

August 2019

SALISBURY

the magazine

TIME MACHINES

Reg Boland's cars, collections
take you back to a classic era

Queens of the road

To make a better living,
women truckers take to the highway

Socializing at sunset

High Rock flotilla celebrates
the lake life

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FEATURES

..... August 2019

34

Semi circle

Women truckers share a love
for the road

by MARK WINEKA

44

Designs for the times

Salisbury Sculpture Show
keeps on giving


by LIZ MOOMEY

54

Anchor down

Flotilla on High Rock Lake a
chance to wind down, catch up

by MARK WINEKA



ON THE COVER: Heather Duncan, a rising senior at Catawba College, serves as a model in posing next to a 1975 Chrysler Cordoba, belonging to Sidney 'Reg' Boland's classic car collection. A story on Boland's cars and home starts on page 24.

ON THIS PAGE: Trucker Sandra Howell hauls for Food Lion.

— Jon C. Lakey photos

DEPARTMENTS

IN EVERY ISSUE

Editor's Letter p.7 | Through the Lens p.8 | Bookish p.9 | Rowan Originals p.10
 The Scene p.70 | Events Calendar p.80 | Salisbury's the Place p.82

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

AutoXpress 52
 Bare Furniture 3
 Barnhardt Jewelers 68
 Blue Bay Restuarant 37
 Cabarrus Eye Center 62
 Catawba Chiefs Club 58
 Cathy Griffin, Century 21 33
 Downtown Salisbury 49
 Edward Jones 65
 F&M Bank 23
 Godley's Garden Center 39
 J.A. Fisher Construction 69
 Landis Plumbing 69
 Laurels of Salisbury, The 65
 Medicine Shoppe, The 43
 Merrell Family Dentistry 60
 NC Transportation Musuem 48
 North Hills Christian School 69
 Organ Lutheran Church 60
 Poweles Staton 2
 Ralph Bakers Shoes 17
 Rowan Animal Clinic 61
 Rowan-Kannapolis ABC Board 61
 Salisbury Dental Care 3
 Salisbury Emporium 49
 Salisbury Motor Company 83
 Salisbury Orthopaedic Associates 84
 Salisbury-Rowan Farmer's Market 49
 Slim Solutions 67
 Southern Images Lawn Service 39
 Stout Heating and Air 66
 Thrivent, Eric Brady 67
 TMR Realty 66
 Tom's Carpet Care 39
 Tranist Damaged Freight 50
 Trinity Oaks 41
 Windsor Jewelers 41
 Yatawara Gynecology Wellness 68

THE ARTS

12 **Young blood**
 Up-and-coming Trailblazers put their own spin on bluegrass

FOOD

18 **Religious experience**
 Housed in an old church, La Cava makes meals that are saintly



AT HOME

24 **Putting on the Ritz**
 With his classic cars, eclectic home, Boland goes for style

REMINISCE

62 **Trip advisor**
 Salisbury couple promises you'll find plenty to do in South Africa



With a little help from our friends

You might wonder where the ideas originate for some of the stories you see in *Salisbury the Magazine*, and truth is, they often find us. Sidney “Reg” Boland is a good example.

Boland’s email to me one morning said “Story idea” in the subject line. I hate to say this, but people stop me on the street, call and write with story suggestions all the time, and most of them are worthy of pursuing.

But circumstances, time, deadlines and newspaper work conspire to push them to the scrap heap of my desk, which is littered with Post-its, business cards, manila folders and notebook pages full of names, numbers and ideas. I apologize to the many of you out there who might be mixed in with this fire hazard.

So what was different about Boland’s email, which said, “I am writing to you with humility and at the suggestion of a friend”?

“I am a longtime collector of automobiles and antiques and odds and ends that one friend refers to as ‘peculiarities.’” Boland wrote. “... I house eight antique or special-interest vehicles in two garages. One of the garages is referred to as the ‘Garage Mahal.’”

He went on to explain *Garage Mahal* was more like a showroom that contains interesting older furniture, artwork, poster art and ephemera — in addition to “four pampered old cars.”

“For me, it is my own personal time machine,” he said.

Boland probably had me at “peculiarities.” Photographer Jon Lakey and I paid him a visit and found Boland to be a great guy, who has a wonderful sense of style. He is perhaps someone who should have lived in the classic movie days of Bogart and Bacall, judging by the cars and collections around him.

Just describing Boland’s house and property make for an interesting story, but it was Boland who suggested we go a step more by asking Heather Duncan — granddaughter of friend Dick Brownell — to serve as a young model and stylish complement to his wonderful cars and some beautiful Salisbury homes.

We bit, and it led to several of the photographs you see in this

issue, including the cover.

Another person who helped immensely with this issue was Deedee Wright, who arranged for us to interview four Salisbury women who have found their niche as truck drivers. Each of the drivers provides a story of courage and perseverance.

The help from our readers did not stop there. Bob and Stephanie Potter took a monthlong trip to South Africa this past March, and they agreed to share their story and photographs with the magazine.

You’ll understand why they want to go back.

Liz Moomey writes in this issue about the Salisbury Sculpture Show, which enriches the city every year. Contributing writer Kris Mueller catches up with the four young members of the Trailblazers, an up-and-coming band with a progressive take on bluegrass.

The La Cava restaurant has served exquisite food in Salisbury for 25 years now, and Deirdre Parker Smith tells us why its tenets of fresh and slow are crucial to the success of longtime owners Gianni and Mona Moscardini.

There’s much more, of course, and we depended on many of you to make it happen through your contributions of time and talents.

I went back and noticed another line in Boland’s original email. It said, “I look backward and forward with a feeling of gratitude for being in this lovely city.”

So do we.



Mark Wineka,
Editor, Salisbury the Magazine



Thin wisps of grass wave in the breeze coming through an open basement door of a Salisbury building. The freedom of the grass is in sharp contrast to the vertical lines of studs at left and the tin in back.

History, reality and comedy round out summer

From women activists to campus hilarity, these reads do not disappoint.

"The Women of the Copper Country"

By Mary Doria Russell

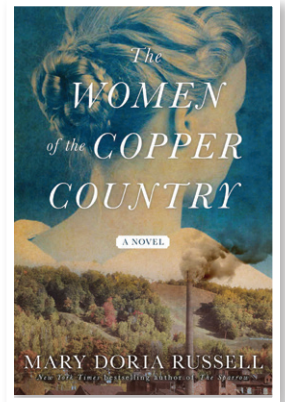
From the bestselling and award-winning author of "The Sparrow" comes a historical novel about "America's Joan of Arc" Annie Clements — the woman who started a rebellion by leading a strike against the largest copper mining company in the world.

In July 1913, 25-year-old Annie had seen enough of the world to know that it was unfair. She's spent her whole life in the copper-mining town of Calumet, Michigan, where men risk their lives for meager salaries. The women labor in the houses of the elite and send their husbands and sons deep underground each day, dreading the fateful call telling them their loved ones aren't coming home.

When Annie decides to stand up for herself, and the entire town of Calumet, nearly everyone believes she may have taken on more than she can handle.

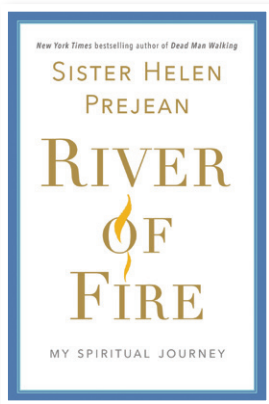
In Annie's hands lie the miners' fortunes and health, her husband's wrath over her growing independence, and her own reputation as she faces the threat of prison and discovers a forbidden love. Annie will discover just how much she is willing to sacrifice for her own independence and the families of Calumet.

From one of the most versatile writers in contemporary fiction, this novel is an authentic and moving historical portrait of the lives of the early 20th century labor movement, and of a turbulent, violent, political landscape that may feel startlingly relevant to today. (Available Aug. 6.)



"River of Fire"

By Sister Helen Prejean



In this intimate memoir from the author of "Dead Man Walking," the nation's foremost leader in efforts to abolish the death penalty shares the story of her growth as a spiritual leader, speaks out about the challenges of the Catholic Church, and shows that joy and religion are not mutually exclusive.

Sister Helen's work as an activist nun, campaigning to educate Americans about the inhumanity of the death penalty, is known worldwide. Less widely known is the evolution of her spiritual journey from praying for God to solve the world's problems to

engaging full-tilt in working to transform societal injustices.

Sister Helen grew up in a well-off Baton Rouge family that still employed black servants. She joined the Sisters of St. Joseph at 18 and was in her 40s when she had an awakening that her life's work was to immerse herself in the struggle of poor people forced to live on the margins of society.

Sister Helen writes about the relationships with friends, fellow nuns and mentors who have shaped her over the years. She writes about her close friendship with a priest, intent on marrying her, that challenged her vocation in the "new territory of the heart."

This is a book for anyone interested in journeys of faith and spirituality, doubt and belief, and "catching on fire" to purpose and passion. It is a book about how to live a spiritual life that is wide awake to the sufferings and creative opportunities of our world.

"Campusland"

By Scott Johnston

A tumultuous and often hilarious first novel about one year of insanity at the Ivy-like Devon University, a blissful bubble of elite students and the adults at their mercy.

Eph Russell is an English professor up for tenure. He may look and sound privileged, but Eph is right out of gun-rack, Bible-thumping, rural Alabama. His beloved Devon has become a place of warring tribes, and there are land mines waiting for Eph that he is unequipped to see. The cultural rules are changing fast.

Lulu Harris is an entitled freshman — er, firstyear — from Manhattan. Her singular ambition is to be a prominent socialite — an "It Girl." While most would kill for a place at Devon, to her college is a dreary impediment. She is surprised to find some people she can tolerate in the Fellingham Society, a group of self-professed campus monarchists. When things become socially difficult, Lulu is forced to re-channel her ambition in a most unexpected way — as a militant feminist. In the process, she and Eph will find their fates at odds.

Also in the mix is Red Wheeler, who is in his seventh year at Devon, carefully managing his credits to stay longer. As the alpha dog atop Devon's hierarchy, Red is the most "woke" guy on campus. But when his position is threatened, he must take measures.

All paths collide in a riotous climax.





Order in the court

Rowan Clerk Jeff Barger keeps things organized, humming.

Written by **Shavonne Walker** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

Rowan County Clerk of Court Jeff Barger always makes his morning and afternoon rounds to each courtroom. It's his way of checking to make sure his staff of 40, along with jurors and judges, are comfortable for the long days of court.

Barger, 60, has been part of the Rowan County court

system for 32 years. He was appointed in 1994, when he served as clerk for 10 months. He lost an election and then made a return to the office in 1998.

He has held the position ever since. Prior to becoming clerk, Barger was a magistrate for six-and-a-half years.

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



Rowan County Clerk of Court Jeff Barger speaks with Amelia Linn at the clerk's office.

Q. Who had the biggest influence on your life and career?

Francis Glover, the clerk who hired me. My parents, Buddy and Sylvia Barger. They instilled in me my moral values and how to treat people.

What is the best part of your job?

Adoptions. It's the only thing I do here that has a good outcome. It's a happy time, a wonderful feeling to be able to do that for families. Just to see the smiles on their faces and the hugs they give me — it's a special time.

What is the worst part of your job?

Dealing with personal issues.

What do people think you do?

Ninety-nine percent of the people don't know what the clerk of court does.

So, we have to ask it, what do you do?

I'm the custodian of all court records. I manage a staff of 40 employees and hold hearings such as adoptions, incompetency, land disputes, foreclosures. I check in on jurors and give them instructions, show them a video and swear them in. (Barger also answers questions jurors may have about the process.)

How do you spend your spare time?

I love to hunt and saltwater fish, camp and spend time with my family and friends and grandchildren. (Barger has three grandchildren, ages 5, 3 and 1.)

What has been the most rewarding part of your job?

Being of service to the public. I have never thought of it as an elected position. Not to draw politics into it because it's about service to the people.

What is your favorite book or who is your favorite author?

William Johnstone (probably best known for his Western adventures).

In 1993 you became the interim clerk at age 34. If you could, what advice would you give a 34-year-old Jeff Barger?

Always strive to do your best and go after your dreams.

What do most people not know about you?

I drink at least one Cheerwine every day and two on the weekends. I grew up rabbit hunting.

You've had short hair for the last several years, why the "long" hair right now?

I had long hair in 1976-1977. My wife wanted me to grow it out, so I did. When she tells me to cut it, I'll cut it. **S**

Facing the music

The Trailblazers put their own spin on bluegrass.

Written by **Kris Mueller** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

The biographies for the International Bluegrass Music Association's Young Band of the Year are remarkable in their sameness.

The Trailblazers' four musicians have led such parallel lives, you might think they come from the same family. And you would be correct on two counts.



Daniel and Will Thrailkill of Mount Ulla are siblings, but the biological connections end there.

Jonah Horton hails from Wilkesboro, and Alex Edwards grew up in Salisbury. Alex has kinfolk in bluegrass but originates from the local Edwards Family bluegrass gospel band.

Last fall, when these musicians and their guest fiddler climbed the victory stage at the IBMA's world festival in Raleigh, they stood as the top newcomers influencing bluegrass music in 2018. Daniel also hit a high note, snagging the Momentum Vocalist of the Year award, another prize spotlighting rising new stars.

"We were very blown away that we won IBMA. That was not expected," Daniel said of their recognition at the festival, attended by 221,000 musicians and fans. "When we won the award, it was awesome to be recognized by a community that's been a large influence on our music. It's the highest honor I believe we've achieved. We were just humbled by the experience."

Vivian Hopkins of Gold Hill, president of the North Carolina Bluegrass Association, was not surprised at their success. She has watched them grow up locally and develop their abilities quickly.

"The strengths and raw talent that each of them has is amaz-

ing and they are now realizing it is real," she said. "The dynamics of this group is kind of unusual. They have a playful camaraderie between them, kind of like brothers.

"They revere the pioneers who have brought bluegrass to what it is today, but they also are putting their own touch on bluegrass. They have come so far already just in the short time they have been together. They are writing original material and it is so much better when you can write your own music and songs."

The lives of these young men began following similar trajectories long before they met. Spanning in age from 17-year-old Jonah to 27-year-old Alex, all were home-schooled and introduced by their parents to music and instruments at early ages.

As young teens, Alex and the Thrailkill brothers began jamming together, often at Hopkins' Friday night bluegrass sessions at the Montgomery General Store in Gold Hill.

But, it was the youngster from Wilkesboro who brought them all together. Jonah asked Will and Daniel to play a show with him in Salisbury in 2015. Alex attended one of their jam sessions that followed, and the foursome performed their first show in March 2016.

The debut album they recorded soon after hinted at what was



The Trailblazers perform during a recent Earth Day Jam festival in Cornelius.



From left, The Trailblazers include bassist Will Thrailkill, vocalist/guitarist Daniel Thrailkill, banjo player Alex Edwards and mandolin player Jonah Horton.



yet to come. “A Place To Call My Own” showcased the band members’ instrumental mastery. It also betrayed their love of old and new bluegrass styles, which they incorporated into songs they covered and those that Daniel, Alex and Jonah wrote.

The group’s passion for God, family, home, and bluegrass is evident in the songs they write and perform as Daniel’s smooth vocals blend naturally with the tight harmony provided by Alex and Will. Their charm and witty pokes at one another punctuate their enthusiastic conversation as they talk about their success and complete each other’s thoughts.

Twice they have opened for country/bluegrass performer Ricky Skaggs. They have been invited to play multiple years at MerleFest in Wilkesboro, one of America’s largest bluegrass festivals, and at RompFest in Owensboro, Kentucky, with bluegrass greats such as Alison Krauss, Rhonda Vincent and Sam Bush.

“We began winning some band contests and that got

THE ARTS

us a foot in the door and we have been blessed to get to know people and talk to people about playing different venues,” Alex said. “It was knowing the right people and being asked to come perform.”

They lean toward the progressive side of acoustic bluegrass, which allows influences beyond bluegrass’ Appalachian roots.

“We do pull out a traditional song every now and then and it’s fun,” Will says. “Usually they are a little faster and more upbeat. People do like to hear traditional bluegrass.”

“But we don’t do it straight bluegrass,” Alex adds.

“Yeah, we always go off a bit,” Will agrees.

Jonah jumps in, “We have a very wide range of different genres we like. Alex likes rock and Tedeschi Trucks Band and alternative type of music.”

Daniel continues, “Jonah and I love rhythm and blues – Stevie Wonder, George Benson, James Taylor. Alex also loves James Taylor.”

“I love everything,” Will says. “I like the stuff they don’t like. I am very open-minded.”

Jonah turns to him. “Sometimes you are re-



*Will
Thrailkill*

sponsible for bringing to us a random song out of nowhere and we are like, ‘What in the world? Where did you find this?’ It’s awesome.”

“We try to take older songs, like ‘Once in My Life’ by Stevie Wonder and make it our own with a bluegrass instrumentation,” Daniel says. “We are not changing the arrangement so much as playing it with a more bluegrass feel, but not totally. We won’t ever take a song that was originally not a bluegrass song and play it straight up as bluegrass. We will always add a

little bit of the original flair of the song.

“We like the progressive style of bluegrass which is a little bit more of a loose kind of set. We like a big variety of music too, so we play ...”

“... We play whatever we like,” Alex finishes.

They excel as a group, as well as individually. Jonah has won mandolin championships and played in France in 2015 as part of a Kids on Bluegrass “super group” hand-selected by the IBMA.

Alex is a three-state banjo champion, and



*Daniel Thrailkill, left, and
Alex Edwards cross a street in
an image reminiscent of the
Beatles on Abbey Road.*



The guys kid around on the steps of Rowan Museum, playing their favorite sport — disc golf.

Daniel also has won vocal and guitar competitions in the Southeast. Will, the self-proclaimed “least accomplished band member,” has awards for upright bass.

The group has another album in the works with both original and traditional music. After winning the IBMA Momentum Award, they received offers to sign with a record label but are still weighing options and waiting for the right time.

As the band focuses on playing weekend events within a day’s drive, Will and Alex work as mechanical engineers in area industries while Daniel and Jonah pursue college business degrees. Their short-term goal is to continue gaining fans and exposure at competitions, festivals and events as they work long-term toward touring and recording music fulltime.

“We attribute a lot to our parents,” Will says. “They literally put the instruments in our hands. They gave us the resources to be where we are right now. We attribute our success to that and the Lord. We are all believers and believe the Lord definitely has given us the talents we have.”

“Bluegrass gives us a good opportunity to talk about our faith,” Daniel says. “We try to give God glory everywhere we go. It’s our calling. There’s a lot of joy we can bring to people with our music and we try to spread His name through that, too.” **S**

Kris Mueller is a freelance writer living in Salisbury.

Catch The Trailblazers at the Sunrise Café in Cleveland on Aug. 16 and at the Woodleaf Tomato Festival on Aug. 17. Visit their website at www.thetrailblazersmusic.com.



Alex Edwards, above, and Jonah Horton on the mandolin, below.



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La Cava resides in an 1897 church with stained glass windows.

In a fast world, La Cava takes its time

Restaurant marks 25 years in Salisbury.

Written by Deirdre Parker Smith | Photography by Bernadine Hernandez



Gianni Moscardini is the owner of La Cava in Salisbury.

In June, La Cava restaurant celebrated 25 years in Salisbury.

Owner Gianni Moscardini says, “That’s when I lost my hair.”

The focus of the restaurant has not changed, Gianni says. “Fresh food, the freshest we can get.” Another important ingredient — time.

Eating at La Cava is “not a quick bite,” Gianni says. Wife Mona agrees. “You sit down, you sip your wine, you talk.”

“We prepare everything fresh, from scratch,” Gianni says. Nothing is precooked, nothing frozen, nothing reheated. “We do not have a microwave,” he says.

The recipes came mostly from Gianni’s mother, so they are authentic Italian. He was born in the Tuscany region, in Carrara, which is world-renowned for its marble. Michelangelo used Carrara marble for his sculptures.

And that’s the other part of Gianni’s life, la cava, the quarries, in Italy and here in Rowan County. His love for restaurants was on hold while he was in the quarry business. Now the restaurant’s bar showcases both the white camellia and the

pink camellia granite from quarries Gianni was involved with in Rowan.

But let’s start at the beginning. As a teenager, Gianni came to New York to visit his uncle who had a French restaurant. “That’s what everyone wanted then, French food.”

He realized he didn’t have many opportunities in Italy, and worked with his uncle. There he met wife Mona, a true New Yorker, and for 12 years, he was happy.

He still has some of the tables and a dessert cart from that restaurant.

When he and Mona had children, Mona said he needed to spend more time with his family and less in the restaurant business. They went back to Italy, and Gianni got into the



Above: Veal parmesan is one of the entrees at La Cava. Below: Paco works in the kitchen.



marble and granite business there.

“But I was always looking for a place to open a restaurant. It gets in your blood.” Unfortunately, he says, there’s a lot of red tape in Italy. Mona says much depended on the mood of the person in charge that day, or whether that family knew your family and liked or disliked them.

Mona loved Italy, but Gianni wanted to come back to the United States. They ended up in a small town in Georgia, with Gianni working in the brick business. It was not a good fit.

They moved to Fort Lauderdale so he could sell quarry machinery. Then to Boca Raton to consult about quarries, one of which was in Colorado.

One of the companies he was advising bought granite from Rowan County, which he eventually visited. When overseas competition



La Cava is at the corner of South Church and Horah streets.

became too much, the Moscardinis came to Salisbury, “a sort of food desert,” Gianni says. He had a hard time entertaining his business associates, although they liked the golf courses.

At the time, Neal Sansovich, who originally bought the 1897 former Reformed Church of Christ at South Church and Horah streets, was looking for a buyer. The specialty store he and wife Tessa had opened there was ahead of its time and Tessa was not well. But Mona and her mother-in-law were fans of their bread and good mortadella, an Italian bologna.

When they talked and reached an agreement, Gianni had a building, but needed a little help. “I had to get out of the quarry business.” Some friends from New York helped with the restaurant.

The Moscardinis wanted the feel of an old-fashioned restaurant. He wanted to bring New York’s style here, encouraging diners to spend time with the meal.

“It was tough at first,” Mona says.



A whole branzino fish is flash-fried and presented with a simple salad. Wait staff can filet the fish tableside.

“But we stayed the course,” Gianni says. “Salisbury needs a restaurant of this type.” Slowly, they built clientele. Mona says they

stuck with it because of their sons. They didn’t want to move again. “Thank goodness, people supported us.”

Gianni has branched out, of course, opening the popular Salty Caper beer and pizza parlor here and in Mooresville, and eventually New Sarum Brewery. His sons are in charge of Salty Caper and New Sarum.

“We’re the mother ship,” Mona says.

Both Salty Caper and New Sarum have been successful, with the brewery’s business growing.

The philosophy of La Cava, fresh and slow, means the menu changes daily based on what fresh food is available. “We don’t serve tomatoes in winter,” Gianni says. Much of the food is homegrown; all their eggs come from Two Pigs farm. “We don’t count on a food service to come here.”

Instead, the staff goes to Charlotte’s Restaurant Depot or Fresh Market to find ingredients.

Gianni does give a nod to trends, with a watermelon, prosciutto and goat cheese salad. “Everyone loves watermelon salad now,” he says. Dr. Don Fortner suggested the combination.

The tomato sauce is very simple, tomatoes from California, a variety Gianni is willing to pay more for because of their acidity, a little onion, garlic, no fancy spices, and it’s cooked for maybe an hour, not for multiple hours. “It’s fresh. You can taste the tomatoes.”

Gianni likes to “give Salisbury the possibility of tasting around the world.” If he tries something that’s delicious, he tries to replicate it here. In Barcelona, he had bread rubbed with fresh tomato, garlic and olive oil. He loved it. He now serves it.

“Eating is not just with your mouth,” he says. “We are here to dine.”

Mona says they no longer serve iced tea because customers thought they didn’t get refills quickly enough. Gianni took the tea urns out back and threw them away. “We have fresh seafood, fois gras and you complain about iced tea? No,” Gianni says.

Gianni always wants to try new things. Some go, some stay. La Cava has been doing a Peruvian ceviche for 12 years. He likes fresh anchovies fried, tossed with salt. He has a vintage brass duck press on the bar that he has used for special requests.



Watermelon salad with prosciutto and goat cheese

Two of their most popular dishes are eggplant parmesan and veal parmesan.

People have stayed for a long time, too, like his house manager, Victoria Sanchez, who has been there for 19 years,

His current chef is Joshua Baxley, a Cordon Bleu graduate and Navy veteran. He was an engineer in the Navy, so the kitchen doesn’t scare him. He and Gianni discuss dishes — “We don’t fight, we talk loud,” Gianni says.

Alex Thayil helps in the kitchen, and they have someone to handle salads and a dishwasher.

Gianni still likes to come in sometimes and make sauces in the morning. The kitchen is compact, but it means you don’t have to move much to get things done. The people who work in it know what to do and how to work together. Thayil used to work in an office, but prefers this. His father is a good cook and that inspired him.

Josh started at Salty Caper. He used his GI Bill money to go to culinary school and enjoys the chance to work with the fresh foods. Gianni says Josh is a good saucier — he makes a variety of delicate beurre blancs, or butter sauces, and

excellent Hollandaise.

The first Sunday of the month, they have brunch, often with a musician from the Salisbury Symphony playing. Their favorites are violin and cello.

A whole branzino fish, lightly floured and flash-fried makes an impressive presentation, served with a mesclun mix salad with a lemon vinaigrette to clean the palate. Wait staff can fillet the fish tableside for you.

They also prepare Caesar salad tableside, a feature most diners enjoy.

And they can make dessert soufflés, such as a Grand Marnier version, but you need to order in advance. They make ice cream and sorbet at the restaurant.

La Cava has a full bar for cocktails of your choice, as well as wine, mostly from France, Italy and California. The beer is New Sarum, of course.

Victoria says they have a small crew, and it works well together. Josh says they “are a mess,” but in a good way. “We all like what we’re doing,” Gianni says. “We don’t get complaints.”

Since the Moscardinis have been here so long, he has become more involved in the community. He’s part of Downtown Salisbury and has offered special wine tastings to benefit Salisbury Symphony and Faithful Friends. **S**



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AT HOME



A 1949 Chrysler New Yorker and 1948 Chrysler Windsor (opposite page) reflect the classic cars and era that Reg Boland loves. Here, the Donaldsons' home on Confederate Avenue provides a perfect backdrop.



Here's looking at you, kid

Boland loves his Bogie style of life.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



Reg Boland gives a kiss to his beloved dachshund, Pooper, in what Boland calls his 'Garage Mahal.'

Sidney “Reg” Boland bought his first antique car in 1979. He guesses he has probably sold and traded some 50 cars since then.

“To me they’re time machines,” Boland says. “They take me to a different place, a different time. I probably spend too much time looking back than looking forward.”

It’s easy to forgive Boland. Toward the back of his property, he has erected what he likes to call his “Garage Mahal.”

It’s a four-door garage, yes, that holds cars, but it’s much more stylish than that. The antique luxury cars are themselves pieces of rolling art. He calls the 1948 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet “Bogie,” in tribute to his favorite actor, Humphrey Bogart.

You may not find a smarter, more classic convertible in Rowan County, and Boland points out that 1948 was his birth year.

He named the 1948 Chrysler Windsor parked next to it “Lady Di,” for the late Princess Diana.

Painted a regal maroon, the Windsor has room enough in back for a footrest and area rug. Boland also has included a

woman’s fur coat, white gloves and pillows.

“That’s my trademark — pillows in cars,” he says.

Farther down the line, Boland keeps his cherished 1975 Chrysler Cordoba, a big boat of a car that actor Ricardo Montalbán used to hawk in television commercials. This one doesn’t have Montalbán’s “Corinthian leather,” but rather a red velour that Boland likes.

He calls this car “Clarence,” named for a godson who was born in 1975.

Otherwise, the Garage Mahal just doesn’t look like a garage. Boland has furnished it with a 1920s picnic set, baskets, a display of model cars, old movie posters, Life magazines, an Erte calendar, eclectic art, ceiling fans, warm lighting, vintage postcards and an array of other antique furnishings.

One wall has a framed poster from the Auburn car show that featured a 1923 Duesenberg, which some consider the world’s greatest classic auto. “I’ve ridden in that car,” Boland says.

From the side, Boland wanted his Garage Mahal to look like a house, so he gave it a picture window, decking and patio furniture.

The spacious back yard also has room for a two-story, comfortably furnished studio. Boland says friends know they “can come here and bail out of society for a day,” or it’s a great place to work on a project.



Top: Heather Duncan, a rising senior at Catawba College, wears stylish clothes befitting the spacious back seat of Boland's 1948 Chrysler Windsor. *Above:* Boland with his 1979 Chrysler New Yorker. *Left:* A 'Bogie' bar chest from Thomasville Furniture.



The studio sports a ship weathervane on top, comfy chairs, a love seat, magazines, a tea set, hats and old car ads on the walls. It is sometimes used as a car club meeting room.

Boland belongs to a Chrysler club and the Classic Car Club of America, which attracts owners of cars between 1922 and 1948. “Some of the classic folks will say any other years are just used cars,” Boland laughs.

The yard is big enough for car club meetings during which members park their vehicles, cook out and socialize.

“I’m just lucky enough to have the space,” Boland says.

All this discussion about the backyard neglects what Boland has collected inside his 1954 ranch house. By the way, it has an attached four-car garage with more cars.

“I’ve always liked luxury, class, style,” Boland says. “Class is what matters to me.”

Beautiful and eclectic pieces are on display throughout his house — a pretty box for decanters; an 1870s candelabra; a French wardrobe, whose shelves are labeled in French; an art deco lamp, which would look at home in a Florida sunroom; and luxurious, gorgeous books of car literature, catalogs and auto advertisements from the 1930s and 1940s.

“And they loved to tie it together with clothing,” Boland notes, paging through the editions, showing models such as Roadmaster, DeSoto, Lincoln Continental and Newport. “The color, the pages — I just find these things fascinating. I have stacks and stacks of this stuff and nowhere to display it.”

A whole bookcase section and countless other things are devoted to Bogart, including a “Maltese Falcon” statue replica and a chateau bar cabinet from a Thomasville Furniture line named for Bogie.

“My parents looked almost exactly like that,” Boland says, referring to a photograph of Bogart with Lauren Bacall.

Featured in his living room is a custom-made 1929 Weber reproducing piano, a mechanically operated instrument using pneumatic suction to move the keys in correspondence to the



Above: Duncan prepares to enter the 1948 Chrysler Windsor, parked outside of the Donaldsons’ home on Confederate Avenue. Below: The 1948 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet that Boland calls ‘Bogie.’





Top: Boland's 1975 Chrysler Cordoba sits outside the Confederate Avenue home of Richard Prim and Constance Stanton. *Above:* A sunroom table is filled with the elegant promotional materials that used to accompany many cars. *Right:* One of Boland's interesting lamps.



Clockwise from above: The Cordoba; a 1920s picnic set; a beautifully decorated mantel in Boland's house.



perforations on a turning roll.

Boland says reproducing pianos were of higher quality and musical sophistication than standard player pianos. His was built as a wedding present and had its home in a New York apartment overlooking Central Park. It displays a coat of arms for its having once been sold to a royal house.

Nearby on a living room wall, he has a framed advertisement showing some of the more standard Weber piano casings. On another wall is an old-timey print of a spirit-like Jesus positioned behind a sailor with words to the effect that a family's Navy son is being guided by Christ.

"I have some very peculiar interests," Boland says. "I've got odd tastes, I guess."

Boland describes his home decor tastes as leaning toward the "very English or the very French," but he also warns, "you're going to see some kitsch around here."

"I love things that are evocative."

Boland displays coffee table books on art deco, and he starts telling you about Maxfield Parrish, an illustrator, and Coy Ludwig, a one-time Salisburian who wrote a book about Parrish.

Boland never pictured himself living in a 1954 brick rancher, especially this one on Brownrigg Road on the edge of the neighborhood next to the Country Club of Salisbury. The big backyard and attached four-car garage



were big selling points, but "the place was a bit of a mess."

It had belonged to a smoker, and Boland says it took four coats of paint and primer to cover the smell and stain of nicotine that enveloped the walls and ceilings.

But the house had an interesting layout, including two fireplaces and two kitchens — one probably meant as part of a mother-in-law wing.

Boland loves his 1954 rancher now. He kept the period kitchen, including the floor and cabinets.

Before retiring, Boland fashioned a long career in administration at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College — 31 years full-time, then 11 years part-time. He held the job of associate vice president for student services and in 2001 was named the N.C. Community College System's Staff Person of the Year.



Clockwise from above: In tennis attire, model Heather Duncan has a sporting look at the 1948 Cabriolet; Boland's cremation urn; Duncan in the 1948 Windsor; Boland belongs to the Classic Car Club of America; big cars come with big steering wheels.



AT HOME

The award went to Boland for his program innovation in student orientation, registration, counseling and assessment. He traveled throughout the state helping other colleges implement ASSET, the admissions, assessment and placement tool used for incoming students.

Boland was born in Burlington, but grew up in Sanford, Florida. His dad was a truck driver, hauling produce mostly. He had been part of the Allied landing forces on D-Day in 1944.

“We were broke,” Boland says of those years in Florida. “There was no money, a tough life.”

For college, attracted by the cost of \$365 a quarter for tuition, room and board, Boland went to Western Carolina University. “I had never set foot on the place,” he recalls, but the mountains were familiar summer getaway spots for many Floridians, so he had heard of WCU.

After graduating, Boland worked for about three years in Charlotte before returning to WCU for his master’s degree.

He arrived in Salisbury with a suitcase of clothes and a clock radio. He started out sleeping on the floor of a friend’s apartment with a quilt. But Salisbury and its interesting people grew on him, he says.

His membership at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church also kept Boland here and, in these later years, a loyal dachshund named Pooper.

Other cars in Boland’s collection include a



1979 Chrysler New Yorker that belonged to George Steinbrenner’s mother, Rita; a 1993 Jaguar; a 1993 Chrysler Imperial he calls “Lady Gray”; and a 1997 Jaguar XJ.

“When you’re in the hobby, the cars find you,” Boland says of his whole collection. “... They’re all drivers, I’ve never had a car yet I would just let sit. They come alive — like rolling art.”

The cars draw lots of attention and conversations, including one Boland had with former “Tonight” show host Jay Leno at a Pebble Beach, California, car show.

As a hobby, cars are the great equalizer, Boland says. Multi-millionaires talk with people like him. “I’ve had so much fun with it in so many ways,” he adds. “It’s like an addiction, but you run out of space and money.”

The Steinbrenner car, which came from Lakewood, Ohio, has barely 30,000 miles on it. As with most all of Boland’s cars, it’s a yacht. He shows you the attractive navy interior and remembers his mother used to say navy catches everything but men and money. “My mother was a character,” Boland says.

He had a spare chandelier, so he hung it in the garage. If it’s a rainy day, Boland might go into Garage Mahal, climb into one of his cars and read, maybe even sipping on a glass of port.

Yes, Boland has given his life — and maybe even his death — a lot of style. He shows visitors a beautiful, columned piece sitting on a hallway shelf.

“A lot of people get creeped out, but that’s my urn,” Boland says. “I love architectural looking things.”

He thought it made sense for him to pick out his own cremation urn before he died, rather than to leave it to anybody else who just wouldn’t have his taste.

Besides, this same style of urn holds the ashes of actor Conrad Veidt, who played the role of Major Heinrich Strasser in “Casablanca.”

Bogie would be proud. **S**





Above and below left: Boland's 'Garage Mahal' holds four of his classic cars. Below right: Model Heather Duncan peers out from the Chrysler Cordoba.



ROAD WARRIORS

The truck-driving life empowers these four women.

Story by Mark Wineka





— Jon C. Lakey photo

Before heading out, Precious Davis conducts the pre-trip ritual drilled into every truck driver.

Among other duties, she checks the hose connections for air brakes and lights, then scoots under the trailer to check the pin on the fifth wheel. Afterwards, with the pre-trip complete, Davis hops into the cab of her International truck and dead-heads the trailer from Salisbury to Mount Holly.

There, she will pick up a load of Georgia-Pacific paper products and drive it to Savannah, Georgia.

As a woman standing only 5 feet, 4 inches tall, Davis may not fit the stereotype of truck drivers, but her CB handle — “Sweet Nightmare” — and six years of experience attest that she knows the road.

“I don’t think I could go back and work in a building,” Davis says. “... Getting into truck driving is like being in the Mafia. Once you get in, it’s hard to get out.”

Davis, 47, is among a handful of African-American women truck drivers in Salisbury — this story also includes Linda Wood, Felicia Batten and Saundra Howell — who share strikingly similar stories.

All of the women were single mothers or caregivers who needed better jobs to support their families. Each woman took a dramatic U-turn from her previous career to take up truck driving.

And while the truck driver’s life and the bias against them in a male-dominated profession can be tough at times, the women harbor no regrets. They like the independence and time to think as the miles fly by.

“I feel like I can do anything now,” says Wood, owner-operator of her Peterbilt truck. “I feel so empowered. I can’t see myself doing anything else. I love it.”

The numbers suggest that women are still woefully underrepresented in the trucking industry, though companies — especially because of driver shortages — have been trying to correct that for many years.

The Women in Trucking Association and the National Transportation Institute surveyed hundreds of trucking firms and reported the percentage of women drivers rose in 2017 from 7.13 percent to 7.89 percent.

“I get called ‘Sir’ every day of the week before they look up and see I’m a woman,” Batten says.

Among these four women, Howell is the most experienced. She is going on her 13th year driving for Food Lion and almost 20 years overall.

“My job is a godsend and a blessing,” says Howell, who was Food Lion’s first black female driver.



Precious Davis is a regional dry van driver for Wisconsin-based Blackhawk Transport.
— Jon C. Lakey photo

PRECIOUS DAVIS

Precious Davis held fast-food jobs as a teen and worked as a certified nursing assistant for more than 20 years.

“I just got burnt out, and I wanted to do something completely out of the box,” Davis says.

With financial help through the Employment Security Commission’s Workforce Investment Act, Davis went to Cross Country Truck Driving School in Thomasville from January-March 2012.

She was the only woman in her class of about 20 potential drivers.

The school included a lot of classroom work and tests beyond the driving practice in the yard, where Davis was introduced to pre-trip

checks on a rig and the double clutch. “Anybody can drive forward,” Davis says, “but backing up a truck is completely different. Ooh, it was hard.”

But after she mastered the art of reverse, Davis and other students went on the road with an instructor, taking turns at day and night driving. Over time, she earned her commercial driver’s license, followed by training stints with Swift Transportation and Cargo Transporters, which Davis preferred because Cargo had same-sex trainers.

She officially started driving on her own in 2013 — a single mom trying to support a young son and daughter at home. It was tough, especially on her children. Davis credits local truck drivers Howell and Chauncey Morris for their guidance in the beginning.

Davis did solo and team driving, transporting loads as far west as Texas and Oklahoma, as far north as Minnesota and into the Northeast states of Connecticut and Massachusetts.

During summers, her son rode with her.

After four years of driving for Cargo Transporters, logging 2,000 to 2,500 miles a week, Davis quit the long hauls for two years and drove locally for Rowan Express and Corriher Sand and Stone Inc.

Now driving for Blackhawk Transport, based in Beloit, Wisconsin, Davis is tagged to a dedicated account for Georgia-Pacific. She basically drives “drop-and-hooks” of G-P paper products to locations from Virginia to Florida.

“Once a male driver came on the CB and said, ‘Why aren’t you home barefoot and pregnant?’” Davis recalls.



Before a disgusted Davis could retort, other male drivers were over the airwaves coming to her defense, she says.

On the road, Davis pretty much lives out of her truck. She doesn't like to stay over-

night at truck stops because of all the noise, especially with the refrigerator trucks that idle nonstop. She prefers rest areas or, if customers allow, their parking lots.

She says her truck has everything she needs

— a television, hot plate and refrigerator — though she wishes trucks would come with a bathroom. “It’s like a second home,” she adds. “I always tell people this is my apartment.”

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Over-the-road owner/operator truck driver Linda Wood arrives back in Salisbury with her 2018 Peterbilt that she calls 'Pete.'

— Jon C. Lakey photo

LINDA WOOD

Linda Wood, 57, worked in numerous factory environments for companies such as Hitachi, Pauline Knitting, Hoechst-Celanese, Lyon Shaw and General Electric.

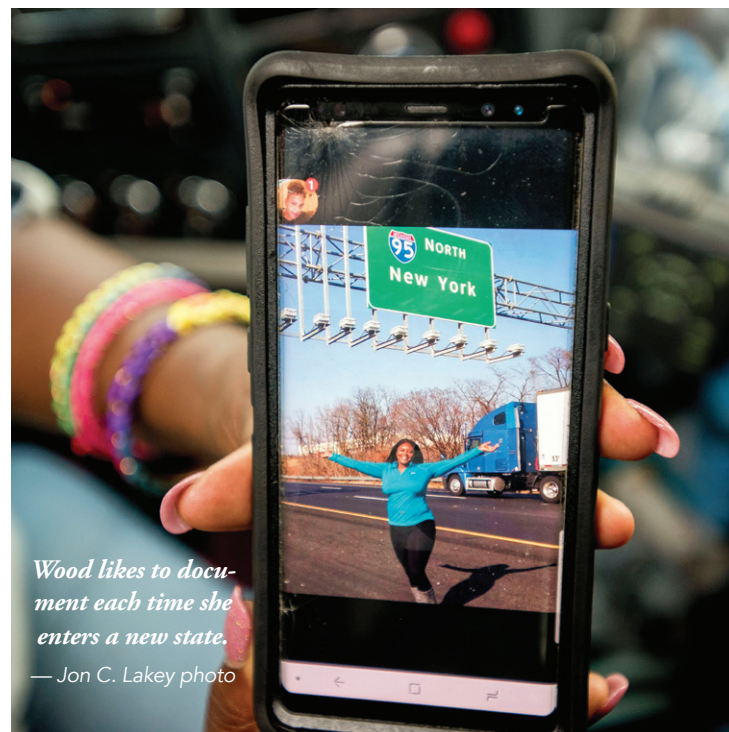
She also had her own child-care business and even installed solar panels for a time. All along she was a divorcee raising five children — her own and adopted. Almost three years ago, she decided to do something completely for herself and try truck driving.

Wood rode a bus to Prime Inc.'s school in Springfield, Missouri, where the trucking company paid for her room, board and training. She acknowledges the learning curve and getting over some of her fears were large.

On her first day solo, Wood had two deliveries, and she hit something with her truck at each one, including a new store sign that had just been put up a week earlier. In a tight docking area, she knocked off a freezer door.

"When I told them about the second thing, I asked, 'Am I fired?'" Wood recalls.

But something clicked for Wood and she has now driven loads in all of the 48 continental states. As an independent owner-operator still de-



Wood likes to document each time she enters a new state.

— Jon C. Lakey photo



pending on Prime for her hauls, she gets paid by the load, not by the mile.

In her previous jobs, Wood says, she never made more than \$30,000 a year. As a truck driver on her own, in a five-month period, she once made \$82,000. She aims to have her 2018 truck paid off and be debt-free in three to five years.

Wood calls her teal-colored truck "Pete."

"I love my truck, that's my Boo," Wood says. "I have to take care of him because he takes care of me."



Truck driving has given her a better income, Wood says.

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Trucker Felicia Batten drives for Norman Sound, based in Charlotte, hauling sound and stage equipment.

— Bernadine Hernandez photo

FELICIA BATTEN

Felicia Batten says she has learned to walk across a yard or truck-stop parking lot in a manner that tells fellow truck drivers she is not a person to mess with.

“I’m a smiler, so I have to be careful with that,” she says. “I did have one guy follow me to my truck, and I had to threaten physical violence.”

Batten rides with the curtain closed to her sleeping compartment so others think she has a co-driver. Many women who are truck drivers often do it as teammates with boyfriends or husbands.

Batten lately has been driving over the road for Norman Sound, based in Charlotte. She often is delivering sound and stage equipment for concerts and conventions, having recently returned from Phoenix and heading out later in the week to Chicago.

A 1989 graduate of North Rowan High, Batten worked for many years as a CNA, then Jockey International — before the plant closed. A good cook and caterer for a time, she



considered going to culinary school, though the expense was intimidating.

An ex-brother-in-law, who was a longtime trucker, encouraged her to give his profession a try.

Batten attended Carolina Driving Institute, earned her license in December 2010 and has been driving since February 2011. She started with CRST International, then moved to Western Express, which had the women trainers she preferred.

"I took to it like a duck to water," Batten, 48, says. "... I wish I had started when I was younger. This is my career. I know I'll retire from this."

Batten has driven big rigs everywhere in the country except the Dakotas and Washington State. After Western Express, she drove for Cargo Transporters for three years before becoming an independent contractor.

She also has done yard work at Food Lion, moving trailers around the Salisbury distribution center. Today, some of the companies she drives for pay by the mile, some by the day.



Felicia Batten lowers the landing gear on a box trailer.

Batten has driven next to tornadoes in Oklahoma and through the snows of Connecticut. She challenged herself to make runs in New England and through every borough in New

York City.

"It either makes you or breaks you," Batten says. "I knew I couldn't call myself a trucker until I had done it."

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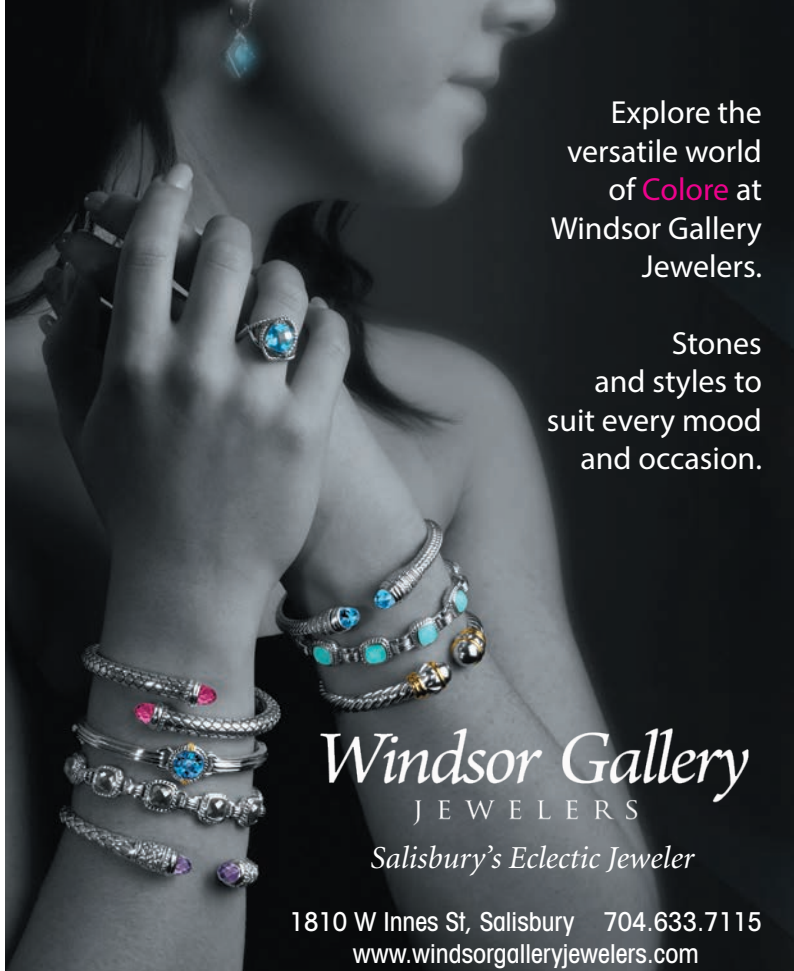
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Trucker Saundra Howell drives for Food Lion, hauling groceries to distribution centers and stores in the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia.

— Jon C. Lakey photo

SAUNDRA HOWELL

A couple of decades ago, Saundra Howell, 52, thought she had the perfect job at PPG Industries in Lexington. The money was good — plenty for the bills she had, the lifestyle she had set and the co-parenting obligations she faced.

When PPG layoffs came and took her job in the forming department, Howell says, “I had a lot going on at the time.”

Almost as a joke after seeing a trucking commercial on television, Howell called the Employment Security Commission and asked if driving could be an option for her.

If she were serious, a dedicated ESC staffer said, the state could pay for one of three different driving schools because Howell was a displaced worker. She went to Future Truckers of America in Asheboro and flourished.

“I learned early on they (rigs) were all the same, just different colored trucks,” Howell says. “I was always a good driver. It came easy to me only because I’m a country girl. I was driving a tractor at age 10.”



Swift recruited her, but Howell latched on with Werner Enterprises, which had women trainers.

Two lessons Howell learned at trucking school have stayed with her. One, don’t ever get in a hurry. Two, as long as you’re going slow enough, you will be able to stop the truck be-

fore you hit something — or when in doubt, simply get out and look.

Over six years with Werner, Howell drove to all the 48 continental states and into Canada. “If I had not done that, I would not be the driver I am today,” she says, also crediting the strong prayer and encouragement she received



Saundra Howell maneuvers her rig at the Food Lion distribution center in Salisbury.

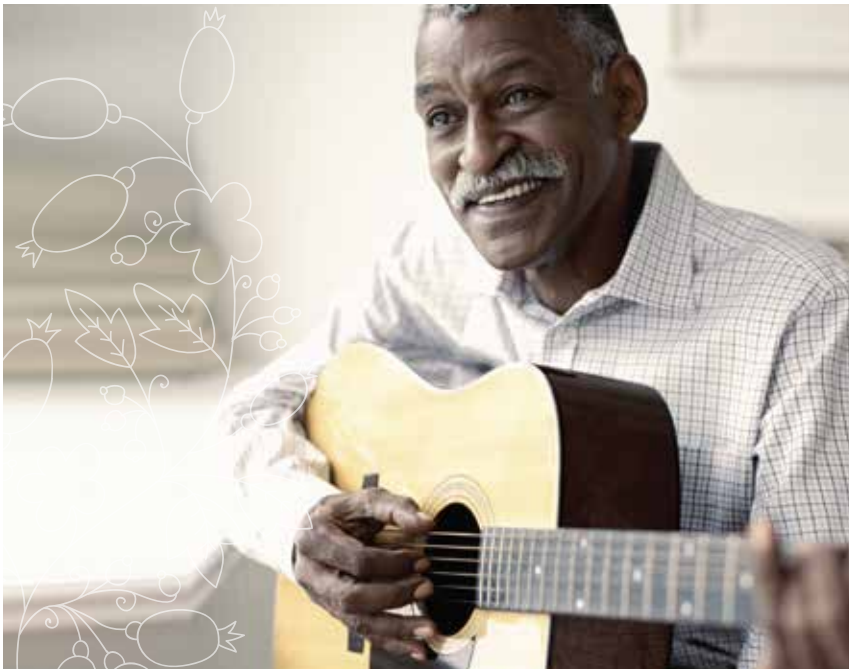
— Jon C. Lakey photo

from her father.

Howell became a trainer of women drivers during her last two years at Werner before the Food Lion job opened up. Today, she is usually making runs to Food Lion distribution centers and some stores in the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia.

On occasion, she might have an overnight trip (and hotel stay) to Pennsylvania. But on most nights, Howell is back home, and she appreciates that, the decent living she makes and how the maintenance on her trucks is all taken care of by the company.

“I love my job,” Howell says. **S**



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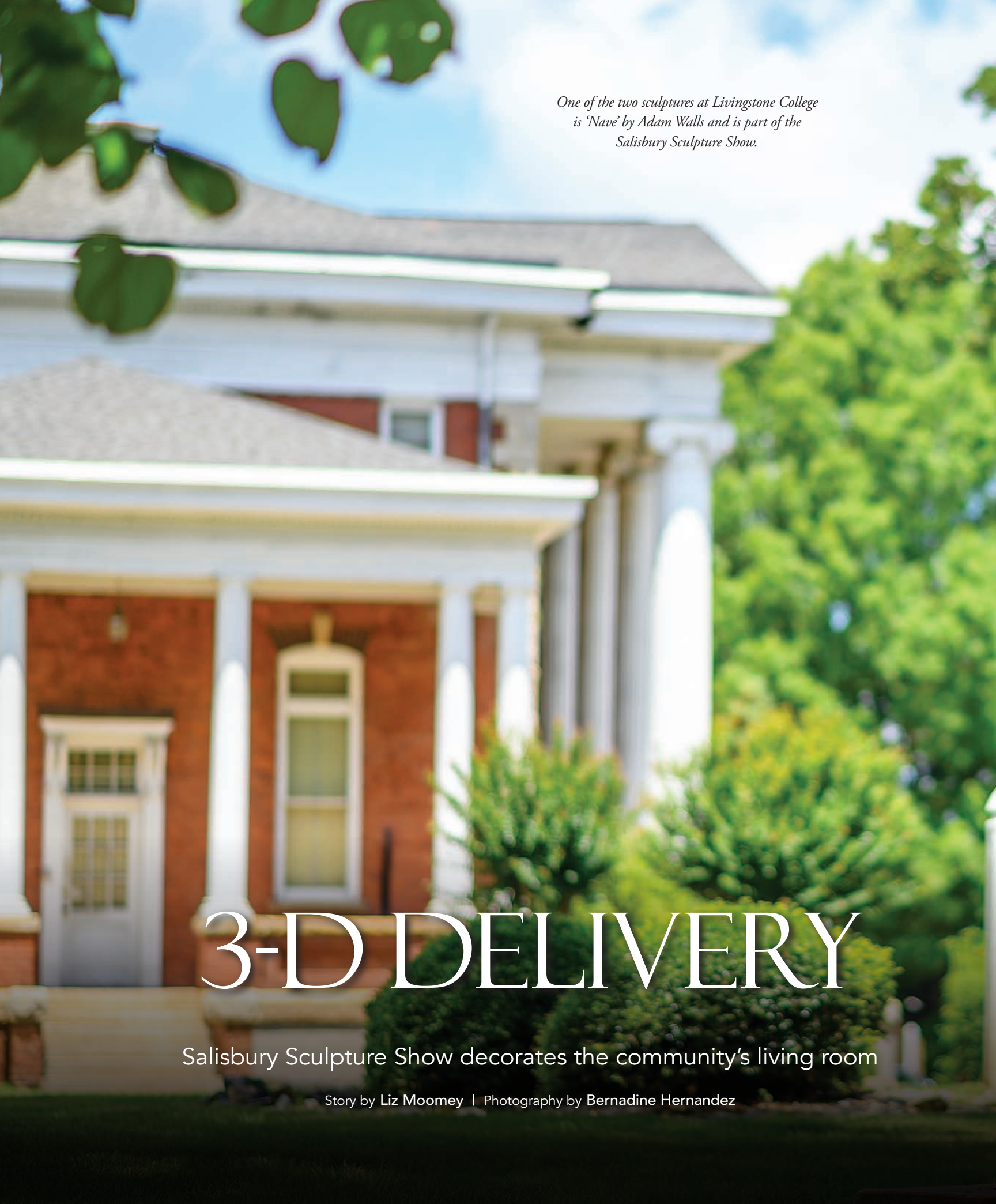
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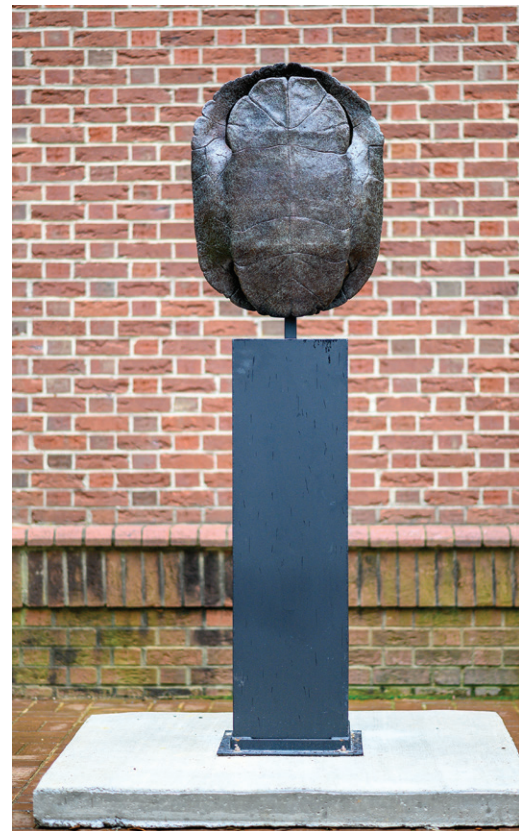


*One of the two sculptures at Livingstone College
is 'Nave' by Adam Walls and is part of the
Salisbury Sculpture Show.*

3-D DELIVERY

Salisbury Sculpture Show decorates the community's living room

Story by Liz Moomey | Photography by Bernadine Hernandez



Above: 'Sanctuary' by Roger Martin sits in front of the Rowan Public Library. Below: 'Balance Point No. 2' by Hanna Jubran is at the F&M Trolley Barn.



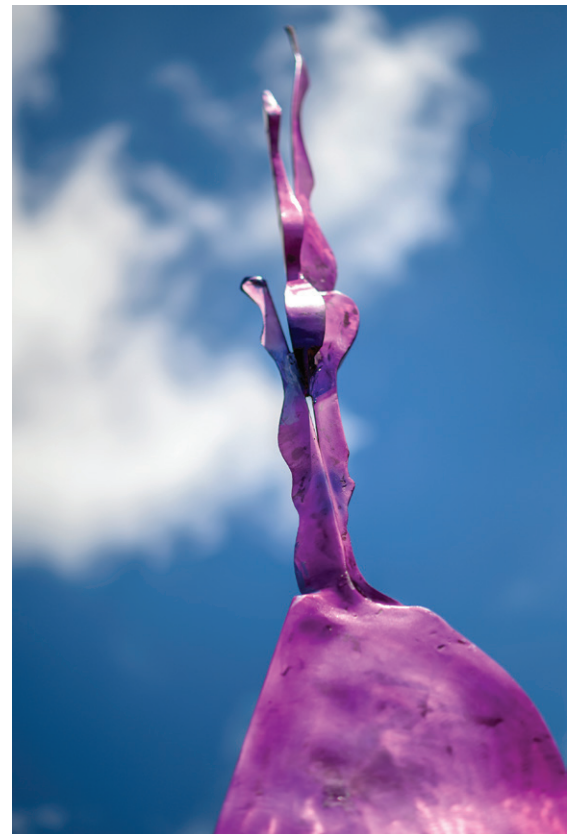


Artist Jim Gallucci, of Greensboro, talks about his work.

In 2008, a sculptor moved to Salisbury. He brought an idea with him: a sculpture show to give residents access to art.

The sculptor, Michael Baker, met with Lynn Raker, the city's urban design planner, and Greensboro sculptor Jim Gallucci to discuss how they could make what has become the Salisbury Sculpture Show happen.

They also brought Salisbury's Barbara Perry into the conversation.



Left: 'Oak Leaf Arch VII' by Jim Gallucci is on display at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. **Right:** 'Docking Complete' by Robert Coon is located at Novant Health Rowan Medical Center.

Gallucci said he shared three items that make a successful show: bring recognized sculptors, assist them with the installations and throw a great party. Every year after the day of installation, Ed Norvell hosts a party for sculptors and community members to celebrate.

The impact of the Salisbury Sculpture Show goes beyond those three things, though. It gives people a way to have access to art. At first, the sculptures lived only in the downtown, but they since have ventured out to include the four colleges — Catawba College, Livingstone College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College and Hood Theological Seminary — Patterson Farm and Novant Health Rowan Medical Center.

This year, a sculpture titled "Community" was introduced in a neighborhood, the West End.

The show has changed Salisbury, Gallucci said. In 2008, half of Salisbury's Main Street had nothing. Now it's a thriving small town with art everywhere, which he says is because of the Salisbury Sculpture Show.

The first year, though, Raker said the Salisbury Sculpture Show was met with a lot of questions, and to her, that was OK. At least people were noticing it. Through the years, Salisbury residents began becoming attached to the show and asking how to purchase the pieces.

The sculpture show was a community project. People looked at downtown as the living room of the community and it was decorated with artwork. The multiple sculptors providing pieces of work over the years gave an opportunity to all to find something they like.

Gallucci compares the show to a green pepper. One drop of green pepper in a pool can flavor it all. One piece of art can transform a

Right: 'Alternating Accents' by Matt Amante.

Far right: 'Twirling Mirror' by Richard Pitts.



downtown. And even if one doesn't like green pepper, they may like a jalapeño pepper.

"One piece of art can flavor a whole block or city," he said.

Because of the show's diversity, everyone could find something to warm up to, Raker said.

Credit goes to the Public Art Committee. Every year committee members view sculptures with no artist's name attached. Outside representatives are also involved if the piece is going to be on display at a college or other institution.

The sculptors don't create for an area — generally, they don't know where their pieces are going until the day of installations. But often, things work out nicely.

Jordan Parah's "Harmonious Balance" at Salisbury-Rowan Utilities — the piece is based on the fluidity of water — is perfect for its location, she says. Parah also has "Cotton Candy Skies" on display at Lee Street theatre.

"Community" in the West End is a yellow sculpture popping against the line of trees on Brenner Avenue. As time passes and people interact with the sculptures, the pieces of metal can begin to bend, sculptor Adam Walls said.

"With the piece called 'Community,' everyone is connected," Walls said. "In the ideal community, we could all be banded together."

Walls said he created the sculpture as he was cleared to adopt two boys from Africa who are now ages 2 and 3.

'Charleston Horse' by Jonathan Bowling sits by the visitor's center in Salisbury.



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'Mesozoic Bench' by Charles Pilkey is on display at Livingstone College.

Walls also has “Nave” on display at Livingstone College. He created it four years ago ahead of his honeymoon to Europe, envisioning what older buildings he might see. “Nave” provides interaction. With four seats, it allows observers to sit down and be a part of the sculpture.

Walls said he doesn't sculpt with a particular agenda and is working intuitively, but often his creations reflect what he has



'Cotton Candy Skies' by Jordan Parah sits at the intersection of Kerr and North Lee streets.

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been in the back of his mind. Sculpting helps him understand his future.

Gallucci's "Oak Leaf Arch VII" at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College affords interaction as well. Gallucci focuses on arches and gates, which have functionality and allow viewers to walk under it and interact closely.

"The gates or arches are a wonderful way to be introduced to my art," Gallucci said.

The interpretation of the art is up to the viewer, Parah explains. She wants observers to get a feeling of positivity, but hopes they get their own meaning from the piece.

"Public art does start conversations," Parah said. "Connection with someone is a positive thing."

The show starts in May every year and continues to the end of January. Some of the pieces stay after the shows and become permanent installations. Raker said as the community began to enjoy the sculptures, many were upset to see them leave. The sculptures are here on a lease, and individuals, organizations or businesses can choose to purchase them with all proceeds going directly back to the artists.

Parah's "Swing on a Star" was purchased by the First United Methodist Church. "Jeremiah," by Roger Martin, has become a permanent piece at the intersection of Council and Main streets. Hood Theological Seminary has purchased several pieces from the show. Many more have also stayed.

What a great way to buy art, Gallucci said. It lives with you, and you can see if it fits. Taste the green pepper, and if you want to have more of it, you can.

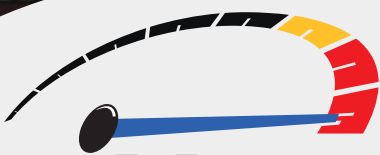
The juxtaposition of the modern sculptures to the historic buildings also makes the show shine.

Raker spoke of a young couple who had stopped in Salisbury and as they were getting off Interstate 85 at Exit 76, they saw the four sculptures, the "Salisbury Foursome." It showed to these young visitors that Salisbury, a historic city, also values things new and innovative.

"I really believe in some way art changes our life," Gallucci says. **S**

'Orange Peel'
by Richard
Pitts is one of
two sculptures
on display at
Rowan-Cabar-
rus Commu-
nity College in
Salisbury.




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Above: 'Hope' by Jim Weitzel sits at Catawba College. **Right:** 'Exploratory Unit 02' by Harry McDaniel is located at 126 W. Innes Street.



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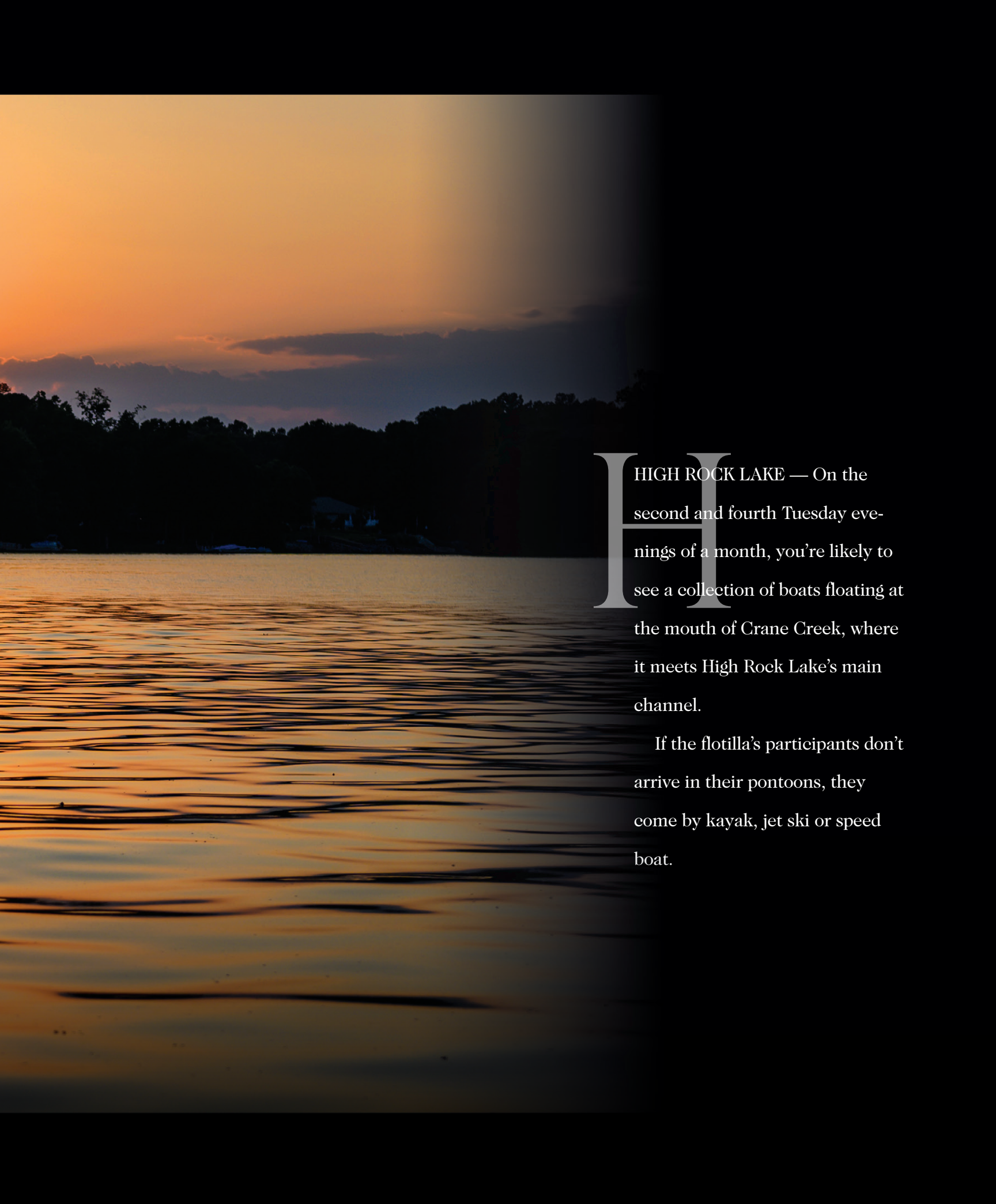
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TUESDAYS ON HIGH ROCK

A bi-weekly flotilla savors food, friendships and sunsets.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Bernadine Hernandez



HIGH ROCK LAKE — On the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of a month, you're likely to see a collection of boats floating at the mouth of Crane Creek, where it meets High Rock Lake's main channel.

If the flotilla's participants don't arrive in their pontoons, they come by kayak, jet ski or speed boat.



Joanne Homan, left, talks with Brenda Cromer, Nikki Koontz and Brenda Stiller during one of the Tuesday night flotillas.

In spring, the Tuesday gatherings start at 6 p.m. In summer, when the days are longer and stickier, they move the start time back to 6:30 p.m.

"We're usually the first ones out here," Shirley Price says of her and husband Ron, who tries to find a stopping point best lined up with the sunset to come later in the evening.

"The sunsets are just unbelievable," says one of their passengers, Joanne Homan.

As the other pontoons come in one by one, drop anchor and tie up to another boat, they try to align the side doors of their vessels so people can move from one to another after they're lashed together.

"The fun is walking from one boat to another and keeping your balance," Homan says.

Many of the boats pop open their umbrellas to cut any lingering heat and glare from the sun.

"Some people come in real slow, then David (Simmons) comes in like a bat out of hell," Shirley Price says, smiling.

Several of the flotilla regulars are neighbors and travel in their boats together. The passengers on David Simmons' boat include his wife, Carole; Cindy Hart; Galen Smith; Judy Behrooz; and Nancy Graham.

"We come, we drink, we socialize, we eat ..." one of the flotilla members explains of how things work.

"And we finish with a sunset," Leigh Ann Loeblein says.

Leigh Ann and husband Tom have been High Rock Lake residents for two years. "It's been a great way to meet people," Leigh Ann says of the flotilla, which has an open-boat policy that welcomes all.

The bi-weekly Tuesdays usually attract about 15 to 20 people.

"Our crowd is ever-changing, according to people's



Pontoons arrive one by one near the mouth of Crane Creek.

schedule,” Hart says.

On this particular evening some newcomers arrive on a boat called the Aqua Patio, and the four women are heartily welcomed. They include Amy Rowland, Nikki Koontz, Brenda Stiller and Brenda Cromer.

The group’s Facebook page goes by the name High Rock Bi-Monthly “Floatilla,” with the emphasis on floating. Shirley Price does a good job of updating it and reminding folks of the next gathering, or if it has to be canceled.

The flotilla has had an amazing track record of good fortune. “I think only one time we’ve had rain,” Shirley says.

The Tuesday evening flotillas usually start up again in April, after a winter’s break, and extend into October.

The brainchild of Shirley Price, the flotilla started about five years ago and grew out of a “Goat Island Gala” where many of the couples

Joanne Homan, left, and Shirley Price sit in the pontoon boat as they head back to the Prices’ pier after another flotilla.



and families would meet once a year to have a hot dog cookout, swim and socialize.

Some of the flotilla participants can be counted on for certain food items. Wendy Fowler often brings her pound cake, still warm from the oven. Norma Gragg always supplies doughnut

holes. Hart never fails to make pigs in a blanket.

“I’ve been told I can’t come if I don’t bring them,” Hart says. “David says that’s admittance to the boat. I can’t come unless I have the pigs.”

It’s always BYOB — bring your own beverage.



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From right, Leigh Ann Loeblein, Galen Smith and David Simmons prepare a table for food.

Conversations never seem to stop. Often, the men gravitate to one boat and the women to another.

“Some of us like to swim, and some don’t,” Shirley Price adds.

After a while, the various foods begin to emerge, as a couple of tables are set aside for offerings such as chicken wings, bacon-wrapped chicken, pasta salad, sandwiches and sliders, meatballs, potatoes, roasted vegetables, watermelon, cheese sticks and dip.

Elsewhere a dessert table also is made ready. The Prices make sure utensils are available if needed, and folks walk from boat to boat sampling anything they want.

“All right, that’s our garbage bag, we’re ready,” Shirley announces in hanging up a trash bag for the stuff that will be discarded.

The conversations continue throughout, as the boats gently rock on the water and, because it’s a weekday, there are hardly any waves from passing boats.

“The weekdays out here are the best,” Behrooz says.

The discussions touch, of course, on about anything. Naturally, the talk turns at times to lake-related issues such as water quality, lake

levels, boating licenses, swimsuits and weekend traffic.

David Simmons tries to judge the enthusiasm others might have for a possible weekend boat excursion and cookout up the river to Potts Creek, where “you can see and hear Linwood Yard.”

“Sometimes we go as far as the Pump Station,” Simmons says.

The group laughs and trades stories, such as recalling Nancy Graham’s kayak adventure when a fish jumped into her life jacket. Carole Simmons describes the time David set up a tripod to videotape his skating on the lake during the winter — and how it didn’t end well.

“No matter how thick it is, ice is hard,” David says of his fall.

Many of the couples — and the women, in particular — do other things together. Several of the women play tennis regularly, or go to the movies. They have traveled to the State Fair by train. They have toured Raleigh by Segway, and they’ve enjoyed a day trip to the Childress Vineyards in Davidson County.

“It’s such a fun and social community at High Rock Lake — a hidden gem of Rowan County,” says Leigh Ann Loeblein.



From left, Nancy Graham, Carole Simmons, Leigh Ann Loeblein, Cindy Hart and Judy Behrooz talk and wait for the sunset.



Amy Rowland watches the sunset.



Ron Price, right, throws a rope to Nikki Koontz so that she can tie their pontoons together.



It blows Ron Price's mind at times when he realizes some people from Salisbury have never been to the lake — and it's only 20 minutes away.

From left, Cindy Hart, Nancy Graham and Galen Smith wait to eat as the food is set out during the flotilla.

Things always get a little quieter on the flotilla as the group realizes it's in for another spectacular sunset over the water. The prettiest ones always have a good mix of clouds, Leigh Ann Loeblein says.

It's one of those great parts of the day that residents here never take for granted. "High Rock is the best-kept secret," Graham says. **S**



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Ron Price, left, and David Simmons start to raise the anchor as the sun sets on High Rock Lake.

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*On a land safari, Bob and
Stephanie Potter spotted this
giraffe.*

South Africa!

Salisbury couple's trip of a lifetime encompasses breathtaking views, safari wonders, great wines.

Story by **Bob Potter** | Photography by **Bob and Stephanie Potter**

REMINISCE



Stephanie and Bob Potter stopped for this picture in the Franschhoek Valley of South Africa.

Owning and operating a wine shop in Salisbury for the past nine years has been an interesting and rewarding experience. In addition to our day-to-day functions, my wife Stephanie and I also meet with a variety of people from all over the world, including vendors, wine makers and winery owners in an effort to bring unique boutique wines to our store.

In 2015, we were searching for a new portfolio of South African wines to replace our existing inventory. In October of that year, we met with Andy Woolgar, sales representative with Rickety Bridge Winery of Franschhoek, South Africa. We tasted the wines and immediately gave an order for our first shipment.

As Woolgar left our store, he informed us the winery was holding a competition: The retail business selling the most Rickety Bridge wine in North Carolina over the next six months would win a trip to the winery. We looked at each other and laughed. How can a small wine shop in Salisbury compete with larger ones in Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh and other larger N.C.

cities?

Six months later, we learned we were the top retail store of Rickety Bridge wines and had won the trip. We took that trip in February 2017 and spent eight days divided between Cape Town and Rickety Bridge in Franschhoek. Although the experience was amazing, eight days was too short a time to really enjoy this beautiful area of the world and we vowed to one day return for a longer stay.

Shortly after we came back to Salisbury, Rickety Bridge held another competition for a trip to the winery, but this time it lasted for 12 months. Once again, we were the top retail wine store. Our second trip to South Africa came in March and covered 30 days.

We landed in Cape Town about 28 hours — and 8,000 miles — after departing Charlotte. Cape Town is a port city located in the southwestern part of the country in an area known as the Western Cape. The area is bordered by the Atlantic and Indian oceans on two sides and mountains toward the inland side. The climate is Mediterranean, and since South Africa is located in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are opposite of North America. While North Carolina was ending winter in March, South



Africa was ending the summer months.

Cape Town is home to the Victoria and Albert Waterfront, a mixed-use development including residential and commercial properties, restaurants, retail stores, marinas and entertainment. There is a small amphitheater centrally located and, if you're lucky, you can watch plenty of performers.

Musicians and musical groups set up and entertain passersby throughout the waterfront area, and it's from here one also can see Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.

Simon's Town, a southern suburb of Cape Town, is home to the South African Navy and also the African penguin. The penguin is about two feet tall and lives at Boulders Beach in Simon's Town. One section of the beach is roped off to prevent people from upsetting the penguins. However, there is a neighboring public beach where people and penguins swim together.

Just outside of Simon's Town is Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope. This picturesque



Top: *The Potters took this photo of South Africa's Cape of Good Hope, at the tip of the African continent.*

Above: *An elephant and her calf stroll close to the safari's Jeep.*

REMINISCE

area is popular with tourists and outdoor enthusiasts. Hiking trails take you from the water to the summits of both capes, where the views are absolutely breathtaking.

After a week in the Cape Town area, we traveled north to the village of St. Lucia for our first safari.

St. Lucia is located about 150 miles north of Durban on the Indian Ocean. We chose St. Lucia because of the large population of hippopotamuses residing there. A two-hour boat tour up the inlet to Lake St. Lucia gave us a tremendous look at how the hippo lives in this habitat. What's more interesting is each night the hippos leave the water and wander into town to feed on grass lawns.

Our next stop was the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Game Reserve, where we would be doing our land safaris.

Our lodging was just outside the Zululand Safari Lodge, a private game reserve. We arrived in the



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REMINISCE



dark and drove about a mile to our hut. On the way, we were greeted by a small herd of zebra grazing on the side of the road.

While we ate that night at the lodge restaurant, three monkeys ran in, jumped on the buffet table, grabbed some food and ran off. Welcome to the bush.

The Potters' camera caught this lion, lazing in the bush.

We met our guide at 5 a.m. to embark on our first land safari. The safari vehicle is a modified truck with open sides and a canvas roof. The animals are exposed to these vehicles enough that they are not threatened by them. With this knowledge,

the driver can get very close to most animals in their natural habitat without spooking them.

Once we entered the game reserve, it wasn't long before we started seeing the animals. The first we saw were cape buffaloes lying in a mud hole. This was followed by giraffes, elephants, white rhinoceroses and kudu. On subsequent safaris, we saw many of the same but also lions, wart hogs, impala, wildebeest and a host of other species we never knew existed.

Seeing these animals in their natural habitat is absolutely amazing.

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After the safari expeditions, we flew back to Cape Town and drove to Franschhoek for our stay at Rickety Bridge Winery. The winery was established in 1797 with many of the original buildings still in use today. The name comes from the wooden bridge that once crossed the Franschhoek River that borders the winery property.

The Franschhoek Valley was once home to herds of elephants that roamed the valley. Settled in the late 1600s by the French Huguenots, the valley is now home to about 50 wineries and also recognized as the culinary capital of South Africa.

The French influence continues today and can be seen in the cuisine and wine-making. The architecture in the area and spreading throughout the Western Cape is not French, as you would expect, but Dutch and results from the earlier Dutch settlers in the Cape.

We also stayed at a neighboring farm to Rickety Bridge, La Provence, owned by Carin and Johan van Rensburg.

A sweeping view of the Hluhluwe-Umfolozzi Game Reserve.



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REMINISCE

Along with grapevines, Johan has a peach orchard. He explained he lost his entire peach crop this year because of baboons stealing the fruit.

Baboons are numerous in the area and considered pests.

The trees on the mountainous ridge behind Rickety Bridge have been cleared in an effort to keep baboons away from the vineyard. This has driven the animals to higher elevations, but still close enough that you can hear them barking during the night.

They also continue to venture to the lower elevations and cause havoc with grapes and other fruit crops.

A popular destination for locals and vacationers alike, the Franschhoek Village Market

During their land safari, Stephanie and Bob Potter came across these rhinos.



is held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday. Here, vendors set up booths to sell a variety of goods including food, spices, jewelry, artwork and clothing. At tables, you can enjoy a glass of wine, food and listen to live music. A bocce

court also is tucked between booths and used extensively during the market's open hours.

One of the other attractions of Franschhoek is a wine tram. The tram runs over old railroad tracks to transport riders to a wide variety of



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Left: A lone hippo peeks from waters near St. Lucia. **Right:** At Boulders Beach in Simon's Town, the African penguins often swim with the visiting public. Here, Stephanie Potter makes friends with two of the penguins.

wineries in the area. Tickets cover up to eight different wineries, where you can tour the property, enjoy wine tastings and sample their food.

Spending time in South Africa has been among our best international travel experienc-

es. Friends ask us what was the best part of the trip. We answer that every part of it was the best. Each segment of the trip was wonderful and added to the entire experience. But like our first visit to South Africa, this one wasn't long

enough.

It looks like we'll just have to go back again.

Bob and Stephanie Potter own Salisbury Wine Shop at 106 S. Main St. [S]

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SALISBURY
 the magazine

the Scene



Above: Betty and James Chunn in back with their daughter Sherina Steele, right, and their grandson, Dyllion Steele. Right: The festival was a good time to sign up for the Cheerwine Fan Club.



Nicholas Hunsucker, Jane Hunsucker, Jonathan Jarrell and Lizzie Jarrell

Cheerwine Festival

The third annual Cheerwine Festival, celebrating the Salisbury-born soft drink and the town it grew up in, drew an estimated crowd of 50,000 people to downtown Salisbury during the daylong event May 18. The festival featured live music, headlined by Smash Mouth, and streets filled with vendors, food, drink and entertainment for the young and old.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Above: The Tostanoski family traveled to the Cheerwine Festival from Chapel Hill. They include Edward IV, Shannon, Edward and Scott. Left: Linda and Frederick Hargon. Right: Logan Brooks with his daughter, Mia.





Janiyah Fomond, Za'kiya Oglesby, Shelese Johnson and Keianna Holliday



Above: Lisa Cerda and Joni Taloute
Below: Dressed for the occasion, Evan Wall and his mom, Ginny Wall, take in the festival.



De'Mareya Bottoson and De'Juan Bottoson Jr. with Denise Vaughters



Above: Lauren and Patrick Weddington

Below: Hannah Jones and her mother, Sharon, drove from Lexington to attend the festival.



Amanda and Jonathan Todd with Kate Steiner pose on the Square with Zach and Courtney Riggan and their children Josh, Audrey, Avery and Natalie.



Left: Carson, Amy, Cannon, Corbin and Daniel Blevins. Right: Michael and Julie Watson of Charlotte.





Above: Connie Christy with Weslyn Christy.
Right: Terri Stevenson, Nikishe Leake, Vincia Miller, Sherri Hill and Natalie Currie



Above: Sue Pinkston and Marsha Wood. Right: Rasetta and Deanna Parks



Above: Families First Executive Director Jeannie Sherrill, right, with Fred and Alice Stanback. Right: Linda and Carl Brown



Nolena McCowan and Baohannah Lee

Flip-flops & Flamingos

The fifth annual Flip-flops & Flamingos celebrated the 25th anniversary of Families First-NC Inc. The event, held at the F&M Trolley Barn, included food, drinks, a silent auction and live music by Top Shelf. Several longtime heroes of the organization were recognized.

— Photos by Nancy Shirley



Above: Magellan and Cindy Stevenson.
Left: Yetta Taylor



Hilary St. Louis, David St. Louis, Samantha Helms, Drew Miles and Angel Walker



Mark and Jolene Steele with Melonie Thompson



Mary Willis Page



Sylvia and Frank Bailey



Left: Natalie and Marlee Murphy. Right: Jimmy Thompson



Right: Families First supporters Joyce and Joel Goodwin



Rita Kotarsky

the Scene



Above: Jimmy Garrett. Right: Joe Sebastian, Abby Wilhelm, Ally Wilhelm, Carol Wilhelm, Chloe Monroe, Brent Monroe, Patsy Everhart, Lisa Monroe, Todd Harkey, Donna Johnson and Sandy Canup.



Jerry Miller, Judy Miller, Jim Garrett and Scott Goodman

St. Paul's Cruise 'n Barbecue

St. Paul's Lutheran Church held its ninth annual Cruise 'n Barbecue at the church, 205 St. Paul's Church Road. The beautiful spring day featured classic cars, street rods and motorcycles, along with Port-a-Pit Chicken and giveaways. Proceeds benefited St. Paul's Helping Hands Ministry.

— Photos by William Deal



Above: Anna Robertson. Left: Delores Stanley, Karen Deal, Libby Bingham and Teresa Linker. Right: A driver and his show car find a place to park.



From left: Franda and Frankie Raymer; Kenny Mederros and Alyssa George; Jimmie Deal.



Lauren Whisnant, Wayne Taylor, Linda Lyerly and Lindsey Whisnant



Jackie Miller, Sharon Wooten and Dale Wooten



Joyce Morris, Jill Earnhardt, Tim Deal and Perry Earnhardt



Alan Wyemelt, Gina Wilhelm, Nathaniel Wilhelm and Dillon Davis



The Nolans: Chris, Laurie, Landon, Jemma, Duane and Travis.



Bonnie Bost



Just one of the many outstanding cars at the St. Paul's Cruise 'n Barbecue.

Carolyn Cress,
Linda Shirley,
Evan Harkey
and Allyson
Harkey



Dennis Teaster



Tim
Woodie,
Betty
Duncan,
Harold
Driver
and Tim
Duncan



Jack Seybold had a hole-in-one on the 17th.



The Co-Presenting Partner was the Facility Systems Service Team of Robert Kinley, Chase Overcash, Brandon Shirley, Luke Overcash, Nick Sarif and Greg Groce.



Erik Lipscomb, Jeff Childress, Bryan Overcash and Matt Barr

Campbell Golf Classic

The 21st annual John Campbell Memorial Golf Classic raised \$130,000 for the Wallace Cancer Center on the campus of Novant Health Rowan Medical Center.

The event, hosted by the Rowan Medical Center Foundation, along with presenting sponsors Vannoy Construction and Facility Systems Services Inc., was held May 2-3 at the Country Club of Salisbury. It drew over 275 participants, a record for the tournament.

Since its founding, the golf tournament has raised over \$2 million for Rowan Medical Center, said Kristen Trexler, the foundation's manager of program development. The tournament is named for John A. Campbell, the first executive director of the foundation.

This year a par-3 tournament was added the night before the big tournament. More than 40 golfers competed, then enjoyed an evening cook-out.

Each dollar raised from tournament proceeds will be added to the foundation's \$12 million capital campaign for the Wallace Cancer Center, which was at 72 percent of its goal. Once completed, the center will contain all current cancer services in one convenient location.

— Photos courtesy of Kristen Trexler



Left: Overall Campbell Classic Champions: Ryan Smith, Greg Davis, Cole Parsons and Brian Parker. Right: Katie Menees





Danielle Corriher, Tracey Baird and Leighanne Dorton



The Novant Health Rowan team: Lewis Goldsmith, Ross Hemp, Jay Streater, Jason Myers, Dari Caldwell, Gary Blabon, Ken Mowery and Mike Fisher.



Perry Hood with grandsons David and Christopher Derrick and their dad, Mark.



The Championship Flight Winners: Kaley Barts, Tyler Mulkey, Lee Frick and Chip Comadoll.



Sean Anderson, Chris Fowler, Craig Powers and Mike Morris



The Gold Committee co-chairmen, Branyon Williams and Chris Fowler, present the oversized check for \$130,000 to the hospital's Gary Blabon.



Libby Fowler and Jane Rowland headed the committee planning the membership meeting.



Mary Roakes, a member of the hospital auxiliary, stands with Diana Keith, right, whose home was the backdrop for the wine-and-cheese social.



Betty Roof, Kristen Trexler and Carolyn Hood



Auxiliary President Jane Creech stands with Sandy Morrison, who manages the hospital gift shop for the auxiliary.



Folks attending the membership meeting of the Novant Health Rowan Medical Center Auxiliary posed for a group picture at the home of host Diana Keith.



Above: Karen Wenker, Barbara Waggoner and Zandra Spencer. Right: Martha Bostian and Adrienne Rich



Hospital auxiliary membership meeting

The annual membership meeting of the Novant Health Rowan Medical Center Auxiliary was held at the Lake Drive home of Diana Keith. The auxiliary members and their guests enjoyed a wine-and-cheese social and heard updates from President Jane Creech on how the 83-year-old organization continues its support of the hospital through donations, volunteerism and continuing responsibility for the gift shop.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Left: Nancy Linn and Carole Simmons. Above: Lynn Henderson and Toni Kenerly



In front: Claire Bober, Linda Miller, Sue Shultz and Terry Schultz. In back: Howard Everhart and Steve Miller.



In front, Bill and Crystal Martin, Angie Wingler and Eric Shaver found good seats in the Back Shop not far from one of the museum's displays.

Carmen and Larry Swindel



Pops at the Post



Leslie Manning Masingo with her dad, Lou Manning

The Salisbury Symphony once again dazzled a large crowd attending the 15th annual Pops at the Post, which for the first time was held at the N.C. Transportation Museum because of pending construction for Bell Tower Green. The future park is located across from the regular concert stage site, the Salisbury Post's loading dock. Some people tail-gated on the museum grounds prior to the concert, which took place inside the massive Back Shop.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Gloria Thompson and Mildred Harris wait for the concert to begin.



Tiffani Logan, Brandon Boyd, Crystal Boyd, Heather Boyd, Brad Boyd, Amanda James, Tatum James and Ashley Boyd relax under their big tent before the concert.



Beau Branch and his mom, Sarah



Emmaline Goodnight, Amy Goodnight, Melissa Heilig, Mary Wymbys and Elizabeth Applewhite



Dancing Tomato Girls with Rev. Jennie Hamrick, third from the left, during last year's Woodleaf Tomato Festival. This year's event is Aug. 17.
— Wayne Hinshaw photo

3 Annual All Ford Show
Aug. 3: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. This car show is open to all Fords and all Ford orphans. One of the museum's largest car shows, it usually features over 100 cars and continues to grow each year. To register your vehicle, call 704-636-2889 ext. 268.

7 Salisbury National Night Out
Aug. 7: various neighborhoods in Salisbury — The National Night Out returns to Salisbury neighborhoods in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation and Salisbury Police departments. They are expected to welcome residents at different locations around Salisbury. Everyone who is a part of this event is encouraged to post photographs on social media with the hashtag #SalisburyNightOut. For more information visit <http://salisburync.gov/>.

8 Thursdays on Main: The Embers
Aug. 8: Veterans Park, 119 N. Main St., Kannapolis — 6-9 p.m. The last of the summer's evening music series features a free

August 2019

Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

performance by The Embers. Held under the oak trees, dinner will be available for purchase, or attendees can bring their own picnics.

10 Brew and Choo Craft Beer Festival
Aug. 10: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — This family-oriented, craft beer festival will feature a train ride with quality craft beers, the music of country singer Darrell Harwood, craft beer vendors, food trucks from across the region and fun family games. Admission into the festival is \$5 for 21 and older and free for anyone else. For train rides, coach seating for 21 and older is \$12 and includes a souvenir tasting glass, salty snack, and two 4-ounce beer samples. For anyone under 21, coach seating features a souvenir logo

cup, Cheerwine, and a salty snack. For more information on regular seating and purchasing tickets, go to www.nctrans.org.

10 Annual All GM Show
Aug. 10: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — This show will feature classic to modern Chevys, Pontiacs, Buicks, Corvettes, Camaros, Firebirds, Impalas, Bel-Airs, and other models. Register your vehicle by calling 704-636-2889 ext. 268.

10 Concert in the Park: Rick Springfield
Aug. 10: Village Park, 700 W. C St., Kannapolis — 7-10 p.m. The night features Rick Springfield in concert and a fireworks nightcap.

Free admission, no tickets required. Blankets, lawn chairs and picnics/coolers are permitted, and concessions will be available for purchase. The Beer and Wine tent will be open during concerts for alcohol sales. ID is required. No pets, tobacco, grilling, glass bottles or outside alcohol should be brought in. Coolers will be checked at several entry points. Parking is available at the outer parking lots along Dale Earnhardt Boulevard and down West C Street.

16 Carolina Bohemian Jam: The Ultimate Hippie Tribute

Aug. 16-18: Rowan County Fairgrounds, Julian Road — Carolina Bohemian Jam is a three-day arts and music festival celebrating the era of music that would influence generations to come. It features dozens of tribute bands from the 1960s and 1970s, including The Who, Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson Airplane and many more. This event is rain or shine. For more information on purchasing tickets visit <http://www.carolinabohemianjam.com/>.

17 Strides for Stroke 5k

Aug. 17: downtown Kannapolis — 8 a.m. The 5th annual Strides for Stroke 5k, presented by Atrium Health, was rescheduled to this date. It's part of the Run Kannapolis 5K Race Series. No matter how young or old, fast or slow, this is an event for everyone. The run brings awareness and support for local stroke survivors and their families. All proceeds from this event will benefit Cabarrus Stroke Support Group. Register at runkannapolis.com.

17 Woodleaf Tomato Festival

Aug. 17: 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. There will be 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 call 704-278-4248.

17 Three Rivers Land Trust River Dance

Aug. 17: F&M Trolley Barn, 125 E. Liberty St. — 6 p.m. Come celebrate with your friends and family while also giving back to local conservation. This Three Rivers Land Trust event will highlight local farms and flavors with catering provided by Morgan Ridge, along with a live auction and a DJ that will bring everyone to the dance floor. This year, Three Rivers Land



A representative from Morgan Ridge Railwalk pours a pitcher of Honey Train IPA during last year's Brew & Choo. This year's event is Aug. 10.

Trust is honoring North Carolina's iconic symbols and the unique treasures that we all know and love. Make sure to register today because seats are limited.

17 Golden Valley Crusaders

Aug. 17: Price of Freedom Museum, 2420 Weaver Road, China Grove — 6 p.m. This year, the Price of Freedom Museum will be hosting an Old School Gospel concert series, and the Golden Valley Crusaders are next on tap.

18 Blankets and Bluegrass

Aug. 18: Hall House, 226 S. Jackson St., Salisbury — Don't miss out on the third annual Blankets and Bluegrass at the Hall House. Sponsored by Historic Salisbury Foundation. Featured bands are the Trailblazers and Destiny Bluegrass. For more information, visit <https://www.historicsalisbury.org/tours/blankets-and-bluegrass>. A list of bands will be posted on the HSF website.

22 History on Tap

Aug. 22: Salisbury Station, 215 Depot St. — 6-8 p.m. Join Historic Salisbury Foundation for the summer's last in the His-

tory on Tap series, with The Salisbury Station Catacombs. Ever wondered what lies beneath the 1908 Salisbury Station? Venture into the tunnels if you dare! You will receive a tour and two tickets for New Sarum beer samples. This event is free, but donations are welcome! Suggested donation — \$10. A waiver must be signed and flat, closed toe shoes are suggested. No strollers. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Receive your two tickets for free craft beer samples at the third event by filling out the RSVP Form on HSF's website.

22 Downtown Salisbury's College Night Out

Aug. 22: downtown Salisbury — 6-9 p.m. Come enjoy live music, games, shuttles, free giveaways and more. The 6th annual College Night Out will be held on West Fisher Street between Main Street and Church Street.

23 Southern Women's Show

Aug. 23-25: Charlotte Convention Center — This year, discover hundreds of boutiques with all the latest fashions, trendy jewelry, gourmet treats, health and beauty tips, and much more. Come join in on the fun with mother-daughter look-alike contests, fashion shows, and celebrity guests. Bring your mom, sister, or best friend and join in on the fun. For more information visit <https://southernshows.com/wch/>.

24 Kaleidoscope Art Festival & Zombie Walk

Aug. 24: North Research Campus Drive, Kannapolis — 4-8 p.m. The 4th annual Kannapolis Arts Zombie Walk and Arts Festival will celebrate Halloween early with people dressing up in costume to get into the Halloween spirit and at 7:30 p.m. will feature a zombie walk around the North Carolina Research Campus.

27 Escape Room

Aug. 27 and 29: Rowan Public Library, 201 W. Fisher St., Salisbury — Imagine you are a conservationist trying to track down animal smugglers who are targeting endangered species in North Carolina. You find their hideout, but the door closes behind you and you're suddenly trapped. Can you save the animals, find evidence to bring the smugglers to justice, and escape all in an hour? Now's your chance to find out at the Rowan Public Library. For more information visit <https://www.rowancountync.gov/calendar>.

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'REBECCA AT THE WELL'

By Rebecca Little

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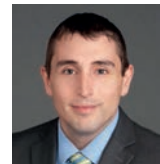
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