

May 2019

SALISBURY

the magazine

FIRM FOUNDATION

Exploring the vocational,
technical side of education

Wall Street

Abstract artist finds
spraying is saying

Keen edge

A Rowan bladesmith
hones his craft

Rooms with a view(point)

Owner fills home with
things bringing her joy



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by KRIS MUELLER

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On this page: Street artist Shane Pierce's custom-made bicycle. — Jon C. Lakey photos

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May is for metal, mettle and mothers

The good part of holding a new issue of Salisbury the Magazine in your hands is that it usually introduces you to talented, interesting people who are doing extraordinary things.

I've been calling this particular issue the heavy metal edition, with considerable mettle thrown in.

The metal and mettle come in many forms. Take bladesmith David Askew and the passion he has for making knives. It's a lesson in craftsmanship and metallurgy to hear Askew talk and demonstrate how he creates, say, a camping guide knife out of a ball bearing.

Photographer Jon Lakey's images will take you through some of Askew's bladesmithing process.

Writer Liz Moomey and Lakey bring us their story on abstract artist Shane Pierce, who is as equally at home painting on walls as he is on canvas. Numerous Rowan County places hold examples of Pierce's intriguing artwork, which always makes a bold statement and could easily grace the album cover of any heavy metal band.

Contributing writer Kris Mueller found metal working to be one of the many life skills being explored by Rowan-Salisbury students enrolled in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) curriculum.

Mueller and Lakey give us a sampling of what's happening in microbiology, masonry, robotics, woodworking, FFA, horticulture and other programs at three different high schools.

It's eye-opening — and encouraging.

Elizabeth Cook visits the home of Sue McHugh for our At Home feature. You'll find you can't talk about McHugh's handsome home without learning more about McHugh, who is an accomplished artist and musician possessing a similarly strong mettle for nurturing her historic North Main Street neighborhood and the community at large.

Elsewhere, Deirdre Parker Smith updates us on a rock star of TripAdvisor, Gene Krueger of Salisbury, and his willing accomplice, wife Kathleen Dunn.

Krueger and Dunn are the ultimate foodies — no heavy metals

here, we hope — traveling throughout the United States and elsewhere to sample what the world has to offer. Krueger never fails to give a review of their food and lodging for TripAdvisor, which considers Krueger one of their most reliable contributors.

Emily Ford offers an update on the 10-year-old MURDOCK Study at the N.C. Research Campus in Kannapolis. It surely will provide landmark data in the years ahead, furnished primarily by hardworking Cabarrus and Rowan Countians who are among the thousands of participants.


More metal comes into the picture with Claudene Gale's vintage lunchbox collection. She owns more than 260 metal lunchboxes from years ago. Reading her story will make you long for the days of your "Monkees" lunchbox and hope your mom has put chocolate milk in the Thermos.

May often is associated, of course, with Mother's Day, so for our normal Rowan Originals spot we are substituting a

beautifully written column by Kathy Chaffin that is connected to mothers. The Rowan Originals Q&A will return in the next issue.

Many thanks to Dr. Michael Bitzer for his Through the Lens photograph and Phyllis Steimel for her artwork that appears in Salisbury's the Place.

Now for a shameless, promotional note: Issues of Salisbury the Magazine recently received N.C. Press Association awards — first- and third-place honors — as the "Best Niche Publication" for newspapers in our circulation division. (The magazine is a publication of the Salisbury Post.)

We thank the readers and advertisers who make the magazine possible. You deserve the medals — heavy ones, in fact. 



Mark Wineka,
Editor, Salisbury the Magazine

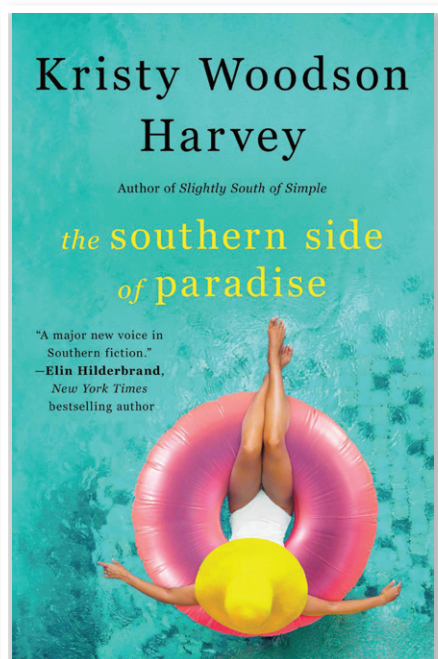


Dr. J. Michael Bitzer, professor of politics and history at Catawba College, provided this image taken during his first formal photographic workshop concentrating on barns in Madison County. The instructor ended the participants' day in Luck. Bitzer used a Nikon D5300 with an 18mm lens.



Southern balance

Harvey completes her trilogy



"The Southern Side of Paradise"

By Kristy Woodson Harvey

Salisbury's own Southern novelist, Kristy Woodson Harvey, has completed her trilogy about a strong Southern woman and her equally strong, if challenging, daughters.

The story began with "The Secret to Southern Charm," where we met mother Ansley, high maintenance daughter Caroline, Army wife Sloane and actress Emerson.

The second novel was "Slightly South of Simple," when new complications arose that involved every member of the family. Sloane was the focus as her husband is reported missing in Iraq.

In "The Southern Side of Paradise," Emerson faces tough choices — an acting career, or a wife and mother content to live in her small hometown of Peachtree Bluff, Georgia.

As with the previous books, the story is told in alternating chapters by mother Ansley and daughter Emerson.

Harvey provides a beautiful setting in the seaside town, and through her own interest in interior decorating. Ansley is an interior decorator and a real person, not an old woman, but one still active and in love. The balance between mother and daughters works well. Harvey has insight and compassion and has been called one of the hottest new Southern writers.

Harvey understands plot and characters, and knows her characters well. It's easy to enter the worlds she creates and stay involved, enjoying the story as she manufactures and then untangles problems.

"Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee"

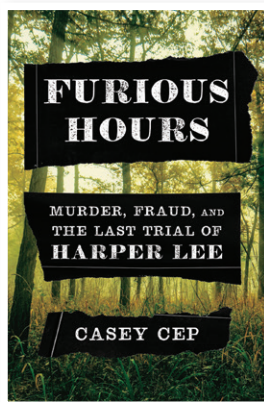
By Casey Cep

This is the stunning story of an Alabama serial killer and the true-crime book that Harper Lee worked on obsessively in the years after "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Rev. Willie Maxwell was a rural preacher accused of murdering five of his family members for insurance money in the 1970s. With the help of a savvy lawyer, he escaped justice for years until a relative shot him dead at the funeral of his last victim. Despite hundreds of witnesses, Maxwell's murderer was acquitted — thanks to the same attorney who had previously defended the Reverend.

Sitting in the audience during the vigilante's trial was Harper Lee, who had traveled from New York City to her native Alabama with the idea of writing her own "In Cold Blood," the true-crime classic she had helped her friend Truman Capote research 17 years earlier. Lee spent a year in town reporting, and many more years working on her own version of the case.

Now Cep brings this story to life, from the shocking murders to the courtroom drama to the racial politics of the Deep South. At the same time she offers a deeply moving portrait of one of the country's most beloved writers and her struggle with fame, success and the mystery of artistic creativity.



"Prairie Fever"

By Michael Parker

Another North Carolina author, Michael Parker, has a new novel that is already earning praise. Tom Drury called it "The most beautiful novel I have read in quite some time." Parker writes this time of early 1900s Oklahoma and two sisters, pragmatic Lorena and chimerical Elise. When they both

fall for a new school teacher, troubles begin. The novel tells the story of characters tested as much by life on the prairie as they are by their own churning hearts. Parker teaches in the MFA Writing Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and splits his time between Saxapahaw, a historic North Carolina town, and Austin, Texas. He has a way of getting inside his characters' heads and rooting out their true feelings. His writing is subtle and affecting.



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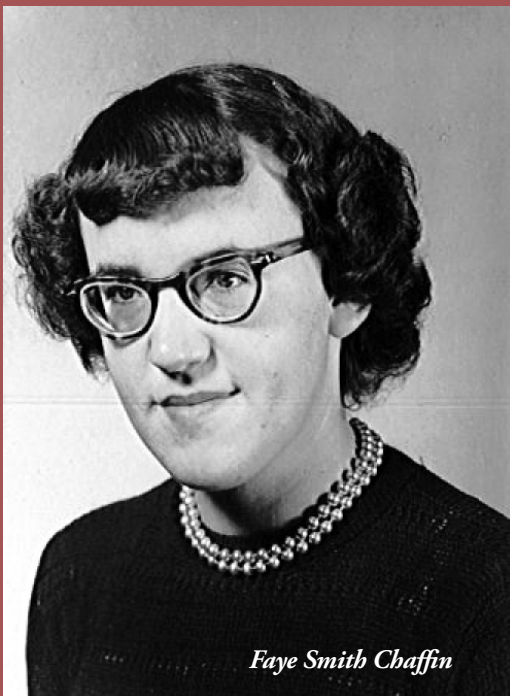
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Rose Post



Faye Smith Chaffin

Meeting in the same field, year after year

Being grateful for the blessing of having two mothers.

Editor's note: May 12 is Mother's Day.

I considered entering the annual Rose Post Creative Nonfiction Writing Competition this year — which I just heard about the day before — but didn't have enough time to enter. "Next year," I told Mark Wineka when I sent him what I had started writing about Rose, our beloved newsroom mother. "I'm claiming it now."

Mark wrote back after he read my attempt and asked if the Post could run it. More than seven years have gone by since I left in 2011, but I miss the Salisbury Post, my friends still working there and many readers I was privileged to get to know, cover a board they were on and/or write about. How could I possibly say no to having something I wrote in print in the newspaper I will always love?

It seems only fitting that for a creative nonfiction competition named after the legendary Rose Post — who was like a second mother to me and the rest of the Salisbury Post newsroom — I would write about my birth mother who died too soon.

My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in late 1984 and died in February of the following year. Though I can't remember much about her funeral, I felt much comfort by the presence of my coworkers who attended. One of them, of course, was Rose.

When I first went to work for the Salisbury Post, I took over the education beat — which at that point included the Rowan County Schools and the Salisbury City Schools — until they later merged. Steve Bouser, the editor at the time, once asked me if it bothered me when people calling about the school systems were disappointed when they didn't get to talk to Rose.

I replied that while it made me feel uncomfortable at first, I had gotten used to it. Besides, I told him, since I had gotten to know Rose, I loved her as much as all of her readers and understood completely why they would rather



Faye Smith Chaffin died from breast cancer at age 48.

talk with her. Rose and I had many discussions about writing, and I took great pride in winning a rare journalistic discussion with her on the use of ellipses in newspaper stories.

Rose, as you all know, was a beloved member of the newsroom and the Salisbury Post readership community. After the death of her beloved husband, Eddie, Rose and I went to dinner two

or three nights a week, and on nights when I had late meetings, I sometimes stayed at her house, sleeping in her late mother's bed.

Through the early years after my mother died of breast cancer at age 48, I grieved relentlessly for the woman — also beloved by many family, friends and coworkers — who died too soon. After Rose died in 2011, I have grieved for two women on Mother's Day, my birth mother and the woman who loved me and the other Salisbury Post reporters as one of her own.

I was 24 when my mother died, and I tried to write a column about my mother for Mother's Day year after year. My coworkers were used to me crying when I wrote sad stories, so they didn't think that much about it.

Then a few years after her death, I was taking a course on different religions when I went to hear a Native American speak about the importance of gratitude in our lives. As part of his presentation, he taught those of us in attendance a chant in his Native tongue.

I can't remember if it had a name, though I'm sure it probably did, but the words have re-

mained in my head ever since: "Oh ho, yo la. Oh ho, yo la." The English translation is: "I am grateful."

It was a few months after my mother's death that I had a dream in which I was repeating the chant. Then I heard these words. As background, it's important for you to know that I grew up on a small tobacco farm.

When it was time to hoe the young plants every year, my mother and I would trail behind my father and brothers. At least once in any given day that we tried unsuccessfully to keep up, we would repeat an old saying that she had heard years before: "If your hoes strike when hoeing tobacco, you will meet in the same field next year."

In the dream, these were the words of what I believe was reassurance from beyond the grave that my mother knew how much I had loved her:

"And then it came to me, the sound of metal striking metal upon a dusty soil.

Clang, I love you.

Clang, I love you.

Clang, I love you.

And I did."

I never finished the column for the Salisbury Post nor have I ever posted it on my blog, SunflowersRising.com. But when I recall the words, I not only think of my own mother but the woman who helped to fill the void she left — the wonderful, talented and beloved columnist/writer — Rose Post. **S**

You can read more of Kathy Chaffin's writing at SunflowersRising.com.



by
**KATHY
CHAFFIN**

THE ARTS



*Above: David Askew finishes some glowing hot metal with one of his many hammers. **Below left:** Askew can take ball bearings and transform them into one of his knives. **Below right:** A gas-powered forge puts terrific heat on the metals used by Askew.*





Blade runner

David Askew makes knives that are a cut above.

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

GOLD HILL — David Askew is a mountain of a man. A native of Opelika, Alabama, he stands 6-4 and has the biceps of an Olympic weightlifter. In high school, he played football, wrestled and participated in track and field.

He served a four-year stint in the Marines. And today he welds together fuel tanks for Freightliner trucks at the plant in Cleveland, where he has worked more than 20 years.

As a boy, Askew grew up in the outdoors, hunting with his friends and relatives. He has hiked the entire Appalachian Trail.

There were steel and lumber sides to Askew's family, and on the steel side his grandfather and uncle — both named George Mann — were the mentors who steered him toward his appreciation for metals.

Askew started welding and his career in metal-working in

junior high, obtaining a work permit and earning his journeyman's certificate by the time he was 16. He has a degree in welding technology, once operated a mobile welding business and has studied metallurgy extensively.

It was about 20 years ago that Askew made his first knife. He relied on a charcoal-fueled forge and a railroad track anvil to temper and pound out the small knife, which he decorated with file work and fitted with a deer antler handle.

"I am as proud of this one as any one I've done," Askew says, holding it in the big palm of his hand. "But I will tell you my best knife is always my next one."

Askew says it was about 10 years ago that knife-making became his serious passion, outside of his wife, Paula, and their two sons. Since then, he has made hundreds of knives of all styles, including chef's knives, but he might be best known for his guide camp knives and Damascus patterns.



Askew says he wants to be known as a bladesmith, not a blacksmith.



He also uses all manner of metal, such as ball bearings, coil springs, axle rods, saw blades and rasp files. It's a wondrous thing to watch Askew take a perfectly round ball bearing and trans-

form it into a flat knife with a hidden tang.

Askew says his knives are like fingerprints — no two are the same — and that's part of what he loves about his pastime.

"I promise you it's something you're not going to get at Walmart," Askew says. "I want it to be something handed down to your great-grandkids."

When Askew shakes your hand, he's judging what kind of handle you'll need for your knife. His first question is then, what will you be using the knife for?

"I want my knives to be used," he says. "They're functional art."

It actually hurts Askew's feelings when people send him pictures of their knives being nicely displayed or sitting on a shelf, just because they are attractive. He enjoys receiving feedback from people about his knives' performance in the field and their durability.

"Knives are tools, not weapons," Askew says, "and you're not only buying a tool, you're buying a piece of me."

Askew says he knows a lot about metals and an equal amount about the outdoors, and he loves when the two can come together in mak-

ing a knife for someone.

“As an outdoor enthusiast, I needed equipment that worked,” he adds. “I’m trying to build a better mousetrap, a better knife. As a working man, I know the value of a dollar. I guarantee that knife. If you have any trouble, I will repair or replace that knife.”

Askew includes his signature mark and a hand-written certificate of authenticity with each knife he makes. They often include the warning: “Wicked sharp.”

To prove how sharp his knives are, he runs a blade down the back of his hands or arms to show the fine hairs they cut. “It will shave like you won’t believe,” he says.

Considered technically as an apprentice bladesmith, despite his years of experience, Askew continues pursuing his goal to become a master bladesmith. There are 200 in the world, he says, and “I’m going to be 201.”

Askew belongs to the N.C. Custom Knifemakers Guild and the American Bladesmith Society, which sets out the rigorous tests to become an accredited master. To that end, of the six weeks of vacation he qualifies for at Freightliner this year, Askew plans to set aside three weeks for various schools, to pick up some additional insights into knife-making.

The Knifemakers Guild also is a learning organization, he says, and its quarterly meetings bring in teachers who share their knowledge.

“You meet the masters, and they’ll talk to you,” says Askew, who is a director, but he stresses there’s no substitute for experience and learning through trial and error. A wall in his garage holds some of the knives that didn’t work.



A power hammer helps Askew shape the molten metal.



Left: Sparks fly from the grinder. Right: Askew makes knives of all sizes.



The power hammer flattens what once was a round ball bearing.

“They aren’t failures, they’re actually successes,” Askew says, pointing to a blade with an almost imperceptible fracture, except to him. “Every now and then a good knife-maker needs a break. It puts things in perspective. This keeps you from getting a bad knife.”

Askew acknowledges he needs a shop. Right now, he works out of his garage, and all of his metal and equipment take up almost every inch of space. To give him room to work, he drags out his propane-powered forge and 112-pound N.C. Tool Co. anvil, which sits on a stump.

His belt grinder — on which he uses grit ranging from 36 to 400 — stays in the garage, but one of his more recent purchases, a tire hammer or power hammer, stands in a prominent place near the forge.

The belt grinder and power hammer were game-changers, Askew says, just in some of the time and physical work they saved. In making a knife, in the simplest of terms, Askew is heating his metal to a glowing red, bringing it out to the pounder to be flattened on all sides, taking it back to the forge and repeating this step at least 10 times.

Then the process goes back and forth from forge to anvil.

With various hammers, Askew keeps finessing the hot metal into the shape and thickness

he desires. The oxidized flakes fly as both the power hammer and Askew’s own blows are delivered.

He depends on welding gloves, tongs, wire brushes and quenching buckets.

A band saw and belt grinder help with the next steps on a blade before a handle and sheath become the final adornments. As he shows the process and talks about knives and metals in general, Askew easily dumbs it down for the novices.

Here are some things you might hear from Askew, 47, as he fashions a knife:

- “You’ll be amazed at how much that stretches out.”
- “You forge thick, grind thin.”
- “Thin is in for some reason.”
- “I’m very curious. I want to figure this stuff out.”
- “The thing with anvils — you want bounce.”
- “99 percent of a knife is heat-treating.”
- “I make them out of everything.”
- “Tempering is bringing the hardness out of it.”
- “You want the molecular structure to slam together.”
- “Safety note: That’s 2,500 degrees.”
- “You don’t want to work it cold, because it

will cause stress fractures.”

- “The mystery of metal — pretty neat.”
- “I don’t want to be a blacksmith, I want to be a bladesmith.”
- “I take metal where it needs to go, then I bring it back.”
- “I have no secrets. I want you to know how it’s made.”

On this particular day, Askew sheepishly acknowledges he has about 95 back orders for knives, but it’s not said as an apology.

“I will not rush what I’m doing,” Askew says.

He resists his sons’ encouragement to create a website to sell his knives. He works mostly by word of mouth and posts the knives he makes on his personal Facebook page. Over 20 years, he says, he has yet to make money from his pastime because everything he has earned goes into purchasing equipment.

A couple of years ago, Askew underwent five different surgeries after tearing the tendons in both arms. At first, he thought he might never be able to make another knife.

But he decided to push himself, and turn his craft into the mental and physical therapy he needed.

“Instead of sponge balls, I’m hammering instead,” Askew says. “This is my way of saying I’m back.” **S**

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Gene Krueger and Kathleen Dunn have traveled far and wide to sample cuisine while also posting reviews on the online travel website TripAdvisor. When not trying out a new restaurant, the couple frequent their favorite Spencer Italian eatery, Pinocchio's.

World's fare

Globe-trotting Salisbury couple star on TripAdvisor.

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



Gene Krueger is earning international fame. His wife, Kathleen Dunn, helps, of course. Gene has made 865 contributions to TripAdvisor since 2012.

Checking out his member profile, based on those contributions, it's estimated he has traveled 362,957 miles, about 39 percent of the world.

Krueger is a quiet man, distinguished looking, self-effacing. But his reviews, "almost all positive," he says, are teaching the world where to go and what to eat.

He and Kathleen are avid foodies, and she's a good cook. They love trying new foods and new restaurants, and they love to travel. Gene likes to stay on the move, trying new places all the time; Kathleen wouldn't mind staying put in one place for a few days, so they compromise.

Gene couldn't be a TripAdvisor star if it weren't for Kathleen, who thoroughly researches and plans their trips, making reservations well in advance at restaurants all over the world using Open Table.

She checks out the menus to see what they might eat.

She's gluten-free, mostly. Gene — he likes a sandwich of some sort every day for lunch.

That was how they discovered the best burger they ever had. The website menu said the restaurant had lobster rolls, one of Gene's favorites. But when they got there, no lobster rolls. Gene also loves burgers, and the burger there was made with chuck, brisket and bacon. Kathleen couldn't have a bun, but they served her some delicious collard greens with her burger. They both loved what they tasted. No points off for not having the lobster roll.

Both Gene and Kathleen retired from government jobs — Gene worked for the Department of the Interior, and Kathleen for the Department of Transportation, even though she has a degree in economics.

Perhaps that explains why they dot their I's and cross their T's before venturing out.

They met in D.C., a second marriage for both, and



Blackened alligator and snail paella. — Photo courtesy of Gene Krueger and Kathleen Dunn

Tortellini at a Kayla at Pinocchio's.

laugh when they tell the story of their first date. Gene invited Kathleen to lunch one day, and when they arrived at the restaurant, he noticed six or seven of his coworkers were there.

“They were very protective of him” Kathleen laughs. She wasn’t sure what was going on.

They just celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary, so maybe it was the food, and all the

food from all the trips they’ve taken since then.

They moved to Salisbury in 2003, looking for a place with a reasonable cost of living and access to restaurants, music, theatre, colleges. “Where there’s a college, more people are thinkers,” Kathleen says.

They looked at places in Oregon, Florida and elsewhere, but their relatives are on the East

Coast, so Salisbury it was.

Gene had blogged about their travels before, and he’s visited TripAdvisor to read reviews. They went on a lot of cruises (58, with three more booked), and he began writing cruise reviews, but they were longer. He likes shorter things, a few sentences, a couple paragraphs.

He doesn’t go into a place with a rating in

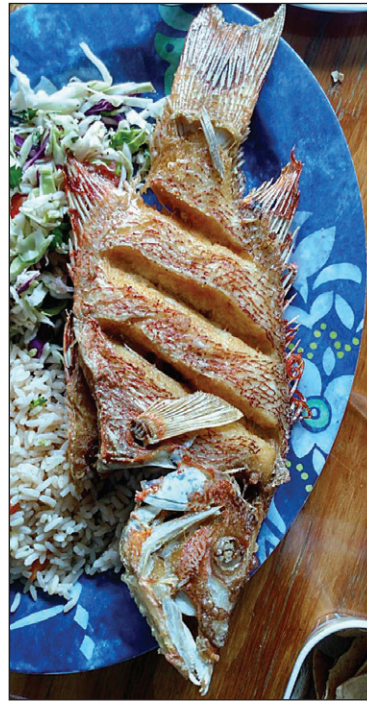


Rolled chicken with smoked gouda and prosciutto and white wine sauce at Pinocchio's in Spencer.

Gene Krueger and Kathleen Dunn enter Pinocchio's in Spencer, left.



Leatherneck Steakhouse in San Francisco



A whole fish on the Cozumel food tour

AFTER FURTHER REVIEW

Salisbury's Gene Krueger is a prolific reviewer on TripAdvisor, having logged some 865 opinions on restaurants and lodging since 2012. Here are the top 10 locations for which Krueger has made TripAdvisor contributions:

- Salisbury, N.C., 45
- New Orleans, La., 31
- San Francisco, Calif., 28
- Alexandria, Va., 25
- Virginia Beach, Va., 24
- Charlotte, N.C., 23
- Williamsburg, Va., 23
- Asheville, N.C., 20
- Chicago, Ill., 18
- Orlando, Fla., 17



The Chef's Table dessert on Carnival Horizon cruise



Food tour of Japantown in San Francisco



Wedge and Wheel cheese counter and cafe in Stillwater, Minnesota



Kathleen enjoys her meal at the Orca Point Lodge in Juneau, Alaska.



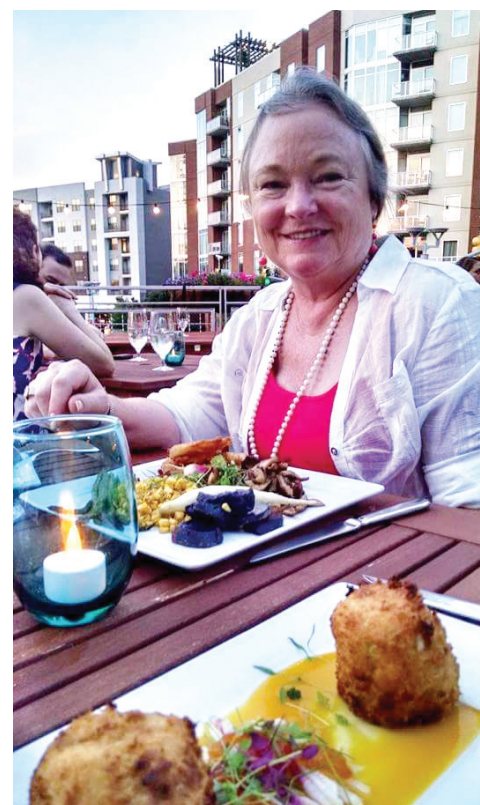
Dat Dog in New Orleans



Gene enjoys a sloppy Joe at Sloppy Joe's Bar in Havana, Cuba.

Photos courtesy of Gene Krueger and Kathleen Dunn

FOOD



*From left: Gene enjoys wine with his meal at Bandar in San Diego; lunch at the Ice Plant in St. Augustine; Kathleen enjoys her dinner in Nashville.
— Photos courtesy of Gene Krueger and Kathleen Dunn*

mind. “We eat and he writes,” says Kathleen.

Gene says she is a more adventurous eater than he is.

“We don’t go in blind. She plans things thoroughly.”

“You don’t have to make reservations,” Kathleen says, “but it often helps.”

That’s how they get to eat at The Chef’s Table on certain cruises. There is a special menu, with numerous small plates so they can taste a lot of different things. That requires a reservation well in advance.

“Some ships have a dedicated space in the galley” so passengers can watch the whole thing unfold, Gene says.

“It’s very elegant and well presented,” Kathleen says. “And it can be kind of long, a good two hours.”

A menu from one trip includes Duck Textures — creamy quinoa, Parmesan churros, olive snow and a port wine jus. From the pastry chef came sea salt praline chocolate, raspberry mojito, key lime cake, apricot vanilla gel and citrus cream.

Over Mardi Gras, the couple did a food tour

of New Orleans — something Kathleen would like to see in Salisbury one day. “I think we almost have enough restaurants.”

At the Palace Café in New Orleans, Gene had one of his favorite things, Bananas Foster Flambé. “Most restaurants don’t do the flames any more. We went specifically for that.”

Gene keeps a travel journal, with notes about what they have and how good it was. When he does reviews, he does it the same night or next day, to stay fresh. He likes to say things in just a few sentences. “That’s what I would be looking for. Where did you go and was it good.”

He gets notices from TripAdvisor. Does he want to do more? The restaurant owner would like to respond, or the hotel owners.

When Kathleen posts about a hotel, sometimes TripAdvisor will send her questions from another visitor. “You can answer them or not.”

They found out about the food tour through posts on TripAdvisor. Edible Excursions is the company, and they do food tours all over. They had a wonderful time on a tour of the Ferry Building in San Francisco, and in Japantown in San Francisco. They did an Ethiopian food

tour around the D.C. area. They were able to go to people’s homes and have meals with them, which Kathleen particularly enjoyed.

Gene likes to schedule things more than Kathleen. “I have referred to him as the travel Nazi,” she says, and they both laugh.

Both of them like wine pairing dinners and look for that when planning a trip. Locally, they enjoy Queen’s Feast each year at Morgan Ridge Vineyards.

If you are Facebook friends with Gene or Kathleen, you will be treated to some mouth-watering photos of what they are eating. The backgrounds and the settings hint at where they are — red-checked tablecloth and paper plates might be barbecue in Texas. Candles, tropical flowers — somewhere in the Caribbean. Parkas and icebergs, maybe in Alaska or Iceland.

Kathleen and Gene say they use TripAdvisor to maximize what time they have wherever they go. They read what others are saying, too. How else would they have learned about a nighttime penguin tour in Australia? Or about the wild-caught fresh grilled salmon on that Alaska trip? **S**

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AT HOME



A home with stories

The things filling Sue McHugh's house bring her joy.

Written by Elizabeth Cook | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



Sue McHugh's 1910 home on North Main Street is full of vintage and antique items, from the yarn winder in the foyer, at left, to the artwork in her dining room at right.



Clockwise from left: Sue McHugh sits on her front porch; a steamer trunk that was one of her first purchases sits by a Santa Claus figure; old flour and potato chip tins adorn a cabinet; every space is filled around a foyer doorway.

In historic parlance, the century-old bungalow at the corner of North Main and Steele streets is the Davis-Wilhelm-McDaniel House.

In reality, though, the house is pure Sue McHugh.

Artsy. Eclectic. Fun.

And with a lot going on.

Outside, several features signal that a creative person lives at 910 N. Main St.: the castle-like hedge out front, the green and pumpkin paint on the exterior, potted plants and flowers along the walkway and disco ball on the front porch.

Inside, original artwork is everywhere, including pieces by McHugh and other local artists. Collections of vintage and antique items fill every room, from earthen jugs on a hearth to a kitchen display of eight cast iron skillet, from 3 to 24 inches wide.

Her musical side is well-represented: A piano here, guitars there. In her office are a dulcimer, a hand drum and a banjo.

A hallway wall features posters from seven consecutive Chickweed festivals, an annual Salisbury event McHugh founded in 2012 to showcase the musical talents of women.

She can appreciate the modern, stripped down look others favor. It can be calming, she says.

"But me, if there's an empty spot I fill it."





Above: Cobalt blue bottles are lined up at the kitchen window.

Right: The parlor provides a serene setting.



McHugh agreed to put her bungalow on the Historic Salisbury Foundation's OctoberTour in 2018 but worried as the event grew near.

"I was a little nervous because, in my experience, OctoberTour is the grand mansions," she says. "I stressed a lot about being good enough."

She also wondered — needlessly, as it turned out — that her eclectic style might not go over well on a tour steeped in tradition.

"I got a lot of positive feedback. It made me feel better."

She participated in the tour with a preservationist purpose in mind. "I just wanted to show people that it's affordable, it's doable, you know. You don't have to have the Louis XV armoire."

Tour goers oohed and aahed at her house, and some asked how she kept all her vintage collectibles dusted. Looking back, McHugh says she felt as though she had a can of Pledge attached to her hand before the tour.

"I was dusting every minute. But seriously, I just do a little bit here, a little bit there every day."

She loves the quality and craftsmanship of historic homes. Beneath her house, she says, rough-sawn, 10-by-2-inch planks run the entire width of the structure.





The brightly decorated guest bedrooms hold prized items, too, including a spinning wheel and a butter churn at left.

"This house is a rock. It was built in 1910. It's been here 100-plus years, and I'm confident it's going to be here another hundred."



McHugh explains all this as she sits in her parlor, a large painting of an old barn resting on a dresser behind her, with pottery, a wooden swan and plants arranged at the foot of the canvas.

From here she can see a grandfather clock and a yarn winder in the foyer, as well as the dining room's huge Tiffany-style light fixture and countless other treasures she has collected through the years.

In the kitchen, dozens of cobalt blue bottles and jars line the windows. In front of her cookbooks sits a relic from the U.S. Post Office that once operated downtown, a door from one of the little P.O. boxes where people picked up mail, complete with key.

She held on to the kitchen's 1940s pine paneling and cabinets, as well as the classic brick-patterned linoleum. She has added a Hoosier cabinet. Atop the refrigerator, a baker's pie transport box holds small tins, bowls and other items she has gathered through the years.

She began collecting as a girl, starting with a rocking chair, now long gone, and a 19th century steamer trunk that's displayed in one of her guest bedrooms. She collected dolls, too.

And she kept collecting for decades.

Everywhere you look — in the three bedrooms and two bathrooms, too — McHugh has tucked away treasures and keepsakes. They include an antique butter churn, an 1890s quilt, washboards, art deco dressers, antique tins and random Santas from an extensive collection that has mostly been put away.

McHugh may be at odds with the minimalist movement championed by Marie Kondo, author of bestselling "The Life-Changing Magic

of Tidying Up." Kondo recommends that people keep only the items that bring them joy and discard or donate everything else.

McHugh says all her vintage items bring her joy.

"I feel like they have a story to tell."

The pink bench in her foyer is half of a pew that she acquired as two men were converting an 1800s church into a residence in the tiny town of Clarendon, N.Y. "If it has a dot on the map, it's a very small one," she says.

Her mom, who caught a love of collecting from McHugh, has the pew's other half.

"There's my story," she says.

She has lots of them. There's the \$200 bureau an antique dealer let her buy on layaway, the walnut dresser she got for \$5 and took home in a convertible, and the coffee table that she bought even though it was damaged in a fire.

Story continues on page 34.



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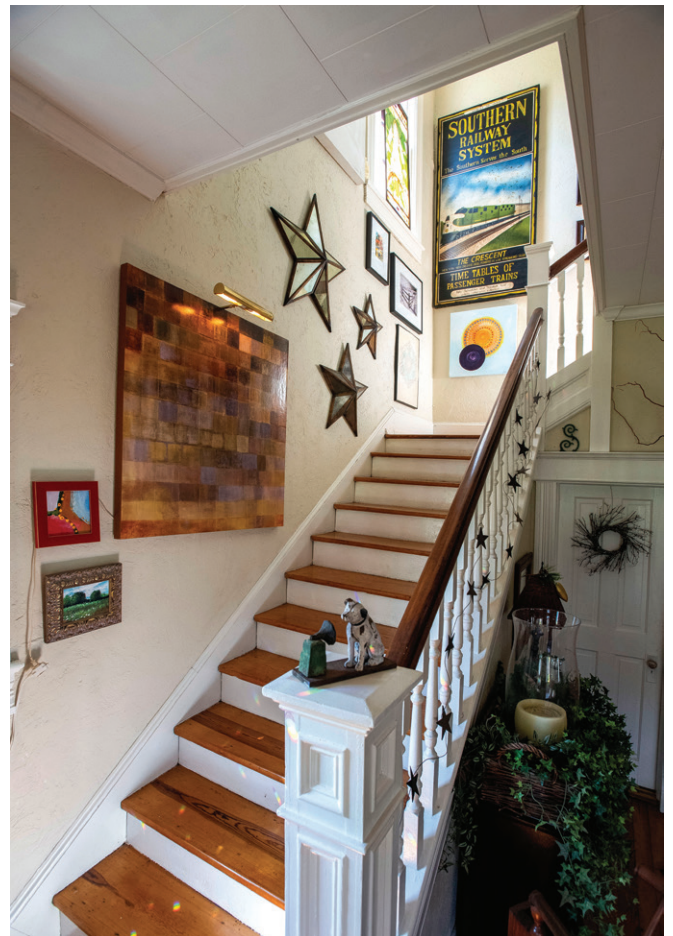
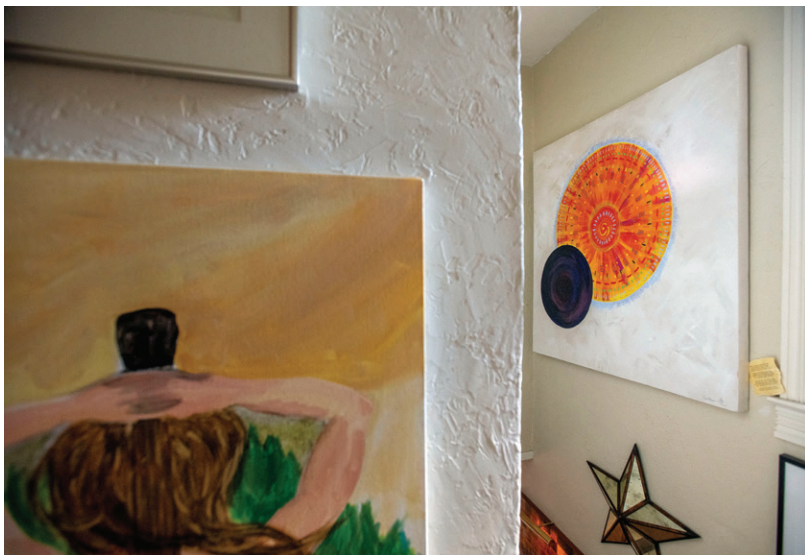
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Clockwise from above: A pie transporter atop the refrigerator stores different items now; pieces of art and stars lead the way up the stairs from the foyer; McHugh's own paintings include a self-portrait, shown partially at left, and an eclipse; a large Tiffany-style fixture hangs over the dining room table.





Clockwise from top: McHugh had her home painted green at the bottom and terra cotta at the top, the house's original colors; cast iron pans on the kitchen wall range from 3 to 24 inches wide; one of McHugh's guitars sits beside bookshelves in her office.

AT HOME



Left to right: A painting of a barn rests behind the parlor couch; miniature cars favored by her grandchildren idle in front of a songbook that belonged to McHugh's father; plants, earthenware and a votive holder fill the hearth.

"You know why I use it? You can put your drink down on it, you can put your feet up on it. I love it."



McHugh grew up in rural, western New York. She remembers how tickled she was, at the age of 5, to have an exhibit at the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery's Clothesline Arts Festival.

She became known for her artistic skill.

"When I was in high school, all the little budding rock bands would have me design their logos and paint their drum heads," she says. She also played music and acted in school plays.

Though her senior class voted her Most Talented, in college she studied electrical engineering and business marketing. She followed her dad into the technical field, she says. "He was a mechanical design engineer at Kodak for nearly 40 years. How could I not?"

In the late 1990s, the wastewater management company she worked for decided its Southeast representative should reside in that region. Living in Rochester, N.Y., at the time, McHugh (long divorced) started looking for houses in small Southern towns. Her search zeroed in on North Carolina, and she signed a

contract for a Granite Quarry house, sight unseen. It was a good choice; she loved the little brick bungalow.

Eight years later, she started thinking she might like a change. A friend said she had just the house for her on North Main Street, and McHugh went to take a look. They bent the chickenwire fence in the backyard to get on the property and peer in the windows. But the gardener in McHugh first fell in love with what she saw outside.

"The backyard was completely in bloom with flowers, and so I was taken away."

When a "for sale by owner" sign went up some time later, she called the number on the sign, only to learn it was under contract.

Her disappointment was temporary. The sale fell through, and the owner called McHugh back. "The rest is history," she says.

McHugh says the house fell into the sweet spot of what she could afford to buy and what she could handle to fix. Previous owners had brought the long-empty house back from what she calls "serious disrepair." Her big tasks were having floors repaired, walls shored up and the porch worked on. Fresh paint went up.

The Davis, Wilhelm and McDaniel families that occupied the house in its early years would

be proud.

McHugh loves the house's pine floors, high ceilings and — rare in old homes — walk-in closets. Her favorite spot may be the front porch, where she sips her morning tea. "The sun rises there and the moon rises there," she says.



McHugh works as a front-of-house associate for the Salisbury Business Center, the South Main Street center that houses Integro and about 10 other business offices. The fun part of the job, she says, is curating art exhibits for the lobby. "That has been very rewarding."

One aspiring artist sold \$800 worth of art on his opening night, she says.

In many ways, though, McHugh works for the entire Salisbury community as a volunteer and advocate.

A member of the Historic Salisbury Foundation board, she has been a house manager for OctoberTour and helps plan tour entertainment. She also organizes History on Tap events that invite people to tour a historic site while enjoying a local brew.

For Downtown Salisbury, on whose board she serves, she plans the annual Buskers Bash

that brings musicians downtown for friendly competition.

A past president of the NOMA (North Main Neighborhood Association), she helped the area get everything from new sidewalks to a community garden and a tree-planting celebration.

Thanks to the North Main Beautification project, an abandoned gas station/convenience store at East 11th and North Main streets was demolished, workers installed new curbing and storm drains, and a new bus stop went in.

She also serves or has served on the Historic Preservation Commission, the Public Art Committee, Community Appearance Commission, Neighborhood Leaders Alliance, Human Relations Council and Neighborhood Leaders Alliance — and volunteers at Lee Street theatre.

With all this and more going on, the nerve center of the house is McHugh's office, where a hollow-core door laid atop two filing cabinets serves as a spacious and economical

desk.



When McHugh first moved here, she says, she would go to open mic nights to hear local musicians.

"And then I got my courage up to get up and do it myself," she says. "But there would never be any women getting up. It would be me and all the fellas."

She pulled together several talented women musicians — and one belly dancing troupe — for the all-female Chickweed festival, which has the tagline, "Celebrating Indestructible Women."

Proceeds have gone to the Family Crisis Council and its battered women's shelter and, more recently, Prevent Child Abuse Rowan. McHugh sees a clear connection between the festival and its causes.

"We're trying to deliver a message of empowerment against violence through the arts. We find that you can always pick yourself up

out of some gloom or situation by taking advantage of your talents. So we want to encourage that."

Chickweed, now a nonprofit, has its eighth festival coming up July 20 at the F&M Trolley Barn.

McHugh has gone from a newcomer who had to force herself to go out, to a committed community advocate with a full schedule.

"I live here, work here, and play here. Of course I want it to be the best it can be," she says.

"I learned a long time ago, that if I heard myself saying, 'They should ...,' 'Someone should ...' — well, maybe that someone was me. Why wait (or hope) for someone else to do what you think needs doing?"

As she says, if there's an empty spot, she fills it.

That's pure Sue McHugh. **S**

Elizabeth Cook is former editor of the Salisbury Post.

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WALL STREET

Abstract artist Shane Pierce finds
spraying is saying — a lot.

Story by Liz Moomey | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

Shane Pierce, a street artist known as Abstract Dissent, covers a double door with bright colors at the new location of Grievous Gallery.





Shane Pierce needed more space.

His two-bedroom apartment was filled with paintings, so one day he went outside where there was infinite canvas.

Under the name of Abstract Dissent, Pierce has made Salisbury his canvas. It started at the street level. He first came to Salisbury after learning about the Graffiti Park. From there, he went to Grievous Gallery, The Pedal Factory, Fish Bowl — and on and on.

“It started on the street level illegal, as a voice for people who didn’t have one,” Pierce said.

As of late, Pierce has been painting murals in schools, starting with North Rowan Elementary School. He completely donated his work.

A teacher was interested in him coming to paint a mural, but Pierce was hesitant. Pierce recalled his days as a student: a trouble maker. Once sitting down with the teacher, it clicked. Pierce grew up on welfare and in a single-parent home.

“I have a similar story to a lot of kids there, but yet I was just passionate about what I was doing,” he said. “Literally, you don’t need money to do this. You can be passionate. You can not have much. You can just have a lot of drive and become somebody. You don’t need all that. That’s why I was being brought in there.”



Shane Pierce holds two cans of paint in front of his Cougar Pride mural at Carmel Middle School in Charlotte.

Pierce went back to the North Rowan Elementary and was expected to read to students. One kid, though, had a paper rolled up and was using it as a horn. Pierce noticed drawings on the paper.

“He was using it as just messing around,” Pierce said, “but at some point he drew on this paper. I’m supposed to read to them but we didn’t end up reading anything.”

Instead, Pierce asked the student what he had drawn.

“He showed me his drawing and then I told him I did the mural in the cafeteria and he got really excited,” Pierce said. “We just sat there and drew. We weren’t doing what we were supposed to do.”

Pierce wants kids to know that they can think outside the box and art can be an option.

“That’s the story that needs to be told,” he

said. “Just because things traditionally are done a certain way, it doesn’t mean you can’t make your own path.”

He said he wants to show kids that individuality matters.

“I wasn’t trying to be like, ‘Don’t do what I did, this is what you need to do, kid,’” he said.

Pierce said it was better to show the students he cared for them as individuals and what they drew on paper.

“And I like drawing, too,” Pierce said, “and maybe we can draw something together. You’re doing more than telling him what he should be doing.”

To others viewing his work in Salisbury, Pierce encourages them to view it as a success based on doing the unexpected.

“Everyone should be doing it in their own way, but I think what I’ve done and what’s hap-

pening in Salisbury is a good example of make your own path,” he said. “Think for yourself. You’re now in control of your life more than ever before.”

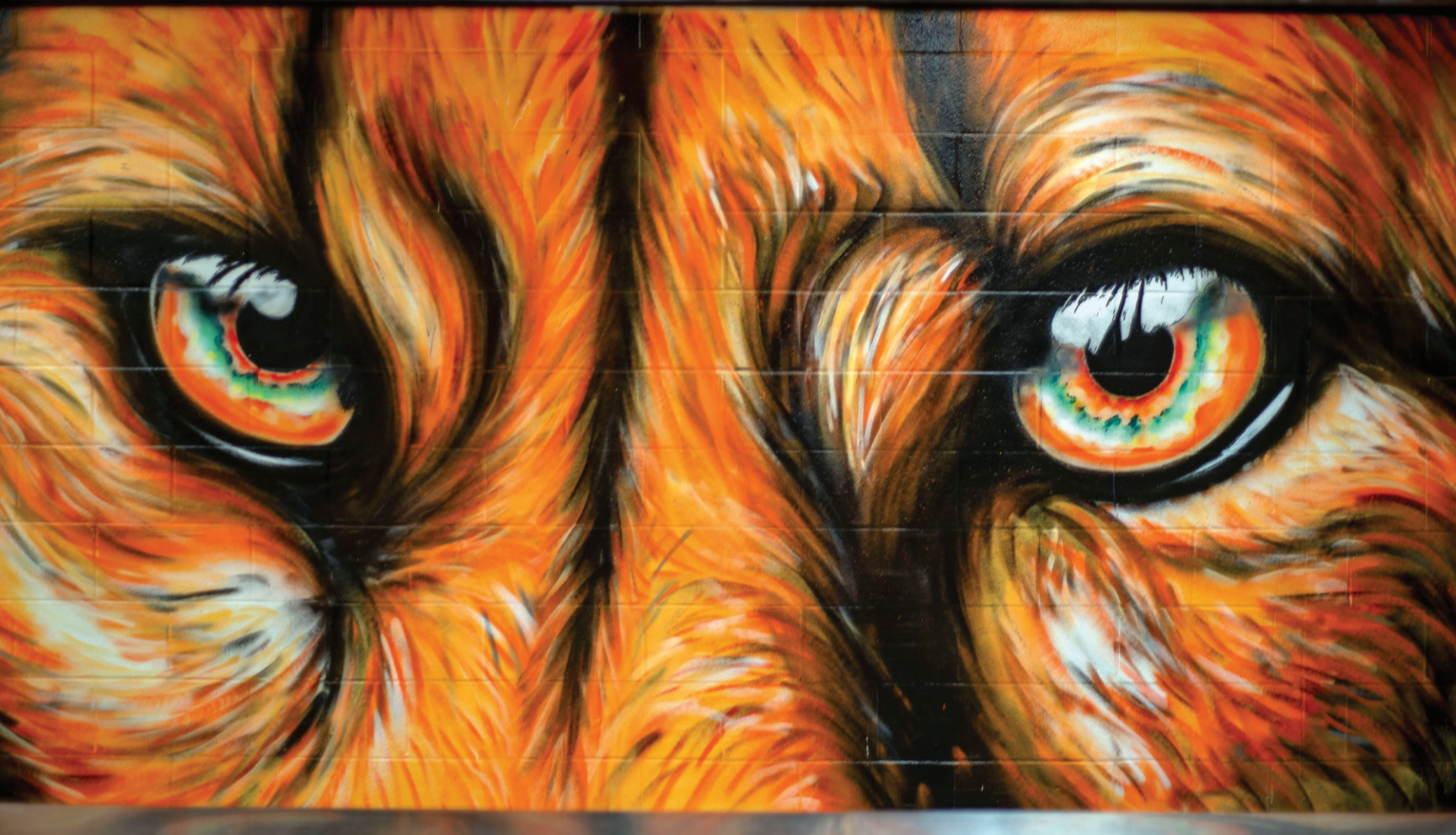
When Pierce leaves the schools with a mural stretching down a hallway greeting students, he knows the lasting effect, recalling how art teachers moved their lesson to the mural to teach about street art.

“They’re opportunities to change the landscape of art in our area — to influence kids and to change the way art is being taught in a way that we see it,” Pierce said.



Pierce is fairly new to the graffiti art scene, beginning less than two years ago. He has evolved.

He switched from hardware paint to Loop and 94. Loop is a high pressure paint which



Above: Shane Pierce painted this cougar in a hallway at Carmel Middle School in Charlotte. **Right:** The tools of Pierce's trade.

Below: Pierce has Abstract Dissent, his business name, tattooed on his hand, spray-paint style.





Shane Pierce spray paints in Grievous Gallery with his previous work in the background.

goes on the wall faster and has better coverage. 94, though, is low pressure and is easier to control — used more for fine art.

At one point, he was doing three or four pieces a week. Now he concentrates on bigger pieces and refining his art.

“If there is something I’m trying to do more of and build a certain type of composition, it’s merging those two things of graffiti and realism,” he said.

His pieces have a realism portion: a school mascot or an eye. The graffiti allows for abstract typography.

Pierce is also giving people a glimpse into his life by sharing his connection with the murals.

“People are hiring you for what you stand for,” he said. “I didn’t think about that at first.

“The brand does stand for certain things, and I can see why people are calling now. It’s this evolving thing. At first I wasn’t writing about



Shane Pierce brings various paint caps.

Getting Married?

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Williams & Byars
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Less than one month into her adventure with a new job and as a single girl in New York City, Kristina Williams met Michael Byars, and her big plans for life in the big city were rearranged. Going out on five dates in the first seven days of their meeting, the couple quickly realized they were on a life journey together.

When Michael's job with the National Football League meant a transfer to Arizona, Kristina happily went along. After being settled into their new city for about a month, Michael mentioned that the couple should take advantage of the beautiful North Carolina weather to explore the beauty of their colorful new natural surrounds. The couple set out on a hike and found the perfect spot to enjoy a picnic they prepared together. It was there that Michael laid out and presented Kristina with a ring he had commissioned from a New York-based jeweler and for which he had selected the center stone himself. "I have no clue what he said, and he doesn't either because we were so nervous," Gail says. "Of course I said 'yes' and we were on cloud nine." Following their hike, another surprise awaited. Michael had arranged to have each of the couple's parents fly into North Carolina, where everyone celebrated the occasion with a more lavish picnic of champagne and cake. From there, the couple began making plans for a wedding filled with exquisite beauty, abiding love, and lots of fun surprises.

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The Cougar Pride mural greets middle school athletes. Shane Pierce later added 'Abstract Dissent' to the bottom right corner of the piece.

myself and talking about myself personally, relating to the people I was doing the pieces for. That wasn't happening as much as it is now."

It took time for Pierce to open up his life, but he's satisfied with the outcome.

"They may have been through similar things," Pierce said. "Now they're starting to feel a connection to me as an artist, which means they're getting more connected to me and more connected to the art. It's just a lot of positivity perpetuating more positivity."

■ ■ ■

Pierce has a full-time job. He'll go into schools on weekends and hours later he'll leave a mural, reminding him of anonymous street artist Banksy.

In those hours using numerous cans of paint, Pierce immerses himself, eventually stepping back to evaluate the work and the progress to come.

He'll snap a photo, then return to the wall. His hands are covered in drops of paint. His right hand has more permanent paint: a tattoo of "Abstract Dissent." He has a handkerchief tucked in his pants to clean clogged paint caps.

Sometimes he'll use a piece of paper to block overspray. Other times he'll switch hands if one gets tired.

At the end, he gets out a stencil, chooses a color and adds the Abstract Dissent logo to the wall, matching the one on his hand.

Pierce is taking every piece day-to-day, simply trying to improve.

"I'm just really focused on my art not where it's going to go or what huge piece I'm going to do next," Pierce said. "It's not about that. It's about just what's in front of me and trying to make it better and better."

As paint glides on the wall, Pierce's mind is at ease.

"I'm always thinking, so when I do the art, it stops me from thinking," he said. "It takes me to a place where I don't have to think about everything. I don't have to think about life and bills and my little brother passing away or not being near my family — whatever it is — the stress of every day life. It takes me to a place where all that gets turned off. It's almost like serenity — a place that you don't have to worry about everything that weighs on you everyday in life."

Sometimes he can get completely caught up. He describes it similar to meditation.

"Everything around you just gets closed out," he said.



Above: Shane Pierce also painted the eye mural on the wall at Grievous Gallery. Below: Pierce applies his Abstract Dissent signature using a template.

“You lose track of time. You’re like switching the brain to the other side. You don’t listen to what’s happening around you and you just get into the space.”



Pierce says he’s where he needs to be. He’s been sober for more than a decade. His mom no longer has to worry about him. And he is doing something he is passionate about.

He is reminded when people are excited to see where time takes him, though Pierce is content here and now. “Dude, I can’t wait to see where you’re at in five years,” he said. ‘I can’t wait to see where you’re at in five years’ and I’m like ‘look at where I’m at now.’ Who would have thought that? That’s living in the moment.”

His mom, too, is proud of him.

“She’s really proud of me now,” Pierce said. “She knows that it means a lot to me, and this is what I need in my life, to have passion and keep things moving forward.” **S**





Shane Pierce looks at his phone to guide the piece. Periodically, he will stand back to evaluate future paint strokes by snapping a photo and returning to the wall.



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REFILLING THE PIPELINE

Career and Technical Education program
helps students find their passions.

Story by Kris Mueller | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



West Rowan junior Mackena Clifton waters the plants in the new large greenhouse during her third block.

In the area housing West Rowan High School's masonry program, the sounds of metal trowels scraping across bricks rise above the conversation.

Listen carefully, and you can hear the rhythm of the trade — butter, tap, scrape. Good hand-and-eye coordination creates a smooth tempo as, brick by brick, students build skills to support their futures and solve a conundrum facing Rowan County and beyond.

“We have a large skills gap right now,” says Mandy Mills, director of career and technical education (CTE) for Rowan-Salisbury Schools. “There are a lot of people who need jobs and many jobs waiting to be filled. But the people available don't have the job skills needed.”

The disconnect began when society deemed that “successful” careers required a college degree. As parents steered kids into colleges and more prestigious careers, the pipeline for needed professions slowed.

But the pendulum is starting to shift. College graduates shoulder huge debts and can't find jobs that match their degrees. And society is grasping what students have long known — not all graduating seniors want to attend college.

At a time when public education is under scrutiny, Rowan-Salisbury Schools' CTE Program is becoming a bright spot for career exploration, student achievement, and refilling the pipeline.



West Rowan Carpentry II student Caden Swicegood works on a project during lunch.

“In CTE, we try to make sure students find their passion, know what their skills are and what they want to do in a career,” Mills explains. “Then we lead them on a path to achieve that.”

Local students in CTE courses are earning accolades at regional, state and national levels.

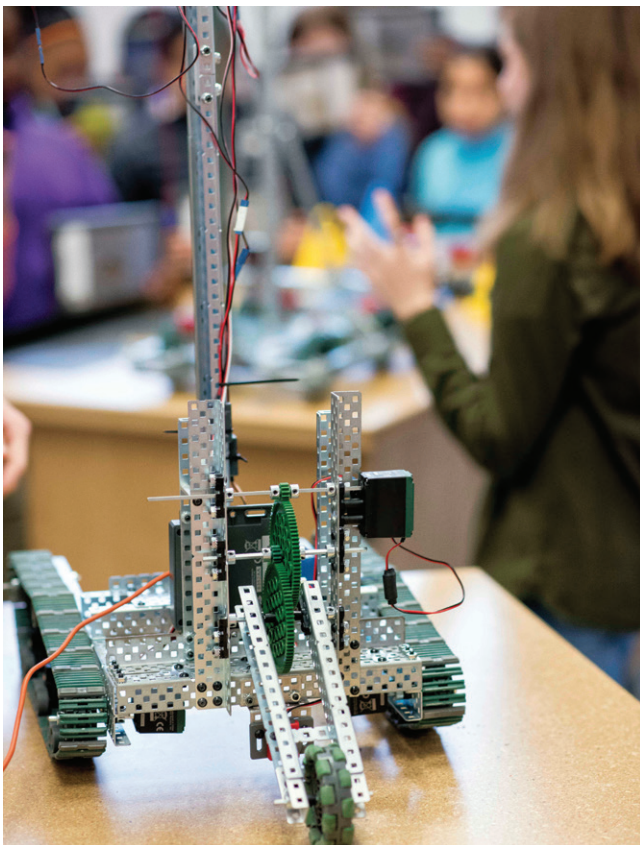
At the 2018 FFA national convention, West

Rowan High School's FFA chapter (formerly Future Farmers of America) won seven group and individual awards. The 450-member chapter was named a top organization in the nation, while West's alumni group was crowned best in the country. The student marketing team also captured a first-place award.

“I give all the credit to the teachers,” says Mills, who will be taking the CTE director's job for Stanly County Schools in the fall. “They are all in. They do this all day, every day. They love what they teach, and they put in the extra



***Above:** Skylar Kiser takes notes during an experiment in Nikki Sherrell's biomedical class at Carson High School. **Below:** Animals in the barn at West Rowan High School. **Left:** Students in the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Center at Salisbury High School and students from Isenberg Elementary work on a robotic project.*



time.”

“Many of the CTE teachers grew up in Rowan County and stayed here,” Mills adds. “They have all these connections in the community and can line kids up for experiences in whatever fields they are interested in.”

West’s FFA Alumni Chapter also is vital to the program’s success. Alumni contribute by raising funds, evaluating student presentations, mentoring and employing students, and donating supplies and services.

West Rowan’s Jason Kepley and Daniel Sell hold a tray of thyme, mint, rosemary and lavender.

“This is very specific to FFA — the alumni just bleed FFA and it never goes away,” Mills says. “We have had discussions about how we can take that passion and spread it through our other CTE programs.”

CTE programs immerse students in resources that help them learn. Total enrollment in classes, which involve hands-on learning, was 8,559 last year. Student organizations sponsor skill-building competitions, and students can earn proficiency certifications that designate them as job-ready right out of high school. Rowan County ranks 10th in the state for the number of certifications earned.

Back in West’s masonry area, students work beneath signs heralding two graduates who won state and national masonry championships in 2014 and 2018.

“Willingness to work — that’s important,” says masonry teacher Rodney Harrington. “And we can find that out about students by about the second week they are in here.”

“The demand for masons, it’s unbelievable,” he continues. “Employers can’t hire enough. Every contractor I talk to is begging for us to send them out our door.”

Students completing the masonry pathway can earn \$40,000 after graduation and \$80,000 within five years. With a two- or four-year degree, they can become supervisors, estimators or surveyors.

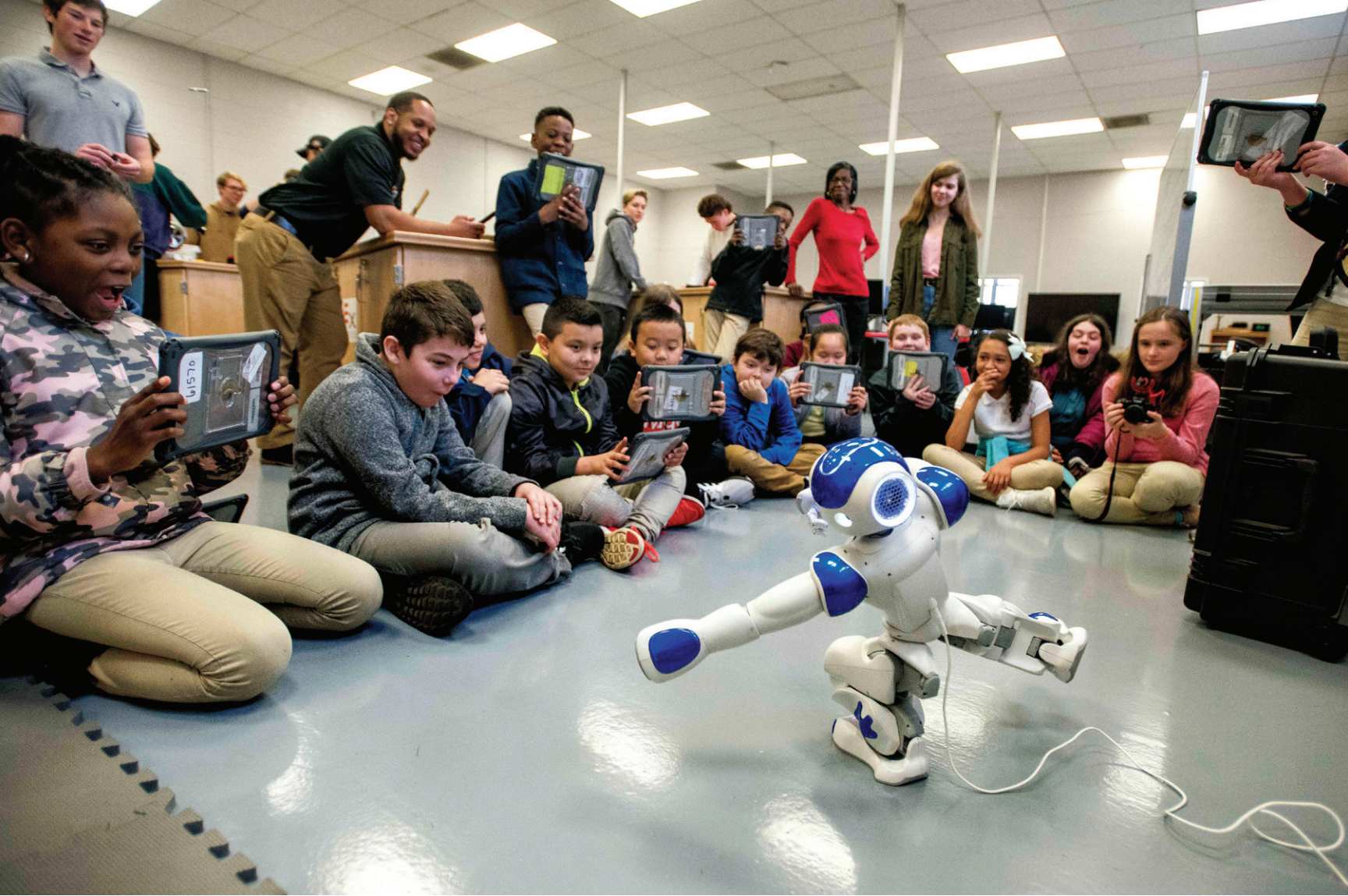


Left: Students at Carson weigh cookies before burning. The experiment measures the exchange of energy that is consumed when food is burned. **Right:** Salisbury High School student Ian Walser uses a cutting wheel on metal.

Each local high school offers a CTE academy. North Rowan specializes in the high-demand field of health science. East Rowan provides a business/marketing academy, and South Rowan houses a Communications Academy for

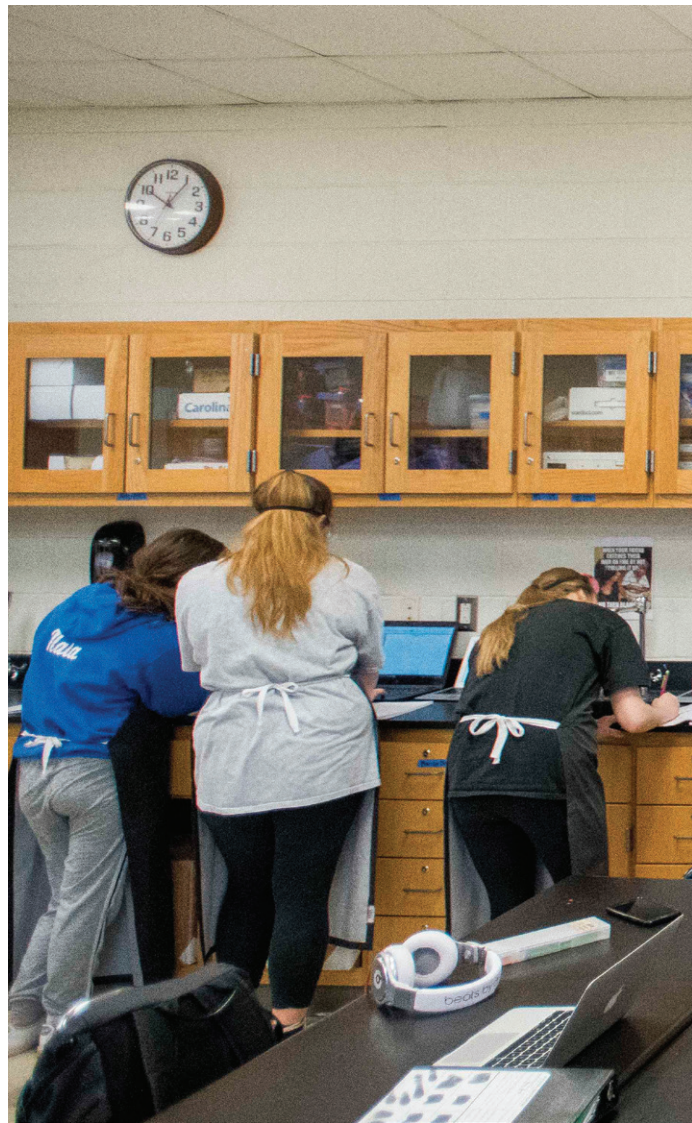
broadcasting and web and computer gaming design. All high schools teach popular classes like carpentry and business marketing.

Story continues on page 54.

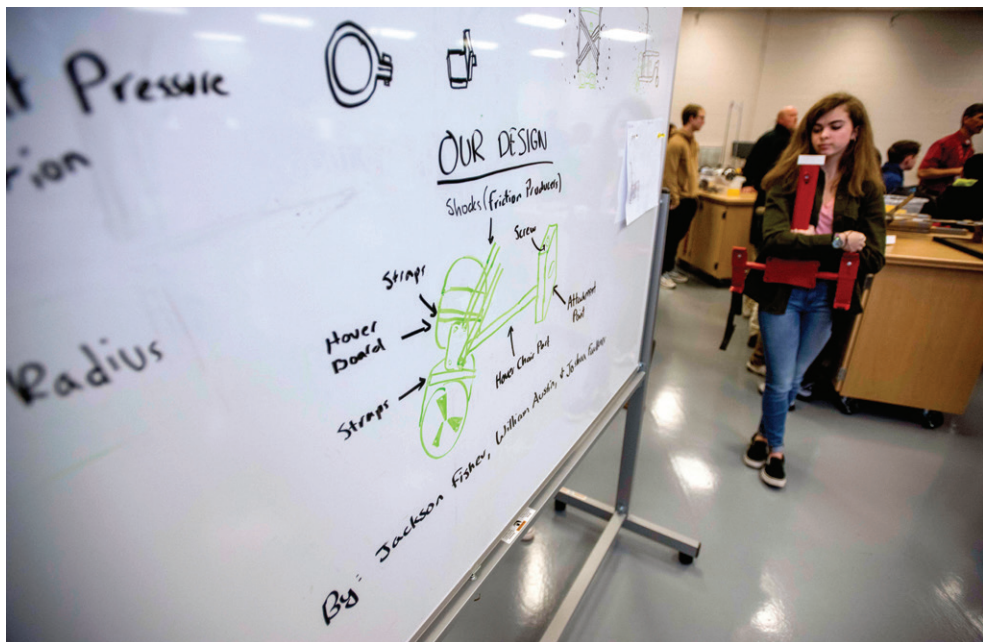


*Above: Isenberg Elementary students watch the Nao robot perform tai chi at the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Center at Salisbury High School. **Below left:** West Rowan Carpentry II student Brock Hager works on a project during lunch. **Below right:** Colorful goggles ready for use in a storage bin at Carson.*





***Clockwise from above:** West Rowan Carpentry instructor Derek Overcash; students in Nikki Sherrell's biomedical class at Carson High School perform an experiment to measure the exchange of energy that is consumed when food is burned. The students burned Oreos, chips and other snack foods; students in the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Center at Salisbury High School and students from Isenberg Elementary are working on a project to modify a mechanical wheelchair into a powered chair; Salisbury students' notes on a whiteboard for a mechanical project; growing mushrooms is part of the ag world at West Rowan.*



Today, in Carson's new Biomedical Program, students pursue a killer as they investigate the mysterious death of fictional character Anna Garcia. Wearing pastel-colored safety glasses and fireproof body aprons, they set Oreo cookies on fire while studying foods found in Anna's stomach.

"This class focuses on the biology content they learn as they investigate, the lab skills they gain, and the exposure they get to careers in the biomedical field," says teacher Nikki Sherrell.

The national curriculum provides students with new clues regularly – autopsy reports, Anna's medical history, DNA information and others.

"Looking at careers is already built into the program," Sherrell says. "We have skyped with a CSI (crime scene investigator) working on the case. We have talked to EMTs called to the crime scene to learn about their roles. We have looked at



Carson biomedical teacher Nikki Sherrell oversees students during lab projects.

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what a morgue assistant does. We have looked at all kinds of biomedical careers not just ... a doctor and nurse.”

“Actually, it’s pretty interesting doing this whole case study,” says one student. “I’ve not had a class that does this. It’s a lot more hands-on compared to classes where you sit and read all the time.”



The Agriculture Program at West Rowan reflects the community it serves. Surrounded by farmland, West has a mini-working farm where students grow plants, breed and care for farm animals, explore ag businesses and learn mechanical skills for farm equipment.

Today, Alex Silliman’s students are at the barn, caring for the sheep, goats, pigs and one cow.

“We show all the animals,” Silliman says. “When all the animals land on the ground and

weening takes place, we figure out which kids get what. Some animals stay here, and some go to kids’ homes.”

Nearby, the farm’s new greenhouse is filled with large, lush plants. Overhead, ferns drape over their containers, forming a canopy as a student waters plants below.

Each spring, students market and sell the plants they grow. This year, they created farm-style boxes and filled them with plants. Income pays for competitions and other expenses.

“Almost every day we are down there in the greenhouse or the outside areas doing something,” says Jason Chester, the horticulture instructor. “Whether it’s taking a cutting, putting seeds in, pulling weeds, we are making it function so they can see a production greenhouse and learn that, if they want to make money at this, they can.

“I don’t teach anyone to be a farmer specifically, although obviously I hope some of them

do that. But I want my students to have an appreciation for how agriculture impacts their lives because it will impact their life — every day. I am trying to teach life skills they can apply, and I use ag as the foundation to teach those principles.”

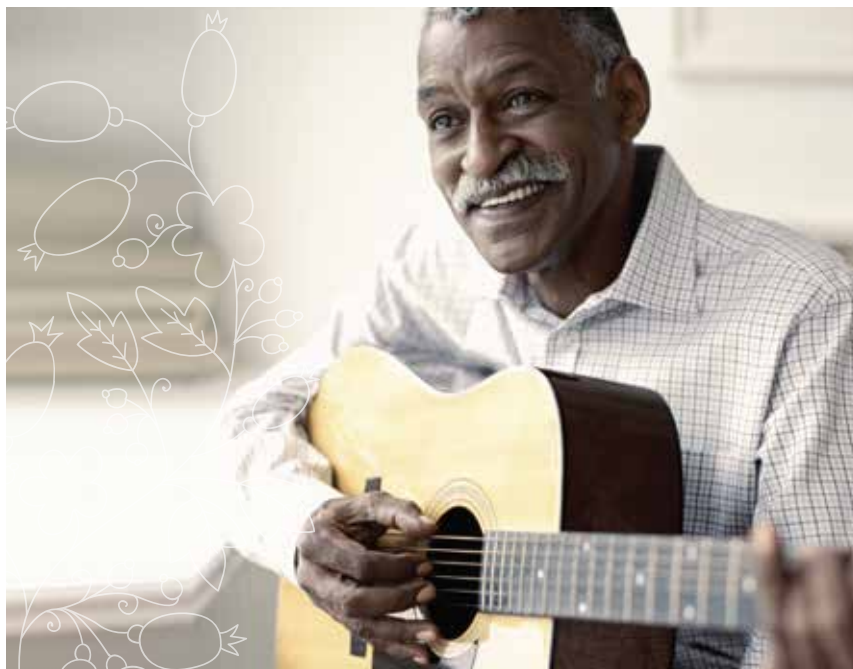


Everything about the Mechatronics/Robotics class at Salisbury High School screams “unconventional.”

Students rarely sit down. Failure is expected because no design is perfect on the first try. Instructors’ degrees are not in education but in engineering with work experience in industry.

This class is part of Salisbury High’s state-of-the-art Technology/Engineering/Design Education Academy, one of only a handful in the state and created with a \$750,000 grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation.

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Isenberg Elementary School's Abby Morse, left, uses a controller to operate a robot built by Salisbury High's Jackson Fisher.

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something they've never seen before," says co-instructor Mike Brinkley. "A lot of Honors and AP kids are convinced that the only way to make money is to become a doctor or dentist. We are here to expose them to alternatives."

Emily Myers watches her lab partner set Oreos on fire during a bio-medical class at Carson.

Today, students gather around an oversized wheelchair they are rebuilding with local fifth-graders. The chair will be converted to electrical, "tricked out" and presented to a student who is disabled.

Students have attached a hoverboard to the bottom, rear of the chair to drive it. One team is contemplating how to add shocks, while another is assembling the control box from pieces they designed and printed using CAD (computer-assisted design) software.

Post-college careers include biomedical engineering, computer programming, and anything in technology. RCCC offers a two-year, mechanical engineering degree that generates \$55,000 annually. High school graduates who completed the Advanced Manufacturing pathway and certification can start at \$15 hourly in local industry.

Last year, the graduation rate for local students who completed four or more CTE classes was 99%, compared to 86.3% for all state students. With more community involvement, the program can continue its success, Mills says.

"We are looking for sites where students can get work experience through internships or apprenticeships," she says. "Come be involved and help us change the perception of success so we can get more kids into these jobs." **S**

Kris Mueller is a freelance writer living in Salisbury.

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Dr. L. Kristin Newby, center, reminisces at the anniversary party with Bobbie Beam and Dr. Ed Tyson, who were the first and second participants to enroll in the MURDOCK Study in 2009.



Participant Norris Dearmon and Perla Nunes, community outreach leader for Duke, take a walk down 'memory lane,' surrounded by memorabilia from the MURDOCK Study's first decade.

The big followup

More than 12,500 participants now involved in 10-year-old MURDOCK Study.

Written by **Emily Ford**

Photos courtesy of Duke Clinical and Translational Science Institute

WELLNESS



Participants pick up health and wellness information from community groups at the MURDOCK Study 10th Anniversary celebration, held at the David H. Murdock Research Institute.

KANNAPOLIS — Ten years to the day after she became the first participant in the MURDOCK Study, Bobbie Beam returned to the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis on Feb. 16 to celebrate the first decade of the landmark Duke CTSI study.

“It’s a wonderful thing,” said Beam, a retired nurse who joined hundreds of MURDOCK Study participants and community partners at the celebration. “I’m happy to be back.”

From humble beginnings in a former dress shop with one Duke employee, the MURDOCK Study paved the way for Duke’s presence in Kannapolis today — 5,000-square-foot of clinical office space and a team of more than 30 Duke em-

ployees co-located in Kannapolis and Durham.

Duke CTSI manages the MURDOCK Study and a dozen nested MURDOCK sub-studies, as well as other clinical research projects based in Kannapolis and built on the foundation that has been created by the MURDOCK Study since 2009.

In 10 years, the MURDOCK Study Community Registry and Biorepository has grown

WELLNESS



Duke study team members talk with guests about the two newest MURDOCK sub-studies, one about fractures and another about kidney health.



The MURDOCK Study is managed by Duke TransPop, including from left, Betty Hover, Dr. L. Kristin Newby, Mary Lou Perry, Debbie Meylor and Jon'Nita Millhouse.



Above: Beverly Brown and others take a walk down 'memory lane' to view MURDOCK Study memorabilia from the first decade. Below: Guests at the MURDOCK Study 10th anniversary celebration listen to Dr. L. Kristin Newby discuss study milestones during its first decade.





This group photo of the MURDOCK Study team includes in the front row, Alice Glines, Abha Singh, Jennifer Stiller and Betty Hover; middle row: Emily Ford, Perla Nunes, Robin Gilliam, Dr. L. Kristin Newby, Julie Eckstrand, Micki Roseman, Cammie Yarborough and Leah Bouk; and back row: Jon’Nita Millhouse, Debbie Meylor, Ezra Pak-Harvey, Chris Lewis, Mary Lou Perry and Cecilia Plez.

to more than 12,500 participants and 450,000 biological samples. The community-based longitudinal cohort recruited participants from 20 zip codes in and around Kannapolis and Cabarrus County. The study has more than 50 collaborations, including 150 collaborators across 21 institutions, and 45 peer reviewed publications. More than 100 Duke faculty members have used MURDOCK Study samples and data to explore a broad range of research questions to better understand health and the transition to disease.

L. Kristin Newby, MD, MHS, director of Duke CTSI Translational Population Health Research (TransPop), serves as principal investigator for the MURDOCK Study. The MURDOCK Study and TransPop offer a range of assets and capabilities to investigators and collaborators.



Duke staffer Jon’Nita Millhouse snaps a picture of Debbie Morse during the Murdock Study 10th Anniversary celebration at the N.C. Research Campus.

WELLNESS

As the MURDOCK Study begins its second decade, TransPop has launched two new cohorts — the MURDOCK Fractures and Falls Study, focused on understanding bone fracture risk in older adults with diabetes, and the MURDOCK Kidney Health Study, which aims to understand factors that prevent kidney disease in people at risk.

Newby urged MURDOCK Study participants to complete their annual follow-up form every year, when the study team contacts them around the anniversary of their enrollment.

“As we enter our second decade, the MURDOCK Study depends on you — our participants — to follow-up every year,” she said. “Enrollment was just the beginning of your commitment to the MURDOCK Study, and to each other.”

Whether a participant’s health has changed

or stayed the same, each follow-up form gives researchers valuable information about health in the community and fuels research to help fight disease, she said. Participants can check to see if they are due for follow-up by calling 704-250-5861 or emailing transpop@duke.edu.

The 10th anniversary celebration in Kannapolis also featured the second MURDOCK Study participant, Ed Tyson, who joked that he would have been the first to enroll if Beam had not beaten him to it. Tyson said he joined the study because he wanted it to become a success for his hometown, which had suffered the loss of a large textile mill several years before the North Carolina Research Campus opened and the MURDOCK Study began.

“I have a great love for the community,” said Tyson, a retired Kannapolis City Schools superintendent and former University of

North Carolina at Charlotte professor. “If someone back then had said to us, ‘The mill is going to close, what is your dream for the future of Kannapolis?’ none of us could have had a dream this big.”

MURDOCK is an acronym that stands for the Measurement to Understand Reclassification of Disease Of Cabarrus and Kannapolis. Duke University School of Medicine received a \$35 million gift from David H. Murdock, chairman of Dole Food Company, to establish the MURDOCK Study in September 2007.

Tenth-anniversary observances will continue throughout the year, with additional events planned in Kannapolis and Durham. **S**

Emily Ford is a communications specialist for the Duke Clinical and Translational Science Institute. She’s based at the Duke CTSI office on the N.C. Research Campus in Kannapolis.

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Participants pick up health and wellness information from community groups at the MURDOCK Study 10th Anniversary celebration, held at the David H. Murdock Research Institute.



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REMINISCE



Claudene Gale with her lunchboxes, well displayed.



Boxed in

Claudene Gale has more than 260 vintage lunchboxes in her collection.

Written by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



But Gale has them now. She's a serious collector, in fact. Her husband, Chauncey, recently counted the metal lunchboxes — many of them with a Thermos inside — that Claudene has accumulated over the past 15 years, and he came up with 268.

That doesn't include some hard plastic lunchboxes she has elsewhere. Claudene neatly displays her metal lunchboxes on the pegboard walls of a 12-by-24-foot building next to their driveway off Rock Grove Church Road.

Claudene, now 78, grew up just across the road, carrying her paper sack to school.

As a point of clarification, Claudene has the "vintage" metal lunchboxes which were popular with kids from the 1950s into the 1980s — not those mostly gray and black metal lunch pails men carried to work.

Claudene's collection has to do with films, books, television

ROCKWELL — Claudene Gale laughs when you ask whether she carried a metal lunchbox to school.

"A paper sack," she answers. "We didn't have lunchboxes back then."

shows, super heroes, fairy tales and cartoon characters that entire generations of kids grew up with, reading and watching.

Companies such as Disney and Universal realized lunchboxes were great marketing and advertising tools. For kids, they often became status symbols in the school cafeteria and reflective of their favorite television shows.

Claudene also has arrays of M&M-related collectibles, Barbie dolls in their original packages, California Raisins and Golden Books, such as many of the original Dr. Seuss editions.

The lunchboxes overwhelm all of those items, however.

"I just took a liking to them," Claudene explains, "and it sort of grew on me. It kind of jumped on me unexpectedly. Then, I enjoyed the hunt."

She has found most of her lunchboxes in antique shops and markets. At times, the lunchboxes she or Chauncey spy are



Cartoon characters, television shows and movies were often the things depicted on lunchboxes. Gale especially likes the dome-shaped boxes, right.

not prominently displayed, and they are cheaply priced.

Others — such as a Beatles lunchbox, for example — usually are under lock-and-key.

She might purchase five or six at a time — or none.

Claudene shies away from buying any lunchboxes showing rust, but “if it’s in good shape,” she says, “it’s coming home with me.”

She relies on a 2001 “Collector’s Guide to Lunchboxes” for help in identifying the dates and manufacturers for what she finds. As for their values, it’s sort of like the way it is with baseball cards, stamps or coins — they’re as valuable as what someone wants to pay for them.

“You can go on eBay and see what they cost,” Claudene says. Amazon is another option.

Did she ever buy any of her lunchboxes off eBay?

“One time,” Claudene says, “and I was desperate.”

A dealer in Colorado had a “Lassie” lunchbox she wanted, but she turned out to be disappointed by its condition. “When I got it,” she says, “it was one I would not have bought.”

There are lunchbox collector websites and even the Lunchbox Museum in Columbus, Georgia, where Allen Woodall Jr. has more than 3,000 on display.





One of Gale's favorite older lunchboxes is a 1949 Joe Palooka model.



Above: A lunchbox depicts the old 'Emergency!' TV show. Right: Gale also displays M&M-related collectibles.



REMINISCE

Claudene and Chauncey hope to travel to the museum sometime this year.

“We’re going,” Claudene promises. “I was planning to go last year, and then I got sick.”

The value of lunchboxes, as with many collectibles, is based on rarity, condition and age. A rare 1954 “Superman” lunchbox might fetch \$20,000.

Random internet trolling reveals a 1955 “Davy Crockett at the Alamo” lunchbox valued at \$1,800, but its bottle carries a \$3,500 price tag.

A 1967 “Lost in Space” lunchbox goes for \$950; a 1959 “Gunsmoke,” \$1,200; a 1968 Beatles’ “Yellow Submarine,” \$1,300.

These are not lunchboxes Claudene necessarily has — “we probably haven’t paid over \$300 for one,” she says — but looking up and down her rows of boxes is a sen-

timental journey for many who have seen her display.

They take in the Hardy Boys, “Mork and Mindy,” “Charlie’s Angels,” Disney characters, “Sesame Street,” “Rambo,” “Happy Days,” “Gentle Ben,” “Grizzly Adams,” Evel Knievel, Archie Comics, Holly Hobbie, “Dukes of Hazzard,” Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Woody Woodpecker, Heathcliff, Snow White, Wild Bill Hickok, “Peanuts,” “E.T.” “Berenstain Bears,” Lassie, Cracker Jack, “Jonathan Livingston Seagull,” Buck Rogers, PAC-MAN, Yogi Bear, “Emergency,” “Adam 12,” “Lassie,” “Superman” and “The Fox and the Hound.”

To name a few.

Claudene’s oldest is a small, oval-shaped lunchbox depicting a train from the 1930s. One of her other favorites is a 1949 Joe Pa-looka box. She has several Hopalong Cas-

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sidy models from the early 1950s, some Lone Rangers and a Bozo the Clown.

It's pretty much a museum.

The companies which manufactured the metal lunchboxes included names such as Aladdin, Adco Liberty, King Seeley, Universal and Thermos.

Claudene also has those lunchboxes with the plaid designs that were popular in the 1960s, and if she has a favorite style, it would be the dome-shaped boxes. "They're harder to find," she says.

Metal lunchboxes fell out of favor in the 1980s after parents started complaining that too many children were using them as weapons, delivering some pretty serious blows.

Do people sometimes bring her lunchboxes, thinking she'll be glad to have them? Yes, but remember, Claudene is particular.

"I would rather do my own picking," she says. "If they have a lot of rust, I'd rather they don't bring them to me."

Chauncey had Claudene's building delivered about two years ago, and with its heating and air-conditioning and added insulation, it's a dry, comfortable place for Claudene to tinker with and admire her collection.

She notes that Chauncey has been bringing his own collection of train

whiskey decanters into her building. "He's gradually sneaking stuff in," she complains.

Chauncey also didn't have a lunchbox to carry to school when he was a kid. His mother packed his lunch in a Karo Syrup bucket, he says.

Now that's vintage. **S**



Mary Katherine Parr, Warren Parr, Dru Edwards and Frances Edwards



Glenn Hoffner and Peggy Miller



North Rowan High Key Club members included Kimya Lynch, Reya Shaw, Joden Geter (in the back), Zyneyeh Haynes and Hannah Wilkerson.

In red, Salisbury High Key Club members Kerry Campion and Luke Brady, along with North Rowan High Key Clubbers Raymundo Mantes and Gabrielle Sloan-May.



Some of the members of the K-Kids Club at Isenberg Elementary include Morgan Shannon, Alexandra Pleitez, Ephraim Williams (standing), Natalie Pleitez and Peyton Weaks.

Kiwanis Pancake Festival

The Kiwanis Club of Salisbury held its annual pancake festival in March — a tradition since 1957. Club members had plenty of help from high school Key Clubs, plus a group of nine K-Kids from Isenberg Elementary. Diners enjoyed plenty of pancakes, sausage, Cheerwine, coffee and conversation. As a show of the club's gratitude, teachers from Rowan-Salisbury Schools ate free.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Carson High Key Club members Thomas Bost, Jacob Horner, Adriana Sanchez and Kirstyn Loucks



Betsy Rich and Jim Baird



Carson High Key Club members Hunter Lund and Kiersten Smith were manning the drink table.



Ellen Webb, Alice Edwards, Darlene Smith and Richard Ketchie enjoy the pancakes.



Carolyn Alexander with Laura and Bob Williamson



Scotty Robinson, Salisbury High Key Club advisor Sallie Pittman and Milton Griffith

Manning one of the club's four circular griddles are Richard Miller, Mike Edwards and Rich Kolbasowski.



Barb and David Hahn

Mixing some of pancake batter were Scott Robinson and John Cooper.



East Rowan High Key Club members Allie Jones, Olivia Schumacher, Anna Hester and Paige Toth



Susan and Rick Eldridge



David Rowh, Habitat for Humanity of Rowan's construction supervisor since 1998, stands with longtime board member Pete Teague.



Nyeshia Patterson's family, along with representatives of Habitat for Humanity of Rowan County and Catawba College, Livingstone College and Pfeiffer University, gather in the driveway for the new home's dedication.



Habitat for Humanity volunteers Rene Pierre and Sandy Kern

Habitat house dedication

A collaboration of Catawba and Livingstone colleges built the 129th house for Habitat for Humanity of Rowan County. Students, faculty, staff and alumni of both schools joined forces in the construction of the home on South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. Pfeiffer University students later joined the project, too. The home was built for Nyeshia Patterson and her five daughters.

— Photos by Mark Wineka and Jon C. Lahey



Above: Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, left, president of Livingstone College, with Larry Bolick. Right: Nyeshia Patterson, the owner of the new Habitat house, is surrounded by her daughters, Michaela Hatchett, 12; twins Janelle and Janae Spangler, 7; Shiyonna Patterson, 16; and Samara Spangler, 4.





State Alexander, left, of Livingstone College, with Dr. Ken Clapp of Catawba College.



Though it was a joint project between Catawba and Livingstone colleges, students from Pfeiffer University also helped in building the Habitat house, including Patricia Summers, Deshona Rogers and Abrea Smith.



Johnathon Boles, who served as Catawba College's point man on the project, stands with Dr. Brien Lewis, right, president of the college.



Coleman Emerson, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Rowan County, stands with June Hundley.



Christian Reeves, Livingstone College's lead person on the project, stands outside the new home with Terri Stevenson, a Habitat board member and associate vice president of student affairs and student engagement at Livingstone.



As State Alexander, left, follows along, Wynter Russey and 12-year-old Michaela Hatchett read a Bible verse during the home's dedication.



Left: Adwoa Ofori-Gyau, Jordan Darrisaw and Payton Coleman, president of Catawba College's student government association.



Right: Shyonna Patterson and her 4-year-old sister, Samara Spangler, inspect one of their new home's bedrooms.



Aldrich Cherry and Randy Rohl



Participating cyclists travel down East Council Street on their way to a tour stop.



Krista Hill with her children Gabe, Gwen and Grant

Pedal Thru the Past

The Pedal Factory, a non-profit community bicycle center, organized a black history bike ride called "Pedal Thru the Past," which drew more than 25 cyclists of all ages. The ride was between five and six miles and took in stops at the Rowan Museum, Clyde's House, Dixonville Cemetery, Livingstone College, the Aggrey and Price houses, Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church and the Freedman's Cemetery.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Stuart Nottingham and Sharon Earnhardt



Above: Brandy Allen, Naia Allen and Luke Harwood

Left: Linda Bartlett, P.J. Ricks and Kenya Templeton



Sisters Kay Abernathy, Betty Rose Witty and Joyce Trexler enjoyed the barbecue and homemade desserts that also were served.



Taking a quick break from putting together the barbecue dinners were Amy Ritchie, Kelly Shawver, Tara Smith, Flora White and Connie Basinger.



Meals on Wheels volunteers Juli Alfieri, Doris Yost and Connie Eads

Meals on Wheels BBQ

Meals on Wheels Rowan held its 11th annual barbecue fundraiser at First Presbyterian Church with the help of 90 volunteers. Dine-in, takeout and drive-through dinners were available as were the “Buy One, Feed One” option that allowed a customer to sponsor a meal for a homebound senior for a combined price of \$15. The College Barbecue dinners also were available at three satellite locations in the county.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Above: Ruth and Lonnie Brown
Left: Don and Sula Pruitt



Left: Working the drive-up service on South Jackson Street during lunchtime hours were Frances Edwards, Kaydin Hogan and Donna Wilson. Middle: Fann Bare and Phyllis Miller. Right: Martha and Randy Lassiter.



Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Olen Butler, right, guest author for the Brady Author's Symposium, stands with a fellow Vietnam veteran and retired math professor Paul Baker.



Monica Farrington, Laura Lewis and Lasheka Walker



Stacy Peters, Patrick Swaney and Kerstin Rudolph

Brady Author's Symposium reception

A small evening reception was held at Hedrick Little Theatre for Robert Olen Butler, who was this year's guest for the 33rd Annual Brady Author's Symposium at Catawba College. Butler won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1993 for his story collection, "A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain." A creative writing teacher at Florida State University, Butler also received the 2013 F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature and won the National Magazine Award for Fiction twice. He learned to speak Vietnamese while serving as a counter-intelligence special agent for the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1969-1971.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Above: Heather Duncan and Vanna Christian. Right: Kelli Hand, Bob Setzer and Pam Setzer. Left: Jay Bolin, Salvatore Musumeci and Taylor Cielo



Left: Catawba College professors Aaron Butler and Carmony Hartwig.

Right: Libby and Larry Gish.



Darlene Ball and Daron Spencer

Francella Trueblood and Kay Wright, members of Dorsett Chapel in Spencer



Carolyn Napoleon, Cynthia Stanfield, Connie Jones, Idella Watkins, Selena Holmes and Edward Holmes, all members of Jerusalem Baptist Church, wait in the chow line.



Rich Kurey, Cheryl Kurey, Jane Brittain and Kay Ash

Rowan Helping Ministries' Volunteer Banquet

Rowan Helping Ministries held its 2019 Spring Volunteer Recognition Banquet at the Salisbury Academy Gymnasium. Guest speaker was Martha Smith Allen, a life transition coach, and dinner was provided by Silver Spoons Catering. "This is a very special day for us," Kyna Grubb, executive director of RHM, told the volunteers. "We get to celebrate you. We love and appreciate you."

— Photos by Mark Wineka

Members of New Generation Christian Ministry in Spencer include, in front, Althea Hill, Crystal Washington and Gail Dixon; in back, Joy Buford and Pastor Linwood Buford.



Left: Sylvia Fosha and Sandra Wade, volunteers from Dorsett Chapel

Below: Chase Hicks, food operations manager for Rowan Helping Ministries, sits with Sam Young and Bailey Graeper of Catawba College.



Jack and Kathy Seybold with Pat and Gary Wood.





Attendees enjoyed last year's second annual Cheerwine Festival in downtown Salisbury. This year's event is May 18. — Jon C. Lakey photo

1 Waterworks Unity through Art Exhibition

Feb. 9 – May 18: 123 E. Liberty St. — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Waterworks is hosting a Unity through Art exhibit. The exhibit features a collection of works from artists who identify as Latino or Hispanic. Artists submitted pieces that captured their cultural narrative and personal work. Entrance is free. Additional information at 704-636-1882, or greeterwaterworks.org.

1 Vernaculars Concert

May 1: Hedrick Little Theatre, Catawba College — 7:30 p.m. Catawba Music presents Vernaculars concert. The event is free and open to the public. Call 1-800-CATAWBA for more information.

2 Rowan Chamber of Commerce Trade Show

May 2: West End Plaza Event Center, 1935 Jake Alexander Blvd. W. — 10 a.m.-7 p.m. The Trade Show is the Chamber's largest networking event. It is a business-to-business expo with valuable connections made every year. Over 80 booths will feature chamber member businesses displaying the latest products and services our region has to offer. Several of the booths will offer valuable door prizes in addition to the grand prize at the end

May 2019

Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

of the evening. Free to the public. For more information, contact Mary S. Norris at 704-633-4221.

2 'Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook'

May 2-5, 9-11: The Norvell Theater, 125 E. Fisher St. — Piedmont Players Theatre's presentation's of "Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook" is based on the book by Barbara Park. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. More information at 704-633-5471, or boxoffice@piedmontplayers.com.

2 Jiggy with the Piggy 5k

May 2: 150 N. Research Campus Drive, Kannapolis — 6:30-8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 through May 1 and \$30 for day of registration. For more information, contact Laura Evans at 704-920-4343, or levans@kannapolisnc.gov.

3 Jiggy with the Piggy

May 3-4: 150 N. Research Campus Drive, Kannapolis — Start time at 5 p.m. May 3. Jiggy with the Piggy BBQ competition

returns with 60 teams from across the United States. The festival will have more than 100 arts and crafts vendors, a concert, fireworks, People's Choice wings and a pork tasting. More information at www.jiggywiththepiggy.com.

4 'Matthew Weaver & Friends' with the Salisbury Symphony

May 4: Keppel Auditorium, Catawba College — 7:30 p.m. The Salisbury Symphony presents a concert of "Appalachian Mountain Music" featuring folk music award-winner and Grand Ole Opry performer Matthew Weaver, along with guitarist Clay Lunsford and others. If you like toe-tapping, inspiring mountain music played by some of the most talented musicians in North Carolina, you'll love this concert. Tickets, \$10 to \$24, with discounts for seniors and students. Contact Hunter Safrit at 704-216-1513 for more information.

4 Carolina Classic Motorcycle Show

May 4: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — Carolina Classic Motorcycle show,

sponsored by the Triad Classic Motorcycle Club of the Piedmont, will display an array of motorcycles models from 1990-99. For information: 704-636-2889, or nctrans@nctrans.org

4 Paws, Claws, and Scales Day
May 4: Dan Nicholas Park, 6800 Bringle Ferry Road — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Rowan Wild is hosting Paws, Claws, and Scales Day. There will be nature programs for the public, guided tours, guest speakers and paintings for sale made by the resident animals.

5 Lake Norman Half Marathon and 5k
May 4: The Point, 128 Vestal Drive. Mooresville — 7:30 a.m.-noon. This is the only race that highlights the best of Lake Norman. Afterwards, enjoy live music from The Southern Style Band. This year's charity partner is the Mooresville Soup Kitchen. Tickets are \$80 for the half marathon and \$35 for the 5k. Prices will begin to increase after May 1 for the 5k and May 2 for the half marathon. For information: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/NC/Mooresville/LakeNormanHalfMarathon5K>.

10 Foot Pursuit 5k
May 10: 130 E Liberty St. — 7 p.m. The Foot Pursuit 5k, through beautiful downtown Salisbury, is for a great cause to benefit the Special Olympics of North Carolina. Tickets: 5k is \$25 and fun run is \$10. Registration ends May 9 at 11:59 p.m. For additional information: call 704-216-7581, or <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Salisbury/SalisburyPD-FootPursuit5KRunWalk>

11 Hippie Fest
May 11-12 Rowan County Fairgrounds 1560 Julian Road, Salisbury — noon to 7 p.m. Hippie festival is the grooviest festival of the year, featuring live music, Bohemian shopping, vintage hippie car show, DIY tie-dye, giant bubble garden, Cirque performers, kids activities, delicious food, tipsy-hippie tiki bar and more. Single-day pass is \$10; two-day pass is \$15. Kids 10 & under are free. All ages welcome. Tickets must be reserved in advance and are available through Eventbrite.

11 Gold Rush Days
May 12: 840 St. Stephens Church Road, Gold Hill — 9 a.m.-5p.m. The event will include local artisans, authentic handmade arts and crafts, live music, gem mining, gold panning, food and more in the historic village of Gold Hill. Vendor applications for the festival are being accepted until May 5 and are \$30. For information: www.goldhillnc.com, or goldhillmerchantsassociation@gmail.com.

17 China Grove Veterans' Memorial Dedication
May 17: China Grove Community Park — 9-11 a.m. Join the town of China Grove for a small ceremony to dedicate its Veterans' Memorial at China Grove Community Park. Social hour starts at 9 a.m. and the ceremony starts at 10 a.m. Military vehicles on display.

17 Piedmont Players' 'Night on the Stage'
May 17: Meroney Theater — 6:30 p.m. Join Piedmont Players for its biggest event of the year. The evening includes Dinner on the Meroney Stage by Chef Santos followed by entertainment by a Broadway star! A fundraiser for Piedmont Players Theatre.

18 Cheerwine Festival
May 18: downtown Salisbury — Cheerwine is celebrating its 3rd annual Cheerwine Festival. Fans can expect ice-cold Cheerwine, live music, Southern food, Cheerwine merchandise and family-friendly activities. More information at 704-638-5270.

18 National Train Day
May 18: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Train lovers will be celebrating National Train Day, offering special train rides, tours and children's activities. Members are invited to enjoy this event free, with special activities just for them. The Historic Spencer Shops Train Show will feature all sorts of railroad memorabilia, model trains, and much more for sale. Now held in the museum's Back Shop, this train show is under cover, moderately climate controlled, and a great event for collectors. For information, 704-636-2889, or nctrans@nctrans.org.

18 Rhythms and Run 5k
May 18: downtown Kannapolis — 8:30 a.m. North Carolina Music Hall of Fame & Museum is hosting its annual Rhythm and Run 5k. All proceeds go to the Hall of Fame in recognition of North Carolina's musical heritage. Tickets are \$25 until May 17 and \$30 for day of registration. Kids fun run is \$10 and starts at 8 a.m. Call 704-934-2320 for information.

18 Ed Dupree 5k
May 18: East Rowan High School 175 St. Luke's Church Road — 8:30-10:30 a.m. 5K, Walk and Fun Run to Benefit Glenn A. Kiser Hospice House and Ed Dupree Memorial Scholarship at ERHS. Tickets: 5k is \$25; Fun Run, \$10; and one mile, \$10. For information, <https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Salisbury/EDDUPREE5KforHOSPICEHOUSE>.

18 Lester J. Brown Memorial ATHS Truck Show
May 18: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The American Truck Historical Society (ATHS) fills the museum grounds with the big boys. Trucks of all makes and models that carried goods across the United States will be displayed. This show is sponsored by the Piedmont Carolina Chapter of the ATHS. For more information, contact Bruce Essick at bruce@bruceessicktrucksales.com.

19 Sensory Awareness Day
May 19: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — 9-noon. Autism Friendly Day at the museum. Prior to opening to the general public, the museum will offer a preparatory session for those with sensory processing issues. Materials will be offered as a preview to their visit, understanding how a tour of the site works with the museum train ride and exhibits. Social stories will help to plan for the experience. Items like sound dampening materials and stress balls will also be available on this very special day. For information, 704-636-2889, or nctrans@nctrans.org.

25 Gold Hill Bike Ride
May 25: 770 St. Stephens Church Road, Gold Hill — 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. 20th Annual Group Gold Hill Bike Ride is hosted by Group Gold Hill & Gold Hill Historic Preservation Society. Take your pick of 100k, 50k or 25k rides through the scenic country roads of Rowan, Stanly and Cabarrus counties. Rider registration starts at 7:30 a.m. at the E.H. Montgomery General Store, and the rides will start at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Village Arbor. Registration is \$25 and includes marked routes, aid stations, pre-ride pastries and coffee, post-ride lunch and a chance to win door prizes. For additional information contact lyelton3449@gmail.com.

25 Ellis Dyson and the Shambles
May 25: Lee Street theatre, 329 N. Lee St. — 7:30 p.m. Ellis Dyson and the Shambles expertly blends old-time influences ranging from Piedmont murder ballads to traditional jazz. The result: whiskey-soaked, foot-stompin' songs that bring party music of departed eras to crowds both young and old. The Shambles have made waves with their theatrical and explosive live shows and masterful musicianship that electrifies every audience. Bursting with exuberance and effortless expertise, this playfully hootin' and hollerin' act is guaranteed to bring the ruckus. Price: \$22.90. **S**



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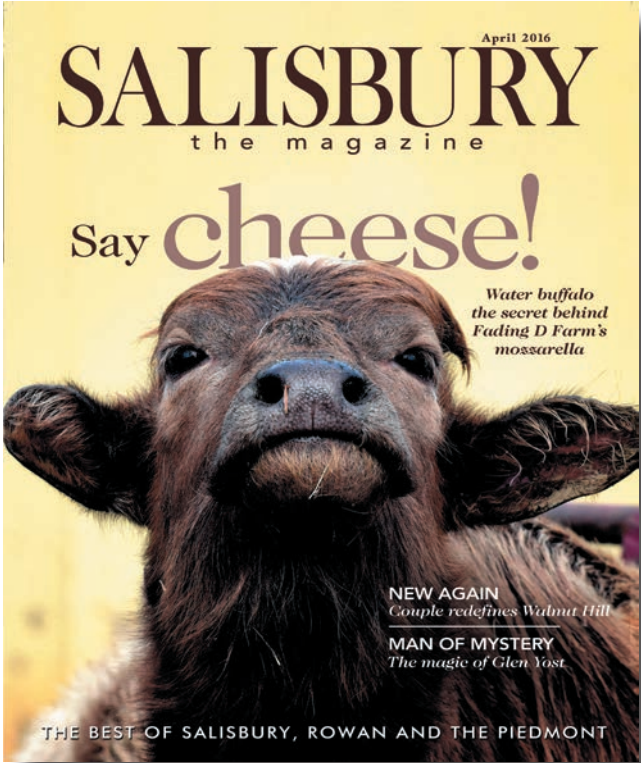
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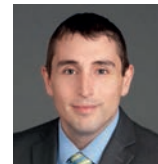
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