of one plant she presses into the soil. "I don't want to put it close to a wall."

This larger-sized terrarium bowl requires only four to five plants. "Yes, they are small now, but they will grow," she says.

For the terrarium finale, Pentoney brings out her trays of toppings — more sand, decorative rocks and the moss she has been scavenging

here and there. It's another fun part, she says, "because this is where you get to mess around."

She takes a paint brush to wipe excess dirt, sand or moss off some of the rocks, then sprays lightly.

"All of these things are designed to keep moisture in, so you don't have to worry about watering so much," she emphasizes again.

Another great thing about terrariums is you can easily change the toppings or substitute new plants for ones that didn't work or those you've tired of.

If you make building terrariums a hobby, the good news is, "Once you have the stuff, it's fairly inexpensive," Pentoney says.


Hive charges \$30 for a small terrarium at the workshop and \$45 for the larger one. That in-

cludes everything.

Pentoney has personally been building terrariums for upward of six years and says it dawned on her three years ago, "I should teach that."

A native of Buffalo, she majored in interior design in college, then earned her master's degree in teaching. She taught art in public and private schools a combined seven years before going into business for herself with her first Hive store in Concord.

She opened her Salisbury Hive in late October 2018 and has since closed the Concord location, happy with her decision.

The store offers other art workshops in things such as brush lettering, watercolor painting and textile dyeing. It's located at 126 E. Innes St., where the O.O. Ruffy General Store once was. 

Spring into Action

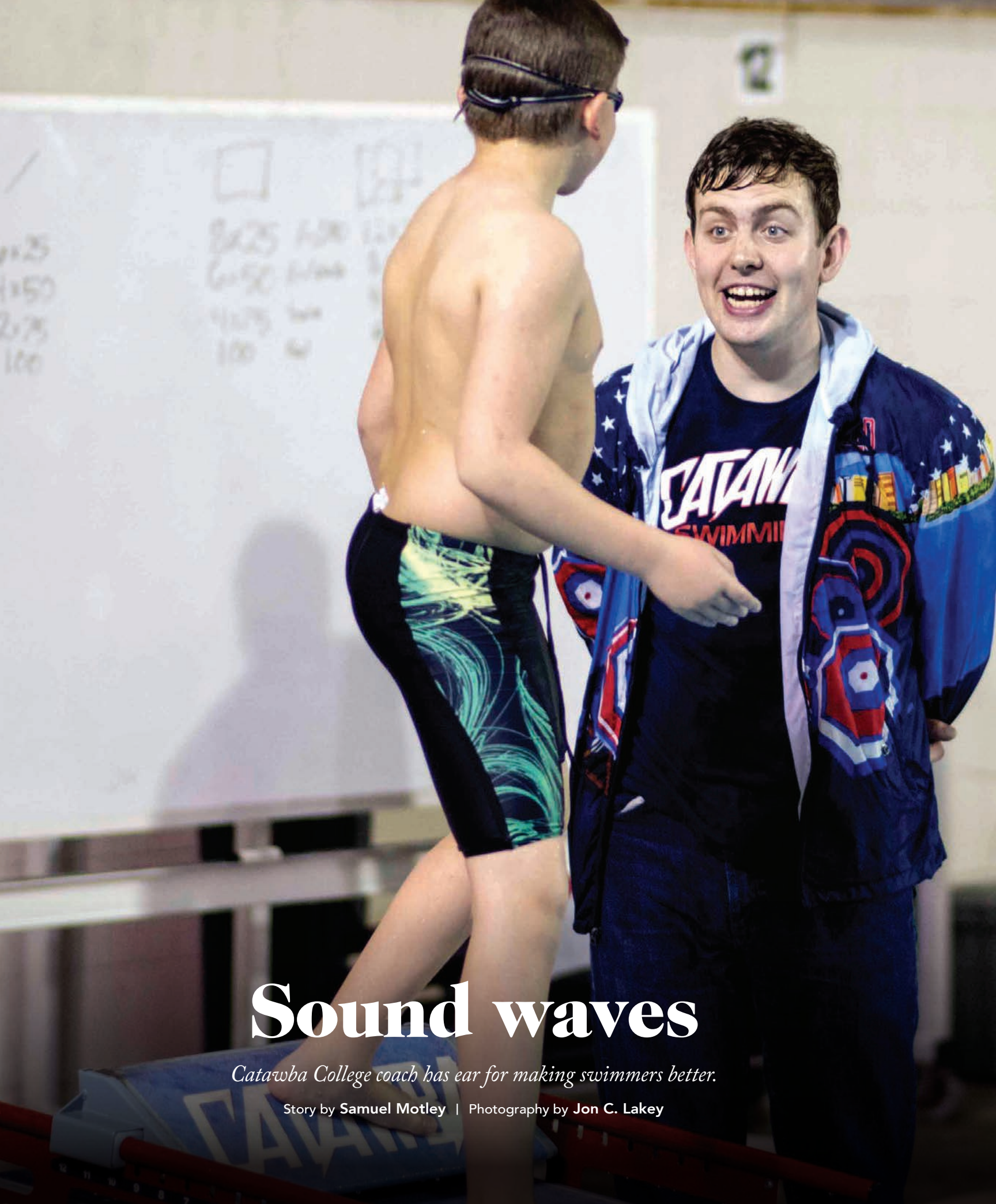
for **FREE MOVING**
when you move in by May 15th*

Make your move to Oak Park by May 15th, 2019 and receive up to \$1500 towards your move! At Oak Park, all utilities except telephone are included in one reasonable monthly rent, and we take care of the cooking, housekeeping, and local transportation. When you make Oak Park your home, you can relax and enjoy your retirement worry-free.

Call today to arrange your complimentary meal and tour!
704-636-4600

Oak Park Retirement 
Gracious Retirement Living
548 White Oaks Drive, Salisbury, NC 28147

 © 2019 HSL
HAWTHORN
SENIOR LIVING



Sound waves

Catawba College coach has ear for making swimmers better.

Story by Samuel Motley | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



Besides his duties as Catawba College assistant swim coach, Tharon Drake also helps with the Tidal Wave Aquatics Club for younger swimmers. Drake lost his sight when he was 15.



From the sound of patterns in the water, Tharon Drake is able to hear what other coaches only wish they could see.

“I can hear details, such as the pitch someone’s hand makes in the water,” Drake says. “Does it sound like a cannonball? Does it sound like a clean dive with very little splash? ... I can get your tempo from sound.”

Drake, a 26-year-old assistant swim coach at Catawba College, is blind. It doesn’t hold him back from making his swimmers better.

“All vision is at the end of the day is learning to see patterns,” Drake says, “And I have just had to learn how to do it with ears.”

In some ways, because he is not distracted by his vision, Drake can hear things that Catawba’s head swim coach, Michael Sever, might miss.

As a coach, Drake says he is accurate 99.9 percent of the time and knows exactly what is going on in the water. He distinguishes different swimmers by their patterns and sounds.

“What is cool is, they trust me,” Drake says. “They’ll go up to me after a meet and say, ‘Hey, what did I do right tonight? What did I do wrong? Tell me about my race.’ And who in their mind would think to ask someone who can’t physically see the race but is doing it all by hearing?”

Between his seeing and Drake’s hearing, Sever says they offer a unique dynamic for their swimmers.

“I really didn’t get to know how prolific his capabilities were until we started working together,” Sever says. “It is one thing to say, ‘I hear



Above: Drake gives two of his young swimmers tips on how to enter the water. Below: Drake's cane helps him navigate the pool area at Catawba College.

things,' and that's awesome, like 'I can hear different stroke techniques in terms of the swim.' It was also then (his) hearing the stuff underwater that was sort of mind-blowing.

"It is a great benefit for them (the college's swimmers) to also have a coach like Tharon who has been to that stage and also understands what it is like to dedicate yourself to the process to get there. He provides a personal perspective that is first person ... he can provide a perspective that is real, and let's face it, what better testament to the sport and character than this guy?"

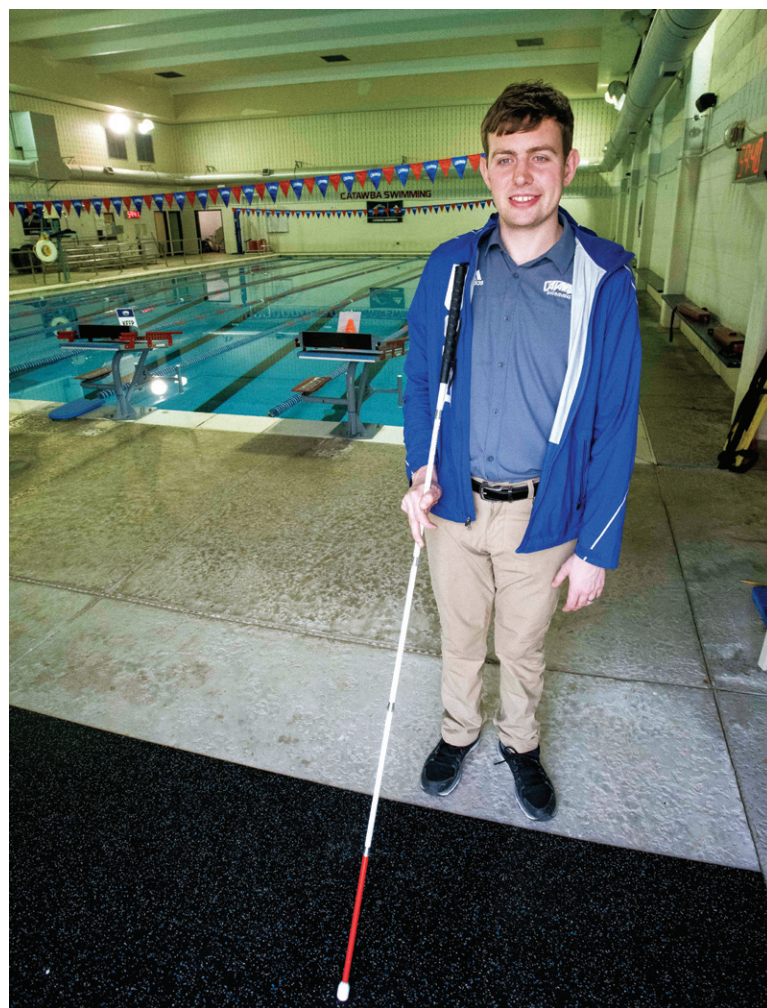
Beyond coaching, Drake has made an even bigger statement with his personal triumphs in the pool, winning two silver medals in the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, and competing in the World Championships with Team USA in 2013, 2015 and 2017.

In his classification, Drake has won five medals in the World Championships, including 2017 gold medals in the 100-meter breaststroke and 400-meter freestyle in Mexico City. He is a current member of Team USA and the U.S. Paralympic National Team.

Competing in the S11 classification for swimmers, Drake holds 13 current American records.

Originally from the small town of Hobbs, New Mexico, Drake has dedicated much of his life to swimming. The sport first clicked for him at age 9, after taking lessons with his mom, who also was learning how to swim.

The local swim team wanted his brother about this same time, when





Tharon couldn't quite swim yet. The coaches offered the Drake family a deal: Both brothers could join the swim team if Tharon could find a way to make it across the pool.

Struggling, Tharon Drake fought to navigate the 25-meter distance, but he made it. From there, Drake would go from lesson to lesson, and practice to practice, swimming for the Caprock Swim Team and Hobbs High School, for whom his dad was coach.

Drake easily recites the dates when his normal schoolboy life started changing drastically. On Nov. 13, 2007, Drake had his first episode with amnesia, blamed on routine vaccinations he had received.

Things worsened on Feb. 23, 2008, during a bus ride home from the state swim meet.

Drake speaks with swimmers about their technique in the water.

"Coming home ... I complained my eyesight was getting blurry," Drake says. "And everyone is going, 'What's that mean?' Well, we found out that it meant I was going blind."

By June 3, 2008, at age 15, Drake had completely lost his sight — for good. He says his condition is called cortical blindness. His amnesia disappeared with the help of medication.

"With the amnesia and the blindness," Drake says, "it was like someone hit the reset button, and I had to figure out everything, and I had to learn trust.

"I had to figure out how to do this in the dark. And that is what I did."

Drake says the journey was not easy, even in the swimming pool where he had come to feel most at home. He dealt with the constant defeats of once simple tasks, such as swimming straight in the lane without hitting the rope.

"I want to chase my goals, and I kept doing that," Drake says. "I

TRANSIT DAMAGED FREIGHT

— Still Family-Owned and Operated —

A unique, one-of-a-kind furniture store selling new and transit-damaged furniture and new bedding at prices you can afford — since 1966



coastal adirondack



coastal counter chair & tête-à-tête



contemporary adirondack & accent table



avanti chairs

Breezesta

will grow with you - season after season - guaranteed.

Made with recycled plastic jars, furniture will not rot, rust, or fade. Learn more at breezesta.com.

ITEMS PICTURED EITHER IN STOCK OR AVAILABLE BY SPECIAL ORDER

1604 South Main Street Lexington, NC (336) 248-2646

CLEARANCE CENTER 8397 Old Salisbury Road Lexington, NC (336) 853-8112

www.transitdamagedfreightnconline.com

WELLNESS

wanted to learn how to swim straight in the water, so I kept setting my goals high.”

The hard work would pay off.

Drake went on to be chosen as a swimming alternate for the 2012 London Paralympics. But after missing out on those games, he refocused and moved to the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he would swim and train for five-and-a-half years as part of the National Paralympics Team.

In 2016, swimming in the Rio Paralympics, Drake captured silver medals in the 400-meter freestyle and 100-meter breaststroke.

At the Rio games, Drake couldn't help but think of all his hometown of Hobbs had done for him after he lost his sight.

“My community has always been, much like Salisbury (has been); a place where every-



Tharon Drake and his wife, Paula, put their hands together with the Tidal Wave Aquatics Club swimmers.

RALPH BAKER'S SHOES
 428 N. Main Street, Salisbury, NC
 704-636-1850 • Mon-Sat 9:30-5:30
 WWW.RALPHBAKERSHOES.COM
 Locally owned since 1976

THRIVENT FINANCIAL®
 Connecting faith & finances for good.®

WHAT'S A SECOND OPINION WORTH?

A lot—when it comes to your investments. As Thrivent Financial Professionals, we can look at your portfolio with fresh eyes to determine if it is aligned with your goals.

No matter which way the financial markets are going, together we'll determine whether any changes are needed to help keep your investment plan on track.

Contact us today for a complimentary portfolio analysis.

Piedmont Regional Team
 2507 Jake Alexander Blvd S
 Salisbury, NC 28146
 704-633-0722
 piedmontregionalteam@thrivent.com

Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Thrivent.com • 800-847-4836

28506 R10-17

WELLNESS

one kind of knows who you are.” Drake says, “They knew the story, so as the years went by, they heard about the bad. ...Then they saw I turned the bad into a good thing.”

When he returned to Hobbs as a Paralympics medal winner, Drake sought a way to inspire people. “The deal was (that) to touch my medals you had to agree to chase your dreams,” he says.

“Hobbs was a big place to help me pursue a dream. I just wanted to give back to a community that gave back to me.

“When I was first blind, I remember saying: I have never met another blind person before. I would really like to meet another blind person. I remember asking all of these questions, and no one really understood what I went through because most of them were born blind.”

Hobbs learned about Catawba College after

his wife, Paula, began looking for jobs at the school. Meanwhile, Drake introduced himself by email to Sever and said he would enjoy being an assistant swim coach.

Intrigued, Sever went to meet Drake in person at the Olympic Training Center.

Today, both Tharon and Paula are part of the swim program at Catawba. She is the team’s strength-and-conditioning coach.

“Catawba has been great,” Tharon Drake says. “Everyone just treats me like me. I am just another staff member. I’m just another coach, and I love that. ... My athletes here have not only embraced it, but they’re also teaching other athletes at different schools when they get asked what’s it like having a blind coach. ... They are great advocates for it.”

Drake dealt with a lot of naysayers who first told him he’d never compete in swimming

again. After he proved them wrong on that front, they said he would never coach.

Drake says it’s important “not being afraid of what others say.”

And he has high praise for his swimmers. “I will talk to them and ask, ‘What do you think about having a blind coach?’” Drake says. “And most of them will go, ‘We don’t even think about it anymore. We forget you are blind until you run into something randomly.’”

That happens sometimes, Drake says, when he’s in an unfamiliar area.

But poolside, there are no slip-ups.

As Drake will tell you, it’s all about listening for the patterns — and one other thing:

Chasing your dreams. **S**

Samuel Motley is an intern for the Salisbury Post.



THE LAURELS OF SALISBURY
A Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
215 Lash Drive | Salisbury, NC 28147 | 704-637-1182

Experience The Laurel Way of Caring

The Laurels of Salisbury offers comprehensive medical care to extended-stay guests and those seeking a positive, compassionate environment for short-term rehabilitation, long-term care, respite, or palliative care. Our homelike facility offers private and semi-private rooms as well as several lounge areas that make for pleasant small gatherings.

The Laurels of Salisbury accepts Medicare, Medicaid, most Medicare Advantage Plans, and many other insurances.

To schedule a tour or to inquire about services call (704) 637-1182.

★★★★★
Medicare.gov

www.laurelsofsalisbury.com



Want to Be This Happy with Your Dentures?

Implant Supported Dentures can provide a better fit and higher stability. Removable or permanent options. Call us today to find out how we can help and save you money!

MERRELL FAMILY DENTISTRY

702 S. Highland Ave. Landis, NC
merrellfamilydentistry.com **704.857.6161**



Drake navigates a narrow apron next to the pool by feeling his way along the wall.

Experienced Veterinary Care for Your Pets



**Call To Ask About
Our Boarding
Facility**



**Open 7 days
a week**

Full list of rules
posted at park

Mon-Fri 7:30am-6pm; Sat 8am-12pm; Sun Closed
4155 Statesville Blvd, Salisbury, NC | 704-636-3408

RowanAnimalClinic.com



Decisions = Destiny

Rowan-Kannapolis
ABC Board

Safer Communities. Stronger Knowledge.



Together We Care.

**GAMEPLAN
FOR LIFE**



Proactively we do programs to teach our community that: **"The preparation for the game of the life does not include the practice of underage drinking"** ~ Terry Osborne



Painting the town

A Salisbury of yesteryear came alive in Kepley's folk art.

Story by **Mark Wineka** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

GRANITE QUARRY — Ronald Kepley explains it this way:
“I got a little bored.”

After he retired in 1996 from Hoechst Celanese, Kepley spent a while keeping up the yard and “piddling” around the house. He carved wood to pass the time, or he might help friends with their home projects.

Kepley hung out with his fellow Masons and Shriners, performed volunteer work at his church or helped at the homeless shelter.

But Kepley, always the busy body — even with the rheumatoid arthritis he has constantly battled — kept looking for a new activity. Around the year 2000, he found it.

“It was something that came into my mind one day,” he explains.

Well into his 60s by then, Kepley started painting, catching everyone in his family off guard.

“We didn’t know he could paint,” wife Annie says today.

“I didn’t know I could paint, either,” Kepley adds.

The first thing he tried to capture was the image of a goose. To his surprise, it actually looked like a goose. He then started doing things from memory, mainly from his boyhood years in Salisbury.

Kepley used acrylics and painted on anything he could find, such as heavy paper, Masonite, plywood or discarded wall panels. Annie eventually bought him an easel, and he fashioned his own art studio in a shed behind their house.

“He went on a jag there for a while,” says his daughter, Lisa Kluttz, an artist in her own right.

Kepley became prolific for about a five-year period, until he was hit by a serious case of bacterial meningitis. Kluttz remembers her father was in a coma for four days, and his neurologist worried he wasn’t coming out of it.

But Kepley regained consciousness and recovered, though he was left with a pronounced tremor. He gave up painting about 13 years ago, and his artwork went into storage.

“He wanted his painting to be done with a steady hand,” Kluttz says. “He’s not an abstract artist.”

Kluttz recently gathered together many of her father’s paintings in the living room of Ronald and Annie’s house in Brown Acres. If you took all the things he painted, the works probably could extend from the floor to ceiling.

There’s something intriguing about Kepley’s style. Perspectives are sometimes way off. Figures are hardly to scale. But the colors, poses, signage and some of the details, such as shadows or tiny cracks in the window panes, draw you in.

The stories of a Salisbury past go with them.

The paintings are filled with characters such as Lord Salisbury, Garland Gaither, “Jake-leg,” the “Soap Lady,”



Ronald Kepley's folk art captured a Salisbury of days gone by.



Ollie Cagle, Mr. Saleeby, Van Hoy Kepley, Buck Lineberry, Perry Daniel, Sam Howard, Mrs. Doby and a blind man playing guitar.

"I never did know his name," Kepley says, apologizing.

The places depicted include spots such as the Big V in Dixonville, Eddie's Pool Room, the Empire Hotel, New York Cafe, OK Barber Shop, the Red Pig Bar-B-Q, the Yadkin Hotel, Salisbury Ice and Coal, Sunbeam Bakery, Candy Hall's, Harris Granite and Annie's home place in her native Georgia.

Talk to Kepley, and after a while you hear about the Grit newspaper, Cloverline salve and the best places for hot dogs in the old days. "We couldn't afford hamburgers," he says.

Klutz describes her father's painting as a folk-art style that tells a story — and is part of his own story. "I like that it's a memory painting, something that was real to him," she says.

Knowing Ronald Kepley's upbringing proves informative to his folk art.

He grew up on Salisbury's east side at 209 S. Shaver St., a dirt street then. He lived two blocks from Dixonville, where the Big V grocery stood farther down South Shaver on its V-shaped lot.

The Kepley home wasn't far from the old Fifty-Fifty. He attended A.T. Allen School and later Boyden High. His friends included Francis Daniel and Charlie Gerock, whose family had a store on West Horah Street.

When Kepley was 5 or 6 years old in the early 1940s, Salisbury Ice and Coal still delivered to homes using a horse and wagon.

Above: Though he was too young, Kepley says, he sometimes hung out at Eddie's Pool Room. Below: Kepley painted Mr. Saleeby holding an armful of hot dogs. 'We couldn't afford hamburgers,' he says.



Story continues on page 69.

REMINISCE



Above: Kepley depicts a Salvation Army band playing at the corner of Fisher and Shaver streets. Below left: A scene outside the New York Cafe. Below right: Outside the Empire Hotel, Kepley's characters include Lord Salisbury, Ollie Cagle and a lady of the evening.



REMINISCE



Outside of Candy Hall's, where hot dogs were 5 cents, Ollie Cagle hawks the Grit newspaper while a blind man plays his guitar for money.

educate, entertain, inspire,
engage and enrich

SALISBURY SYMPHONY

204 East Innes Street, Suite 260, Salisbury, NC 28144
704-216-1513
 director@salisburysymphony.org
 www.salisburysymphony.org

North Carolina Arts Council
 The Salisbury Symphony Orchestra receives support from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Gotta have it.

Gifts for your loved ones or yourself

Changing Lives, one pound at a time
 NC Board of Dietetics and Nutrition approved program
 Nutritionally Balanced Plan • Individualized attention
 Health and Wellness Coaching (Certified by UNCG)
 Semi-Private Circuit Training Classes
 Rodan +Fields Skincare Consultant
 Start now and receive a free starter kit

SLIM SOLUTIONS
 Weight Loss & Nutritional Support

336-224-5325 | www.ssweightloss.net
 55 South Talbert Blvd., Lexington, NC
 Julie Williams CHC, Owner

“At the time, we had an ice box to keep our food cold,” Kepley says. “Sometimes the driver would let us ride on the back of the wagon to the Salisbury Swimming Pool on Bank Street.”

It’s hard to believe now, but Kepley and his friends often went fishing and camping in the wooded area along Town Creek. He says they could catch blue gill, sunfish, catfish and shiners. Using a rope swing, the kids also jumped from a hill and dropped themselves into Town Creek’s waters.

Kepley relied on black friction tape to patch his bicycle tires. His dad, Van Hoy Kepley, worked at Cannon Mills Plant No. 7 off Park Avenue, and he also ran a honky tonk when Ronald was about 9, as he remembers it.

In the fourth grade, Kepley says, he painted “a big fat pirate” that made it into a state competition. But he never really pursued art otherwise, until his boring retirement days.



The police officer is Perry Daniel. The man with the whistle on a bicycle is Buck Lineberry.



YATAWARA
GYNECOLOGY · WELLNESS · AESTHETICS

GENERAL GYNECOLOGY
 BIOIDENTICAL HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY
 BOTOX • JUVEDERM • LATISSE • ZO SKIN HEALTH
 KYBELLA • CHEMICAL PEELS • JANE IREDALE
 MONALISA TOUCH • NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

WWW.YATAWARAMD.COM
 704.754.8990
 415 STATESVILLE BOULEVARD · SALISBURY, NC 28144

Live Healthfully · Age Gracefully

Barnhardt
 ... JEWELERS ...
 Celebrating 30 Years



**With Your Commitment
 Comes Ours**

314 S. Salisbury Ave. Spencer, NC
704-633-0618

REMINISCE



In this one frame, Kepley fits in the old First Presbyterian Church, the Confederate statue and the front steps of St. John's Lutheran.

As a teen, Kepley worked part-time at Marley's Esso, which also employed some Salisbury firemen on their off days — "so I got an early education," he says.

The Salisbury Kepley remembers included Eddie's Pool Room on East Fisher Street. "He had a front door and a back door, and when the police came in the front, I went out the back," Kepley says, acknowledging he was too young to be in there.

Buck Lineberry was one of many town characters. He rode a bicycle and performed odd jobs for folks. With his whistle, Kepley says, Lineberry enjoyed helping Salisbury Police Officer Perry Daniel direct traffic.

Garland Gaither also was always on his bicycle delivering the latest Salisbury Evening Post. "You never saw that guy standing still," Kepley says.

Ollie Cagle hawked the Grit newspaper and, from a little box he constantly carried, all kinds of things such as salves, gum and cough drops.

Many places such as Saleeby's, the Red Pig and Candy Hall's had good, cheap hot dogs. One of Kepley's paintings shows a scene outside the Empire Hotel that includes Lord




HIGHLY TRAINED
EXPERTS IN
CUSTOMER
SATISFACTION.



WE STAND BEHIND EVERY TRANE.

© 2015 Trane. All rights reserved.



"The Doctor of Home Comfort"

4243 S. Main Street
Salisbury., NC
704-633-8095
www.trane.com



Windsor Gallery

JEWELERS

1810 W Innes St Salisbury, NC
www.windsorgalleryjewelers.com
704.633.7115 

Your place for
hometown charms!



Looking forward
to the third annual
Cheerwine Festival!



Salisbury, a prostitute and a man who had lost his legs who used to sell pencils for money.

Kepley signed all of his folk art "Doguam" (pronounced "Doogum"), the name of his uncle's old bird dog. Kepley resisted signing his own name.

"He's kind of humble," Kluttz says.

"That's my pen name," Kepley adds with a laugh.

Ronald and Annie Kepley met at Leisure Lads and have been married 60 years. Ronald worked as a mechanic and ran the cutting machines in several sewing shops. In addition, he polished stone at Harris Granite for seven years before landing his job as a mechanic at Hoechst Celanese (Fiber Industries) for 30 years.

The Kepleys also have a son, Chris, and four grandchildren.

All the rheumatoid arthritis medicine Ronald Kepley has taken over the years has taken its toll, destroying his immune system requiring him to take a daily antibiotic. He also had back surgery two years ago, forcing his transition from a walker to a wheelchair.

He was driving and mowing the lawn up to about a year ago.

"I've had a lot of help and a good family to take care of me," Kepley says.

Kepley will be 83 in May, but when those old paintings of his come out, he's a young boy again.

Having a hot dog at Saleeby's. Buying a Grit from Ollie. And rushing out the back door at Eddie's. **S**

EZ Payment Options

Windows - Gutter Siding - Roofing

J.A. FISHER[®] CONSTRUCTION.COM

A Specialty Contractor Since 1979 With Over 10000 Completed Jobs

Salisbury **704-788-3217** Concord
Kannapolis Harrisburg



Landis Plumbing Supply, Inc.

After 60 years
in the business,
we understand
kitchens & baths.

We also understand what our customers want —
competitive price, quality products and friendly,
professional customer service.

Walk-ins welcome. Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30

704-857-BATH
CORNER OF 29 NORTH &
OLD BEATTY FORD RD. CHINA GROVE
WWW.LANDISPLUMBING.COM

EYE SURGERY AND LASER CLINIC



Accredited with American Association
for Accreditation of Ambulatory
Surgery Facilities

Accepting New Patients.

TOP OF THE CHARTS.

State-of-the-art cataract surgery and other
eye surgery close to home.

- More than 60,000 procedures in over 25 years.
- Area's only surgery center focused Exclusively on eye surgery.
- We have surgery staff with 30+ years of experience. Call for an appointment.



**CABARRUS
EYE CENTER**

201 LePhillip Court NE | Concord
Eye Surgery & Laser Clinic
500 Lake Concord Rd | Concord

704-782-1127
www.cabarruseye.com

Providing Classical
Christian Curriculum for
Junior Kindergarten
through grade 12





NORTH HILLS

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Established 1967
northhillschristian.com
704-636-3005 ext 109

"Equipping the hearts and minds of students to Impact the world for Christ"

CHOOSE TO SUBSCRIBE

Call 704-797-4213
or order online at
salisburythemagazine.com



SALISBURY

the magazine

the Scene



Above: Marlene Owen and Hayden Simmerson visit the galleries between oysters and ice cream. Right: The Kepley Construction crew enjoyed the evening.



Above: Salisbury City Council members Tamara Sheffield and Karen Alexander. Right: Janine Rhodes, Evelyn Medina and Tina Stroud.



Waterworks' Oyster Roast

Waterworks Visual Arts Center held its 14th annual Oyster Roast at the F&M Trolley Barn and ushered in the center's 60th year. The evening boasted excellent food, drinks, dancing and a silent auction, while supporting the education and outreach programs of Waterworks. Cheerwine, United Beverages, College Barbecue, Big Daddy's of Lake Norman and Cold Stone Creamery made sure the nearly 400 guests were filled to satisfaction, while DJ Errin Brown of Virtual Sounds provided the music.

— Photos by Tim Coffey



Frank Labagnara and David Garling



Ray Paradowski and Cindy Fink



Kayla and Dan Powell man the auction desk.



Donny Clement and Greg Shields



Waterworks Executive Director Anne Scott Clement, left, gave a big tip of the hat to F&M Bank for its support of the Visual Arts Center and use of the Trolley Barn. F&M representatives included Steve and Robin Fisher, Bob and Leah Honeycutt and Leanna and Guy Hoskins.



Clockwise from above: Celia and Steve Jarrett; Hope Holmes and Jean Willis; Marna and Charles Steinman; Mark Bias and Matthew Beaver; Martin James, Carrie Bardin, Anne Scott Clement, Lane Wallace and Rick Anderson; Allison and Mark Dolby; Jackie Black and M.T. Sidoli





Above: Ellie and Susan Freeze. Right: Before the opening ceremony began, part of the crowd takes a closer look at the refurbished Merci (Gratitude) Train boxcar in the Back Shop at the N.C. Transportation Museum.



49 Days of Gratitude Kickoff

A parade through Spencer and an opening ceremony in the N.C. Transportation Museum's Back Shop kicked off the 49 Days of Gratitude. The 49 Days project collects items for various nonprofits and also holds many programs and activities with the themes of gratitude, French culture and World War II. The Merci Train-inspired opening ceremony featured television host and documentarian Beth Troutman as keynote speaker and many out-of-town guests, including Anne-Lise Gallay, a deputy cultural attache with the French Consulate in Atlanta.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Kim, Emmett, Terri and Owen Correll wait for the parade in Spencer.



Dottie Campbell of Gwynedd, Pa., John and Sue Stevens of Atlanta, Ga., and Steve Combs of Salisbury. Campbell is a longtime Merci Train enthusiast and historian. The Stevenses own the MerciTrain.org website.



Above: Susan Morris and Beth Nance. Nance was leading The Butterfly Project in connection with the 49 Days of Gratitude. Left: Gretchen Witt and grandson Balian Witt.



Members of the Rowan County Voiture 40 and 8 included Evans Kayser, Tim Shue, Rick Ridenhour, Ryan Smith, Eli Basinger, Harold 'Andy' Andrews, Donnie Miller and Steve Jarrett.



Dalin Overcash and Linda Wilson



Left: Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard members Chuck Quinn, Charlie Cauble, Dave Ingram and Dave Shaff prepare to present the colors. Middle: The opening ceremony also was used to distribute some of the 49 Days of Gratitude donation boxes, which collected supplies for various nonprofits throughout Rowan County. A wreath-laying ceremony in memory of fallen soldiers of the United States and France also was held at the end of the proceedings. Right: Alexis Cowan, right, sings the U.S. national anthem as Ashton Williams of Cub Scout Pack 443 and emcee David Whisenant share the stage with him.



Above: Connie, Tony and Emily Call. Right: Keynote speaker Beth Troutman, left, stands in front of North Carolina's Merci Train boxcar with Anne-Lise Gallay, a deputy cultural attache with the French Consulate in Atlanta.





Signs such as the one in the corner of this storefront window marked participating locations in Wine about Winter.



Aidan O'Connor, Emily Patterson, Michelle Pannizzo, Anthony Pannizzo and Matt Pavelko



Above: Erika McRae and Amanda Moore.
Left: Meghan Osborne, Melody Loudin and Sarah Horne

Wine About Winter

More than 750 tickets were sold for Downtown Salisbury Inc.'s sixth annual Wine About Winter, for which 44 downtown Salisbury businesses were among the participants. Ticket purchasers received a souvenir wine glass, a wristband and map showing the shops where they could pop in for a 1-ounce pour of wine. Up to 20 stops were allowed, and many stores combined the evening with discounts and specials.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Above: Sarah Smith and Heather Riffe.
Right: Karen Russell, Tiffany Chaffin and Abigail Russell



Left: Kertisa Williams and Audria Herriott. Middle: Jaime and Stephen West.
Right: Shannon Mann, Kyle Kester and Michael Graham.





Mona Schofield, Pam Austin and Sonia Dalton



Noel Adams, Lisa Wray, Lauren Boone, Kristen Waller, Michelle Ketchie and Erica Taylor



Liz George, Tiffany Wix, Cheyenne Smith and Chamarra Childers



Paulina Arteaga, Esmeralda Reyna, Tania Arteaga, Marlene Gomez and Vanessa Arteaga



A Wine About Winter line waits to enter the Shuckin' Shack on North Main Street.



Left: Robin Huden, Sheila Sadighi and Donna Knotts. Right: Kathy McKinney and Aleshia Meacham



Above: Ashley Rasche and Jennifer Upright. Right: Harold Jones, Regan French and Jillian Price.





Yarel, Yadira and Monica Lopez stop for a moment before heading into the concert.



Elizabeth Hanford Dole Elementary students, waiting to perform, include in the top row: Darlin Flores, Kirsten Cain, Stephen Hughes and Savannah Wilson; bottom row: Gorgeous Cole, Chynue Vang, Jaydon Finch and Sadie Lapuz.



In front, Daleigh and Piper Waters stand with Jerri Nottingham, Brittany Harwood, Tiffany Waters and Katie Swanson.

Salisbury Symphony's 'Stars'

The Salisbury Symphony, directed by David Hagy, presented "Stars," which featured celestial-inspired pieces with the Rowan County Fifth-Grade Honors Chorus, selected soloists from Rowan high schools and the Salisbury Symphony Chorale. Narration was provided by 2018 N.C. Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Greene. Held at Catawba College's Keppel Auditorium, the event also provided a red carpet and Grammy-styled background for participants and sponsors to take photos.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Left: From Overton Elementary, Lily Fisher, Julia Shelton, Leanna Ford and Trazelle Ward.



Right: Rockwell Elementary music teacher Jason Harwood takes a red carpet photo of his chorus members, who included, in alphabetical order, Lainey Barger, Layla Cooper, Lennox Dauberman, Jordan Dry, Emma Fortin, Brinley Goodman, Cadence Hamilton, Nelee Mickey, Maggie Ridenhour and Kyleigh Stiltner.



Michael Haughee and Russ Boaeuf man the roulette wheel as Kathleen Dunn, Diana Potts and Dotty Clement place their bets.



Conductor David Hagy is in the middle, flanked by Tim and Tisha Proper and Steve and Robin Fisher.



Blackjack dealer Kirk Smith with Linda Jones

Cocktail Cabaret

Salisbury Symphony held its Cocktail Cabaret at Catawba College's Peeler Crystal Lounge. Those attending came dressed in cocktail attire, enjoyed an evening of international foods, magic, cabaret-styled live music and casino games that included blackjack, poker, roulette and craps. Door prizes included a trip to Las Vegas.

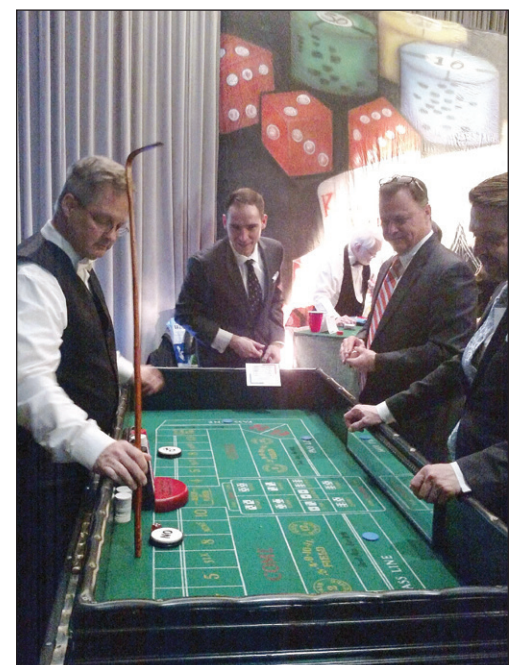
— Photos by Gene Krueger



Left: Magician Glen Yost with Ann Meredith.



Middle: Steve Stringer and John Stafford provided the night's music.



Right: At the craps table, Joey Rudzinski, left, with Martin James, Tim Proper and Rick Anderson.



Daphne Safrit walks along a path enjoying the beauty during last year's Hurley Park Spring Celebration. This year's event is April 7. — Wayne Hinshaw photo

1 Waterworks Unity Through Art Exhibition

April 1 through May 18: Waterworks Visual Arts Center, 123 E. Liberty St. — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information: waterworks.org.

2 Waterworks Hand & Wheel Pottery with Brent Smith

April 2: Waterworks Visual Arts Center, 123 E. Liberty St. — 6:30-9 p.m. For more information: 704-636-1882, or www.waterworks.org

2 Waterworks Color Theory Class with Phyllis Steimel

April 2, 9: Waterworks Visual Arts Center, 123 E. Liberty St. — 6:30-9 p.m. For more information: 704-636-1882 www.waterworks.org

4 Mamma Mia!'

April 4-13: Meroney Theater, 213 S. Main St. — 7:30 p.m. A Piedmont Players production. Told through hit songs by the popular 1970s group ABBA, the story centers on a

April 2019

Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

bride-to-be trying to find her real father. Tickets: \$17-\$20 For more information: 704-633-5471, www.facebook.com, or <http://www.piedmont-players.com>.

5 Tractors & Trains Festival

April 5-6: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — 9 a.m.-3p.m. This agricultural-based event features tons of tractors and train rides, but that's not all. Steam-powered farming equipment, displays from community groups, music, activities and more will fill the museum grounds. Friday, April 5, is geared toward school groups, while Saturday, April 6, the event opens to the public. For more information: 704-636-2889, or <http://www.nctrans.org/>

Events.aspx.

6 Colonial Spring Frolic

April 6: Old Stone House, 770 Old Stone House Road — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring in spring the 18th century way at the Old Stone House. Dye Easter Eggs with colonial dyes, play games, dance and enjoy tasting some colonial recipes. Cost: \$5, adult; \$3, student. For more information: 704-633-5946, or <https://www.rowanmuseum.org/events.html>.

6 Ring in Spring

April 6: Gateway Park, corner of West Innes and Depot streets, Salisbury — 11 a.m.-

2 p.m. Ring in Spring is Downtown Salisbury Inc.'s annual event to kick off spring. A professional photographer will be onsite offering free photos with the Easter Bunny. Plus, spring crafts, snacks and family fun. After the event, spend the afternoon shopping and strolling in downtown boutiques and shops, grab a bite in downtown restaurants and enjoy your day. For more information: www.rowanpubliclibrary.org.

6 Owl we need is love
April 6: West Rowan Farm Home & Garden, 11575 Highway 801, Mount Ulla — 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Kids & adults painting class. For more information: www.eventbrite.com.

7 Hurley Park Spring Celebration
April 7: Elizabeth Holmes Hurley Park, Annandale Avenue, Salisbury — 2-4 p.m. Bring the whole family for a day of fun at the 32nd annual celebration, ushering in the spring. For more information, contact 704-638-4459 or go to www.salisburync.gov/PLAY.

10 'Into the Woods'
April 10-13: Catawba College's Herdick Little Theatre, 2300 W. Innes St. — 7:30 p.m., except for 2:30p.m. April 13. A production of Catawba College's Blue Masque Theatre. A witch. A wish. A wolf. What could go wrong? In Stephen Sondheim's classic musical, all your favorite fairy tale characters journey "Into the Woods" to get their wishes granted. But along the way, they discover the dangerous consequences of wishing, and learn that what tears us apart might also hold us together. Tickets: adults, \$15; students and seniors, \$10. For more information: 704-637-4481, or <https://catawba.edu/news-events>.

10 ARTpops: Knitting with Janet Pingrey
April 11: Waterworks Visual Arts Center, 123 E. Liberty St. — 6:30-9 p.m. For more information: www.waterworks.org.

11 Historic Salisbury Foundation Annual Meeting
April 11: Salisbury Station on Depot Street — 7-9 p.m. 46th annual meeting of Historic Salisbury Foundation. Guest speaker: author Kristy Woodson Harvey. Call 704-636-0103 or go to www.historicsalisbury.org for information.

13 Strides for Stroke 5K
April 13: N.C. Research Campus, 150 Research Campus Road, Kannapolis — The fifth annual Strides for Stroke 5K presented by Carolinas Healthcare System benefits the Cabarrus Stroke Support Group. Times: 9 a.m., 5k race start; 7 a.m., registration and packet

pickup; 8 a.m., Stroke Survivor's Lap for stroke survivors and their families; 8:15 a.m., Doctor's Dash, come cheer on your favorite doctors as they compete in a 100-yard dash; 8:30 a.m., Kid's Fun Run, all children participating will receive an award. Entry fees are \$20 for the 5K and \$10 for the Fun Run. Contact Lorrie Hampton at 704-403-2430 or Lorrie.hampton@carolinashealthcare.org for more information.

13 Pass The Plate
April 13: The Country Club of Salisbury, 747 Club Drive — 6-10 p.m. Join Rowan Helping Ministries' annual fundraiser for the opportunity to put God's love into action and "pass" along your blessings and support to neighbors in need. The evening will include music and dancing, a vibrant silent auction, games, a raffle prize trip, fund-a-need, heavy hors d'oeuvres, great company and more. Tickets are \$60 a person and can be purchased at www.rowanhelpingministries/updates/passtheplate or over the phone at 704-637-6838 ext. 100.

13 Easter Bunny Express
April 13 - 14, April 19-20: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — Take a train ride with the Easter Bunny coming along for the fun. The furry friend will be handing out candy, posing for pictures and meeting everyone. Kids also can get temporary tattoos in the Gift Station and make a take-home craft. Upgrade your purchase to include breakfast with the Easter Bunny. For more information: 704-636-2889, or <https://www.nctrans.org/Events.aspx>.

19 Earth Day Jam
April 19-20: Dark Before Dawn Farm, 2100 7th St., Salisbury — Earth Day Jam is a music and arts festival, an Earth Day celebration and a benefit for Happy Roots, a local nonprofit. With national and regional musical acts performing on two stages, over 40 vendors and educators, food trucks, and kids activities, the jam celebrates Earth Day with fun and education for the whole family.

19 Shakers Dance
April 19: Salisbury City Park's Rec Building, 316 Lake Drive — 7-9 p.m. This dance is for adults 18 years of age and older with a developmental disability. Light refreshments are served by sponsors and partnering agencies. The Shakers Dance is a partnership of the Arc of Rowan County, Rowan County Parks and Recreation and Salisbury Parks and Recreation.


20 Easter Egg Hunt/Spring Fest
April 20: 770 St. Stephens Church Road, Gold Hill — 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information: historicgoldhill.com.

25 'Blood Done Sign My Name'
April 25 - 27:
Lee Street theatre, 329 N Lee St. — 7:30 p.m. Mike Wiley brings to life the recollections of author Tim Tyson surrounding the 1970 murder of Henry "Dickie" Marrow in Oxford, N.C., and the events that followed. Directed by Craig Kolkebeck. General tickets are \$17.55; student tickets, \$10. For more information: 704-310-5507, or www.leestreet.org.

27 Century Farms & Barns Bus Tour
April 27: the Mount Ulla section of Rowan County — 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Explore with Historic Salisbury Foundation the history of western Rowan's farms and barns on this unique trip, which includes site and house tours of significant farmhouses, barns, barn quilts and other farm dependencies. Enjoy a lunch along the route. Transportation provided by Crossroads Tours of Cleveland. Ticket includes bus fare, tour and lunch. Seating is limited. Call the Historic Salisbury Foundation office for more information at 704-636-0103. Cost: \$35.

27 St. Paul's Cruise 'n Barbecue
April 27: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 205 St. Paul's Church Road — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The classic and collector car and bike show, music, raffle and door prizes begin at 10 a.m. Port-A-Pit chicken dinners, homemade ice cream and desserts will be served, starting at 11 a.m. until they are sold out. Registration, directions and more information can be found at www.facebook.com/st.paulscruisenbarbecue.

27 Matthew Weaver and Friends
April 27: Edward C. Smith Civic Center, Lexington, 217 S. Main St. and also May 4, Catawba College's Keppel Auditorium — 7:30 p.m. N.C. Folk Music Festival Award Winner and Grand Ole Opry performer Matthew Weaver and friends, including guitarist Clay Lunsford, perform selections of Appalachian mountain music along with the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra. Expect a "rollicking good time" as the concert explores the roots of mountain music.

30 Adam Miller in concert
April 30: Rowan Public Library, 201 West Fisher St. — 7 p.m. Friends of Rowan Public Library Concert Series. For more information: www.rowanpubliclibrary.org. 

salisbury's the place |

'GARDEN ON MONROE'

By Sharon Forthofer

Oil on panel

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

Salisbury Motor Company

Family Owned & Operated Since 1919



BEST PRE-OWNED CAR DEALER

100 Years in Business!

Serving generation after generation.

WE ARE YOUR TOTAL AUTOMOTIVE DEALER FOR LIFE

700 West Innes Street, Salisbury
704-636-1341 • www.SalisburyMotorCompany.com

*EVERYTHING IN CARS,
TRUCKS, AND SUVS*

SALISBURY ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATES

The Gold Standard of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine ... close to home



704-633-6442 | WakeHealth.edu/Orthopaedics

**Proud to serve
Rowan County
for more than
two decades**



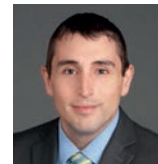
Robert Humble, MD
Orthopaedic Surgery



Jordan Case, MD
Orthopaedic Surgery



Ryan Schenk, PA-C
Orthopaedics



Marcus Hiller, PA-C
Orthopaedics

We are dedicated to providing you and your family with expert bone, muscle and joint care and the most modern treatments available. That way you can get back to being active and doing what you love.

Same-day/next-day appointments often available.

Salisbury Orthopaedic Associates

605 Grove Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

ACCEPTING MOST MAJOR INSURANCE PROVIDERS.

