

September 2016

SALISBURY

the magazine

sister act

Lily and Grace Yatawara
are close on and off
the golf course

50 candles

Salisbury Symphony
celebrates milestone

THE WILD LIFE

Photographer Wayne Wrights

BUILT TO LAST

*Norvell's home reflects
their personalities*

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Golden anniversary

Salisbury Symphony celebrates 50 years of beautiful music.

by SUSAN SHINN

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Strokes of genius

Lily and Grace Yatawara carry on family sporting tradition.

by MIKE LONDON

On this page: A cello sits ready to play during a recent rehearsal by the Salisbury Symphony. **On the cover:** Lily and Grace Yatawara strike a pose at the driving range. — Photos by Jon C. Lakey.

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All of us should be like Mike

In this month's issue, you will find an incredibly interesting story about sisters Lily and Grace Yatawara. These young women represent a crop of youthful Rowan County golfers who have been making names for themselves over the past several years in junior and adult amateur tournaments, as high school champions and on Division I college teams.

The Yatawaras' story is a little bit different because of the family connection to their father's native Sri Lanka and their late grandfather, who everybody called "Joy," an accomplished sportsman and businessman in the country once known as Ceylon.

There is no better person to write about Joy, the Yatawaras' accomplishments in golf and their personal journeys than Mike London, a longtime sportswriter for the Salisbury Post.

In August, Mike was inducted into the Rowan County Sports Hall of Fame, an honor so deserved I don't know where to start. No one works harder at his job than Mike. No one can bring alive the history of local sports and the game heroes of yesteryear the way Mike does, and no one knows more about the kids who play local sports today than Mike.

To realize how revered London is among young athletes, all you have to know is that he has 5,614 Twitter followers. On Twitter, London is constantly giving shout-outs to kids for their sports accomplishments, letting people know how former high school stars are doing in college and, on game nights, virtually providing play-by-play accounts of the action he is covering.

As the writer of a game story or sports feature, London has few equals. On top of all that, he is a good guy, as most everyone involved in sports in Rowan County has come to know over the past two decades.

Mike's story about the Yatawaras is his first for Salisbury the Magazine, and you'll see why I hope it's not the last.

Elsewhere in this September issue, frequent contributor Susan Shinn fills us in on the 50-year — yes, 50 — history of the Salisbury Symphony and why it stands as such a community treasure.

Thanks to Deirdre Parker Smith, you'll smell the meat cooking at McLaughlin's store, and with writer Amanda Raymond's help, you'll feel like you're looking through the camera lens with local photographer



Wayne Wrights, who goes to great lengths to capture his pictures of wildlife.

Elizabeth Cook and Jon Lakey take us to the handsomely historic Salisbury home of Ed and Susan Norvell. This month's Rowan Original is author-playwright-actress-teacher Jennifer Hubbard, who finds that her hometown of Salisbury is still a pretty good fit.

Look for the story on Salisbury's efforts a century ago to light up the night. This also is the time of year some young women go off to college for the first time, and Ester Marsh recently offered important tips on how to stay safe.

Before you tackle this issue, a side note: Len Clark, project manager for Salisbury the Magazine, would like to thank all those who submitted answers to his "Countries of the World" quiz in the summer issue of STM. From the best entries (75 found or more), he chose two readers at random to receive a year's subscription to the magazine. Congratulations go to Betty MacLean of Salisbury, with help from son Mark; and Brenda Archer of Rutherfordton.

Both Betty and Brenda sent us nice notes with their hard-earned answers:

"What fun!" Betty wrote. "My son Mark in Seattle and I have had the most fun with this. Of course, we love games, especially ones involving words. We found 76. Great magazine!"

Brenda had this to say:

"I was born in Salisbury in 1942 and graduated from West Rowan High School in 1961. My husband, Willis, is also from Rowan County. He receives Salisbury the Magazine as a gift from my sister and her husband who live in Salisbury. We have lived in Rutherfordton since 1971, where my husband had a pediatric practice for 40 years. We still love Salisbury and your magazine!"

We appreciate the kind words and hope this issue finds all of our readers "Joy"ous. 

Mark Wineka,
Editor, Salisbury the Magazine



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— HOW  REFRESHING —

FOOD  LION

As fall approaches, favorites have new novels

Fall is a time for more serious reading after a summer of beach books. Publishers release some of their best books now.

Fans of North Carolina's Ron Rash can expect another dark, suspenseful tale in "The Risen."

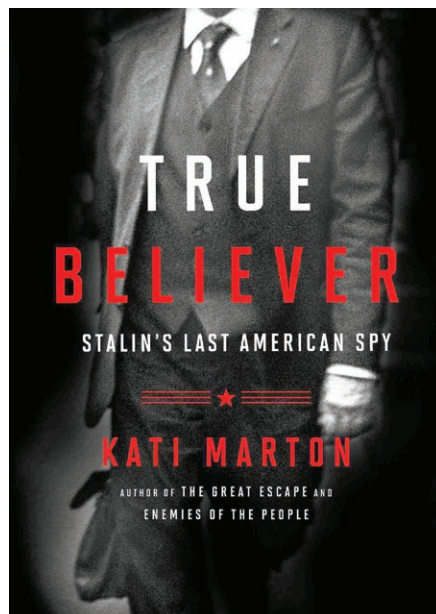
Eugene, 16, and older brother Bill meet the entrancing Ligeia, a sexy, free-spirited woman from Daytona Beach sent to small-town North Carolina for the summer. Ligeia bewitches the brothers and lures them into a struggle that reveals how different they are.

Eugene falls deeply under her spell, drawn by her sensuality and rebellious attitude. Ligeia introduces him to the pleasure and thrills of 1969 counterculture. As that culture turns dark, so does Eugene's romance with Ligeia. When she disappears, the rift between the brothers becomes too deep to cross.

Decades later, Bill is a successful, respected surgeon and Eugene has become the town prostrate with a serious alcohol problem.

A shocking reminder of their past surfaces, plunging Eugene back into that summer. But as he searches his memories, he comes close to finding a truth that could free him or destroy everything.

Jonathan Safran Foer, author of "Everything is Illuminated" and the 9/11 heart-breaker, "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," has written another novel after 11 long years.

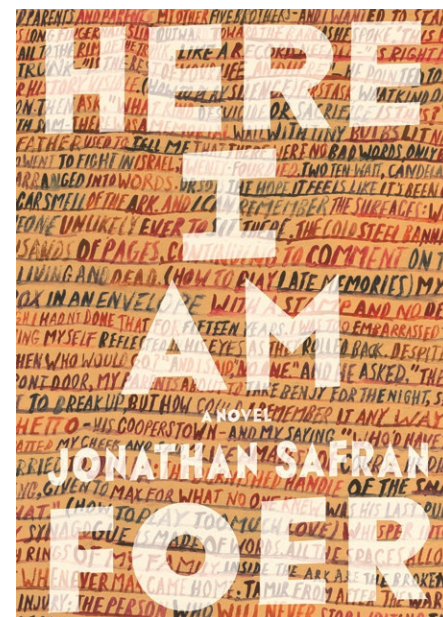


"Here I Am" explores how we fulfill our duties as father, husband and son, wife, mother and child, Jews and Americans. Foer asks how we can claim our own identity when our lives are so entwined with others. The book has been called a work of extraordinary scope and heartbreaking intimacy.

The story takes place over four weeks in Washington D.C. As Jacob and Julia and their three sons are forced to confront the distances between the lives they think they want and the lives they have, a massive earthquake sets in motion an escalating conflict in the Middle East. At stake is the meaning of home.

Foer's inventiveness, his irreverence and emotional urgency blend to create a searching, entertaining, hard-hitting novel that showcases Foer's talent as one of the best writers of his time.

"True Believer," by Kati Marton, is an astonishing, real-life spy thriller, full of dan-



ger, misplaced loyalties, betrayal, treachery and pure evil. It takes place in the 1930s and '40s, when Noel Field, an American who betrayed his country, committed his crimes.

Field spied for Stalin, then became a pawn in Stalin's master strategy. In turn, Field is kidnapped and tortured by the KGB and then forced to testify against his Communist comrades.

How does a man with an Ivy League education, family and a job in the U.S. State Department become a hardcore Stalinist? Perhaps he was a victim of his time, when 10 million Americans were unemployed, racism was rampant and Fascism was gaining ground.

Marton, a historian who has written amazing non-fiction before, has a grasp of the cataclysmic events of the period, and captures Field's quest for a life of meaning that went horribly wrong. **S**

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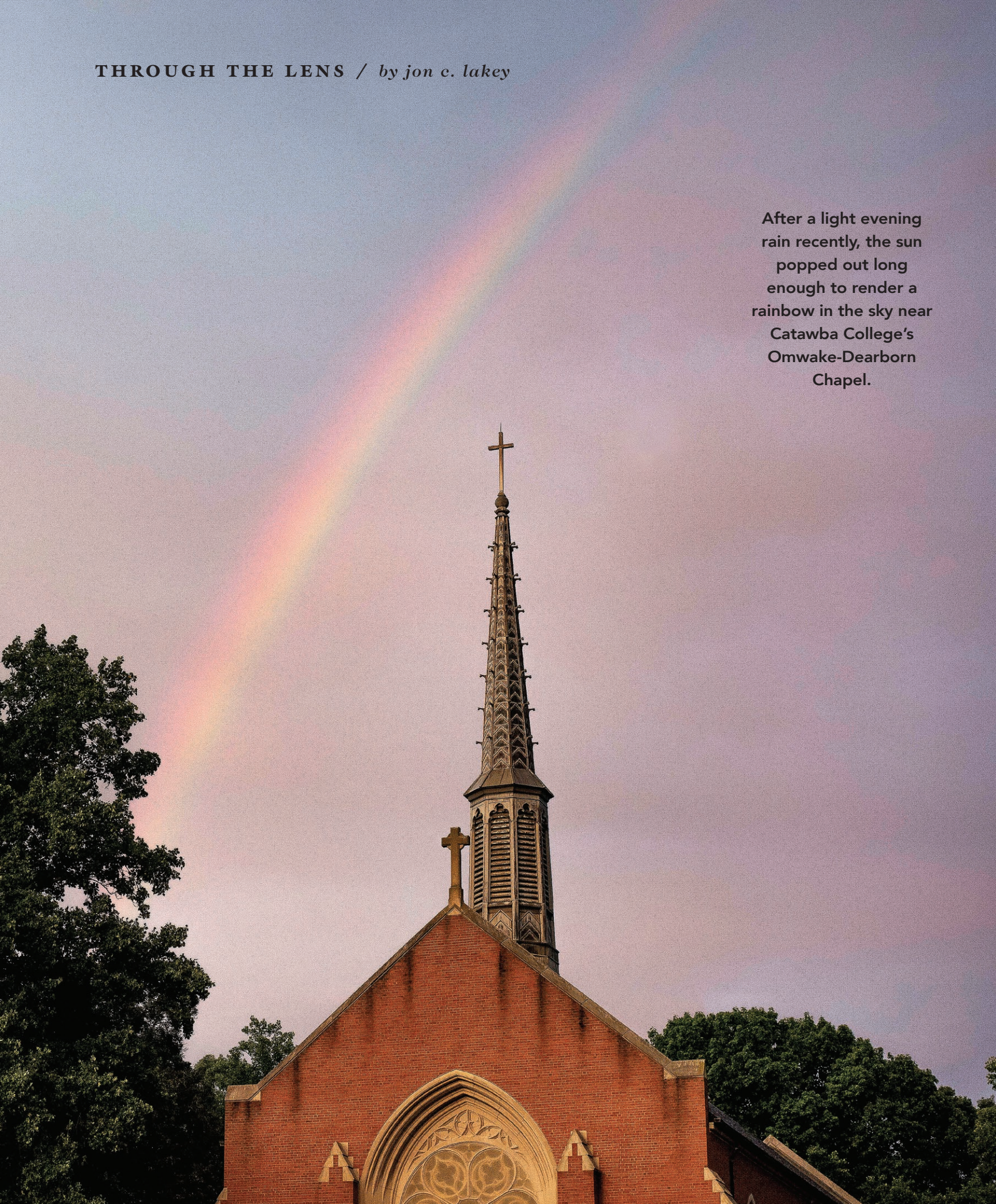
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THROUGH THE LENS / *by jon c. lakey*

After a light evening
rain recently, the sun
popped out long
enough to render a
rainbow in the sky near
Catawba College's
Omwake-Dearborn
Chapel.



Quiet, but brilliant

Jennifer Hubbard finds time to write, act and be a small-town gal. / By MARK WINEKA

If you pick up either one of Jennifer Hubbard's two novels, you'll see it is well thought of — a sticker or medal on the cover says so. You'll also notice she goes by “Jenny,” not Jennifer.

“Jenny” became her writing name, she explains, because there already was a Jennifer Hubbard writing in her genre when her first book, “Paper Covers Rock,” was published. So she answers to both, take your pick.

“Paper Covers Rock” was a finalist for The Morris Award, given by the American Library Association, which honors the best debut novel for teens. Her second novel, “And We Stay,” was named a Printz Honor Book by the American Library Association.

The ALA also bestows the Caldecott and Newbery awards. The Printz is basically the Newbery for books written for teens.

“I’ve known for a while that I’m a gal who prefers to fly under the radar,” Hubbard says. “One reviewer described my books as the quiet but brilliant ones in the corner that get overlooked. I love that.”

Hubbard is a Salisbury native and a product of Overton Elementary, Knox Junior High, Salisbury High, Meredith College and James Madison University. She taught English for 17 years at James Madison University, Catawba College, Woodberry Forest School and Charlotte Country Day School.

Now calling Salisbury home, she volunteers as coordinator of the Summer Reading Challenge and managing director of St. Thomas Players. She also is a literacy tutor

When she is not writing, author Jenny Hubbard spends time taking parts in local theater.



and an Overton School reading buddy. You might have seen her sometimes at the Rowan Public Library reference desk, where she works part-time.

With all this stuff going on, she still finds time to write plays, act in local theater and answer a few questions as a Rowan Original:

Q.

You are someone who has lived in places such as Asheville and Charlotte, yet found your way back to Salisbury. What was it that drew you back home?

The people. My husband (Steve Cobb) and I aren't big-city folks. We both feel more useful in Salisbury than we ever did in Charlotte or Asheville. Here, we are able to invest our individual energies for the common good.

What are you working on now, what is its theme and who will be the audience?

I'm working on two things: a fresh stage adaptation of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" for St. Thomas Players/Lee Street theatre (to be performed in July 2017), and a novel for teens about a 17-year-old girl from a town not unlike Salisbury who falls under the spell of a charismatic but corrupt female teacher during a summer in New York City.

You found a niche in writing for teens, but do you think there's a great American novel still inside of you, wanting to burst out? And if so, what do you think would be the subject?

I don't know about the "great" part, but I do have an adult novel in mind that was inspired by my three weeks on jury duty this past winter. The protagonist is a middle-aged woman who, after her marriage falls apart, goes back to school to become a police officer in a town not unlike Salisbury.

How often do you write, and what have you found is the most productive routine for you?

I used to write six days a week, but now that I'm working part-time at the library, I'm writing a little less often. I'm most productive in the early morning with my coffee and my birdsong and my dog, Oliver, by my side. I can write anywhere, but my favorite place is



Hubbard works part-time at the Rowan Public Library reference desk.

the front-porch swing.

Name three books and/or writers that had the biggest impact on you:

Alice Munro, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and "The Diary of Anne Frank."

What's the biggest lesson or most important thing you took away as a woman teaching at an all-boys boarding school?

When you represent the minority, you have to choose your battles carefully. You can't fight (or win) them all.

You began acting at age 13. What drew you to local theater and why have you never lost a love for it?

Local theater drew me to local theater. When I was in second or third grade, my mom took me and my two sisters to see "The Music Man." After that, I wanted to see everything. I still want to see everything. For me, being on stage is about being an integral part of a team.

It's my sport, so to speak. Theater is storytelling, and that's probably why I love it so.

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

I used to wait tables at Shoney's.

What's your personal pet peeve?

The misuse in print of the words "its" and "it's."

Five words you would use to describe Salisbury:

College-rich, cash-poor, artsy, historic, barbecue-licious.

What two foods are always in your fridge or pantry?

Cheez-Its and peanut butter.

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

Get to know an old person, one not related to you, who lives in your community. **S**



Wayne Wrights travels near and far to photograph wildlife. A cross-country trip to Yosemite National Park and the pictures of famed photographer Ansel Adams inspired a youthful Wrights into a lifelong pursuit of nature photography.

— Photo by Jon C. Lakey.

Living the Wild life

Photographer Wayne Wrights wears camouflage to hide from people, not animals. / *By* AMANDA RAYMOND

Before photographer R. Wayne Wrights sat down for an interview, we left the lobby of the Waterworks Visual Arts Center to the on-street parking out front.

We walked a little ways down the sidewalk to a gray van — his studio, office and sometimes residence on wheels. He pulled the van door open to reveal a made bed on one side and a desk on the other. There was a curtain he could pull across the two front seats to block harmful light coming from the windshield and fabric he could roll down to shade the light coming from the back windows.

Wrights said the insulated van had power cords hooked up so that he could charge his devices at campsites. During trips, Wrights has six cameras — four digital and two film — three tripods and his large format camera, kept in a wooden box with gold latches and handles behind the front passenger seat.

He spent nine weeks in the van last year.

He called it his house.

A West Rowan High School and Rowan Technical College graduate, Wayne Wrights travels away from his Salisbury home and goes around the country taking wildlife, architectural and landscape photographs.

He uses the large format camera for the landscape and architectural shots, which happen to sell better than his wildlife photographs. He also has a passion for black-and-white photography. But that doesn't stop him from pulling out his digital camera and staking out an area at the crack of dawn to capture birds, bears and other animals and displaying them in all their colorfully vibrant glory.

Wrights' love for photography was inspired by a stop during a three-week vacation his family took when he was 16. They visited a gallery in California that featured Ansel Adams, a famous nature photographer and environmentalist.

Wrights was amazed by Adams' black-and-white photographs.

"I thought, 'I'm going to learn to do that one day,'"

Wrights said, back in the lobby of Waterworks, where some of his prints are for sale.

He took a class with John Suther, a former photographer with the Salisbury Post in the mid 1970s. Since then, he has taken classes under different photographers in places as close as Concord and as far as California. He even went to a workshop at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite, Calif.

Wrights said he continued to grow his photographing expertise as he took more classes, but nothing makes perfect like practice. To test his skills, Wrights lured birds to his backyard by anchoring part of a cedar tree to a post. He eventually added a feeder and a birdbath.

"I wanted those birds to live first class," he said.

As his photography expanded beyond his back yard, Wrights quickly learned that taking wildlife photos is no easy feat. On top of experimenting with shutter speeds, lighting, angles, exposure and focus, he had to learn animal behavior.

Wrights talked about animals like he was a narrator on a wildlife television show.

For one thing, animals blink a lot more often than one might think.

"We always see them with their eyes open," Wrights said. "The camera sees different."

The animals always know he is there, Wrights said. They can see and smell you. Cardinals can hear the clicks of the focus ring.

Story continues on page 20.

Bull elk, in Cataloochee Valley
near Maggie Valley, N.C.




Adult
barred owl

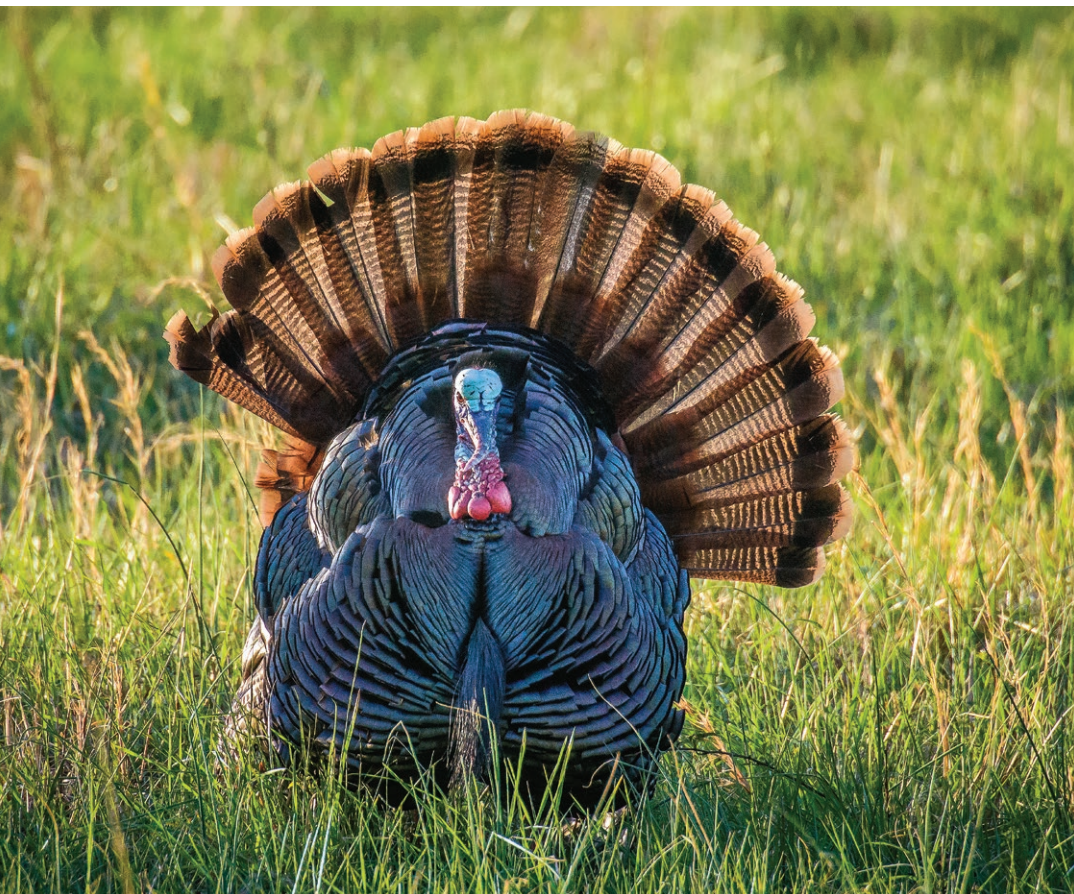


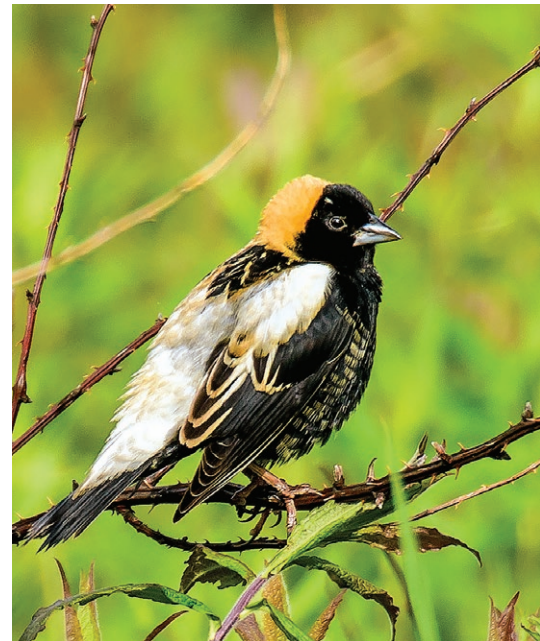
Male cardinal
in the snow.



A male black bear is the central focus of the image, standing in a lush, green forest. The bear's fur is dark and appears thick and slightly damp. It has a prominent hump on its back and is looking directly at the camera with a steady gaze. Its nose is dark and slightly moist, and its mouth is slightly open. The bear is surrounded by various types of vegetation, including ferns, small green plants, and pine needles. The background is a dense thicket of trees and foliage, creating a sense of a wild, natural environment.

Male black bear in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which is one of the largest protected areas in the eastern United States where black bears can live in wild, natural surroundings.





Opposite page: Male whitetail deer with frost on his back; Tom turkey in Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Red tail hawk, one of the most common hawks in North Carolina. The image was taken from Wrights' home in western Rowan County.

Clockwise from above: Adult female red-bellied woodpecker; male goldfinch; bobolink breeding male; a coyote makes a run for it in Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.





Male bluebird on approach.
Image was captured at
Wrights' home in western
Rowan County.

As another example, if a bear starts charging at you and you are within the legal distance, Wrights' advice is to stay still and avoid eye contact. It's probably a bluff charge, and can make for great pictures if you stay put.

"When I see them about to do that, that's when I take the picture," Wrights said.

But of course, Wrights is always cautious. He said he always looks for an escape route, and has scolded other photographers who do potentially dangerous things, like using a flash while taking a picture of a mother bear and her cub.

He once had to grab the photographer next to him and duck behind his van to hide from a charging elk.

"I always look for an escape route," Wrights said.

The hardest part about taking wildlife pho-

tos may be dealing with people. Wrights said he actually wears camouflage to hide from people, not the animals.

He plans his photography trips for the fall, winter and spring months so that he will encounter the least amount of people. Otherwise, they might come up to him and either distract him from a shot or scare the animal away.

He also has to deal with laws that keep him a certain distance away from the animals and say he cannot change the behavior of the animals with his photography.

"I don't want to be barred from a place I'd like to get back to," Wrights said.

His travels have taken him to Maine, Texas, Vermont, Oregon, Georgia and Tennessee, and those are just a few places in a long list.


People aren't all bad. Wrights said there are many times he meets other photographers on

his travels, and he is a member of the Vintage Photographers' Guild of North Carolina.

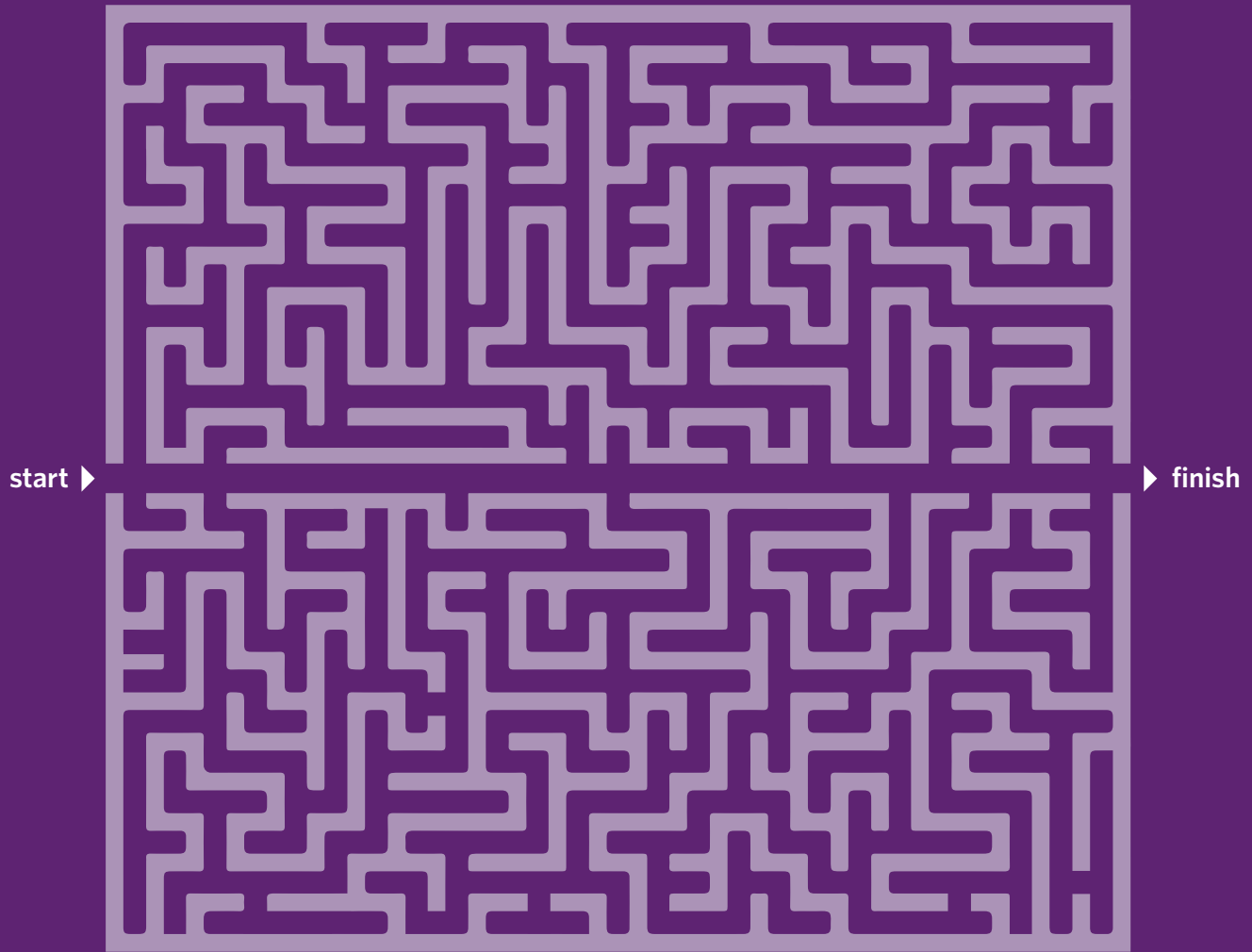
Throughout his career, Wrights has entered his work into competitions and has won numerous awards. He has sold countless prints, which he edits and prints himself. Wrights' photographs can be found from museum galleries to living room walls.

This year, Wrights finally got a good horizontal shot of a coyote in mid-bound. His next goals include getting pictures of a pileated woodpecker and both golden and bald eagles.

For Wrights, the day isn't over until the sun goes down.

"It's a rough life. It really is. But somebody's got to do it though," he said with a laugh. 

Visit Wayne Wrights' website at
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HEALTH



Bill McLaughlin III places a tray of bacon in the showcase next to the homemade sausage in the McLaughlin store.



The meat *of the* matter

McLaughlin's Farmhouse — it's better with family.

Written by DEIRDRE PARKER SMITH

Photography by WAYNE HINSHAW

McLaughlin's Farmhouse Country Store will celebrate its 10th anniversary in December, and you'll find nothing but smiles from everyone who works there. "It's the people," says Bill McLaughlin Jr. "We have met the nicest people. We've made friends with people we would never have known."

Cousin Luellen Masingo agrees. "Meeting the people is the best part," she says. "Some we never see again, but some keep coming back."

It could be the friendly service, or the food — McLaughlin's sausage has been around a while, going back to the days of Gerock's and Pope & Arey in Salisbury.

The family still processes hogs and runs the sausage plant, but if you want to see the family and get sausage at the source, you have to make the trek out N.C. 150, past Lazy 5 Ranch, to the little store with the big tree and deep porch.

Inside, Luellen will greet you, or Bill Jr.'s wife Elaine or a couple of part-time folks. Some people make a beeline for the case holding the sausage — hot or regular — livermush and homemade chicken salad. There's also Amish cheese and Conrad and Hinkle pimento cheese.



Above: Bill McLaughlin Jr. talks about the history of the family-owned store, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in December. The family has been in the sausage business since 1961. Below: McLaughlin's sausage. During the summer, the store makes 1,000 pounds of sausage and 600 pounds of liver-mush each week.



Nearby, Bill III is busy filling orders for pork chops to be sold at a Mooresville farmer's market. He's vacuum sealing pork loin and bringing out delicious looking bacon to go in the display.

Bill III is the fifth generation of McLaughlins in the business. He has three sons, including William IV, who might become generation six. Too early to tell.

They're busy this Tuesday morning. That's the day the orders are prepared so Bill III can deliver them Wednesday and Thursday. It's mid-morning, and a few regulars come in, including an older man who has come to the store about every week it's been open.

"He used to come and get three pounds of sausage every Tuesday. ... Now he comes and gets three pounds of bacon every week," Bill Jr. says.

Joanne McCarran enters the store to get three fresh-cut steaks — big, bright red, beautiful. "It's my son's birthday," she says. "And he wanted surf

and turf. I always come here to get my steaks.”

Out comes a huge tray of bulk sausage for the case. “We make about 1,000 pounds of sausage a week in the summer and about 600 pounds of livermush,” Bill Jr. says. “And more in the winter, that’s our busiest time.”

He says they want to keep their focus as local as possible, or at least limited to North Carolina.

Bill Jr. finished college, came home and went right into the sausage business, which had been in the family since 1961.

“We are definitely a family business,” Bill Jr. says, with a smile. “Ninety percent of the people working for us are family.” It started with his grandfather, then his father, William, then Bill Jr. then Bill III around 2000.

Since the store opened, the McLaughlin family has been a lot busier. “We’ve been blessed with the store,” Bill Jr. says. “It has been a saving grace to us, but it’s been a struggle, we started in a recession. We’ve been blessed and we wanted this to be an asset to the community.”

It’s a community that includes Patterson Farms, Lazy 5, and down the road, Carrigan Farms. Bill Jr. thinks that’s enough to make that section of N.C. 150 a destination.

People from all over come to the store. Bill Jr. and Luellen remember a couple from Pennsylvania who come once or twice a year, taking home 50-60 pounds of sausage.

“They were camping, and there was a restaurant that served our sausage,” Bill Jr. says. “They liked it pretty well, and so now they have to buy it for their friends, too.”

Bill III points out some of the products at the store, including country ham with the McLaughlin label. “That’s made for us by the Goodnight Brothers up in Boone. They do an old-fashioned sugar cure, so it’s not as salty as some ham.”

They’ve got hoop cheese from Ashe County and Bill III has ordered a cutter so they can get a whole hoop and cut it to order, instead of having it prepackaged.

There’s sourdough bread that Luellen and Bill III’s mother, Elaine, make. His wife, Libby, makes an Amish cinnamon bread.

They get milk from Homestead Creamery in glass bottles. They sell biscuit mixes and grits from Atkinson’s and Linney’s Mill. Linney’s makes the cornmeal they use in their

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There are jams, jellies, pickled vegetables of all kinds, including Brussels sprouts, and DeLuxe ice cream from Mooresville.

You will not find tobacco or alcohol. “And we’re closed on Sundays and Mondays,” Bill Jr. adds.

Luellen, who has worked here since the store opened, gets credit for the gift baskets with different themes. There are also gift boxes, such as a breakfast box, which includes sausage, biscuit or pancake mix and jam. “They sell really well at Christmas,” Luellen says.


In 10 years, Bill Jr. says, “we’ve zeroed in on what will sell for us. There’s nothing in this store that we wouldn’t eat.

“People come in here and they ask me if the country ham is good, and I tell them, ‘If it’s in this store, it’s good.’”

Birthing the store wasn’t easy. At first, they thought of just doing an outlet at the plant. “We wanted to do it right. ... The hardest part was knowing what to put in here,” Bill Jr. says. “We had never run a retail business.” They wanted to offer things you couldn’t find at a supermarket or discount store.

On a wall near the fireplace are photos of his great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Silas McLaughlin, then his grandparents — “My grandmother lived to be 103” — and then his parents. Bill Jr.’s one regret is his parents didn’t see the store. “This man here,” he points to his father, “knew how to raise a family. He always found a way.”

Bill Jr. has worked here every day since the store opened. He says Bill III and Luellen keep the place going.

Bill Jr. also has two daughters and 10 grandchildren. “I have a great family,” he says. “It has meant so much to me to have a family business.” 



Above: Luellen Masingo makes gift baskets using products available in the store. Below: McLaughlin’s carries cheese from Ashe County and Troyer.



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BUILT TO LAST

In a sturdy home that has been in the family for generations,
Norvells cherish the past and live for today.

Written by ELIZABETH COOK | *Photography by* JON C. LAKEY



Above: Edward and Susan Norvell sit on the front porch of their South Fulton Street home with their dog, Ajax. Known as the Brown-Coffin House, the structure was built in 1849 by local merchant John Dickson Brown and restored by the Norvells 25 years ago. Below left: Trompe l'oeil painting on the hall ceiling, a method used often in the 19th century, creates the illusion of depth. Below middle: A hydrangea blooms in the Norvells' garden. Below right: After the Norvells bought the house, Susan scrubbed the woodwork to reveal the beauty beneath, such as the grain of the pine handrail in the central staircase. Opposite: A silver plate beneath the hallway mirror holds calling cards, as was the custom when visitors came to call 100 years ago. An antique light fixture similar to the gas fixtures of the period hangs in the living room, where the mantel shows a Greek key pattern and a faux marble finish.





Building a house in Salisbury was so momentous in 1849 that it merited a mention in the local newspaper, as merchant John Dickson Brown learned when he opened the Aug. 23 edition of the *Carolina Watchman*.

“Carpenters’ hammer and saw are briskly plied,” the paper said, “and by the first of January, our Town will be graced by a number of new houses.”

Brown, whose home was going up in the 100 block of South Fulton Street, was listed along with several other men building houses at the time.

“These, when finished ... will add very considerably to the interest and appearance of the Town,” the *Watchman* reported.

Edward Norvell cherishes tidbits like the *Watchman* article. An ardent preservationist, as well as an author and attorney, Edward and wife Susan live in the house that John Dickson Brown built.

When they restored the house in 1990-91, the Norvells were a young couple with two small children playing on the porch hammock or riding their bikes up and down the central hall.

Twenty-five years later, Edward and Susan understand how the sturdy house has stood the test of time, from surviving the Civil War to being set up for Wi-Fi.

“Old houses are part of the fabric of our lives today,” Edward says. “They don’t have to be in the past. They’re usable, friendly, warm places to live.

“And they’re certainly solid.”

The Norvells bought the house from Alice Slater Guille Johnson, a cousin of Edward’s and a descendant of John Dickson Brown.

Susan’s father, contractor D.C. Linn, crawled under the house to inspect its condition and found enormous, hand-hewn beams in good shape. “You don’t find that today,” Susan says.

Edward’s great-grandmother Mary Overman had lived three doors down on the corner of Fulton and Innes. A Linn family once lived next door.



Top: The dining room, added in 1857, includes a chandelier original to the house and wallpaper that replicates a mid-19th century pattern found in the Hall House. Above left: A curio cabinet holds items that have belonged to family members through the years, including jewelry and a stick pin shown in a nearby portrait, mourning jewelry made from human hair and other items that belonged to the Proctor and Norvell families. Above right: The half-acre grounds include the former summer kitchen, now Edward's office, as well as a garden house and garage.

Edward and Susan had been living in a house they had restored on West Horah, but they felt they were coming home when they bought the Fulton Street house.

First they had a lot of work to do. The house had been lived in continuously, but it needed updating — rewiring, replumbing, heating and air conditioning.

Years of use had turned much of the woodwork black, from handrails to floors. Susan believes she and her father bought up all the ammonia in Salisbury to scrub away the grime.

The Norvells brought in restoration expert David Black to conduct a detailed study of the house to use as a guide. They wanted to take the house back to its original condition as much as possible.

“We really wanted to make sure we didn’t muck it up,” says Edward, who was president of the Historic Salisbury Foundation at the time.

They did not muck it up. From the faux wood grain on the front door to the reproduction mid-19th century wallpaper in the dining room — and even the green paint and white trim on the exterior — the Norvells have made the house much as it was in its early years.

When Brown had the house built, it was a modest four rooms — two

The Norvells’ bed came from the family of Edward’s great-grandmother, and they have the Civil War diary of Mary Virginia Bethel, to whom the bed belonged. On the wall beside the bed is a ladies writing table from the Brown family, the builders of the house.



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The casual family room has a portrait of Philip and Mary Linn Norvell, when young, over the faux-finished fireplace mantel. The room holds lots of books and artwork — and a carved Noah's Ark.

down and two up — with a wide central hall. The kitchen was in a structure behind the house to keep its heat and the risk of fire away from the living quarters.

In 1857, John Coffin bought the house and added to the downstairs. The back rooms of the second floor and the distinctive double front porch came later.

Financial troubles followed the Civil War. The property went through bankruptcy, and at one point a room-by-room inventory of the furnishings was created, down to the number of candlesticks. The list is priceless to anyone interested in the history of the house and how people lived in the 1870s.

John Brown's son later bought the house and brought it back into the family.

Though stately in its presence at the corner of Fulton and Fisher streets now, the Norvells say the Browns' house was relatively humble. While other families added fancy parquet



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designs to their floors, this house kept its wide, pine planks.

“The Browns were never very wealthy,” Edward says.

At one point, the Browns raised the roof to give the house a more Victorian pitch, he says.

The house is considered both Greek Revival and Victorian in style, and for historic purposes it is called the Brown-Coffin House.

To people who know Edward and Susan, though, it’s the Norvell house, the place where Mary Linn and Philip grew up, a home made unique not only by its restoration but also by its inhabitants. Edward and Susan are lovers of art and history, and their personalities are reflected throughout the house.

The biggest exception to full restoration is the kitchen, which has been updated twice by the Norvells. As Susan told a Post reporter



The Norvell children rode their bikes down the wide central hall when they were young. An archway marks the divide between the house’s original rooms and those added later.

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AT HOME / *norvells*

in 1991, when the home was on October-Tour for the first time, “I like history, but I’m certainly not about to start boiling water over an open fire.”

The Norvells like old, handcrafted pieces and knowing their lineage. A chest of drawers in one bedroom and a pier table in the hall are believed to have been made by a free black man, Thomas Day, renowned for the furniture he made in Caswell County before the Civil War.

The dining room chandelier is original to the home. Some of the cornices above the windows are from the Overman house that was on the corner now occupied by Park Sterling Bank. A china cabinet belonged to a great-great-grandmother.

The top of a 1790 huntboard may look beaten up to some people, but to Susan it is rich. “It’s like it’s got life on top of it,” she says.

“Everything has a story,” Edward says.

He has a treasure trove of documents and artifacts that trace the history of the house, such as the Watchman article and the inventory. Local historian Betty Dan Spencer, also a

descendant of John Dickson Brown, gave the Norvells a family Bible and photos taken in the 1880s, including one of family members sitting on the steps.

A small building immediately behind the house, originally the summer kitchen, serves as Edward’s office, where he does legal work for several conservation groups and follows his writing muse. His fourth and latest novel came out in 2013, “Ocracoke Between the Storms.”

Susan, an avid quilter and animal lover, is on the board at Shelter Guardians, a group working to improve the county animal shelter. Pet Ajax — “85 pounds of pure muscle,” his owners say — is a pit bull mix who was rescued. They also have two cats, Athena and Klutz.

When Preservation North Carolina held its annual conference in Salisbury last September, the Norvells’ house was one of the homes the preservationists toured.

Outside, the grounds are as interesting as the house. Six-foot granite gateposts stand sentry at the driveway. In addition to Edward’s office, the area includes a garage they

added, plus a garden house moved from the spot on Innes Street where Waffle House now stands.

There’s a seating area here, a restored well there, and sun dial bearing the message, “My face marks the sunny hours. What can you say of yours?”


“Before we even moved in, you built a garden,” Edward reminds Susan.

The Horah Street house had no yard. This one has nearly half an acre, so Susan went to work, growing vegetables and fruit and tending flowers.

“When the kids were growing up, I grew everything,” Susan says.

She replaced a privet hedge with a white picket fence. Hydrangeas and coneflowers bloom through the summer. A large dogwood near the street turns a brilliant red in the autumn.

As reliably as summer turns to fall, the years go by. The carpenters’ hammer and saw that briskly plied John Dickson Brown’s house built a home that endures.

“It’s been a fun house,” Susan says. “It’s a house that’s meant to be lived in.” 

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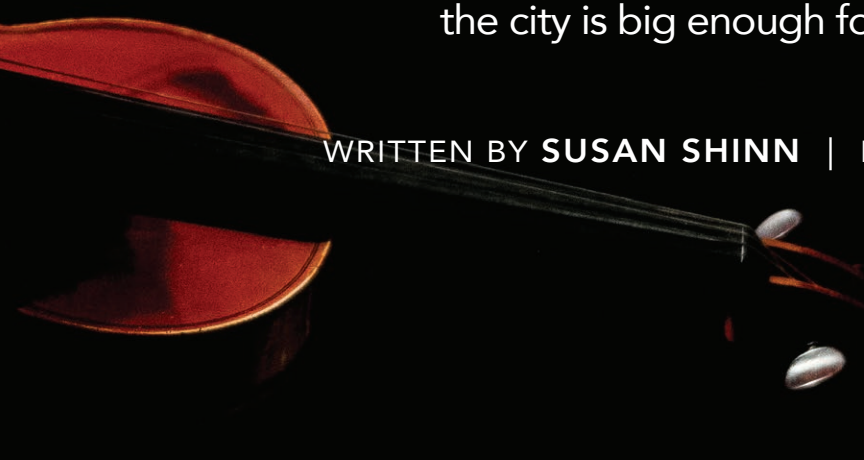
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50 CANDLES

Salisbury Symphony celebrates half century of proving the city is big enough for a professional orchestra.

WRITTEN BY **SUSAN SHINN** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JON C. LAKEY**



In the spring of 1966, Dr. Samuel Duncan, the president of Livingstone College, went to see Catawba's president, Dr. Donald Dearborn. He had a bold plan. He wanted the two colleges to establish a symphony that would be a cooperative effort with the community.

Dearborn thought it was a splendid idea. Proposals were approved to establish a symphony and initiate a string program in the public schools.

Together, the colleges and the Salisbury City Schools hired Albert Chaffoo, a native of Iraq, to become the symphony's first director and organize an orchestra. He did just that, and the sym-

phony gave its first program on Nov. 6, 1967, in Catawba's Keppel Auditorium. Sadly, this joyous event was marred by the death of Dearborn, the victim of a heart attack the day before at a Catawba football game.

From that bittersweet beginning, the symphony has flourished and persevered over some 50 years. The 2016-17 season will herald the start of the 50th anniversary celebration.

Over and over, Salisburians have exclaimed with pride, "Our city even has its own symphony!"

Linda Jones found that out when she became the symphony's executive director in the fall of 2003.



Opposite page, clockwise from top: Maestro David Hagy during a dress rehearsal for the spring concert at Catawba College; Frank Merritt on the french horn; Violin II Laura Blankenship; a trombone glistens in the brass section; Guest soloist Bryan Hall during rehearsal of the spring concert.

Right: The Salisbury Symphony practices for the start of its 50th season this month at Keppel Auditorium.

“Initially, I was most impressed that Salisbury had a professional orchestra,” Jones says. “What I discovered right away is that the real amazing fact is that this small community has supported it for 50 years. Only five other communities in the United States our size and smaller can boast of supporting a professional orchestra for 50 years or more, so hats off to Rowan County!”

We are indeed lucky to have a symphony here in Salisbury, but it’s much more than luck, according to Missy Shives, who’s been a musician and executive director for the organization (see sidebar).

There’s a long list of supporters who have helped make the symphony the success it is today. One of those is Mary Messinger, whom Jones calls “the mother of the symphony.”

“She’s been passionate about the symphony since it started,” says her son, Dyke. “It’s been



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one of her loves as a community project. She still sponsors concerts even though she can't attend. She still loves it."

Mary Messinger is one of many who have loved the symphony over the decades.

Here's a brief look back over the past 50 years.

There have only been four directors over the symphony's decades. Chaffoo guided the symphony for its first 15 years. Dr. Douglas Meyer led the symphony from 1982 to 1984, with Dr. Richard Fiske taking over for the next three years.

In 1988, after a season of guest conductors, Dr. David Hagy was hired to lead the symphony, a position he continues in today.

Trombonist Norman Clark Jr. has played with the symphony for 40 years, and was present for Hagy's



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Top: Maestro Hagy conducts the rehearsal. Above: Elizabeth Campbell on the bassoon. Left: Peter Zlotnick, principal timpanist. Right: The cello and bass section. Below: Ed Baity practices his tuba part during a break.





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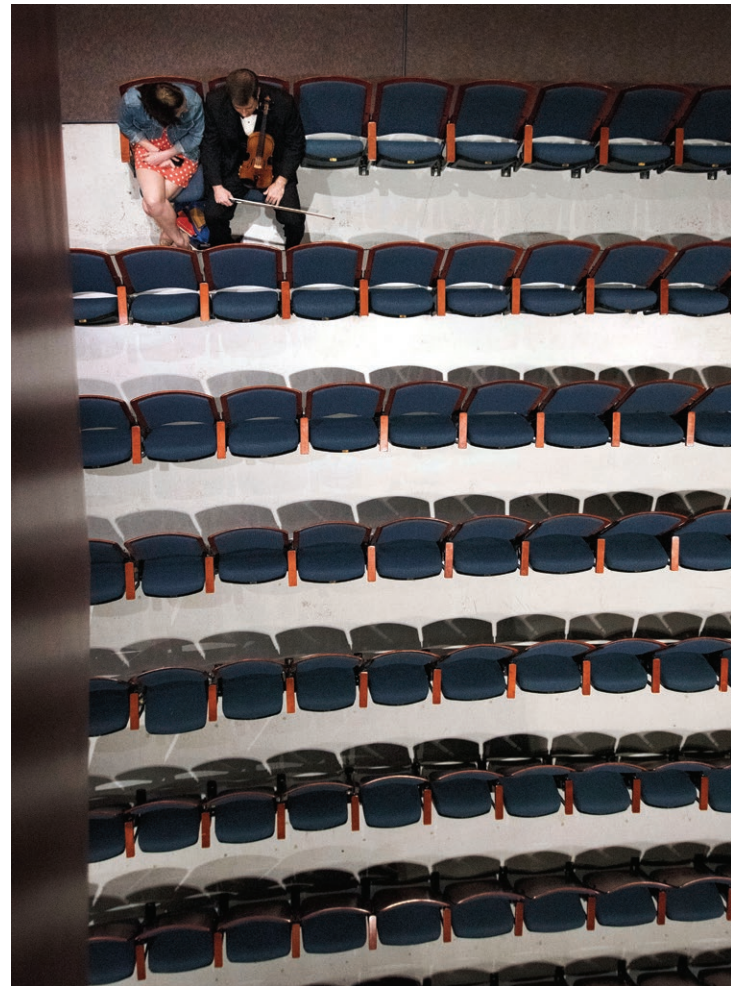
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audition.

“David was just hands down our top choice,” Clark says. “The symphony got to vote, and we picked the right one. It just wasn’t any contest. The symphony has grown and improved so much under David. He always makes us feel good, that we’ve accomplished something. His enthusiasm is what keeps me coming back.”

Clark’s father, Norman Clark Sr., played timpani, string bass, tuba and trombone.

“The symphony needed some help,” Clark recalls. “I just went over to Catawba, where they were practicing. I filled in, and I have been in it ever since.”

Clark is a retired librarian who worked in high school and college libraries.

“It is a hobby,” he says of his trombone playing. “I’ve always enjoyed it. David will always bring up something challenging and a lot of fun to play. He’s always kept it interesting. I think he enjoys it more than anybody.”

Leroy Sellers, a violinist from Harrisburg, has played with the symphony for its entire 50-year history.

“That’s what I like to do,” he says.

Sellers began playing with the Charlotte Symphony in the spring of 1963. He and a cellist, Dr. Samuel C. Davis, both African-Americans, met with the conductor of the Charlotte Symphony. The conductor

talked with the board, which also gave its approval, and both joined that symphony.

“We had no problems,” Sellers says of that early integration effort. “I haven’t had any problems, ever.”

Sellers knew that the Salisbury Symphony was being organized because he had played at Duncan’s Livingstone inauguration.

Similarly, Chaffoo invited Sellers and Davis to join the Salisbury Symphony, which they did.

“I’ve been playing ever since,” says Sellers, a retired educator from Catawba and Livingstone colleges.

Sellers grew up during segregation, but says his superintendent made sure everything that was offered at the white schools was offered at the black schools — including a strings program. He started playing violin in 1947.

“I just love the sound,” he says. “It’s a challenge. You never master it. Itzhak Perlman says when you master it, you’re too old to play.”

But sometimes the music, he admits, “just falls on your fingers.”

“Salisbury has been very fortunate to have had the musicians it’s had and the conductors it’s had. David Hagy is super-qualified, and a nice fellow to work with. He knows his stuff.”

Hagy sees the 50th anniversary as a time of celebration. During its history, the symphony has presented 200 public concerts, 18 perfor-

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mances of “The Nutcracker” and 13 Pops at the Post concerts. Hagy has conducted 153 of those 231 performances — two-thirds of them.

“The number of lives we have educated, eased and touched across those 50 years is priceless,” he notes.

He adds, “I think we fulfill a niche for our audience and our musicians. We allow a level of music that deserves to be heard.”

Jones says there are three special events for this special season:

An “Ed Sullivan Show” Tribute was set for Aug. 27 at the Norvell Theatre. The fundraiser features such luminaries as “Ed Sullivan,” “The Beatles,” “Elvis” and “Bette Midler.”

On Nov. 20, the symphony will offer “Cinquanta!” a wine tasting event, hosted by La Cava, featuring at least six courses of legendary cuisine and world-class wines to accompany each — and, of course, music!

In the spring, the symphony will share an evening with pianist Emile Pandolfi in Kannapolis. “Some Enchanted Evening” begins with a pre-concert cocktail reception in the Core Lab lobby, followed by the concert featuring Emile, and ends with a champagne reception at Restaurant 46.

For more information about the regular season and special events, call 704-637-4314 or visit www.salisburysymphony.org.

Freelance writer Susan Shinn lives in Salisbury.

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“A Clean Home Is A Happy Home”

Symphony benefits thousands, promotes the community

By Missy Shives

Are we lucky to have a symphony orchestra in Salisbury?

No, not lucky. It took the foresight, dedication and commitment of many individuals. We are lucky, though, to have the many dedicated and committed people who conceived the idea of a Salisbury Symphony, and over a 50-year period, built the professional orchestra that we know today. It was all worthwhile.

I have been affiliated with the Salisbury Symphony from its beginning. I came to Salisbury in 1965 and heard rumors of a symphony orchestra from George Wilson with whom I was teaching at the high school. I moved to Charlotte to teach in 1966-67, so I missed the symphony's first concert, but when I returned to Salisbury in August of 1967 to teach at Knox, then a junior high school, I happened to have the conductor Albert Chaffoo's son Richard in one of my music classes.

I auditioned to play clarinet in the orchestra, but the two clarinet positions were

already taken. Mr. Chaffoo said I could play cello instead.

Hmm. That was challenging! I'd taken cello lessons in college, but I was not an orchestral-level cellist. I ended up substituting as a clarinetist and waiting for a clarinet position to open up. But I'd become enamored with the orchestra. I was hooked.

From that early experience and throughout the nearly 18 years that I served as the Salisbury Symphony's general manager and then its executive director, I worked with literally hundreds of orchestral musicians who all valued the opportunity that Salisbury's orchestra afforded us.

We, the musicians, were among the first to benefit from having a symphony orchestra in Salisbury. The symphony also served, and continues to serve, as a training ground for many young musicians from the local community and the local colleges.

But there are thousands of others who also benefit — audiences (I'm in that group now!), school children, Livingstone and Catawba Colleges, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College students, and even our local economy.

The symphony is a selling point for our community as it seeks to recruit physicians and other professionals. It draws musicians, music teachers, and band directors who are looking for an opportunity to perform. It offers opportunities for local choruses to perform with the orchestra on major works, and it provides a roster of instrumental musicians to perform in local churches. These are just a few of the many benefits our orchestra affords us.

And all this happened, and continues to happen, only because of those dedicated and committed individuals who've worked so hard to ensure our orchestra's success — the symphony founders, board members, guild members and other volunteers and staff, including David Hagy and Linda Jones, who over the years have provided leadership, raised money, sought sponsors, and promoted the symphony and its programs.

We're lucky to have every one of them.

Missy Shives is a former executive director of the Salisbury Symphony. She lives in Salisbury.

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Lily and Grace Yatawara practice at the Carolina Golf Mart driving range.





SISTER ACT

Yatawara siblings bring ‘Joy’
of Sri Lanka to their golf game.

WRITTEN BY **MIKE LONDON**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JON C. LAKEY**



There's a good chance Grace Yatawara will become a brilliant engineer, but there's a pleasant complication that could affect the 18-year-old's future vocation.

Grace frequently drives golf balls — soaring, bruised Titleists bearing her deceptively dainty mark, a pink flower — 250 yards.

That ability makes her an athletic outlier.

Grace's daunting distance off the tee comes from sensational clubhead speed, and her power is combined with textbook precision and a tireless work ethic. Those attributes made her a two-time individual state champion at Salisbury High and an incoming scholarship freshman player at East Carolina University.

"You dream about your daughters beating you someday," Grace's father Chanaka said with a laugh. "My girls went way past me."

Grace shot 30 for nine holes at the Pudding Ridge Golf Club in Mocksville, although she shrugs off that feat and says it was a "short course."

She shot 69 in June at the Country Club of Salisbury in a major tournament, the North Carolina Junior Girls Championship. That marked a meaningful milestone, her first venture below 70 strokes for 18 holes. She needed to sink a sliding, sidehill, 6-footer for birdie on No. 18 for 69 — so she did it.

Grace's talent has been enhanced by family support from Chanaka, executive director of the Salisbury Community Development Corp., and mother Gayle, a gynecologist.

Also instrumental in Grace's rise has been sister Lily, 22, a fine golfer in her own right.



Grace and Lily have a jam session on the ukulele. Below left: The sisters' championship rings.





Lily was a two-time Rowan County Player of the Year for Salisbury High and played four years for Appalachian State. If Lily hadn't embraced golf with energy and passion, Grace may never have tackled the sport.



Chanaka and Gayle were good athletes — Chanaka in cricket and racquetball; Gayle in field hockey and soccer — but Chanaka points to his father Jayampathy Opatissa Yatawara as the genetic source of Lily and Grace's golfing prowess.

When Jayampathy passed away last April

Chanaka, Grace, Lily (front) and Gayle Yatawara at their home in Salisbury.

at 85, it was a sad event for older sports fans in the island nation of Sri Lanka, off the southern coast of India. People called him "Joy," obviously because of his initials, but also for the verve with which he dominated sports. He excelled in a wide range of athletics — boxing, cricket, field hockey, soccer, swimming and tennis. He spoke softly and his sportsmanship was legendary. He played fair,

but he played hard.

Joy captained his college field hockey and soccer teams in Sri Lanka in the late 1940s and early 1950s and served as president of the Sri Lanka Hockey Federation in the 1970s. His life's work was as an engineer, and he was a pioneer in Sri Lanka in the fields of refrigeration and air conditioning.

"Joy" was born on March 5, 1931. Exactly 67 years later, March 5, 1998, Chanaka and Gayle welcomed Grace into the world. It would be hard to convince the Yatawaras that it was pure coincidence. Grace was blessed,

not just with the athletic ability of her grandfather, but with his humility and sense of sportsmanship.

Grace was playing in a major tournament qualifier when her club made contact with the ball twice on a swing, while chipping from the rough. Her two playing partners could not have seen the accidental violation, but just as her grandfather would have done, she reported the violation to tournament officials.

“There’s no way I could ever have felt good about it, if I hadn’t reported it,” Grace said. “There are no referees in golf. The integrity of the sport relies on the players.”

Chanaka, who watches every competitive swing Grace takes, was as proud at that moment as he was of the North Carolina Junior Girls Championship that Grace won in 2014.

Grace’s competitiveness and poise also are in the tradition of her grandfather’s.

There was a major tournament qualifier in



Lily, left, and Grace Yatawara on April 4, 2005. — Photo by Gayle Yatawara.

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Southern Pines in which Grace made a 10 on her second hole and a double bogey on her third. She was 8-over after four holes. She wanted to sob, but she didn't.

"I thought she'd be lucky to break 100," Chanaka said.

Grace banished that awful start from her head and shot even-par for the next 14 holes. She finished at 79. It was a magnificent 79, and it said a lot about her.

"That's just the strong mindset that she has," Gayle said. "I never worry about her losing her composure."



Chanaka grew up as one of Joy's three children. Sri Lanka was known as Ceylon in Chanaka's early years. Born in 1960, he remembers well the day in 1972 when his island gained independence from Great Britain and became Sri Lanka.

"A very huge deal," Chanaka said.

The Yatawaras remain in touch with their heritage. Their grandparents in Sri Lanka closely followed their budding golf careers with beaming pride and traveled here to visit and watch the girls play.

"There were times when it was 2 a.m. in Sri Lanka, and my father was following Grace's matches on the Internet," Chanaka said.

Lily has made seven trips to Sri Lanka, while Grace has made six. The girls also have played golf there.

In his high school years, Chanaka went to boarding school in England to study, but opportunities seemed greater in the United States. He had a successful cousin in Virginia, and he made the decision to continue his engineering education at Old Dominion University in Norfolk.

It was in a freshman chemistry class at Old Dominion in 1982 that he met Gayle.

Gayle jokes that Chanaka kept hearing imaginary "urban noises," because his knowledge of the United States came mostly from television shows depicting violence in the big cities. But the courtship and marriage went smoothly. Both daughters came precisely when planned at optimum intervals during



Grace uses a little body movement to encourage her putt to go in as Lily watches in the background.

medical school and the early stages of Gayle's career.

The Yatawaras' relocation to Salisbury can be credited to Salisbury physician Jim Murphy.

"Jim and I talked about it during a C-section one day," Gayle said. "He said he'd found this great little town in North Carolina. He was going to move there, and if he liked it,

he'd call me."

Murphy liked it. The Yatawaras fell in love with it.

"We came off I-85 on exit 76, and we just looked at each other," Gayle said. "We knew we'd found the place we wanted to raise the girls."

Chanaka immediately secured the same job that he has now, and he's done valuable

work in the community. Gayle went to work for Carolina Women's Health Associates. She delivered a lot of babies before beginning her own "Gynecology, Wellness and Aesthetics" practice in 2013.

"This has been a fantastic area for our family," Gayle said. Even the dogs and the cat in the Yatawara household get along.



The Yatawara sisters are well-rounded. They play the piano and ukulele. They enjoy Netflix and cross-stitch. They also look a lot alike.

"Everyone that asks if we're twins, I tell them, yes," Lily said with a sigh.

But there's enough of an age gap between the girls that they were never teammates or serious rivals. Grace looks up to Lily, and when something grabbed Lily's attention, Grace naturally followed.

It was Chanaka who gave Lily a gentle nudge toward golf.

"I wanted to find her a sport to play at Salisbury High," Chanaka said. His first thought was tennis, but the local courts were teeming with girls aspiring to play for the Hornets, a perennial powerhouse.

Chanaka's own experience and expertise with golf were limited, but golf became Lily's ticket.

There were a lot fewer girls playing golf than tennis. So Lily became a member of the coed Salisbury Academy golf team that won the 2008 state middle school championship in Badin.

"Most of the teams had five players, but if you had a girl, you could have six," Lily said.

Chanaka Yatawara always enjoys watching his daughters on the golf course.



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Grace also was playing by then. She wasn't scoring all that well, but if Lily was involved in an activity, Grace wasn't going to be left out.

"Grace would take so long to hit a shot then," Lily said. "We were always like, 'Hurry up, Grace!'"

It was in the summer of 2008 that the girls made a quantum leap. It's a time that Grace, who had turned 11, recalls as the "summer of Camp Lily."

"Four hours of golf a day, every day," Grace said.

"We didn't do anything that summer except play golf and then go to the pool," Lily said. "I'd drag Grace with me, and I'd get her to play golf by promising pool time."

Steadily, both Yatawaras whittled strokes off their game.

"When that summer started, I was shooting



Gayle Yatawara enjoys photographing her daughters.

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Lily, left, and Grace in their college uniforms. Lily went to Appalachian State and Grace is going to East Carolina.

low 60s for nine holes,” Grace said. “I got down to the mid-40s, and my sister and I became really close through golf.”

As a senior, Lily played on the 2011 Salisbury High team that won the 1A/2A state championship. Grace then played a key role on three consecutive state-title teams from 2012-14. For eight straight seasons, Salisbury golf got a serious boost from the Yatawara sisters.

“There was a Yatawara dynasty,” Lily said with a smile.

With the aid of an eagle, Lily once shot 33 for nine holes at China Grove’s Warrior Golf Club. “I’d already decided Appalachian was where I wanted to go to college because I love the outdoors,” Lily said. “But it was nice that I became good enough at golf to get a scholarship. Only 3.1 percent of girls who play golf in high school go on to play at Division I schools, so Grace and I beat the odds.”

The longest week of Grace’s life was the week that Lily left for Appalachian State, because there was still a week before Salisbury High started classes.

“Grace filled that week by calling up the guys and playing 36 holes every day,” Gayle said.

Lily was a steady player for the Mountaineers. She usually shot in the 80s, but her personal best was a 1-over 73. Still, Lily recognized by the time she was a high school senior that her little sister had a special gift.

“Grace was 14, and she was outdriving me,” Lily said. “And I’m asking my parents what are they feeding Grace that they aren’t feeding me.”



After an internship, Lily was hired for a dream job in Charlotte. She starts in September with a major firm. She’ll be using her business administration degree in the field of custom clothing design, the area of her keenest interest.

As for Grace, her future is still as wide open as a Country Club fairway. Grace and Allison Dupree Adams have been annual winners of the women’s division in the Labor Day Four-Ball Tournament, and Grace was at the 2012 wedding when Allison mar-

ried Frank Adams III, who played in the recent U.S. Open and once was a member of the East Carolina golf team.

Kevin Williams, the East Carolina golf coach, was also at that wedding. Frank asked Grace if she wanted to meet the ECU coach.

“I told him, ‘Not really,’” Grace said with a laugh.

But the introduction was made, and Williams became intrigued by Yatawara. He has followed her career closely since that day.

“My freshman year in high school, and there’s a Division I coach coming to my matches,” Grace said. “It was exciting.”

Williams dispatched an assistant coach to Arizona to watch Grace play in the U.S. Junior Girls Championship in Flagstaff, Ariz. That was going the extra mile, and it was no surprise when Grace, who had a lot of options, decided to sign with East Carolina.

“A lot of girls don’t keep improving in college, but we know with Coach Williams that Grace can get better,” Chanaka said.

Grace achieved another memorable moment in May when she produced her first hole-in-one at a U.S. Open sectional qualifier at Carolina Trace in Sanford. It was an uphill shot, so Grace didn’t see the ball roll into the hole. But Chanaka was observing, as always, and he witnessed the ball — marked with a pink flower — as it danced sideways into the cup.

“Well, it looked like a good shot, and I’m thinking Grace can get a birdie, but then it goes in the hole,” Chanaka said. “I didn’t clap. I didn’t say anything. I was speechless.”

While many are in awe of Grace’s game, Lily, who caddies for her sister in major events, always gets in the last word.

“The girls make a fine team on the golf course,” Chanaka said. “Because Grace knows Lily is the boss and Lily knows Lily is the boss.” S

Mike London covers sports for the Salisbury Post.



Makayla Dillon, left, watches Ester Marsh demonstrate a defensive move on Caroline Parrott.

Self defense 101

Be aware, be smart, and if you have to fight off an attacker, 'do it with a vengeance.'

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

Ester Marsh can be intimidating. She is a second-degree black belt in judo and has training in taekwondo and karate. When she teaches self defense, Marsh throws in a little street fighting to boot.

But before she went into some techniques to use against any assailant, Marsh recently delivered an important safety message for the young women in front of her: Be aware

of your surroundings, and listen to your gut.

"Most events can be prevented," said Marsh, associate executive director of the J.F. Hurley Family YMCA. "Look at how many people are on the phone not paying attention."

Of the eight women in this specially scheduled self-defense class, seven had just graduated from high school and were heading off for college, so Marsh tailored her

instruction with university life in mind.

Those in the class included Makayla Dillon, Kayla Honeycutt, Rebecca Malloy, Caroline Parrott, Carsyn Parrott, Kathryn Rusher, Amelia Steinman and Mimi Webb. Carsyn Parrott is a sophomore at Salisbury High, but the others were preparing themselves for schools such as Appalachian State, Clemson, Davidson, N.C. State and the University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill.

Marsh's prevention message came first.

At night, try to walk in pairs or groups. If you must listen to music or podcasts while you're walking or running, do it with one earpiece in and one out. When running for exercise, do it with a friend or as part of a bigger group, and change your route daily.

If you're at a party, never leave your drink unattended. Know who you're dealing with, and who you're talking to. Realize that if you are drunk on alcohol or high on drugs, you are more vulnerable — not to mention that it's probably against the law.

Do not get into cars of guys you don't know. When you get into your own car, lock the doors right away. An assailant often is looking for someone who is submissive, Marsh said, so having and showing confidence at all times can be an important safety tool.

Carry an attitude that says, "Touch me, and you will die," Marsh advised the women. "Little things like that will make a huge, huge difference."

If the women have to walk alone, Marsh said, they could arm themselves with something as simple as car keys.

"This is the best weapon right here," she added, making the sharpest part of her keys protrude from a fist. "I make it dangerous, even if it's just one key. This makes me pretty powerful. I feel like I have something. I now have this weapon. With this, I can do a lot of things."

Marsh told the women not to hold back if someone is trying to hurt them. If they can't run from the danger, scream and rip at the attacker with that key. If they didn't have a key, maybe use a pen or pencil. "I'm telling you this hurts," Marsh said.

Marsh said it also always helps to be crazy. "Act like you're completely out of control," she said.

The first priorities are, of course, awareness, prevention, and avoiding the situations you can avoid. But if an attack does happen, fight back with everything you have.



Always make sure you are aware of your surroundings, especially while alone at night.

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Amelia Steinman (foreground) spins to break the hold that Rebecca Malloy (left) had on her during a YMCA self-defense class geared for young women.

“You cannot do nothing,” Marsh said. “You have to do something. I’m telling you fight. You have to fight.”

The women paired off as Marsh described how they should react to several different scenarios.

Many assailants typically make a first move by going for a wrist, and a woman’s natural reflex is to pull away. Instead, she should go up or go down, exploiting the weakest part of her attacker’s grip and using her bicep power to break free. “Make a fist and fulcrum,” Marsh said, demonstrating. “There’s no way they can hold that.”

How about an attack from the back, when an assailant applies a bear hug? Marsh advised using elbows to the assailant’s head, if the women’s arms are free.

“Make sure the elbows go up!” Marsh said. If their arms were not free, Marsh wanted the women to use their heads as weapons.

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Tips for staying safe

- Be aware of your surroundings. Look, listen, feel.

- Before you walk out of your house, apartment or dormitory, have your keys in your hand. An easy target is someone who is looking for keys in a bag.

- If possible, walk in pairs or groups.

- While you are walking from one place to another, don't talk on your cell-phone. If you must, make sure you look where you are going and know what is going on around you.

- When you get in your car, lock the doors first, then "mess" with putting your bag in the back seat or checking your texts, etc. "Too many times, I see people hanging halfway out the car, doing who knows what, and having no clue what is going on around them," Ester Marsh says.

- If your gut tells you a situation is unsafe, listen to it! "Example: You step

into a parking garage elevator. Someone gets on who makes you instantly scared. Get out! Why stay in an area as small as an elevator when you don't feel right about it? It might be nothing, but are you willing to take that chance?"

- If someone is at your door and you don't know them, ask who they are and what they want ... behind the closed door. If you're not sure, do not open the door.

- Park in well-lit areas. If someone is hanging around your car, go back to a safe place and ask or call for help.

- If you are an avid walker or runner, change your routes often. "I know walking and running go faster with music, but it is a safety no-no. Not only don't you hear cars, honks, etc., you are cutting out a very important part of your senses — hearing."

"I go whacka with my head," Marsh explained. "You have to do it with a vengeance."

But it doesn't stop there. After hitting her assailant with her head, a woman should immediately go for the attacker's feet, stomping one as hard as possible. And if she is free by then, use her fist and go for the eyes or throat, Marsh said.

If the attacker is too tall for the woman's head butt to work, she must quickly dip, lunge, turn and hit. Marsh demonstrated the move, and the young women repeated it, without the hitting.

Marsh also demonstrated some techniques for escaping both front and back choke

holds, and delivering some pain in the process of tucking, dipping, pulling and going for any weak part on the attacker's body.

To a person, the young women said the special self-defense class was worthwhile, and their biggest takeaways were knowing to be aware of their surroundings, not putting themselves in vulnerable situations and, if an attack should occur, having confidence in a few techniques to fight back and run away.

As the women prepared to leave, several said it would be nice to go home and practice some of Marsh's techniques on their dads and brothers. S



Ester Marsh demonstrates using her elbow to strike an attacker in the face if grabbed from behind. Rebecca Malloy, who will be attending ASU in the fall, played the part of the attacker.

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This postcard of the Yadkin Hotel also shows the electric Salisbury's the Place sign next to it that was erected by the Salisbury Industrial Club and was visible to all the passenger trains going through the city. — Postcard courtesy of Susan Sides

Electric Avenue

In the early 20th century, Salisbury wanted to say everything with lights. / By MARK WINEKA

A century ago, Salisbury's first concerted efforts to establish adequate — and brilliant — street lighting on Main Street and near the train station touched on many topics. City boosterism, Broadway, Cheerwine, a forgotten nickname for Salisbury and even prostitutes are among the elements connected to the city's embrace of electric lights.

"I think this is a fun story," says historian Susan Sides, also president of Historic Salisbury Foundation.

It's probably best to start telling this tale through Sides herself. A friend came to her some years ago with three cards, each a bit smaller than a notebook size of paper, and they were filled with tiny photographs of original electric signs from downtown Salisbury.

The origin of the cards was unknown.

"They're obviously local," Sides says, noting the businesses such as Ennis' Fine Tailoring and Gents Finishings, Salisbury Cafe, G.W. Wright Undertaker and Furniture, V. Wallace & Sons, the Yadkin Hotel, Piedmont Cafe,

the Kress Store, Hooper Meat Market, Ford Hotel and several more. "I loved the photos themselves."

Sides was otherwise curious as to why someone went to the trouble to photograph and display on these cards only the retail signs and some of the attractive lampposts with globes. "I love a mystery, I do have to say," Sides says.

Over time in her historical research, Sides saw repeated references in early 20th century newspaper articles about efforts to create a



“Great White Way,” clearly alluding to the nickname given to Broadway in New York because of all the electric lights on theater marquees.

A brief pre-Christmas story from the Dec. 16, 1912, edition of the Salisbury Evening Post said this:

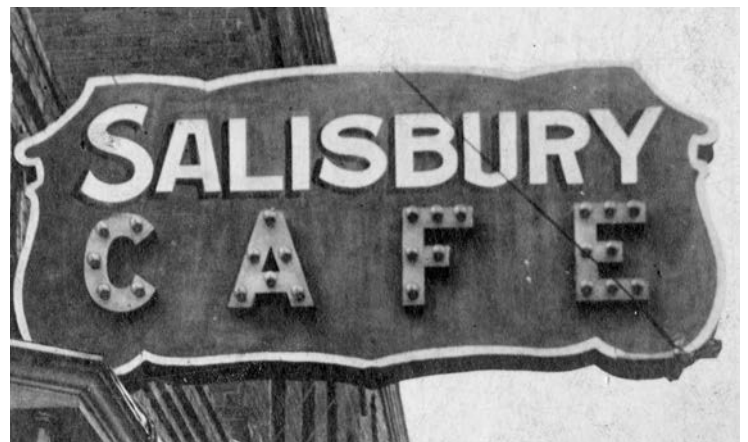
“Saturday night the Great White Way, from the passenger station up Council and down Main as far as Bank Street, was fairly alive with people, hundreds of them doing their Christmas shopping. Innes Street, too, for several blocks was alive, and altogether the Gem City was a busy place.”

There will be more on the “Gem City” later, but here is an additional reference (of many) to the Great White Way in a May 27, 1913, editorial in the Post, in which the newspaper also brought up the problem of prostitutes in the city and the need to substitute white lights for red lights:

“The practice to illuminate the city highway and to suppress the red light districts is becoming more and more the dominant idea with the municipality. ... The Great White Way is the dream of the progressive city of today.”

A newspaper article from May 12, 1914, noted the addition of two electric signs to “The Great White Way” — one at Peeler Printery and the other in the design of a book at the Theo Buerbaum bookstore. Sides found references to new electric signs going up in 1912 for Arey Hardware Co. and in 1913 for Mint Cola and the Ford Hotel.

A June 11, 1914, article reported the additional order of “brilliant” signs for the Inter-State Five and Ten Cent Store and the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. “Both will be of the latest design and will add materially to Salisbury’s fast growing great white way,” the newspaper said.



“I kept seeing ‘Great White Way,’” Sides says, and many accounts seemed to lead directly to the Salisbury Industrial Club which had, among other things, erected the monstrous, electric “Salisbury’s the Place” sign off the side of the Yadkin Hotel so it would be visible to train passengers passing through Salisbury.

The sign, maybe the largest electric sign in the state when it was erected, was 19 feet tall, 34 feet wide and weighed 1,315 pounds. It had 400 red and white lights, with “Salisbury’s the Place” spelled out in white letters 2 feet tall and inside a diamond of red lights. It was first turned on the evening of Jan. 24, 1913.

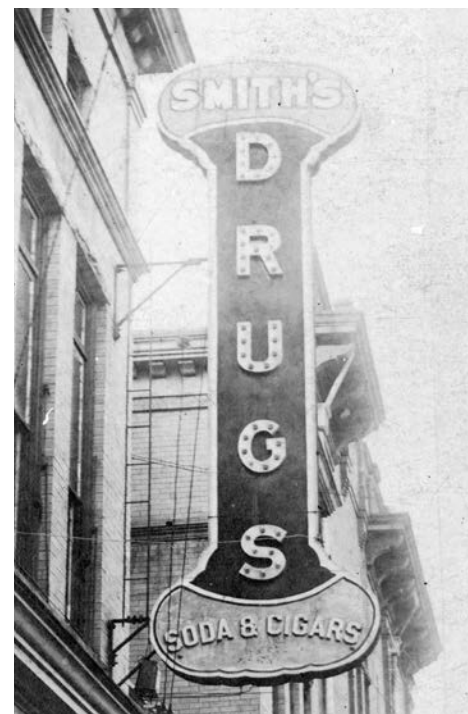
The “Salisbury’s the Place” guest column at the back of each issue of Salisbury the Magazine owes its name to that sign and slogan of yesteryear.

A forerunner to today’s Rowan County Chamber of Commerce, the Salisbury Industrial Club was filled with men whose names are still familiar to Salisburyans today. “These men wanted to improve the community,” Sides says.

In 1912, the club’s founding year, it set aside a meeting date as “a big idea night.” The club members essentially gathered to brainstorm. Some of the suggestions to emerge from the meeting were for the streetcar company to buy a tract of land for a park on the Yadkin River and the need for the city slaughter houses to be located together, not scattered across the city.

Over time, the club also worked hard at promoting Salisbury as a place to hold conventions, a location for new business and a good spot to live. Besides using the “Salisbury’s the Place” slogan, club members decided the town should be known as the “Gem City.”

Years before this, Salisbury’s nickname was the “Gate City,” but Greensboro successfully appropriated that title. The Salisbury Industrial Club printed up 25,000 brochures,



or folders, describing Salisbury as the “Gem City,” and it supplied the Sparks Circus with those materials. The circus personnel, who wintered in Salisbury, distributed the information about Salisbury in all the places they performed.

The Industrial Club lobbied the N.C. Press Association to hold its annual meeting here, and it successfully secured the annual conventions of the United Commercial Travelers of the Carolinas and the Patriotic Order of Sons of America.

The idea of ridding Salisbury of its red-light district also consumed the club. It demanded that city authorities remove all prostitutes within a four-block area of the depot and within the same distance of any church, white or black.

Meanwhile, the “Great White Way” eventually became a phrase synonymous with improved street lighting. By June 1914, the Industrial Club and Merchants Association formally called on the city to establish a “Great White Way” for Salisbury by installing lights from the train depot to Main Street and

south on Main Street to Bank Street. The organization also pledged \$350 a year toward the lighting costs.

By Aug. 20, 1914, a Salisbury Post headline proclaimed “Salisbury Now Moving Towards a Well Arranged White Way.”

The Post reported: “The White Way is a ‘big little thing’ in inducing traffic on the streets, advertising the city far and wide, and injecting a sort of civic consciousness into the people as nothing else can do for so small an outlay.”

In the end, Salisbury’s Great White Way of street lighting became 10 iron posts to a block, with four and five globes to a post. The newspaper promised the business section would “shine as the noonday sun” by March 1, 1915.

One side note about that big “Salisbury’s the Place” sign. Sides says it might be the reason we have Cheerwine today.

The story goes that F.T. Patterson of the Maysville Syrup Co. in Kentucky was touring Virginia and the Carolinas in 1913, looking for an additional plant site to make Mint Cola. On the way to Asheville, his train stopped in Salisbury, and Patterson couldn’t help but notice and be impressed by the large, lighted sign. He got off the train, made contacts with the Industrial Club and soon had established the Salisbury Mint Cola Co.

By May 1917, the Mint Cola Co. had reorganized to become Carolina Beverage Co. with L.D. Peeler as president, and it was already selling a new drink — Cheerwine.

After 100 years, Cheerwine still considers Salisbury the place — and you can put that in lights. 

On the record

“Salisbury probably has more electric signs in proportion to the number of business houses than any other city in the State, in fact the electric signs of the city have been favorably commented on by visitors from other cities.”

— Salisbury Evening Post, May 12, 1914

“Salisbury’s Great White Way Continues to Grow in Brilliancy.

Still other lights are being added to Salisbury’s great white way along Main Street. Material has been received for clusters of lights which will be mounted on iron pedestals and pillars in front of the Peoples Drug Store, on the square, the Smith Drug Store and one will be erected at the Cook Drug Store. These will add wonderfully to the brilliancy of Main Street at night, along which hundreds of lights already shine.”

— Salisbury Evening Post, June 23, 1913



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Rowan County chest on frame c. 1830

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William Flowers,
7, enjoys a
helicopter ride
during the 2014
Rowan County
Fair.

— Photo by
Wayne Hinshaw



September 2016

Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

SEPTEMBER 2

United Way Sunset Run 5K

• *Rowan Public Library*

8 p.m. Go to salisburyrowanrunners.org for more information.

SEPTEMBER 3

Joe Hall Memorial Breakfast

• *Lions' Den, Cemetery Street, Cleveland*

Sponsored by Cleveland Lions Club, this full breakfast raises funds for two West Rowan High School scholarships. 7-10 a.m. For more information, contact Elaine Hewitt at 704-278-0661, or hewclem@bellsouth.net.

SEPT. 8-10, 15-17

'Exit, Pursued By a Bear'

• *Lee Street theatre*

"If the Coen Brothers decided to set a

feminist revenge tale in Atlanta and sprinkle it with Dixie Chicks pixie dust, it might look something like 'Exit, Pursued by a Bear.'"

7:30 each night. For more information on tickets, go to www.leestreet.org/season9/, or contact 704-310-5507.

SEPTEMBER 9-10

Fall Family Campout

• *Salisbury Community Park*

3 p.m.-10 a.m. \$20 per tent (up to 4 people), \$5 each additional person. For more information, contact 704-216-2708, or go to salisburync.gov.

SEPTEMBER 10-11 Salisbury Gun and Knife Show

• *West End Plaza*

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

General admission, \$7; children 11 and under, free. Two-day adult pass: \$10. Free parking. For more information, go to www.the-gunshow.com/, or contact 704-798-6162.

SEPTEMBER 15 Family Storytelling Concert

• *Rowan Public Library, 201 W. Fisher St.*

7-8 p.m. Contact Rowan Public Library at 704-216-8228 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 15 Union Street Live

• *Downtown Concord*

Summer concert series. Main Stage: Too Much Sylvia. North Stage: Below the Belt. Go to www.concorddowntown.com for times and location.

SEPTEMBER 16 Gallery Talk: Meet the Artists

• *Waterworks Visual Arts Center*

Meet artists Heather Gordon and Leslie Smith and enjoy informal gallery talks at the opening reception of Waterworks' fall exhibitions. Free of charge. Waterworks is located at 123 E. Liberty St. Go to www.waterworks.org or phone 704-636-1882.

SEPTEMBER 16-17 Biker, Blues and BBQ Rally

• *Tilley Harley-Davidson*

Open to the public, this sixth annual family-oriented event is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbecue Society and brings together

entertainment, motorcycle enthusiasts and barbecue competition. Over 65 teams are coming from across North Carolina and other states to compete for the title of grand champion. Entertainment by Darrell Harwood. Tilley Harley-Davidson is located at 653 Bendix Drive. Go to www.bikerbluesbbqrally.com, or contact 704-638-6044.

SEPTEMBER 17 Rowan-Cabarrus Walk to End Alzheimer's

• *North Carolina Research Campus*

9 a.m. at the research campus in Kannapolis. For more information, contact Caitlyn Haffey at chaffey@alz.org, or 980-498-7725, or go to act.alz.org/Kannapolis.

SEPTEMBER 17 Germanfest

• *Old Stone House*

4-8 p.m. The 1766 Old Stone House, located at 770 Old Stone House Road, will feature an evening of German food, early regional music and lifestyle demonstrations of the Colonial period. Tours of the house will be offered. The family cemetery will be open. Museum staffers and volunteers in period clothing will be demonstrating open-fire cooking, basketry, kraut-cutting, weaving, late summer chores, candle-dipping and wood-carving. For more information, go to www.rowanmuseum.org, or call 704-633-5946.

SEPTEMBER 24 Gold Hill Founders' Day

• *Gold Hill Village*

The day offers arts, crafts, heritage living, hit-and-miss engine displays and a Civil War living history encampment and skirmish. Also available are gold panning, history hayrides, entertainment and food. Exhibits open at 9 a.m.; the Founders' Day Parade, 10 a.m. Music starts at 11 a.m. For more information, go to historicgoldhill.com/events, or call 704-

267-9439.

SEPTEMBER 24 Barbecue, Bands and Boots

• *F&M Trolley Barn*

Good eats, music and drinks to raise money for the Crosby Scholars Last Dollar Grant program. A Last Dollar Grant is need-based financial aid awarded to graduating Crosby Scholars who demonstrate remaining financial need once their college of choice has awarded financial aid. Call 704-762-3512 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 24 Music at the Mural

• *Downtown Salisbury*

Gather at Salisbury's iconic mural for hot music and a sizzling good time. Bring your lawn chair or watch from the roof of Go Burrito! on West Fisher Street. Big Break plays on this date of the continuing outdoor concert series. Contact 704-216-PLAY for more information.


SEPT. 24-OCT. 1 Rowan County Fair

• *Rowan County Fairgrounds*

The weeklong festivities include rides, a petting zoo, livestock, food and exhibits. Go to www.rowancountyfair.net, or call 704-640-2326 for more information.

SEPT. 24-25,30; OCT. 1-2 Day Out with Thomas

• *N.C. Transportation Museum*

"Day Out With Thomas" provides an opportunity for kids to take a ride with their favorite tank engine, Thomas, and his little green friend, Percy. Visitors can meet the railway controller Sir Topham Hatt and have fun in Imagination Station. Live music and magic also offered. For more information, go to www.nctrans.org/Events/Day-Out-With-Thomas-2016.aspx, or call 704-636-2889. 



Guests enjoy the ceremony at the National Sports Media Association banquet at Catawba College on June 20.

NSMA BANQUET

The National Sports Media Association held its annual awards weekend in Salisbury, during which the country's elite sportscasters and sportswriters were honored for excellence, some with induction into the organization's Hall of Fame. Others were voted by their peers as National Sportscaster of the Year, National Sportswriter of the Year, and Sportscaster and Sportswriter of the Year from each state. The National Sports Media Association membership consists of more than 1,100 sportscasters and sportswriters from throughout the country.

— Photos by Andy Mooney



Hall of Fame inductee Chris Berman is interviewed during the reception.



Above: Chip and Luanne Short. Right: The Rowan Little League Softball 2015 world champions pose for a photo. From left: Caylie Keller, Kary Hales, Megyn Spicer, Taylor Walton, Ellen Yang and Liza Simmerston.



Salisbury Mayor Karen Alexander and Tony Hoty.



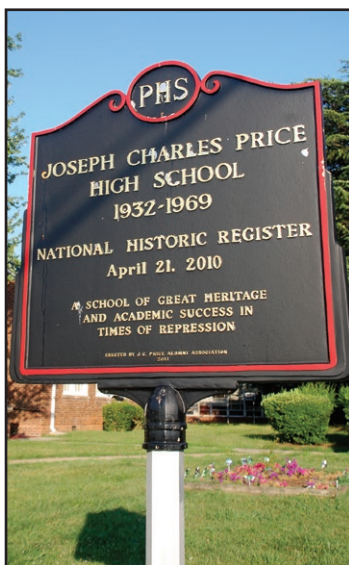
Karl Hales, Lynn Hales and Steve Yang chat.

Above: Guests enjoy drinks during the reception.

Right: From left: Mary Kaiton; Chuck Kaiton, NC Sports-caster of the Year; Claudia Weber, Tennessee Sports-caster of the Year.



Ted and Cheryl Goins pose with Rowan County Chamber of Commerce President Elaine Spalding.



Above: The marker for J.C. Price High School. Right: Cassandra Brown, Valiere Sifford, Bernadette Miller and James Partee.



Above: Scholarship Chairman Joyce Smyre and Johnnie Leach. Left: Peggie Jones Dargan, Evelyn Phifer and Nancy Jones Douglas



Left: Tanny Reddick, Mary Howie and Clinton Howie. Right: Irene Jordan, Phyllis Thomside and Annie Rivers.





Above: Jacqueline Easley, Hattie Harris and Norris Currence. Right: James Douglas, Curtis Miller and Jerry S. Boger.



Price reunion

The J.C. Price High School National Alumni Association marked its 30th anniversary gathering in Salisbury this year. The school's last graduating class was in 1969. The two-day reunion included a Friday night fish fry (pictured) at Miller Recreation Center next to the 1932 school building, a Saturday morning business meeting and a Saturday night dance.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Ted McClain, Ronald 'Red' McClain, Curtis Miller and Gary Anderson.



Above: Dr. David Boger and Dr. Henry Johnson. Left: Linda Dillard, Nancy Davis Redd, Cynthia Davis McDonald and Dianne Davis Dillard.



Entertainer 'Cinnamen' works the crowd during the Salisbury Pride Festival.



People showed their support by wearing rainbow-colored clothing.

pride festival

At the end of June, Salisbury Pride was host for its sixth annual Pride Festival with a concert on Friday and the festival on Saturday. Local artists, vendors, musicians and other performers were part of the event, thought to be Salisbury's biggest annual downtown festival.

— Photos by Wayne Hinshaw



Chelsea Penney enjoys the festival.



Above: Rob Myers, 14, covers the ears of her niece Kloee Kilby, 5, during the loud music from the 'October' band. Left: Kathy Hurst with Flow Experience Tie Dyes, sold T-shirts during the event.



Clockwise from far left: Jeff Sinder from China Grove came to the Pride Festival with his three macaw birds; Ava Holtzman paints the face of Scotland Dougherty, 2, at the Pride Festival; James Perry and Bob Salano from Durham; Teresa Reagon and Crystal Grindstaff from Elizabethton, Tenn.; Jamie Monroe of Salisbury was one of the two mistresses of ceremonies.





Above: A concert-goer takes advantage of the nice summer evening to lie back and listen to the fiddle playing of Mark and Maggie O'Connor. Right: Vivian Hopkins, president of the N.C. Bluegrass Association, stands between concert performers Maggie and Mark O'Connor.



Summer concert

Noted American fiddler Mark O'Connor and his wife, Maggie, gave a free concert on the lawn of Rowan Public Library in Salisbury to celebrate O'Connor's return to his bluegrass roots. The N.C. Bluegrass Association and the library combined to make the early evening concert possible.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



Above: Walter Wall, Sherry Wall and Sheila Prevatte. Above right: Amanda and Ayla Turney, standing, and Keira and Koa Turney. Right: Janet Stack and Jody Shaughnessy. Left: Shayne Wray and Kirby Smith.





Left: Betty Mickle, a longtime St. Thomas Players board member, poses with Tim Campbell, the Center for Faith and the Arts representative on the Lee Street theatre board. Right: Justin Dionne and his wife, Rachel, received a Mark Brincefield watercolor with a 'Singin' in the Rain' theme.

Justin Dionne

s e n d - o f f

Friends, coworkers and loyal patrons of Lee Street theatre gave a surprise send-off party for Artistic Director Justin Dionne, who began a three-year master's program in theater management at Florida State University in August. Dionne, 31, was one of only three students accepted into the program this year. The party was held at New Sarum Brewing Co.

— Photos by Susan Shinn



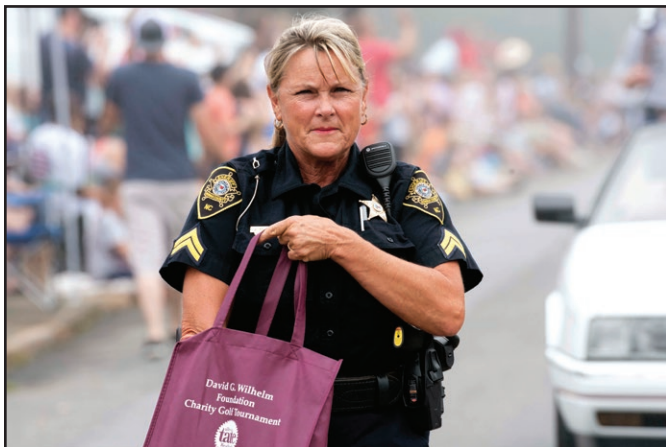
Above: Friends gathered to say goodbye to Dionne at a surprise party at New Sarum Brewing Co. Above left: Robert Jones, left, wanted Dionne to appear in a play with Lee Street theatre — and the rest is history. Left: Kadrian Smith, 12, stands with his sister, Danielle, 10. Their father, Adrian, directed the music for 'The Parchman Hour.' Kadrian volunteered at that production, and Danielle has appeared in 'The Polar Express' at the N.C. Transportation Museum.



Faith Fourth

A cloudy, cool morning did nothing to dampen the patriotic spirits of thousands who attended the Faith Fourth of July parade. As always, Rowan County residents turned out in force, lining the streets of Faith and stacking five deep on sidewalks and lawns to enjoy the array of vehicles, floats and characters.

— Photos by Jon C. Lakey



Top: The Fourth of July festivities always draw a crowd to Faith. Above: Wild Bill Corriher enjoys the parade. Left: Rowan County Sheriff's Deputy Lunda Eller walked in the parade and gave out treats.



Clockwise from above: Celia and Camrie Sifford, Faith American Legion Auxiliary Unit 327, Little Miss Poppy; Homer Robertson, American Legion 19th District Commander; folks gather around the flag during the festivities; The Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard; David Hand from Rockwell AMVETS; Gulf War veteran Jon Morris carries an American Flag while driving a chair on rubber tracks.





FARMERS DAY



Top: Main Street in China Grove is filled for the annual Farmers Day activities. Above: Dean and Donna Warner. Right: Savannah Kozlowski blows kisses to the judges of the Little Miss Farmers Day competition.

China Grove's annual summer festival offered crafts, food, entertainment, chainsaw carving, a mechanical bull, antique tractors, classic cars, misting tents and closing fireworks at night.

— Photos by Jon C. Lakey





Above: Jim DeArmon leans next to a 1964 Ford tractor on Main Street. Right: Kay Farmer was getting a few comments on her shirt that reads 'Love Thy Farmer' as she walked around Farmers Day.



Top: Brad Eagle enjoys Farmers Day. Above: Andrew Stirewalt poses with a 1948 Oliver tractor.



Above: Judy Keever and her mother, Frances Martin. Left: Touch of Heaven Butterflies, from Asheboro, gave the opportunity to have an up-close experience with monarch butterflies.

Centripetal force

The city's arts weave a wonderful tapestry

They told me, "Write about anything you like — the North Main Neighborhood, CHICKWEED, anything. What brings Salisbury home to you?"

Anything? Anyone who knows me knows those two things are high up on the list and near and dear to my heart. But what is really at the core? It goes deeper, to the centripetal force that draws us to this community, and it is the fabric of arts and culture here that weaves us together that is at its core.

One only has to slow down and take a look around to see that the arts and culture scene in Salisbury is the glue that binds us.

The North Main neighborhood is my home and a great place to live, filled with historic homes in a nearly unbroken rhythm from Spencer to Salisbury. It is close to parks, museums, restaurants and shops. But do many know that "NOMA," as we affectionately call the neighborhood, is also home to many artists?

Visual artist Kenneth Koskela, mosaic artist Robert Crum, metal artist Elizabeth Edwards and her musician husband Tripp — and many more — live in this downtown Salisbury neighborhood. When artists call a neighborhood home, it says something special about the place. Yet NOMA is only a small piece of the wonderful arts tapestry being woven in Salisbury!

Where in the world does a town the size of Salisbury have (1) a symphony; (2) a nationally accredited art gallery; and (3) several community theatre groups? Why, right here!

And while the Salisbury-Rowan Symphony, Waterworks Visual Arts Center and Piedmont Players have traditionally laid the strong foundation for the arts here, there is something else — that centripetal force — that swirls us together in an ever burgeoning arts scene.

It's the force that lets individuals shine and create, not just the organized groups. It's the force that buoys our colleges, Livingstone, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College and Catawba, to brim with arts programs and students. It's the force that lets individuals create a Buskers-Bash that fills the streets of downtown Salisbury with music annually.

It's the force that allows our downtown storefronts to be studied with photographers, fine art framing galleries, painters' studios and more. It's the force that nurtures individuals not only to conceive but implement and grow such community gems as Rail Walk Studios, Off Main Gallery, Lee Street theatre, Carolina Artists, Center for Faith and the Arts, Salisbury Art Station, Pottery 101, and yes, CHICKWEED.


Created by individuals, "CHICKWEED — Celebrating Indestructible Women" is a once-a-year evening that immerses attendees

in the arts, featuring all-women musicians and artists. The event is a fundraiser for our local shelter for abused and assaulted women and their families, and while the underlying topic is dark, CHICKWEED chooses to shine a light on how women can be empowered through the arts.

There is no other event like CHICKWEED for miles around, recognized three concurrent years with an Arts & Cultural Development Grant from the Rowan Arts Council, attracting as many as 500 people to this evening festival, and highlighting

amazingly diversified talent in music, visual art, dance and spoken word.

Artisans and crafters and enthusiasts of the same gather at this event, embraced by a community woven together by its fabric of the arts. Salisbury is the place — yes, THE PLACE — where that culture grows, where individuals can create such opportunities that not only are unique, but are nourished and thrive.

Where in the world? Why, right here! Thank you, Salisbury, for the shimmering threads of the arts that weave together this special community, its neighborhoods, and its thriving cultural scene. Like NOMA says, "We love it here. We know you will, too!" 



by
**SUE
McHUGH**

Singer-songwriter-artist Sue McHugh is a marketing and property management assistant at Wallace Realty and founder and chief executive officer of CHICKWEED Inc.

Getting Married?

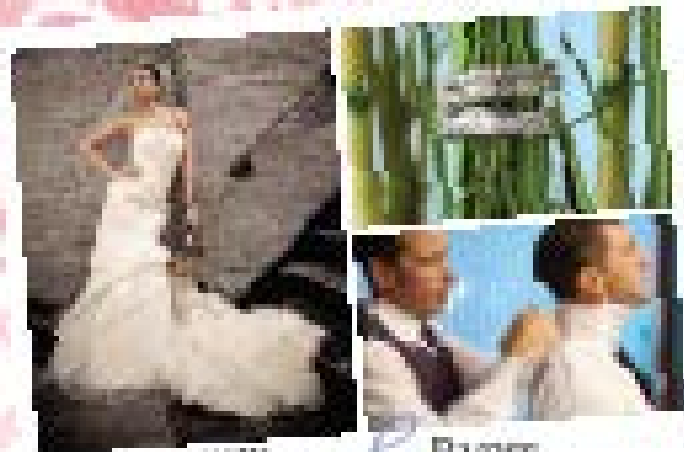
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TIPS We receive images from CD/DVD, USB drive or by email (resolution should support 300 dpi). Please note: please provide digital files from your photographer. We reserve the right to crop and edit as needed at our discretion, so it's better to crop within the workflow. Double-check all name spellings.



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