

August 2018

# SALISBURY

t h e m a g a z i n e

## Life in the FAST LANE

ARCA driver Andy Seuss  
keeps racing down his dream



### Going coastal

Retired Rowan educator  
has a love for Cape Lookout

### Four dimensional

Meet quadruplet teens  
Abby, Ella, Hannah and Zoe Larson

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# SALISBURY

the magazine

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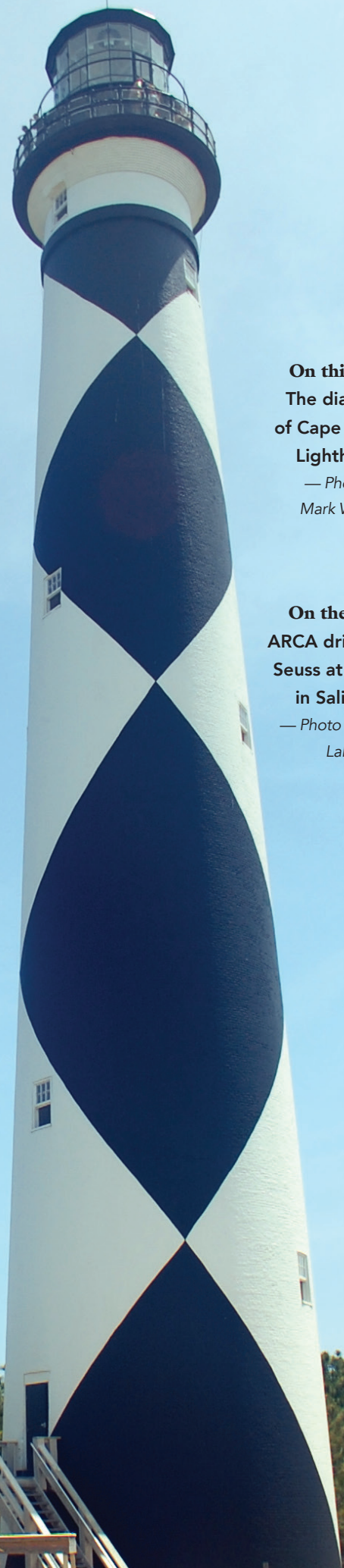
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of Cape Lookout  
Lighthouse.

— Photo by  
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**On the cover:**  
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— Photo by Jon C.  
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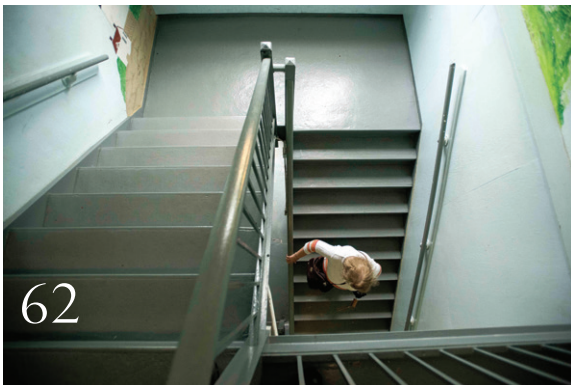


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# Keeping the light on, from Rowan County to the coast

Here's a tip from the world traveler that I am: The next time you go to the beach for any length of time, try the month of May, say a couple of weeks before Memorial Day.

The days are hot enough, but still not stifling. Restaurants and the roads to reach them are way less crowded. I guess it's because families are waiting for school to end before thinking about vacations, and Memorial Day also seems like the official start of summer, no matter what the calendar says.

My wife and I took a trip to North Carolina's Crystal Coast this past May and stayed in Atlantic Beach. We made side trips to places such as Fort Macon, Swansboro, Morehead City and Beaufort. But one of our favorite days proved to be the afternoon we shared with Glenn Eagle, a retired educator from Rowan County.

For several years now, Eagle has spent his summers volunteering at his favorite place on earth, Cape Lookout, home of one of North Carolina's iconic lighthouses.

You get to do some cool things in my line of work, and our day with Glenn Eagle definitely qualifies. Glenn's Cape Lookout story appears among the pages to follow — a far-from-home story that's still close to home.

This edition also introduces us to ARCA racer Andy Seuss, who toils away at his sport from a behind-the-house shop in residential Salisbury. You'll learn it takes a village of family and friends — along with Seuss' stick-to-itiveness — to keep his racing dream alive.

Farther down the road in eastern Rowan



County, Jessica Coates pays a visit to the home of Jerry and Tracy Larson. Not many families include 15-year-old quadruplets — yes, teen quadrophonic sound — so it's fun hearing the story of Zoe, Hannah, Abby and Ella.

By the way, you have to admire the girls' older brother, Noah, and what he must put up with.

We go east again, this time to Durham, where writer Susan Shinn Turner and photographer Becca Benson catch up with Salisbury native Laura Ritchie. Through a gallery she co-founded and the opportunities she has given burgeoning talents, young Laura already has made an impressive mark on the Durham arts scene.

You also might have seen her hosting "Muse" on public TV.

It's not our typical home feature, but it's an important one. Elizabeth Cook tells us about David Rowh, the man who has tirelessly directed the work crews on Habitat for Humanity Homes for a good 20 years.

Writer Andie Foley does double duty in this issue. With members of the Cleveland High School Class of 1958, Foley tours their old school as part of a 60th reunion. Elsewhere, she also takes a look at what goes on behind a production of "A 'Bury Home Companion."

Deirdre Parker Smith provides a Q&A with local weather guru Steve Monday, the Rowan Original. (Check out his two favorite foods.) Dr. Jim Anderson supplies this month's

Through the Lens photo, and Deirdre has three more good reading recommendations in Bookish.

Let me take this chance to invite local artists to contribute something to our "Salisbury's the Place" page in the back of the magazine. For some 25 issues or so, that spot usually has been reserved for guest columns. Now, for the near future at least, we'd like to fill it with local artwork that depicts a Salisbury or Rowan County scene.

Andy Mooney starts us off in this issue. His own world travels took him all the way to East Council Street. **S**

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

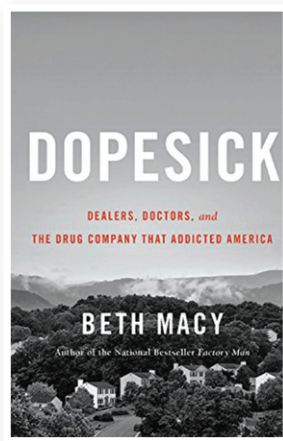




Dr. Jim Anderson, a dentist in Salisbury, took this photo of a black-crowned night heron along the banks of Lake Norman. These birds often spend their days perched on limbs or concealed within foliage. They look for food in the evenings in the water, on mudflats and on land. As it flies, the night heron holds its head back against the shoulders, almost making the neck disappear. Anderson took this photo with a Sony NEX-6, using a 55-210mm lens.



# Looking for answers amid fractured lives



**"Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America"**  
By Beth Macy

Beth Macy takes readers into the epicenter of America's 20-plus year struggle with opioid addiction.

Along the lines of Sam Quinones' "Dreamland," but hailed as more approachable, Macy's work goes from distressed small communities in Central Appalachia to wealthy suburbs; from disparate cities to once-idyllic farm towns. Where Quinones did deep research and shared shocking numbers and stories of how oxycontin leads to black tar heroin, Macy takes a more personal track and focuses on Appalachia.

Beginning with a single dealer who lands in a small Virginia town and sets about turning high school football stars into heroin overdose statistics, Macy endeavors to answer a grieving mother's question — why her only son died — and comes away with a harrowing story of greed and need.

Like Quinones, she parses how America embraced a medical culture where overtreatment with painkillers became the norm. In some of the same distressed communities featured in her bestselling book "Factory Man," the unemployed use painkillers both to numb the pain of joblessness and pay their bills, while privileged teens trade pills in cul-de-sacs, and even high school standouts fall prey to prostitution, jail and death.



**"The Third Hotel"**  
By Laura van den Berg

*Named a Most Anticipated Book of 2018 by BuzzFeed, Huffington Post and The Rumpus, and a Summer 2018 Read by Vulture, Nylon, Elle, Southern Living and Alma.*

In Havana, Cuba, a widow tries to come to terms with her husband's death — and the truth about their marriage — in Laura van den Berg's surreal, mystifying story of psychological reflection and metaphysical mystery.

Shortly after Clare arrives in Havana to attend the annual Festival of New Latin American Cinema, she finds her husband, Richard, standing outside a museum. He's wearing a white linen suit she's never seen before, and he's supposed to be dead. Grief-stricken and baffled, Clare tails Richard, a horror film scholar, through the newly tourist-filled streets of Havana, clocking his every move.

As the distinction between reality and fantasy blurs, Clare finds grounding in memories of her childhood in Florida and of her marriage to Richard, revealing her role in his death and reappearance along the way. It is a propulsive, brilliantly shape-shifting novel from an inventive author at the height of her narrative powers.



**"The Incendiaries"**  
By R.O. Kwon

"In dazzlingly acrobatic prose, R.O. Kwon explores the lines between faith and fanaticism, passion and violence, the rational and the unknowable." — Celeste Ng, New York Times bestselling author of "Little Fires Everywhere."

A powerful, darkly glittering novel about violence, love, faith and loss, as a young Korean American woman at an elite American university is drawn into acts of domestic terrorism by a cult tied to North Korea.

Phoebe Lin and Will Kendall meet their first month at prestigious Edwards University. Phoebe is a glamorous girl who doesn't tell anyone she blames herself for her mother's recent death. Will is a misfit scholarship boy who transfers to Edwards from Bible college, waiting tables to get by. What he knows for sure is that he loves Phoebe.

Grieving and guilt-ridden, Phoebe is drawn into a religious group — a secretive extremist cult — founded by a charismatic former student, John Leal. He has an enigmatic past that involves North Korea and Phoebe's Korean American family. Meanwhile, Will struggles to confront the fundamentalism he's tried to escape, and the obsession consuming the one he loves.

When the group bombs several buildings in the name of faith, killing five people, Phoebe disappears. Will devotes himself to finding her, tilting into obsession himself, seeking answers to what happened to Phoebe and if she could have been responsible for this violent act. **S**

**S**teve Monday, who is the forecaster behind the website and Facebook page, Rowan County Weather, is originally from Davidson County, and grew up in Welcome. He went to North Davidson High School, then Davidson County Community College, where he was going to study law enforcement.

Hurricane Hugo changed all that. “The power of that storm really got me focused on weather,” he said. “That really was a hurricane for Rowan County” by the time it got here, and the forecast tools he now uses were not available then.

Rowan County Weather launched July 29, 2013.

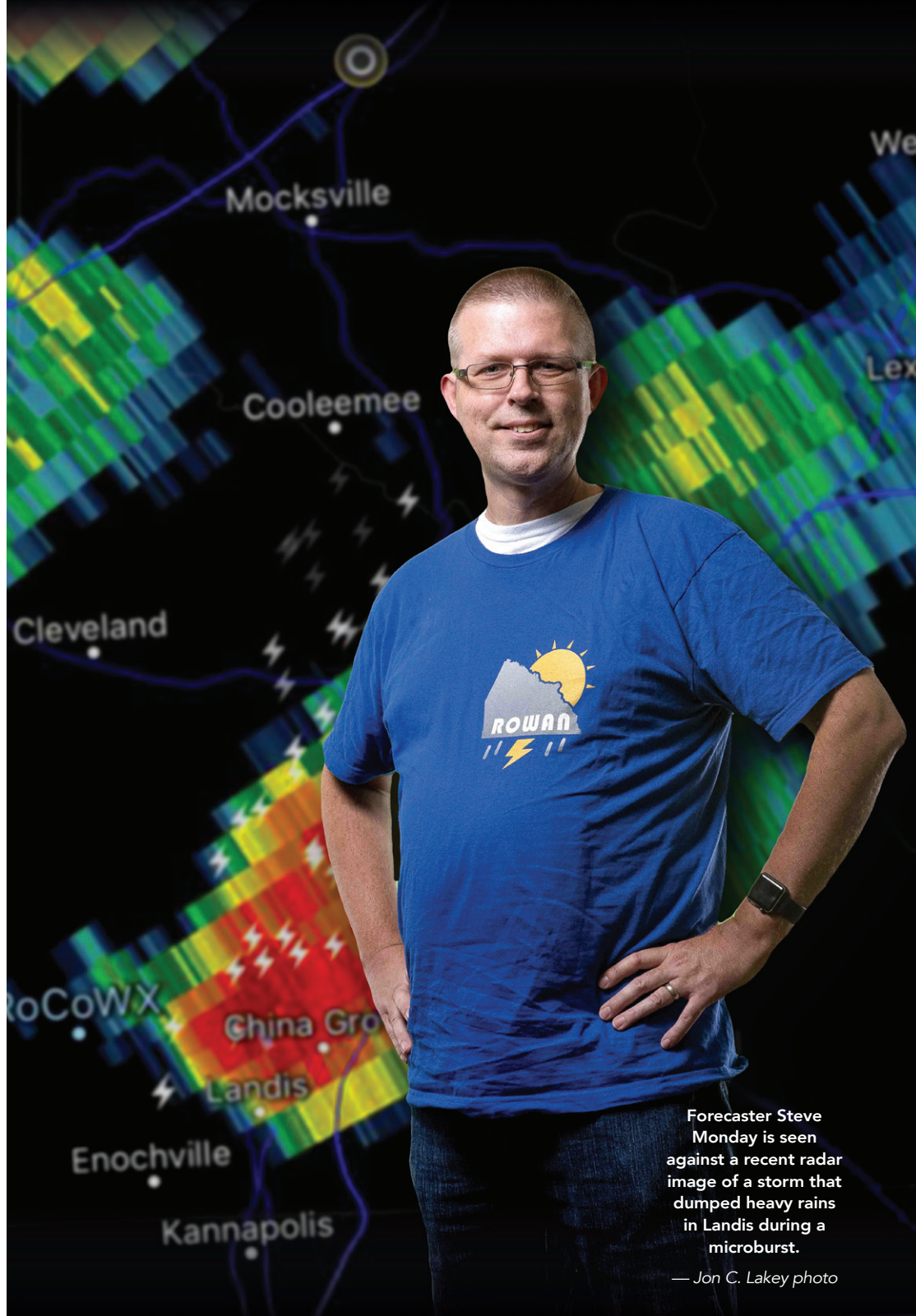
Monday’s forecasts include sponsored special features, like the mosquito forecast, the pollen forecast and a mowing forecast. He uses a camera view aimed at the sky so you can see the current weather conditions without even looking out the window.

He is a certified advanced weather spotter, as well as a National Weather Ready Ambassador for the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic Aviation Administration. He is also the lead weather spotter for NBC Charlotte (WCNC-36) and the First Warn Storm Team.

In addition, Monday has become a regular at Pops at the Post to help with forecasts and the decision whether to perform outside or move the concert indoors. Monday is a source for many Salisbury Post weather stories.

You can find him at [www.rowancountyweather.com](http://www.rowancountyweather.com), on Facebook and Twitter.

Monday is married to Amy and they have a daughter, Samantha, who is 10. They have a dog named Jennie and cat named Callie, to keep the “ie” theme.



Forecaster Steve Monday is seen against a recent radar image of a storm that dumped heavy rains in Landis during a microburst.

— Jon C. Lakey photo

# A head in the clouds

Steve Monday is your everyday weather guy.

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



## Q. What got you so interested in weather?

I became interested in weather at a young age. I would always watch storms with my grandfather. We used to go from the front of my grandparents' house to the back as storms moved through.

### Have you ever considered making it a career?

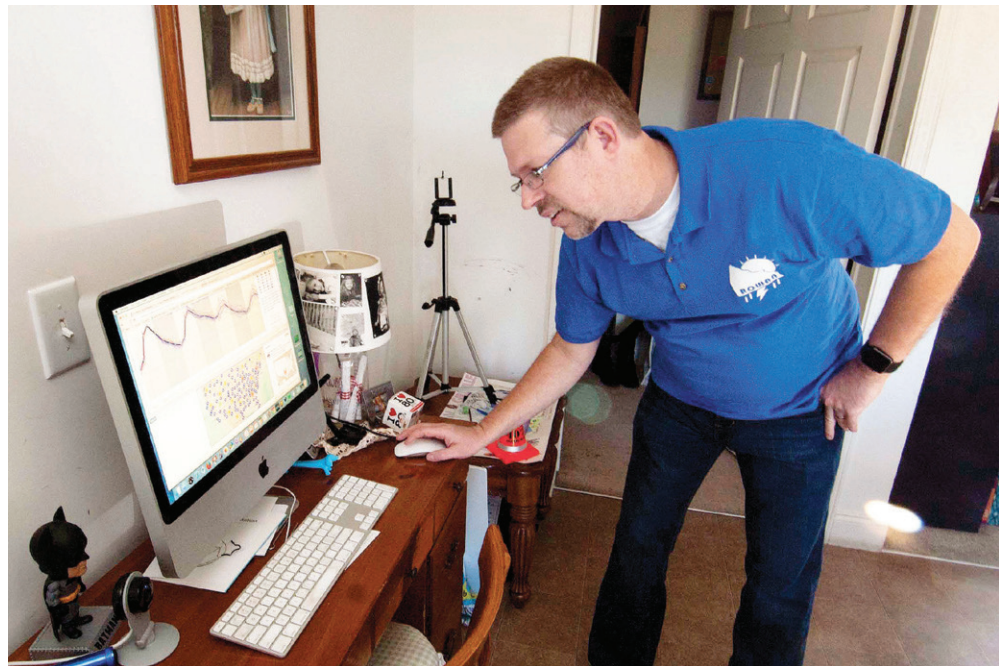
I have considered it. However, I love providing the weather on my own terms. When you work for a broadcast media company or the National Weather Service you may have limits to areas you can provide forecasts for. In other words, news directors in the Charlotte stations want the focus to be on their bread and butter, the Queen City. I am here for the residents of Rowan County. That's where I want my focus.

### Your forecasts are becoming more and more popular. To what do you attribute that?

Credibility. I don't believe in putting out gloom-and-doom forecasts. I want someone to see my forecast and think to themselves, "If this guy says it's going to rain, I better get my umbrella. If he says it's going to snow 6 inches, I may need to go to the grocery store." Also, I like being able to give someone the forecast on their own terms. Someone can send me a message or post on social media asking about the weather they may experience. I can give them that information. They don't have to wait for a newscast or weather update. They can simply ask me and trust the information being provided to them.

### Where do you source all of your information?

I use various weather models and radar. I take the information in all the models and compare it to what the radar is indicating. If a model is off, I discard that information and focus on the models that are performing accurately with the current radar. I use all of the remaining data to complete my forecast.



Weather forecaster Steve Monday constantly checks his devices for updates and relays them through social media and his website.

### Who's your favorite meteorologist?

Without question it is Brad Panovich from NBC-Charlotte.

### How is the Road Warriors program (traffic updates) going?

The program is going well. It is still very new and residents are starting to discover it. I felt the need to start that program as traffic information was becoming a big part of Rowan County Weather. I wanted to keep the information separate so it was easy for someone to disseminate.

### Who was your mentor?

My mentor was and continues to be Brad Panovich. Brad is someone who cares and really wants to explain weather to anyone in a way that they will understand it. He wants people to use weather information to save their lives if they ever get in a severe weather situation that poses a threat to their safety.

### Who has been the biggest influence in your life and why?

My daughter, Samantha. Once she was born everything I do is about making a better future for her. I want to be able to provide a firm foundation for her to grow up in. I want her to have a strong personality, respect adults, be confident and have a love for everyone.

### What's your pet peeve?

When someone tells me their weather app said something different than my forecast.

### Five words to describe Rowan County:

Home, Cheerwine, family, upcoming and peaceful.

### Two foods that are always in your fridge or pantry:

Bread and milk (LOL). Just kidding, had to make a weather joke. **S**



## THE ARTS



Laura Ritchie poses for a photo inside The Carrack in Durham.





# Finding her 'Muse'

Laura Ritchie champions the arts,  
emerging talents.

Written by Susan Shinn Turner

Photography by Rebecca Benson

**D**URHAM — Laura Ritchie perches atop a high stool in a darkened studio. She smiles and gazes into the camera. She counts down.

“Three ... two ... Coming up on Muse.”

This afternoon, Laura, 30, is filming teasers and introductions for “Muse,” the UNC-TV show she hosts. The 30-minute “Muse” showcases art-related features from PBS affiliates nationwide. Laura introduces the four segments in each episode. She makes short work of her task, pausing for a second or two after each introduction.

Just once, she flubs the name of the show, saying “Mooooos.”

“Yeah,” she says, laughing with her producer, Kate Loebrich, “I wanna do it one more time.”

“Laura has been a delight to work with,” Loebrich says. “She brings a fresh eye to the show, coming in from the outside and being in the art world. She’s brought us lots of ideas for stories.”

The lead story of every show is always local, Loebrich notes. “She’s a quick learner. She stepped into it and took right to it.”

Laura will soon complete the 26th episode of season 1 of “Muse.” The last episode is a retrospective and will be filmed at The Carrack near downtown Durham, an art gallery that Laura co-founded, and where she has served as executive director for the past seven years. The current space — a 1,000-square-foot, first-floor exhibit space at 947 E. Main St. — is the perfect size





Above: Laura Ritchie, right, and Jonathan Duran, left, watch the screen as Katy Loebrich, center, makes sure the camera is in focus before they begin recording an episode of 'Muse' at UNC-TV on May 14. Below left: 'Vulnerable Embrace' by Rontherin Ratliff in The Carrack in Durham. Below right: From left, 'Dollar Bill' by Catherine Edgerton, 'Moving Flag (2017)' by Carl Joe Williams, and 'Radio Tower' by Catherine Edgerton, all sit on pieces called 'Young Ron 1-3,' sumi ink and stickers on cardboard by Cool Boy 36 at The Carrack in Durham.



for a solo show.

The Carrack's business model supports emerging and underrepresented artists. It's a zero commission gallery, and artists install and take down their shows, keeping 100 percent of sales. The Carrack is supported entirely by donations, and the shows change every two weeks. The Carrack also hosts free events, which include yoga classes, poetry readings, film screenings, concerts — all kinds of stuff, Laura says.

The Carrack's model, Laura says, is based on "trust, reciprocity and generosity. And folks rise up to that."

She adds, "We quite literally hand over the keys for an event. It's in our artists' best interests to be good stewards of that space."

Art has long been part of Laura's life. The daughter of Mark and Jane Ritchie, Laura began participating in the ever-popular Messy Art program at Waterworks Visual Arts Center at its old location on Water Street. Her instructor was Cindy Morgan, who later was her honors art teacher





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### Dunns Mountain

Nature & Historical Preserve  
Dunns Mountain Road,  
Salisbury, NC



## THE ARTS

at West Rowan High School.

Laura's first professional exhibition was at Waterworks in 2006 as the recipient of Waterworks' Dare To Imagine (DTI) Award. She continues her involvement with Waterworks as a member of the center's Exhibition Committee.

"Laura is a pleasure to work with," says Anne Scott Clement, executive director of Waterworks. "As a member of the Exhibitions Committee, Laura's curatorial experience enhances the selection of artists and building of exhibitions here at Waterworks. She brings a fresh perspective on the visual arts community and is an advocate for emerging artists."

Laura co-founded The Carrack a year after her graduation from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor's degree in fine arts. She's also studied in Florence, Italy, and at Hampshire College.

John Wendelbo, a local sculptor, had an idea for a public art project that eventually morphed into a plan for The Carrack. The two worked together for a year, then John asked her if she wanted to keep it going.

"Fundraising has been such a challenge," she says. Often, they were raising rent money month to month. That's one reason The Carrack has a show opening every two weeks — everyone always shows up for openings.

"We do manage now," she says, "but the first few years, I wasn't being paid at all for my time. My ability to work without pay for so many years is due to the work my family has done. It gave me the privilege to focus on this project that I believe in."

Laura's family founded the Salisbury-based company that makes Cheerwine. Her uncle, Cliff Ritchie, now serves as chief executive officer, and her cousin Joy Ritchie Harper is marketing director. Cliff's older son, Carl, also works for Cheerwine. Youngest son Ben is in school but spends summers there. The cousins were close growing up, Laura says, and still are. She recently went to cousin Carrie Misenheimer's engagement party and looks forward to her October wedding.

"When our grandparents were still with



Laura Ritchie puts on makeup before recording an episode of 'Muse' at UNC-TV.

us, we got together three times a year with the whole family at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas," Laura says of the late Raymond and Shirley Ritchie. "They certainly were the glue. All three of the families are working to stay in touch. It's time for us to build new traditions."

Laura says she never felt any pressure to join the family business.

"My folks encouraged my sister and me to follow our hearts," she says. "That sounds so cheesy! But they encouraged us to do work we believe in, and to do it well and with passion."

Laura's sister, Kate, 26, works for the Charleston Artists Collective. Even though Laura, too, is an artist, she says that gallery work has become her art practice. "This feels very creative and scratches the same itch."

The gallery has been a big risk for Laura, to be sure. But it's also been a philanthropic endeavor, which is also big in her family, she says.

Elsa Hoffman, an artist based in Efland, had her first solo show at The Carrack in 2014.

"Even after my solo show, Laura continued to look out for me," Elsa says. "She generously helped connect me with the Waterworks Visual Arts Center, where I later had another solo show. In May, I participated in a group show at The Carrack with an amazing community of artists from New Orleans. The fruits and connections coming out of The Carrack seem to be overflowing, and have created an incredible web of an artist community that spans beyond the walls of the gallery."

She adds, "Laura is a guiding force as gallery director. Her warmth and spirit bring light and comfort into the space. Laura not only provided space and resources for my show, but also gave me tools to navigate on my own what it really takes to pull off a show. This kind of responsibility opened my eyes and gave me confidence to continue on my path as an artist."

Laura is continuing on her own path, enrolled in the master of arts in liberal studies (MALS) program at Duke University. She's studying the role of arts in urban development and gentri-



fication, and is collecting data about Durham's art community.

Studio work, she says, is solitary. "I'm more interested in collaboration."

To that end, Laura has stepped away from her role at The Carrack. She's not leaving to concentrate on school, she says, although she'll pick up another class this fall.

"It's the right thing for the organization, and it's the right thing for me," she says. On June 16, Saba Taj became the new gallery director.

For the first time, The Carrack produced a yearbook of its 2017 shows. The gallery, Ritchie says, is "not quite fancy enough" to have an exhibition catalog.

"It makes me feel so nostalgic and proud of the incredible range of work that happens here," Laura says, flipping through the soft cover book. "It's really powerful to see how space morphs, and to see how each exhibit exemplifies The Carrack's mission."

Visit [thecarrack.org](http://thecarrack.org) for information on upcoming shows. **S**

*Susan Shinn Turner is a freelance writer living in Raleigh.*



Laura Ritchie laughs as Glenn Abbey hides the wire for the microphone before recording an episode of 'Muse.'

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Stage manager Randy Overcash (not shown), Linda Jones, Bill Bucher, Kay Peeler and Kent Bernhardt comprise the planning committee for the upcoming 'A Bury Home Companion.' They gathered recently at Koco Java.

— Jon C. Lakey photo

# 'A Bury Home Companion'

Show that's part fact, part fantasy, bit of Lake Wobegone and lots of Salisbury, returns for second year.

Written by Andie Foley



## THE ARTS



The Montgomery Store Band opens 'A 'Bury Home Companion' at the Meroney last year.

— Wayne Hinshaw photo

**L**ike any production, the Salisbury Symphony's "A 'Bury Home Companion" is an all-hands-on-deck kind of operation.

Held as a fundraiser and kick-off for the 2018-19 season, the show started last year as an homage to Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" — with a Salisburian twist.

It debuted with a single, sold-out showing, but returns to the Meroney Theater this year with two performances: a 2:30 p.m. matinee showing and a 7:30 evening showing on August 25.

A collection of the many hands involved in the radio-style, live variety show gathered in mid June to hash

out some final plans.

The group sat around a long table at Salisbury's Koco Java, with all voices operating in tandem as they made suggestions for this year's performance.

Seated were Kent Bernhardt, Kay Peeler, Bill Bucher, Linda Jones, Randy Overcash and Laura Lewis.

Bernhardt writes and rehearses the script with fellow "radio players" while Peeler coordinates the musical talent, providing accompaniment to the players where needed.

And then there's Jones, former executive director of the symphony whose seasoned career saw her at the table with a folder of information from the past 'Bury performance.

Bill Bucher is interim executive director, and Lewis, a symphony board member.

Overcash, meanwhile, is there to visualize the show's composition, how it all will flow. He's the stage manager.

"The thing that's fun about this show is that we just create it as we go, literally," Peeler said in explanation of



## THE ARTS



Above: The Montgomery Store Band performs during last year's 'A 'Bury Home Companion Show.' Below: Kent Bernhardt as host. — Wayne Hinshaw photos

the organized chaos.

Beside her, Bernhardt added, “Even during the show sometimes!”

Jones, seated at the opposite end of the table, smiled and contributed her own perspective.

“It’s sort of a come-as-you-are kind of thing,” she said.

As the show’s writer, Bernhardt said “A ’Bury Home Companion” spotlights the “gentle, humorous side of life in Rowan County.”

“It’s full of gentle wit — part fact, part fantasy — with a little bit of Lake Wobegone, maybe a dash of Mayberry and a lot of Salisbury mixed in,” he said.

He couldn’t have described it better. Bernhardt’s original compositions last year were a perfect and eclectic mix of the fundraiser’s inspiration and local fixtures. There were references to College Barbecue, Sweet Meadow Café, Cheerwine, Hap’s Grill and St. John’s Lutheran Church, to name a few.

All were tucked within skits that harkened back to Keillor’s Prairie show: scenes with Guy Noir, phone calls with his mother, slapstick jin-



gles and more.

Jingles for local businesses and institutions, as in the case of Catawba College’s “Green Acres” spoof last year, are written for show sponsors of \$500 or more.

These sketches and acts will be interspersed throughout another crowd pleaser of 2017: local musical talent featuring everything from country to gospel.

The amorphous show is, at the time of print, still gathering performers.

It’s a balancing act, of sorts, said show planners. They gather performers, write sketches,

and then cull where needed until the show length rests somewhere around two hours.

“The way it was at the beginning, we figured we’d start it Saturday night and go home about Thursday if we weren’t careful,” said Bernhardt with a laugh.

Sara Claire King and Eli Yacinthe will return to the ’Bury stage. The pair brought audience members to tears last year with their performance of “Daddy Doesn’t Pray Anymore.”

King and Yacinthe will be joined by gospel performers Fortress and Gold Hill singer-songwriter Danny Basinger, among others.

The Moonglows will appear as the ’Bury Home Singers, and the ’Bury Home Companion Band is making its second appearance under the direction of Vivian Pennington Hopkins.

Hopkins operates the E.H. Montgomery General Store in Gold Hill, overseeing its weekly bluegrass session.

Headlining the show, so to speak, will be country star Rockie Lynne.

Lynne has appeared many times on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. He’s also appeared on



“Good Morning America” and “Fox and Friends.”


Between these and many other appearances, Lynne somehow found time to create the national charitable organization Tribute to the Troops 15 years ago.

And he’s recently been chosen as the host of the home remodeling program “Operation Build,” airing nationally on the A&E Network.

“We’re delighted to be able to showcase such incredible vocal talent in such a fun way,” said Peeler.

The two-hour Saturday show will be divided by an intermission. Like last year, those comfortable in their seats will be treated to a group sing-along of hymns and other classics during the break.

“To me, that’s different,” said Bernhardt. “You don’t shut down the show during intermission. There’s still something out there going on.”

Tickets for “A ’Bury Home Companion” are \$45 or \$44 for seniors. They can be purchased online at [salisburysymphony.org](http://salisburysymphony.org) or by calling the symphony office at 704-216-1513. 



People leave the Meroney Theater after last year’s performance.

— Wayne Hinshaw photo

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Joe Napoletano hands off a piece of siding to Tony Byrd as they work on a Habitat house in Salisbury.



# Hammer time

On more than 100 houses, Habitat's David Rowh has transformed novices into carpenters.

Written by Elizabeth Cook

Photography by Jon C. Lakey





David Rowh, construction supervisor for the Habitat for Humanity of Rowan County, has been helping volunteers build homes in Salisbury and Rowan County since 1998.

**I**f you've worked on a Habitat for Humanity house in Rowan County over the past two decades, you've probably met David Rowh.

He's the slim guy with a mustache and shades who seems to be everywhere at once on Habitat worksites, the guy who knows how to do just about everything — including how to turn unskilled volunteers into productive workers.

"I've had people who literally have never used a hammer," Rowh says. "By 10:30, they're showing someone else."

Rowh has been the construction supervisor for Habitat of Rowan County since 1998. That was

more than 100 houses ago.

The beat-up pickup he drove for years has been replaced by a new truck with compartments for everything. "Habitat for Humanity of Rowan County," it says on the side. "Building Homes, Building Hope, One Family at a Time."

Rowh is driven by the same heart for mission that he saw in his parents back in Dublin, Va.

Mark and Linda Rowh are "the two best human beings on planet Earth," their son says. Linda is a teacher; Mark, a community college administrator.

Twenty-five years ago Rowh went on a mission trip with his mother to an area south of Charleston. He enjoyed the work and helping others. And he liked seeing other parts of the country.

So at the age of 20, Rowh joined AmeriCorps, the national service organization. "I put everything I had in a Dodge Neon and drove to Colorado," he says.



## AT HOME



Above: David Rowh talks with Shari Anderson, who's painting siding that will go on her Habitat house. Below: A native of Virginia, Rowh first worked with Habitat for Humanity as a volunteer in Florida after Hurricane Andrew. A later stint with AmeriCorps led him to Salisbury.

He was there a year when AmeriCorps sent him to help Habitat for Humanity of Rowan County for 10 months. Something clicked for Rowh and Habitat, and they've been together ever since.

That first house was on Fifth Street in Spencer; then came one on Harrel Street in Salisbury.

Rowh got married. Became a father.

"I was on the site the day my daughter was born," says Rowh, 40. Now daughter Jade is a senior at Salisbury High. His son, Dylan, is a sophomore.

Since then Rowh has helped Habitat build houses all over Rowan County — from Kannapolis to Mount Ulla to Spencer.

He ticks off the places where he's worked on Habitat houses in Salisbury — Sunset Drive, West Cemetery Street, Union Heights, Forest Creek.

All told, Habitat of Rowan has built 125 houses.





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## AT HOME



Rowh's Habitat truck is a mobile workshop, loaded with equipment.

es and adds about six a year.

Rowh's parents helped celebrate his 40th birthday last August by coming to Salisbury and working with him on a house in the Jersey City area.

Why did his 10-month assignment stretch out to two decades? Why did Rowh stay?

"I don't know," he says. "I got kind of hooked up in it, I guess.

"I'm doing something other than going to work to be paid to go to work. ... I love it. You can see what you're doing. It's something tangible. It's in front of you."



Meeting good people is the happy byproduct of this kind of work, Rowh says.

He recalls a time when Habitat had seven houses going up at once in Spencer. At 7 a.m. on a Saturday, when volunteers from First Reformed Church and Salem Lutheran Church were about to set to work, it started raining hard.

Someone said, "Let's go," and they did.

Rowh figured the day was lost. But the sky cleared.

"By lunchtime we had almost 100 volunteers



Future homeowner Shari Anderson puts in some sweat equity, cutting siding for a neighbor's house, with volunteer Joe Napoletano holding the siding steady.

working on four different sites," he says. "At some point I looked up and realized that every person was there as a volunteer because they wanted to be there."

As Rowh speaks, nearby several volunteers are hammering and sanding on a house on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

What will be Tawanda Smith's house is under roof and about to get sheetrock installed inside. Rowh and volunteers are outside, finishing the

back deck.

"She is a worker," Rowh says of Smith. Employed at Nazareth Children's Home, Smith spends a lot of her off hours putting in sweat equity for her house. "I can't actually verify that she sleeps," Rowh says.

Ten o'clock rolls around and someone gives a whistle. It's break time.

"You can't deny these guys their breaks. They're serious," Rowh says.

Rowh says the Wednesday crew includes several regulars who work on house after house, sticking with Habitat — or is it Rowh they're drawn to?

He calls them the "weekday guys." They tend





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Left: Tony Byrd walks around the front of the house. Right: Tysh Simpson, center, works with Habitat volunteers Tony Byrd, left, and Dennis Redfern, right.

to be retired, and by now they know their way around a construction site, if they didn't before they started.

Dennis Redfern, a retired physician's assistant from the VA, has worked on about 30 Habitat houses. "It's serving," he says. "That's what the good Lord told me to do."

Also on site is Tony Byrd, 71, who worked at Duke Energy. He started with a Habitat house being built by his church, First Reformed of Landis. "And then I just kept going." That was six years ago.

"David's a good guy," Byrd says as he spackles a nail hole. "He's probably the main reason we're here."

Rowh has a good sense of humor. Witness his bucket of hammers — labeled "Hammer Time."

When things go wrong — not a rarity, with volunteers of varying skill levels coming and going — Rowh doesn't holler or get upset, Byrd says. "He works gently to solve the problem."

Rowh says there's no reason to get bent out of shape.

"One of our favorite things to say out here is, 'We can fix that,'" Rowh says. "If something goes in that's not right, no biggie. ... You fix it."

And fix it soon.

"In the end, we're trying to build a really good house, and I believe we do," Rowh says.

His crews start with the minimum standards and then improve on them.

Rowh makes sure everyone has work to do and he remembers their names, Byrd says.

That's part of his job, too.

"I figure if people are going to come out here volunteering their time, then it's got to be rewarding," Rowh says. And safe. And comfortable. Otherwise, they might volunteer somewhere else.



Another house is about to go up next door, and future owner Shari Anderson has shown up with a friend to see what they can do to help. At the moment, her home site is just a patch of grass, but Anderson sees a dream come true.

"Mama always told me, 'Baby, pay your bills,'" Anderson says. That helped her earn a good credit record and apply for a Habitat House. She couldn't believe it when she learned she'd been accepted. "I was crying."

Now she and son Justin, 10, can look forward to moving into their own home in several months.

"Life is showing me, it's about paying it forward," Anderson says.

Within two months, Anderson's house will have taken shape, with a crew from First Baptist Church in Salisbury scheduled to install the

back deck in a few days.

These houses are community builds, which means they don't have a sponsoring group. Instead, they are funded by Habitat with profits from the Habitat ReStore and contributions.

"We have lots of property. We have volunteers. We have the funds," Rowh says. "We're on the lookout for more good, qualified homeowners."

The ones they do find are often gems.

Rowh recalls the Liberian family who got a house last summer. They put in more than 1,000 hours of sweat equity, though their commitment was only 400 hours.

Extra hours don't get you an extra house, but they do earn extra respect.

Habitat of Rowan houses use the same basic design for a ranch-style house with vinyl siding, usually with three bedrooms. But each family is unique, and each build pulls in its own group of volunteers.

"Every day is different," Rowh says.

He likes coming to work. "There's a lot more to it than just a paycheck."

Before he finishes a house, Rowh is often thinking about the next one, and the one after that.

"If I ever get tired of building the same house over and over — if it ever gets to that — I'll let you know." **S**





Rowh, standing in an unfinished house, says he enjoys his work. 'There's a lot more to it than just a paycheck.'

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# UNDERDOG STORY

In his racing endeavors, Andy Seuss  
leans hard on family, friends, focus.

Written by Mark Wineka

Photography by Jon C. Lakey





In the large, two-bay shop behind his Salisbury home, driver Andy Seuss and his team prepare the No. 02 Our Motorsports car for the General Tire 150 race at Charlotte Motor Speedway.





Driver Andy Seuss is all smiles after his car is secured inside the hauler.

M  
Maybe Andy Seuss has no  
business being in racing.  
Then again, maybe he does.

Seuss already is 31, which is sort of old in a sport made more for hotshot drivers in their late teens and early 20s trying for their big NASCAR break.

And Seuss' race garage is nothing fancy. In fact, he works on stock cars in the large shop behind his house in a Salisbury neighborhood off Shamrock Drive.

"My work ethic has kind of kept me around," Seuss says. "I'm fortunate to still be in it. I'm fortunate to be doing what I'm doing at my age."

When it comes time to assemble a pit crew and support team for racing days, Seuss depends a lot on family

and friends. Especially family — from his parents, Steve and Bobbi; to his wife, Jen, and their almost 2-year-old son, Lyle; to his younger sister, Michelle.

"We've been racing as a family since Andy was 10 and I was 4," Michelle says. "... The majority of our team is volunteer. It's kind of neat — an underdog story."

Shelly owns a hair salon in Mooresville and calls herself the personal stylist for the team and backup spotter. Their parents still live back in Hampstead, New Hampshire, where the family's boat business is, but Steve and Bobbi often hop in their RV and head south to attend

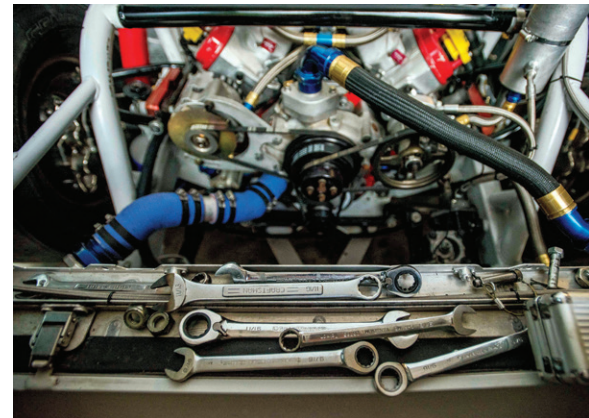




ARCA crew chief Jon Marlott and Brian Graham dress out the front of the car.



In the garage area at Charlotte Motor Speedway, Michelle Seuss shares some cellphone information with her dad, Steve. — Courtesy of Brenda Jane Photography







Seuss' shop is beside his house in Salisbury. He has plenty of family experience with boat repair, too.



Steve Seuss wipes down the pit box.

some of Andy's races.

Besides, it's a good chance to see their grandson Lyle.

"For us, it's always been family," Andy Seuss says of racing. "We've kind of always been together."

As a youngster, Seuss was climbing in and out of go-karts. Today, he is squeezing behind the wheel of the cars he works on constantly and drives in the ARCA series. He also drives modifieds for car owners who need him.

"Really, I just go to the highest bidder," he says. "(But) this ARCA thing has been a big undertaking."

■ ■ ■

Over the years, Seuss has not been a stranger to the winner's circle. He collected 22 wins in the Whelen Modified National and Southern Tours and was second in the Southern Tour standings in 2009, 2010 and 2011. He was a Florida Speedweeks Modified Champion in 2006 and also has three starts in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series.

Seuss made his ARCA (Automobile Racing Club of America) Series debut at Daytona International Speed-





Above: Andy Seuss on the track during the General Tire 150 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. — Courtesy of Brenda Jane Photography. Right: Seuss takes a break at his shop.

way in 2015. Seuss' race team/pit crew during that first Daytona race in 2015 was himself, his dad and two friends. "We finished the race," Seuss says, "and that was our main goal."

Since then, he has driven in about eight more ARCA races. His best finish was a second at Talladega in 2017. In the 200-mile races at Daytona and Talladega earlier this year, Seuss finished 19th and 10th, respectively. Then in the General Tire 150 at Charlotte Motor Speedway in May, Seuss and the No. 02 Chevrolet came in 16th — Austin Hill of China Grove was 13th — and both local guys were running at the end, completing the 100 laps.

Average speed for the Charlotte race was 108.6 mph, and Seuss' speed for qualifying was 174.3 mph.

"It was a great race!" Michelle Seuss says.

"We finished in one piece, and the team learned a lot."

Michelle's boyfriend, Jon Marlott, serves as crew chief, and Brian Graham also is a key contributor with several others.

Racing at venues such as Daytona, Talladega and Charlotte definitely gives Seuss a taste of the big time.

In the week otherwise leading up to the Coca-Cola 600, a big race on the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, the ARCA drivers had a tech day at Charlotte Motor Speedway Wednesday. Then came Thursday with its practice runs, qualifying and the 150-mile ARCA race at night.

Cheerwine donated soft drinks for Seuss and his fellow team members, and Smoke Pit catered for them at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Also in May, Seuss showed off the ARCA No. 02 car at the Cheerwine





Festival in downtown Salisbury.

Andy says he would like to run 10 of the bigger ARCA races this year, which is half the season's schedule, and also short tracks and dirt tracks. He can do a lot of things with race cars. On the Friday night after the General Tire 150, Seuss served as a crew chief for a team competing at Concord Motorsports Park.



Seuss says he's able to drive in the expensive ARCA series thanks to team owner Chris Our of Our Motorsports, which is based out of Harwick, Massachusetts. Seuss has been with Our Motorsports since the ARCA race in Talladega in 2016.

Our Motorsports provides the crucial funding, while Seuss keeps expenses as low as possible by working on the cars himself.

Seuss says he's used to the days back in

New Hampshire when his dad, because of his boat-building business (Rockingham Boat), had the welders, saws and know-how to use materials people were throwing away and make them work in Andy's cars.

It also helps that Andy is a graduate of the Pinkerton Academy Technical Institute for Mechanical Engineering.

As Andy raced year after year, the family traveled together in RVs and trucks. Michelle says her parents always tried to make racing fun, finding way to weave in distractions such as games of mini-golf. They made plenty of friends through Bobbi Seuss' food.

Andy likes to say his mother, Bobbi, is 130 percent Italian. It's not unusual for her to feed 40 people at a time, cooking in the race infields for three days straight. The drivers competing against Andy often show up at the Seuss trailer, looking for breakfast or lunch.

"I do a mean green eggs and ham — you've got to," Bobbi Seuss says.

OK, about that name: The family actually goes with the German pronunciation of its name, so they say "Sise," with a long "i." The Seusses know, of course, the confusion it causes with the well-known children's author Dr. Seuss, so they often use that more commonly known pronunciation ("Soos") to help people in the spelling of their name.



Back in New Hampshire, where his home track was the Star Speedway in Effington, Andy Seuss was known for racing his No. 70 cars, which were white with blue stripes. His dad had previously raced snowmobiles, sporting No. 71.

For Our Motorsports, Seuss always drives No. 02.

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Barry Simmons, left, and Brian Graham push the No. 02 car back while lining it up with the hauler.



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Outside his home off Shamrock Drive in Salisbury, Andy Seuss loads the car for its trip to Charlotte Motor Speedway.

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It was Andy's parents who eventually told him if he were really serious about racing, he should move south. "I joked around that I wasn't ready to grow up," Andy says, but he realized his parents weren't kidding.

He bought the Salisbury house on Shamrock Drive six years ago, but he was more attracted by the 1,600-square-foot building behind the home.

"We bought a shop — and it came with a house," Seuss says.

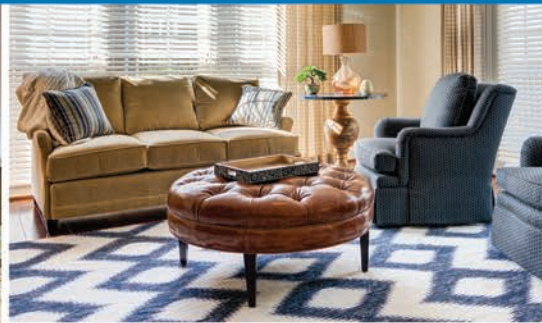
The building was pretty much a shell, which the previous owner had used to hold a boat and motor home. Seuss added fill dirt, a concrete slab and wiring. Now it's his garage, devoted to the various Ford and Chevy race cars shuffling in and out, though Seuss has been known to do some boat repair jobs on the side.

On this particular day, there were two boats in the yard. But racing comes first, Seuss says.

"The racing thing keeps you so busy," he adds. "If I'm going racing, I'm going racing."



Prior to the General Tire 150 at Charlotte Motor Speedway, driver Andy Seuss, center, confers with Steve Schram and crew chief Jon Marlott, right. — Courtesy of Brenda Jane Photography



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Justin Wells, Andy Seuss, Sam Shram, Josh Napier and Barry Simmons push the Our Motorsports car through tech. — Courtesy of Brenda Jane Photography



Lyle Seuss, going on 2, surveys the race garage area at Daytona International Speedway with grandparents Steve and Bobbi Seuss.



Driver Andy Seuss at his shop in Salisbury.





Driver Andy Seuss makes sure the car is tied down inside the hauler.

Seuss has no regrets about leaving New Hampshire — he happened to propose to wife Jen in Victory Lane at Charlotte Motor Speedway. His sister also made the move south.

“Salisbury has worked out great for me,” Seuss says. “To make it in racing, this is the place to be. ... It all happens within 45 minutes of Salisbury.”

Since coming here, Seuss also has driven for team owners in Lexington, Concord and Mooresville.

Seuss laughs, describing how he’s waiting for Lyle to become the next driver in the family.

Andy is out in the shop so much that it has become familiar ground for young Lyle, who already qualifies as a gearhead. He’ll hand Andy the wrench he needs on occasion, or crawl up under the car with his dad.

“He knows where certain parts go,” Andy says.

Of the many sponsorship decals on the Our Motor-sports No. 02, the family business, Rockingham Boat, has one of the more prominent spots on the back of the car.

“They get that spot for providing food,” Seuss laughs.

Have you tried the green eggs and ham? **S**



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# ON THE LOOKOUT

Volunteer Glenn Eagle shares with visitors his passion  
for one of state's iconic lighthouses.

Story and photography by Mark Wineka











Glenn Eagle likes the view from the top of Cape Lookout Lighthouse. The Atlantic Ocean is to the left. The sound is behind Eagle and to the right.

**C**APE LOOKOUT — When you climb to the top of the 1859 Cape Lookout Lighthouse, it's best not to have more than 10 people up here at one time.

If you allow 11, Glenn Eagle says, it starts to lean. That's one of Eagle's lighthouse jokes.

In his ninth year of volunteering, this retired educator from Rowan County has spent more than 500 days and nights on Cape Lookout Island, plus more than 75 stints as a day-only volunteer, handling tasks such as selling tickets for lighthouse climbs.

The island represents the southernmost part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore, the southern end of the Outer Banks.

The iconic lighthouse itself is known as the "Diamond Lady," thanks to its painted pattern of black and

white diamonds. Today, the lighthouse burns an electric light, not whale oil, and her beam flashes every 15 seconds. It's one of the few lighthouses on the Outer Banks accessible only by boat.

On this particular day in May, one day before visitors will be allowed to do the same, Eagle and other volunteers at Cape Lookout have taken the season's first, unofficial climbs to the top of the 163-foot-high tall lighthouse.

It's a 206-step trip, the equivalent of a 12-story building.

"They didn't give me the key to the elevator," Eagle



complains. Again, with the lighthouse jokes.

The huffing and puffing up the steps is worth the effort. From the top, you take in breathtaking views of both the Atlantic Ocean and Back Sound. The waters sparkle, and nature's beauty and power put the world in perspective for a moment.

"It's a gorgeous place," Eagle says. "It's amazing, I'll tell you that. You don't find a place like this often anywhere in the world."

Nate Toering, one of the lead park rangers for Cape Lookout, has been getting some of his people ready for the lighthouse's opening day for 2018. He heartily greets Eagle at the top, and they chat at length about the season ahead.

Eagle had taken the ferry over from Harkers Island so he can get himself squared away on the cash register at the Light House Visitor Center, where he will be selling tickets

for people who want to walk to the top of the lighthouse.

With that job, he'll be returning to his Harkers Island home every night. But later in the summer, Eagle will live for seven weeks on Cape Lookout in an old, solar-powered fishing cabin about two miles away from the visitor center. He will man the visitor center during the day, selling souvenirs, answering questions and striking up conversations with people from across the state and country.

Those long stays are Eagle's favorite times, when during his off hours he can enjoy Cape Lookout's serenity, relish the sunrises and sunsets and go searching for seashells.

■ ■ ■

This year has brought significant changes for the 71-year-old Eagle.

With 31 years as a teacher and administrator in Rowan-Salisbury Schools well behind him, he sold his house in



Glenn Eagle says hello to rangers and fellow volunteers gathered on the porch of the Keeper's Quarters at Cape Lookout.





Eagle speaks to park ranger Karen Duggan as he leaves the Cape Lookout National Seashore's Harkers Island Visitor Center and heads toward the ferry that will take him to the lighthouse.

Granite Quarry, dramatically down-sized and moved to Harkers Island.

Eagle wanted to be as close as possible to what over the past decade has become his passion — volunteering at Cape Lookout, collecting shells and sharing them as much as he can.

“I do a little bit of everything,” Eagle says, “anything that comes my way. I actually stay more active here than I did at home.”

Not long ago, he was named “Cape Lookout Volunteer of the Year” by the National Park Service. Over the years, he has volunteered at Portsmouth Village on the North Core Banks, the Keepers’ Quarters Museum next to the lighthouse and the Cape Lookout Light Station Visitor Center, which is close to the ferry dock and connected by boardwalks to the lighthouse.

“What I do this for is the visitors,” Eagle says at the lighthouse station. “For some, it’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

Eagle also has volunteered at Core Sound

Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center, and all the rangers know him at the Harkers Island Visitor Center, from where people can ride a passenger-only ferry to the lighthouse. The Island Express Ferry Service passes by the east side of Shackleford Banks, home to Banker horses feeding on the wild grasses.

Eagle knows the ferry captains by name.

Everywhere he went on this day, people also knew Eagle. He worked some volunteer hours in the morning with his old friend Richard Meissner at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center on Harkers Island. He also chatted for a time with Deb Brushwood, who was running the gift shop.

Before he caught the ferry to Cape Lookout, Eagle stopped in at the National Park Service’s Harkers Island Visitor Center and spoke with ranger Karen Duggan and B.J. Horvat, chief of interpretation.

Once he landed on Cape Lookout, Eagle

checked in with Donna Weatherly at the Light Station Visitor Center. At the Keepers’ Quarters next to the lighthouse, he sat down on the back porch and had a nice conversation with volunteer Lynne Gibbs of Leland.

For several weeks before another volunteer twosome arrives to replace them, Lynne and her husband, Roy, are staying full-time on the island as modern-day keepers. The Gibbss live upstairs in the Keepers’ Quarters, and during the day, they offer first-floor tours, tell stories and answer questions about the lighthouse.

Later, waiting for the ferry to go back to Harkers Island, Eagle strikes up a conversation about shells with Kim Smart of Durham and Jane Hoppin of Raleigh. Smart pulls out of her bag a monster Florida horse conch she found near the point of Cape Lookout.

Eagle is impressed, saying it’s one of the better ones of that variety he has seen.





The roots of Eagle's love affair with Cape Lookout can be traced back to 2010. After spending a week's vacation with his daughter and her family at Topsail Island, Eagle decided to stay on the coast for a while and visit N.C. lighthouses, including Bald Head, Oak Island and Cape Lookout.

While on Cape Lookout, he walked the long distance from the lighthouse to the point, collecting bags of shells along the way.

"I tell people it's three-and-a-half miles there — and six miles back," he says.

After visiting the Cape Hatteras, Bodie and Currituck lighthouses, Eagle began making inquiries about volunteering for the National Park Service.

The volunteer coordinator, Meissner, immediately offered him a 16-day stint at Portsmouth Village. His job entailed meeting visitors, talking to campers and fishermen and mowing around the historic fishing village, whose last residents left in 1972.

Eagle remembers the park rangers leaving him with three cans of bug spray for the mosquitoes he was sure to encounter. He stayed in a summer kitchen, a small building furnished with two chairs, a gas refrigerator and gas stove.

Visitors who took the ferry from Ocracoke were scarce but welcome. This became the time Eagle started collecting seashells in earnest. He found 88 Scotch bonnets, which happen to be the state's seashell.

The most important thing for Eagle was that his service at Portsmouth Village put him on the list of volunteers for Cape Lookout. In the summer of 2011, Eagle and his cousin from Landis, Larry Brown, spent the month of July in the Keepers' Quarters, pulling the same duty as the Gibbsses.







Eagle, left, speaks at the top of the lighthouse with Nate Toering, one of the lead park rangers for Cape Lookout and its volunteer coordinator.



Above: Glenn Eagle sometimes volunteers at the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center on Harkers Island. Left: The people who stay in the Keeper's Quarters sometimes put the shells they find on the sill of a kitchen window that looks directly toward the lighthouse.





When Glenn Eagle stopped by the Keeper's Quarters on this day, he met volunteer Lynn Gibbs of Leland, who was in her second week of staying at the lighthouse station with her husband, Roy.

From the back kitchen window, they had a full view of the lighthouse. From their front bedroom windows, they could look over the sound toward Shackleford Banks.

An average of 300 visitors came through a day. On their off hours, Eagle liked to walk the seashore or take a Gator to the point. Brown often was the first person to climb to the top of the lighthouse and open windows along the way.

Their other chances to climb the lighthouse often came at lunch when they were spelling the rangers. The work was five days on and two days off. They gathered their supplies and washed their clothes in Harkers Island by taking the ferry back and forth.

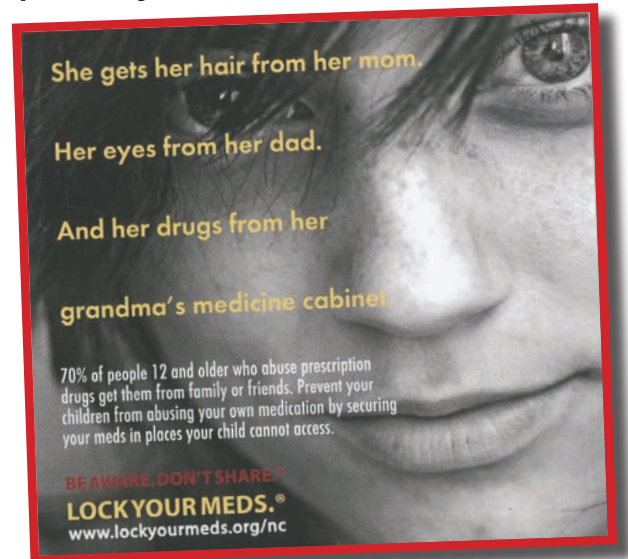
Eagle and Brown followed a similar summer routine for three straight years. (Friend David Linker subbed a couple of weeks for Brown one year.) In 2012, Eagle also went back for a short time to Portsmouth Village.

Because he was constantly asking about what other volunteer work was available, Eagle was given additional weeks at the Light Station Visitor Center and allowed to stay in one of the old Les and Sally Moore fishing cabins, where he will be again this summer.

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Kim Smart, left, of Durham, holds one of the impressive Florida horse conch shells she found on Cape Lookout Point as her friend Jane Hoppin of Raleigh and Glenn Eagle wait with her for the ferry back to Harkers Island.



For being named Cape Lookout Volunteer of the Year, Eagle received a watercolor painting of the lighthouse by local artist Bob Blevins. It has a place of honor in his living room. His tiny house on Harkers Island is otherwise filled with shells of all beauty and sizes and things such as a lighthouse clock and lighthouse afghan.

Outside, he has a small replica of the Cape Lookout Lighthouse at the head of his driveway, under words that proclaim his home as “Eagle’s Nest.”

He sometimes invites visitors he meets at the lighthouse to stop by his house and pick out one or two of the many shells he puts out just for that purpose.

“I like to share them,” Eagle says. “Literally, I’ve given away thousands of shells.”

Recently, while working at the Lighthouse Station Visitor Center, selling tickets to the people who wanted to climb the lighthouse, Eagle struck up a conversation with a family of four. He told them after they took the ferry back to Harkers

Island, they should swing by his house for shells.

“The 5-year-old said, ‘You are the nicest man’ and gave me a high-five,” Eagle recalls. “Then she said, ‘I love you.’”

“What a moment! That is the reason I volunteer, making a day for visitors and giving them a positive experience.”



If he’s not volunteering on Cape Lookout, Eagle is visiting his grandsons Jake and Ian in Wake Forest and going to their baseball games. But he has a dream combining both of his passions — the lighthouse and his grandsons.

“My goal is for them to help me on the island,” Eagle says. “That would be an awesome experience.”

But until then, it’s time to make the long walk down from the top of Cape Lookout Lighthouse, leaving the 360-degree view behind.

“Do you want to take the stairs or rappel?” Eagle asks.

He apologizes for more of his lighthouse humor. **S**





People riding the ferry to Cape Lookout often pass by Shackleford Banks and see the wild horses grazing there.

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Top to bottom, Zoe, Hannah, Abby and Ella stand on their staircase in the same order they were born on May 17, 2003. The girls attend East Rowan High School.





Onesies by color that the quads wore.

# FOUR- WHEELING

Now 15, quadruplet sisters Abby, Ella, Hannah and Zoe keep the Larson household a busy place.

Story by Jessica Coates

Photography by Jon C. Lakey





The quads in their younger years.

**T** Tracy and Jerry Larson said their quadruplet daughters used to “get out of their cribs like monkeys.” “They were sneaky,” Tracy said.

When Abby, Ella, Zoe and Hannah were toddlers, Jerry said he and Tracy would never know what to expect in the morning.

“They could all four be in one crib. They would never be in their own cribs,” Jerry said. “It could be any combination possible and you’d never hear a sound.”

Tracy remembered one day in particular that left her wondering whether she should laugh or cry.

“We thought they were taking a nap,” she said, “and they were so quiet. Then I went in to go check on them, and all four of them were out of their cribs. They had taken every piece of clothing out of the drawers and there was a huge pile. Every sheet and all the linens were in a big pile. Three of them were standing on the

changing table, and I remember Ella was standing there by herself pulling things out of the drawers.”

The Vaseline they used when they were changing the girls was in their hair, on their faces and on the walls.

“I just stood there,” Tracy said. “It was such a mess and we never even heard them.”

■ ■ ■

Now, with more than a decade passed, Zoe, Hannah, Abby and Ella — who are actually two sets of twins born at the same time — are 15 years old.

Tracy said days can still be difficult, but she particularly remembers how hard those first few years were.

“It was just feed, change diapers, sleep,” Tracy said. “That’s pretty much all we did. We couldn’t really go anywhere or do a whole lot because it was so hard.”

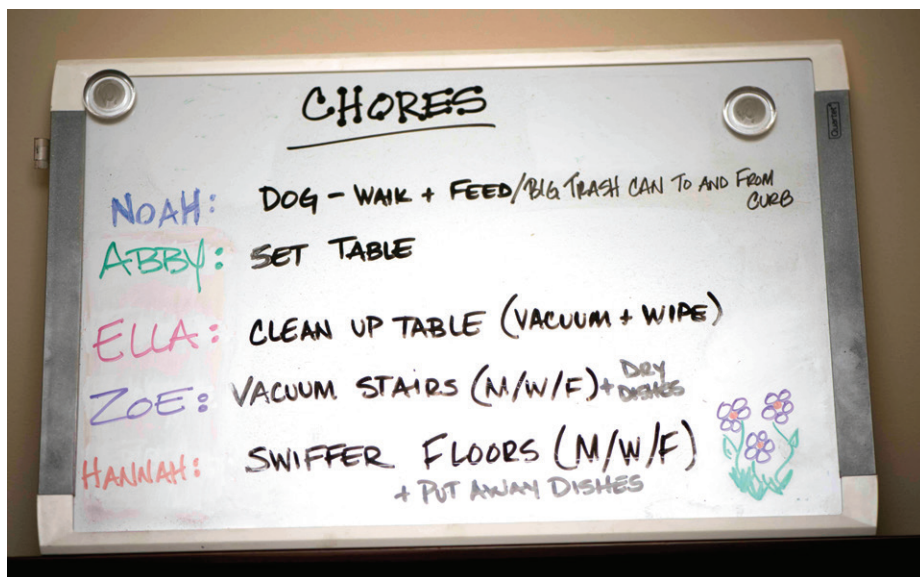
Tracy said she and Jerry had just wanted one more child. They’d

*Story continues on page 58.*





The Larson children in the kitchen.



Above: All five siblings have chores. Right: The quads enjoyed their individual cars as toddlers.







Above: The Larsons posed for this family photo in 2005. Below left: Tracy Larson works in the office at East Rowan High. Below right: Noah drives his sisters to school.







Above: Abby, Mom Tracy and Ella. Right: Zoe returns the volleyball to her sister Hannah.  
Below: Noah, the girls' older brother, looks for room for his backpack.





had the girls' older brother, Noah, just two years before.

But when she got pregnant, Tracy said she could feel that something was different.

"I suspected maybe twins because I felt different — it hurt more," she said. "But everyone just said, 'Oh, it's your second pregnancy, that's just what happens. Your body remembers.'"

When she heard she was having multiple babies during an ultrasound, Tracy cried.

"I would not have five kids on purpose," she said. "I just know that about myself. I like things a little calmer and more peaceful. I quit my sorority in college because I couldn't live with 20 girls. There was just no way."

But Tracy went on to have a healthy pregnancy and gave birth to Zoe, Hannah, Abby and Ella around 4 a.m. on May 17, 2003.

Jerry said their birth times are one minute apart because Tracy had a C-section.

"They just kept hauling out little tiny babies," Jerry said. "And they would just make this little squeaky noise."

For the next few years, Tracy and Jerry said every day was challenging.

"We had to keep logs of who peed and pooped and ate," Jerry said.

"We even had strangers coming over and feeding babies because we couldn't hold them all," Tracy said. "So anyone who wanted to come over was welcome."

When the girls were born, Tracy and Jerry lived just outside Chicago. They said the community rallied around them, donating diapers and other baby essentials to help get them through.

"We never bought a diaper for a full year," Tracy said.

...

When the girls were younger, they each had their own color to wear so Jerry and Tracy could easily identify them.

"So we painted their toenails their color, and I made little ankle bracelets with beads with their color with their name," Tracy said.

Zoe had purple, Ella had red, Abby had green and Hannah had yellow.

The girls also had onesies in their color, baby shoes with their names on the soles and stuffed animals that corresponded to the first letter of their name.

"Because when they were young, they did dress alike," Tracy said. "Because that was easier to keep track of all of them."

"But only in crowds," Jerry added. "We didn't dress them all alike all the time. But if you go out, it's easier to see."

...

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Zoe, Abby, Ella, Hannah and their older brother, Noah, all attend East Rowan High School.

Noah said he thinks it's "pretty cool" to have them there.

"Now that they go there, people actually know who I am," he said. "Because more people know them than they know me. I definitely flew under the radar before they got there."

But the girls agreed they don't always like the attention they get for being quadruplets.

Zoe said, "I'm not a huge fan of people coming up and saying, 'Oh, are you guys all twins or something?' Because I'm just not a huge fan of attention all the time."

Hannah said they are reminded that they are different every time they go out in public.

"Because, I mean, we would meet different people every day," she said. "And even when we'd go to volleyball tournaments, all these people come up and ask if we're twins or if we're quadruplets or triplets because they don't see us together all the time."

Though the girls don't like to feel different from others, they do try to be different among themselves.

"We all sort of have our own personalities," Zoe said. "We hang

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Noah takes a look at his baby sisters in 2003.

out with different people. There's a few friends that we all share. ... But I guess we just do our own thing."

Zoe said people tell her she is the most laid-back of the group.

"Ella is more reserved, to herself at school," Zoe added. "Abby's the crazy one."

"I'm not crazy," Abby said in protest. "I just talk a lot to some people."

"And then they call Hannah the talkative one," Zoe said.

"They've always been their own people, even as little kids," Jerry said.

But now, as the girls continue to grow and change, they take comfort in the fact that they are there to support each other.

"When one of us is sad, we're all there for each other," Zoe said.

"I like all the company, because if maybe one person can't talk to you at the time, you know you have other people to go to if something's happening," Hannah said.

Tracy, Jerry, Noah, Abby, Ella, Zoe and Hannah all agree on one thing — "It's never boring." **S**

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Not unlike the family portrait taken in 2005 (page 56), the Larsons posed in 2018 in front of their eastern Rowan County home.

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# REMINISCE



Eleven members of the Cleveland High School Class of 1958 returned for a chance to see the school and relive memories.





# If these walls could talk

The Class of 1958 takes a final, reflective tour of dear ol' Cleveland High.

Written by Andie Foley

Photography by Jon C. Lakey

**I**n the late morning of a Friday in mid May, Bill McIntosh stood in the media center of Cleveland Elementary with a twinkle in his eye.

The septuagenarian was standing on the grounds of his literal memory lane: Cleveland Elementary School, known to him as Cleveland High.

In a few short minutes, McIntosh would tread the path of those memories with 11 former classmates: half of the near-20 member graduating class of 1958.

The group was celebrating its 60th high school reunion.

They were the second-to-last graduating class before the doors of West Rowan High School opened in the fall of 1959.

“Mildred!” McIntosh said in warm greeting as the rest of the 11 started to filter in. Some brought spouses. Others, adult children or grandchildren.

His greeting was offered to Mildred Hill, a classmate.

“You got a license for that thing? Turning signals? Insurance? Anything like that?” he said in a gentle tease, referencing the walker in Hill’s hands.





**Peggy Cashion, Marshall Parker, Bill McIntosh, Mildred Hill, Joyce Burris, Donna Kesler, Carlos Poteat, Larry Wright, Jerry McCoy, Delton Barringer and Linda London.**

Hill effortlessly dismissed his tease, appearing seasoned in dealing with the wise remarks of her male peers.

With all attending class members gathered, the media center filled with an excited hum of perfunctory chatter as classmates sized each other up.

They recalled who had what color hair, lost for some in place of silvery stands or growing expanses of scalp.

They commiserated these and other trials of the late seventies: ailments, arthritis, prescriptions and more.

Kristine Wolfe, principal for Cleveland and Woodleaf Elementary Schools, pulled them out of this small talk.

“Sixty years is amazing,” she said. “We’re fortunate to have you all here with us. We’re just so thankful that we were able to share this opportunity.”

It would be one of the last times 1958 class members would get to see the building used as a school. In January, its students will be shifted into the newly completed West Rowan Elementary School, meant to merge Wolfe’s two campuses.

Part of the old school building will then be transformed into a new Western Rowan Library. The rest could be quarters and offices for local EMS – if it is spared demolition.

### THE TOUR BEGINS

After a quick group picture with digital cameras, cell phones and a classic disposable, the Class of 1958 journeyed onward to parts of the school with age, season and – in most instances – fun stories.

They started with the auditorium.

“We didn’t have that when we here,” said

classmate Delton Barringer as the group stared out across the polished floor and wooden seats.

The hint of a “what” escaped someone’s mouth, and Barringer delivered: “Air conditioning!”

From there, it was on to the gymnasium, a special place with deep roots and long history for McIntosh.

He approached the building and pointed upward to the masonry work. On one side of the building, the bricks denote a baseball field. On the other shone a basketball formed from concrete.

McIntosh said his father, Oliver Kuropatkin McIntosh or “Pat” for short, crafted this piece of the building by “pouring concrete into an old nail keg.”

Many among the group had memories involving the gym, from sports games to “sock hops” — dances held in socked feet to avoid





Top: Donna Kesler watches a PE class play in the old gym. Above: Delton Barringer, left, greets Bill McIntosh. Right: Mildred Hill recounts a story.



## REMINISCE

marring the polished floor.

“We couldn’t use our shoes to dance,” said Joyce Burris. Burris married the year before graduation, but is still invited to attend the class reunions annually.

From there it was on to the cafeteria and then-agricultural building, now a storage building and STEM lab.

“In school I don’t think I ever got to come to this building,” said Donna Kesler, one of the class reunion orchestrators. “It was the agriculture building. The girls weren’t allowed down here.”

This could have been because the building was dedicated to “shop”: a hands-on wood-working sort of class then deemed purely masculine.

But fellow 1958 member Carlos Poteat offered another reason why the building was “no girls allowed.”

“This was where we brushed our hair and all that stuff to look pretty for the girls,” he said with a snicker.

At the former site of shop class, the men gathered and spoke of what they had created within the building’s four walls. There were feeding troughs and coffee tables, items crafted from the oak fence that used to surround the baseball field.

The women meandered onward, discovering and recounting memories of their own: the place Burris fell and broke her arm in the first grade, how Peggy Cashion used to drive a school bus, a then-common practice for students.

The final stop before a light meal was upstairs, the site of the group’s high school years.

Then, classrooms were split: grammar grades were on the first floor and high school was on the second.

Now, third through fifth inhabit those upstairs, creaky hallways and classrooms, which 1958 viewed with a quiet and reverent awe as current students moved about.

Memory, age and decoration made the exact location of certain acts and classrooms a bit of a mystery, but it was here the group congregated for experiences like chemistry lab.

Here, said class-clown Barringer, was where they put firecrackers under a desk chair, where they shared laughs much like the ones they continue to share today.

### A TIME OF REFLECTION

With the tour completed, classmates and their loved ones gathered for a meal of sandwiches, chips and homemade desserts.

As they munched, they flipped through yearbooks, called the “Clevana.”



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Cleveland Elementary School Principal Kristine Wolfe, right, gives a tour of the school. Larry Wright, Jerry McCoy and Marshall Parker listen at left.

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The Class of 1958 was in the first grade in the 1947 annual.

“I didn’t recognize myself,” said Marshall “Burette” Parker. “I’m too good-looking, I guess.”

Nearby, Jerry McCoy and Larry Wright discuss their experiences with the draft. By their college years, the Vietnam War had been waging for nearly half a decade.

Until the war drew to a close in 1973, men were drafted to fill vacancies in the U.S. Armed Forces that couldn’t be filled through volunteers.

But even as he left for school – North Carolina State, to be exact – Wright said that a call for participation in the armed forces felt inevitable.

“I took ROTC,” he said. “I thought, ‘If they’re going to get me, I might as well do ROTC and be an officer.’”

With similar reasoning, McCoy enlisted into the Navy. “When they drafted you they put you where they wanted you,” he said. “When you joined, you had a choice.”

Other memories portrayed different times in our local history. Parker spoke of his family of tenant farmers, of schedules that often kept him away from school.

Others spoke of experiences with teachers, those re-

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vered and those feared.

“The last spanking I got was in this building,” said Barringer, untroubled by the proclamation.

Paces away, Linda London heard another tale of a teacher run-in and erupted into laughter.

“Do you know what a parent today would do if that happened?” she said. “They’d take it to the Supreme Court!”

### SAYING GOODBYE

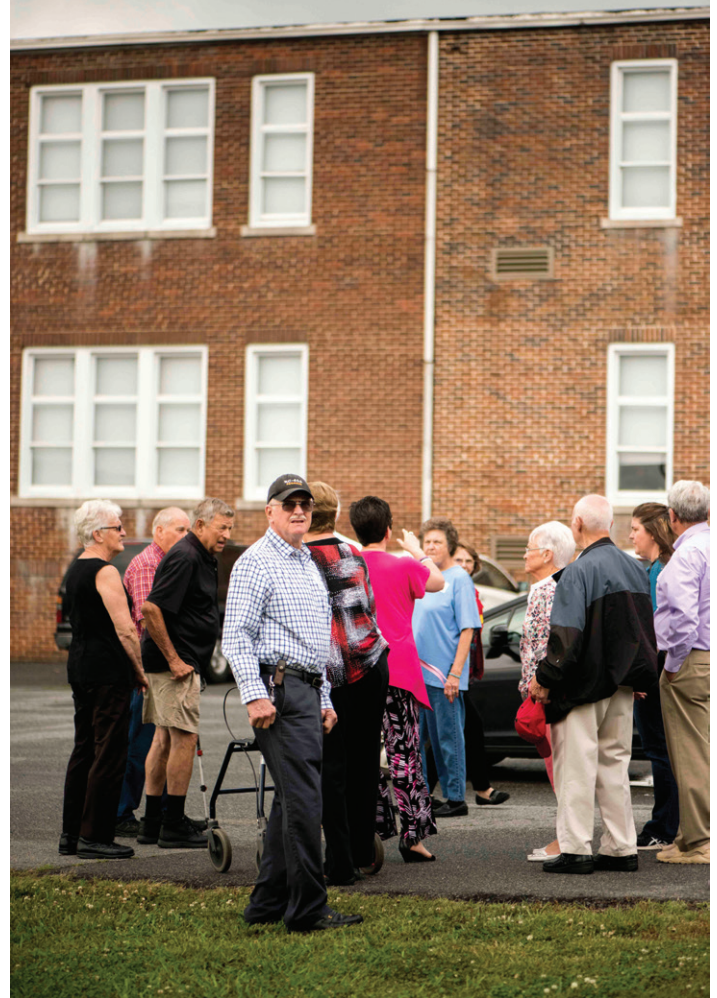
With bellies full and most treasured and infamous stories passed from mouth to ear, the group said goodbye to the memory-heavy walls of its alma mater.

The building’s outside appearance may change or disappear, said many, but the value of their experiences remained the same.

“This facility was built a long time ago,” said Wright. “But it’s not so much the building as the teachers, it’s what you get out of it. ... It’s really a relationship between the students and the instructor as opposed to the building that you’re in.”

Kesler agreed.

“We learn that we can’t hang on to the old,” she said. “Progress is with us and we have to accept it and say, ‘Well, that was a good time and now it’s passed.’ These children will have something to look back on. There’s always those memories.” **S**




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Linda Thompson, Judy Pittman, Debbie Bost, Bonnie Corriher and Dea Campola

# Flip Flops and Flamingos

Families First-NC Inc. held its fourth annual Flip Flops and Flamingos fundraiser at the F&M Trolley Barn in Salisbury. Top Shelf provided the live music for the welcome-to-spring-and-summer event that also featured food, drinks and a silent auction. Families First will celebrate its 25th anniversary next March. The nationally accredited, United Way organization serves more than 4,000 children and families each year with evidence-based programs that often yield great outcomes. Families First relies on a strong board and staff and receives local, state and federal funds for its many programs. Go to [www.families-first-ncinc.org](http://www.families-first-ncinc.org) for more information.

— Photos by Nancy Shirley



Diccie Hancock, Elijah Belton and Joyce Goodwin



Left: Dea and Joe Campola. Right: Judy and Donald Pittman



Above: Coy and Debbie Bost



Right: Elijah Belton and Mickey Chambers



Dr. Gayle Yatawara and Dr. Joel Goodwin





Danielle Folss and Kim Jones



Left: Bud and Betty Mickle. Right: Marlin and Lisa Markham



Cindy Fink and Frank Monk



Gloria Peters, Families First Executive Director Jeannie Sherrill, Cindy Hardin and Sylvia Dunlap. Jeannie, Cindy and Sylvia are sisters.



Carmen and Carlos Harper



Barbara Thomason, Lisa Markham and Cathy Holder



Left: Molly and James Morrison. Right: Esther and Ricardo Smith





## Night on the Stage

Piedmont Players Theatre raised more than \$50,000 during its annual marquee fundraiser, "Night on The Stage," which took place — literally — on the Meroney Theater stage. The intimate format gives attendees an up-close and personal view of some of Broadway's best talent in a cabaret show.

Over two evenings, Bryce Pinkham and his accompanist, virtuoso pianist Paul Staroba, entertained the sell-out crowds. Funds raised from table sponsorships, the raffle, and the silent auction will go toward operations. This year's fund-a-need was for roof repair.

"This year's Night on the Stage weekend was one of the best in our history," said Josh Wainwright, marketing director. "As someone who benefits both as an employee and a performer, it's incredibly humbling just to be reminded just how much the community loves and supports this organization."

— Photos by Susan Shinn Turner



Bryce Pinkham was this year's featured performer, along with pianist extraordinaire Paul Staroba.



Above: Dana and Brad Walser. Left: Eliana Newkirk and Jean Kadela played mother and daughter in a recent production of 'Barefoot in the Park.'



Mother and daughter H.K. and Natasha Wall were both in Piedmont Players' 'The Color Purple' in 2012.



Meredith Williams and Cora Wymbs were among 100 volunteers for 'Night on the Stage.'





Photo by Bob Matthews



Clockwise from top right: Dr. Brett Henson and Lauren Graham; Rhona Harrison, a Piedmont Players board member, greets Dan Mikkelson; Dr. Carol Spalding and her husband, Dr. Francis Koster; 'Night on the Stage' was a sellout for both nights of the fundraiser; Sue Jennings with husband Mark, who is president of Piedmont Players; Drs. Sam and Ranjan Roy; Performers Bryce Pinkham, left, and Paul Staroba; Erin and Lauren Roy with their mother, Angela







Maestro David Hagy, right, didn't mind playing second fiddle to Darrell Harwood, left, guest performer for the Salisbury Symphony event.



Darrell Harwood and his band presented a whole new experience for Salisbury Symphony patrons at Catawba College's Keppel Auditorium.

## Symphony's 'Country and Western Wit' concert

In a high-energy, history-making concert, the Salisbury Symphony partnered with Darrell Harwood for a "Country and Western Wit" concert.

Some 450 symphony and country music fans filled Catawba College's Keppel Auditorium as the symphony played the first half of the concert and Harwood and his band — accompanied by the symphony with music arranged by John Stafford — headlined the second half. It was the season's highest attended performance in Keppel Auditorium, according to Bill Bucher, the symphony's interim executive director.

Harwood is a native of China Grove, and he and his band play 150 concerts a year throughout the Carolinas. He said playing with the symphony was his biggest honor yet. Harwood and the band members also have donated their time in playing for Relay for Life, the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, special populations, Novant Hospice and Nazareth Children's Home.

— Photos by Susan Shinn Turner



Nicole Bates and Sascha Medina were among the volunteers greeting concert-goers and handing out programs.



Left: Darrell Harwood's parents, Sharon and Ronnie, still live in China Grove. Ronnie Harwood had his own band in the 1970s. Center: Darrell Harwood started performing eight years ago at a fundraiser for his brother-in-law, Darren Fesperman, right. Darrell's sister, Rhonda, is at left. Darren is now cancer-free. Right: Kelly Wise, a huge fan of Harwood's, stands with Brandy Smith.







Above: Darrell Harwood, left, and his longtime friend and guitarist Eric Upton pose outside the band's bus before the concert. Left: Flo Peck and Diane Goodnight.



Ed and Cora Shinn of Salisbury, formerly of China Grove, remember Harwood as a youngster growing up in their home congregation, St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This was their first Harwood concert.



Carol and Chris McNeely



With young Hallie Talbert by his side, Darrell Harwood sings 'Stand Together,' a song written in honor of cancer survivors.



Jeanne and Dennis Haldiman



Marty and Deb Walker were one of many couples who dressed in casual Western attire.



From left, Bill and Kim Denius, Danna Talbert and Taylor, Tim and Amy Cantie.



Judy and Todd Cook, left, of Concord, with Carol Overcash of Kannapolis. The Cooks have logged some 10,000 miles over the past year following Harwood and his band, but this was their first show when Harwood was playing with a symphony.





Leighanne Dorton, Tracey Baird and Melissa McIltrout



Ken Mowery, Gary Blabon, Ron Richard, Mike Fisher and Kevin Auten



Lee Frick, Dr. Eric Mallico, Dr. Chip Comadoll, celebrity guest putter Kevin Auten and Erick Mulkey

## Campbell Memorial Golf Classic

The 20th annual John A. Campbell Memorial Golf Classic raised \$145,000 for the Cancer Care Center at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center. The tournament is named for the late John A. Campbell, the first executive director of the medical center's foundation. The tournament drew a record 250 participants and since its founding has raised more than \$1.9 million for Novant Health Rowan.

— Photos provided by Kristen Trexler



Andrew Beaver, Bruce Rogers, Kevin Auten, Greg Jones and David Bolick



Ryan Rich, Steve Colwell and Bob Rich



Above: Er-ron Towns, John Muth and Chris Fowler

Left: Trent Sellers and Kristen Trexler





Madison Currin, Brian Kennerly, Gavin Misner and Brannon Williams



Dr. Steve Yang, Jed Orman, celebrity guest putter Kevin Auten, Jeff Wetmore and Brent Parks



John Kyger, Shari Graham, Hen Henderlite and John Henderlite (with Kevin Auten in the back)



At left, Brannon Williams and Ryan Rich, who were co-chairmen of the golf committee, hold the oversized check with Rick Parker and Gary Blabon. The golf event raised \$145,000 for the Cancer Care Center at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center.



Beverly Dillard, Patty Mason, Alice Brady, Kevin Auten and Susan Morris



Fran Misner takes aim for charity.



Mark Casner, Joe Ducey, Steve Colwell and Ryan Rich





Meredith Williams, 10, spins a lighted hula hoop. — Wayne Hinshaw photo



These Catawba College alumni and cheerleaders found refuge at the alumni tent during a thunderstorm that hit Salisbury prior to Pops at the Post. — Mark Wineka photo

## Pops at the Post

An early evening thunderstorm that passed through the city did not squelch the enthusiasm of people who stayed for Salisbury Symphony's 14th annual Pops at the Post concert, where the orchestra played from the loading dock of the Salisbury Post. Highlights of the concert, which was delayed a half-hour by the storm, included "Bell Tower March," an original composition by John Stafford, director of music for First Presbyterian Church, and the singing of Alexis Greer, Rebecca Stinson, Teresa Moore-Mitchell and Virginia Rush.



Kathy Short, Jerry Short, Darryl Corriher and Barbara Corriher. — Mark Wineka photo



Miles Weddington, Leo Walton and Sadie Walton. — Mark Wineka photo



'Kay's Fantastic' funnel cakes. — Wayne Hinshaw photo





These women who have a strong connection to Lenoir-Rhyne University had fun at the Pops. They include Sarah Ingle of Charlotte, Louise Waldrep of Greenville, S.C., Jane Brethauer of Sylva, Emily Stirewalt of Salisbury, Judy Woolly of Columbia, S.C., and Sonja Olsen of Brunswick, Ga. — Mark Wineka photo



Amanda Fuller and Murray Farrington  
— Mark Wineka photo



During the rain, Christine Maloney and Joyce Durkee found refuge in the car behind them. — Mark Wineka photo

Below: Shari Graham, Sue Day Whitley, Maryja Mee, Hen Henderlite, Rose Hall, and Tamara Sheffield. — Wayne Hinshaw photo



Emma Stephenson, 3, and Amanda Johnson and Emma Nane, 7, in back dance to the Salisbury Swing Band.  
— Wayne Hinshaw photo





Volunteer Monty Brown leads a group of 20 visitors around the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer late in the evening during last year's Legends by Lantern tour. The tour is a 90-minute walk around the grounds after regular operating hours that is a mixture of historical facts and old ghost stories. This year's event is Aug. 4. — Jon C. Lakey photo

## 1 'Avenue Q'

**Aug. 1-4: Meroney Theater** — This laugh-out-loud musical tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. He soon discovers that although the residents seem nice, it's clear that this is not your ordinary neighborhood. Together, Princeton and his newfound friends struggle to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life. Filled with gut-busting humor and a delightfully catchy score, not to mention puppets, Avenue Q is a truly unique show that has quickly become a favorite for audiences everywhere. Although the show addresses humorous adult issues, it is similar to a beloved children's show; a place where puppets are friends, monsters are good and life lessons are learned. For tickets and showtimes, call the Piedmont Players box office at 704-633-5471 or go to [www.piedmontplayers.com](http://www.piedmontplayers.com).

# August 2018

## Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

**1 The Jungle Book Performer Camp**  
**July 30-Aug. 3 & Aug. 6-10: Piedmont Players Theatre** — Grades 3-12. This is a two-week intensive camp that will put together the production of "The Jungle Book" complete with costumes, props and a set. Campers learn choreography, music and scenes with a performance on Aug. 10 to show off what they've learned. Campers must attend both weeks. For more information contact 704-633-5471.

**4 Annual All Ford Show**  
**Aug. 4: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This event features

a great collection of Mustangs, Thunderbirds, Fairlanes, Lincolns, Mercurys, along with classic Model A and T models. To register call 315-771-7322.

**4 Legends by Lantern**  
**Aug. 4: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — 7:30 p.m. Enjoy a nighttime walking tour of the museum, exploring Spencer Shops' historic structures. Tours are 90 minutes in length. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and must be purchased in advance from [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org).



**6 Backstage Crew Camp**  
**Aug. 6-10: Piedmont Players Theatre**  
 — Grades 6-12. Campers will get an overview of costume and makeup design, stage management, lights and sound, and more. Students will learn the importance of teamwork while meeting with the director and other designers to create a cohesive whole production. At the end of the week, campers will see their creations on stage. For more information contact 704-633-5471.

**6 Elementary History Camp Session II**  
**Aug. 6-10: Rowan Museum** — Elementary Camp (rising 3rd-5th graders) explores Rowan County's early history. Students will visit historical properties in downtown Salisbury including the Utzman-Chambers House, the Old English Cemetery, Freedman's Cemetery and the Old Stone House near Granite Quarry. Cost: \$150. Call 704-633-5946 or email [tdcreel@fibrant.com](mailto:tdcreel@fibrant.com) to register.

**11 Brew and Choo Festival**  
**Aug. 11: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — 5-9 p.m. The first-ever beer festival at the N.C. Transportation Museum will feature outdoor games, music, food trucks and more. The event is free to attend. Train ride tickets that include samples of exclusive craft beer for those over 21 may be purchased for \$12. Train ride tickets for those under 21 may be purchased for \$10. Go to [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org) for more information.

**11 Annual All GM Show**  
**Aug. 11: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer** — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This show will feature classic to modern Chevys, Pontiacs, Buicks and more. Corvettes, Camaros, Firebirds, Impalas, Bel-Airs and other models will fill the grounds. To register call 315-771-7322.

**18 Woodleaf Tomato Festival**  
**Aug. 18: Unity Presbyterian Church, 885 Woodleaf Barber Road** — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The festival celebrates the contributions of area farmers to the growing and distribution of the Woodleaf tomato. It offers different crafts, food vendors, tomato-themed edibles, live music and a silent auction. The proceeds go to Unity Presbyterian Church and its mission work. For more information: 704-278-4248.

**18 Southbound 49 Concert**  
**Aug. 18: Morgan Ridge Vineyard**  
 — This concert is part of the 2018 Benefit



The Cool Springs Mobile Vet Service horse-drawn wagon makes its way in the parade at last year's Woodleaf Tomato Festival. This year's event is Aug. 18. — *Wayne Hinshaw photo*

Concert Series at MRV Pavilion. Proceeds from the event will benefit Rowan Lions Club. For more information: 704-639-0911.


**19 Blankets and Bluegrass**  
**Aug. 19: Dr. Josephus Hall House**  
 — 6-8 p.m. This is the third annual Blankets and Bluegrass sponsored by Historic Salisbury Foundation. The Hall House is located at 226 S. Jackson St. Bring your own picnic, beer or wine and enjoy the best bluegrass musicians in Rowan County. This event is free.

**23 College Night Out**  
**Aug. 23: Downtown Salisbury** — 6-9 p.m. Downtown Salisbury welcomes students from our local colleges to enjoy an evening in Downtown Salisbury full of games, activities, food and networking.

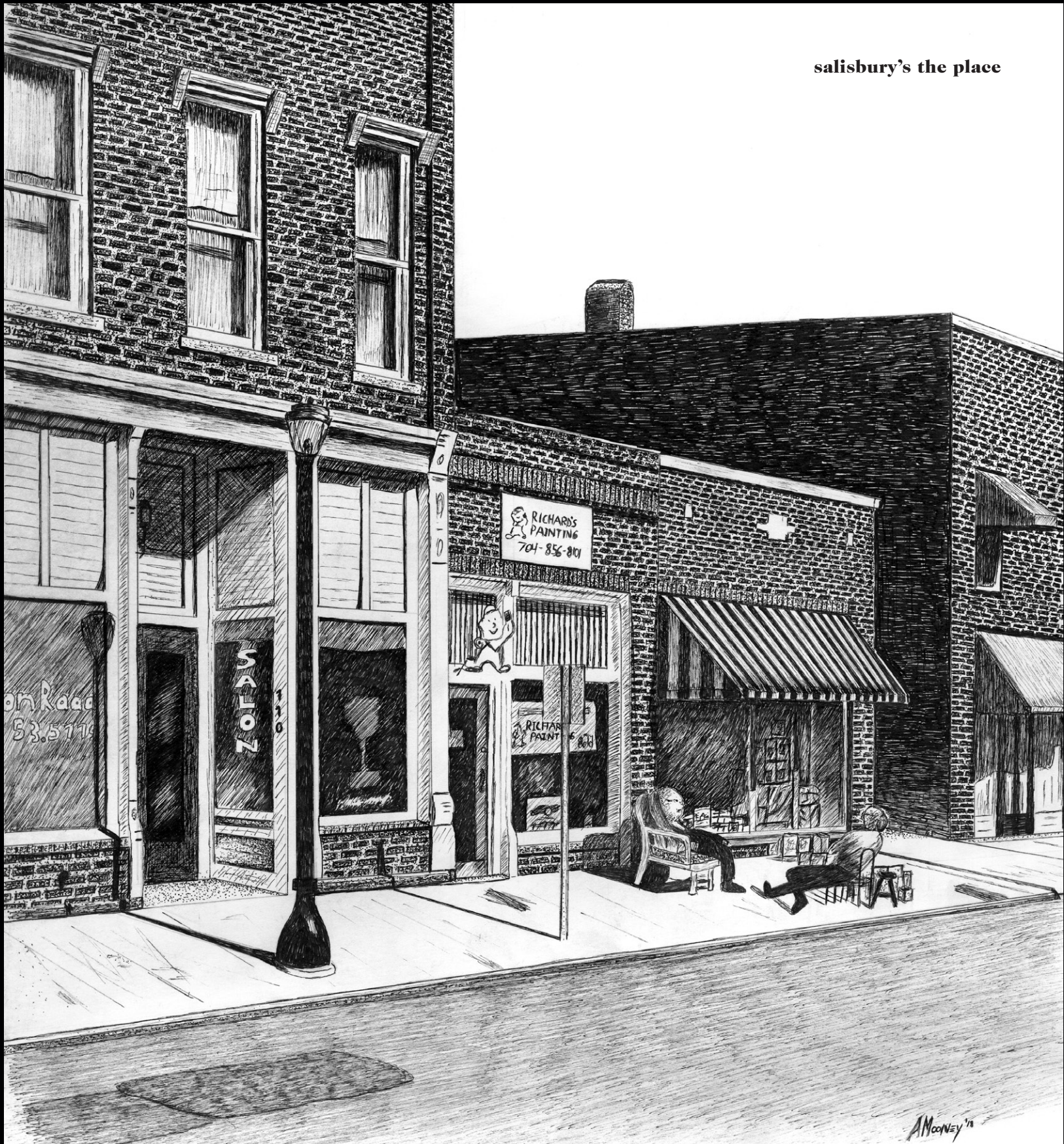
**23 'Steel Magnolias'**  
**Aug. 23-26, Aug. 30-Sept. 2: Lee Street theatre** — 7:30 nightly, except 2:30 p.m. shows Aug. 26 and Sept. 2. This Southern favorite is a comedy-drama set in a beauty salon where all the ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done. Best friends form an unbreakable friendship. They include Annelle, who is not sure whether or not she is still married; Truvy, who is outspoken and wise-cracking; Quiser, the town's rich curmud-

geon; Miss Clairee, an eccentric millionaire who has a raging sweet tooth; and the local social leader, M'Lynn, whose daughter, Shelby (the prettiest girl in town), is about to marry a "good ole boy." Tickets will be available July 23. Call 704-310-5507.

**23 History on Tap**  
**Aug. 23: 128 W. Thomas St.** — 6-8 p.m. The last History on Tap event of the summer combines history with the sampling of beers from New Sarum Brewery. Visit the McCannless-Busby-Thompson House and see its ongoing major restoration as the new owners share their progress and plans. No charge, but registration is required by going to the "History on Tap" page at [www.historicsalisbury.org](http://www.historicsalisbury.org). Call 704-636-0103 for more details.

**25 Let's Ride Rowan**  
**Aug. 25: J.F. Hurley Family YMCA**  
 — 10 a.m.-noon — Participants will learn the basics of balancing on a bike and how to progress to pedaling during these fun sessions. For seasoned riders, a bike rodeo course and lessons on "rules of the road" will be offered. Bring your own bike and helmet: limited amount available for those in need. This is a free event. Class available to those ages 3+. For questions, contact 704-638-5289. Registration is required online at [www.salisburync.gov/play](http://www.salisburync.gov/play). 





'SUNDAY AFTERNOON ON EAST COUNCIL'

By Andy Mooney

Pen and ink

Artwork for Salisbury's the Place may be submitted to [mark.wineka@salisburythemagazine.com](mailto:mark.wineka@salisburythemagazine.com)



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