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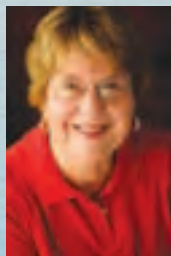
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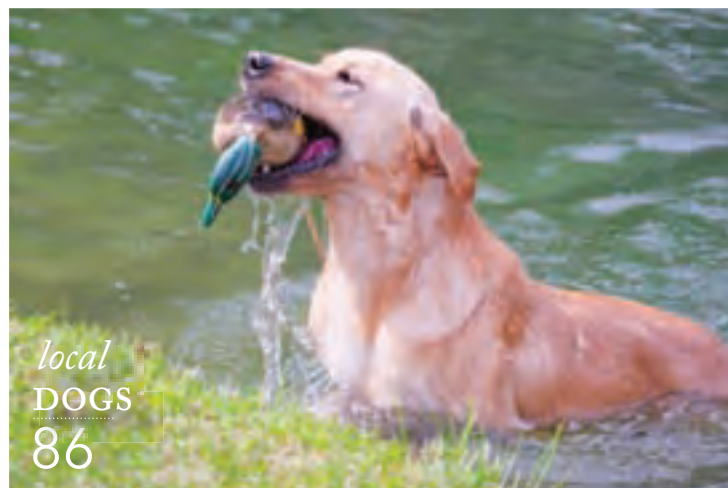
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Clontz at his 21-piece drum set

Buddy Clontz keeps golden era of rock music alive

BY FULLER ROYAL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FULLER ROYAL

TABOR CITY'S BUDDY CLONTZ IS DEFINITELY A CHILD OF THE 1960s ... and 1970s.

The 54-year-old lifelong science teacher at South Columbus High School has a passion for music of those decades like few others.

To enter his custom-designed "man-cave" in his home is to take a trip into the best of what rock music and pop art of the era had to offer.

A visitor to this part of Clontz's home first enters a hallway full of signed posters and original art by renowned artist Peter Max. Max, 78, who still works today, is internationally known for his use of psychedelic shapes and color palettes in the 1960s and 1970s. His early work was counter-culture and pop-art-focused and featured heavily on album covers (the Beatles), and advertising.

Clontz, who is a big Max fan and who collects everything he can find about the iconic artist, said he discovered Max's work at one of the stores owned by his grandfather, D.W. Soles.

"Papa operated a business called The Heritage from 1960 to 1977," Clontz said. "This was an upscale clothing store on 5th Street in Tabor City. He had a back room dedicated to 'hippie clothing' and 'mod fashions' from approximately 1969 to 1971, during the height of the 'hippie era.'"

Clontz said that, at the time, Max was doing the graphic design work for many corporations and for the advertising campaigns of Wrangler and Canterbury Belts. Peter Max graphics were featured on many products of the era.

"My grandfather's store was selling this merchandise with the Peter Max designs," he said. "I was at the store the afternoon a large box from Canterbury Belts arrived with all of the Peter Max Posters of the day. My grandfather liked the art and had the workers put them up all over the walls of the 'youth section' of the store."

Clontz said his father and others spray-painted and installed large partitions with Day-Glo fluorescent paint in random psychedelic patterns to divide this area into various sections.

"There were colored lights and records being played on the stereo," he said.

"It was the first time I remember hearing The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper* LP. All of this art! I loved it! I also got to keep some of the posters when they came down years later. That was the genesis of my collection."

After walking through Clontz's gallery, visitors step into his "music room/museum."

On the walls are posters of concerts Clontz has attended, photos of Clontz with stars like John Sebastian and B.B. King, two walls filled with vintage guitars, bookshelves full of memorabilia and CDs, numerous sets of figurines of The Beatles, and models of The Yellow Submarine.

In the center of it all is Clontz's original 21-piece drum set with each of the original heads from 1977, the year he purchased it.

And he can play those drums. And he can play – self-taught – all of the classic guitars on his walls, including the first one, given to him by his grandmother, Margaret Soles.

His love of music started with his aunt, Margaret Ann Dameron. She was a Beatles fan and she introduced Clontz to their sound when he was 4 or 5 years old. He said his first memory of any music was The Beatles and they would remain his primary musical influence throughout his life.

"I often thought, as only a little boy could dream, that I would one day be onstage playing with The Beatles," he said.

Clontz's mother, Dana Clontz, often carried him to The Beach Club at Myrtle Beach, operated by Cecil Corbett. Clontz's mother and Corbett's wife were good friends.

"The Beach Club was on what they used to call the 'Chitlin Circuit,'" Clontz said. There, Clontz was exposed live to the Motown sound of Otis Redding, the Four Tops, the Zodiacs, the Tams, the Temptations, the Drifters, the Coasters, Martha and the Vandellas, Marvin Gaye, Little Anthony and the Imperials and the Isley Brothers.

He said that, as children, he and his younger brother Steve witnessed many of the Motown acts in their prime. More often than not, he was backstage playing with the performers' children.

Sometimes, Clontz would sit on stage with the performers. That's where he picked up the drums.

Editor's Notes: Clontz and Royal have been friends since their days of sharing a campus apartment during their junior and senior years at UNC-Wilmington. Royal credits Clontz with introducing him to the vintage Beatles sound.



Clontz's guitar collection lines two walls of his music room. // Clontz's 12-string Rickenbacker guitars.

"I was a 6-year-old begging for drums in 1968," he said. By 1969, he was a serious 7-year-old wanting to learn all he could about drums. That same year, he acquired his first professional-quality five-piece drum set.

It was also during his early years that he became interested in the psychedelic art of the period. While much of the art was fueled by the drug culture at the time, Clontz said that aspect never appealed to him.

"It was just the art side that appealed to me," he said.

Clontz was a percussionist in the Tabor City High School Band and performed with several local groups. While in high school, he developed an interest in guitar, teaching himself to play by ear.

He said he did not have a "decent guitar" until he was a high school senior.

The first band he joined was the WTS Express in 1974 with its six singers and four instrumentalists. They played schools, proms and festivals.

"My parents almost didn't let me play the Nakina High Dance

because I was so much younger than the others in the band and those attending the prom," he said.

The group was led by Williams Township School (high school) band director Albert Norwood. It performed rock and top-40 of the era, complete with costumes, similar to those worn by singer James Brown's band of that same era.

"It was the first time anyone actually asked me for an autograph," he said of a surprise request from two girls at a festival that year.

In 1976, he played with the Kenny Carter Band and performed in several incarnations of that same group.

"Kenny and I have played together in various bands and on various recording sessions for nearly 40 years," he said.

He also played drums and guitar in the Tabor City High School Rock Band.

During the 1980s, he played with Sky Ride, the High Rollers and the Matt Jernigan Experience.

From 1987 until 2003, he played guitar in studio sessions.

Clontz and artist Peter Max. // Clontz as a drummer in 1977. // Clontz's grandfather D.W. Soles stands in front of Peter Max art in his store.





No sixties-era display would be complete without lava lamps. // A sampling of the art Clontz creates.

From 2004 until 2009, Clontz performed and recorded with the praise and worship band Sentforth.

"I got old, busier and tired of moving so much equipment," he said of his decision to stop playing full-time with groups.

He still performs on occasion with other musicians in holiday programs, but mostly enjoys playing in his music room "with my grandson Jude on the drums while I play bass or the guitar."

Clontz estimates he has about 500 albums in his collection, not including his newer CDs and the CD's converted from his old albums.

Clontz, standing by his wall of autographed images, points out a few, including David Crosby of Crosby, Stills and Nash (CSN).

He recalled taking his daughters, Kathryn and Carrie, to a CSN concert when he and his wife Tricia could not find a babysitter.

"There were other children there as well," he said. "so we did not feel too badly about taking them."

When the band announced it was playing *Teach Your Children*, they dedicated the song to Carrie, who was less than a year old.

Clontz said David Crosby and Graham Nash had spotted his younger daughter, so he held her up high so the crowd could see her.

"The spotlight was cast on her," Clontz said. "The crowd went wild."

He is particularly proud of his photo taken with Eric Johnson, long considered one of the best guitarists in the world. After meeting Johnson, Clontz said a plain envelope arrived in the mail with the return address "EJ" and a "nice note from Eric."

It contained two of Johnson's guitar picks.

Clontz has seen more than his share of concerts by many of the world's greatest rock-n-roll bands.

He never saw The Beatles as a group, but he has been to concerts by Paul McCartney (five times) and Ringo Starr (twice). He has also seen Peter Dinklage, Eric Clapton, Cream, Pat Benatar, The Romantics, Cheap Trick, Todd Rundgren, Steve Lukather, 38 Special, the Beach Boys, the Stray Kats with Brian Setzer, Stone Temple Pilots, Bob Dylan, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, James

Figurines from one of Clontz's favorite films - The Yellow Submarine. // Clontz's pilgrimage to the site of Woodstock.





Looking down Clontz's Peter Max gallery into the music room.

Brown, the Four Tops, Percy Sledge, Roy Clark, Charlie Pride, U-2, Prince, Sheila E, KISS, Chicago, B-52's, Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers, John Fogerty, Black Oak Arkansas, Atlanta Rhythm Section, Three Dog Night, the Doobie Brothers, the Grass Roots, Gary Puckett and the Union Gap, the Monkees and the Rascals.

Clontz's collection of 20 guitars includes instruments by Fender, Gibson, Epiphone, Takamine, D'Angelico and Rickenbacker, including a 12-string Rickenbacker.

Beatle George Harrison had one of the first Rickenbackers used on recordings in the early 1960s. Other notable users of the guitar, known for its unique sound, were Roger McGuinn of The Byrds, Tony Hicks of The Hollies, Carl Wilson of The Beach Boys, Tom Petty, Brian Jones of The Rolling Stones, Chris Martin of Coldplay and The Edge of U2.

In 2014, Clontz was a part of a nationally aired Beatles television ad for the release of their American LP boxed set. The ad first aired during a CBS Television special commemorating The Beatles' 1964 American television debut on the *Ed Sullivan Show*.

"I was paid \$500 by the Beatles' company, Apple Records, for the three-second appearance," he said. In the ad, Clontz was playing his Rickenbacker 360-12 guitar, like the one used by Harrison.

"This came about as a result of being on YouTube," he said.

He began posting on YouTube as a way to show his students that he could, indeed, play all of the guitars in his collection. His YouTube channel has more than 4,000 subscribers and contains dozens of videos of guitar covers he has recorded.

The channel has had 4 million views.

"The last video I posted was a jazzy Bachman Turner Overdrive

cover called *Lookin' Out for Number One*, which I performed on one of my D'Angelico jazz guitars," he said.

Clontz's degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington was in chemistry. For 20 years, he taught chemistry and physics at SCHS, the former Tabor City High School.

"Now, I teach physical science primarily," he said.

Clontz became engaged to Tricia Stanley in 1981 and they married in 1982.

His mother, who taught in the Columbus County Schools for 28 years, died unexpectedly at 57 from pneumonia in 1994.

His father, Wallace Clontz, is a retired architect.

Tricia's mother Norma Jean Stanley, a long-time business teacher at Whiteville High School, died of cancer, also at 57.

"Tricia and I come from a background of educators," he said.

Tricia's father Selmon is a lifelong farmer.

Clontz said that what is on display in his home is just a fraction of his collection. He said when he retires, possibly within the next year, he wants to do something different with his collection and his music.

"I plan on hanging on to my instruments and pass them down to my children and grandchildren if they want them," he said. "I also plan on adding to my collection of music and art-related items. I really hope to have time to sit down and get more serious about developing my musical skills."

He wants to finish some of his original studio recordings and eventually take on a few students for lessons to "pass on some of the knowledge and skills I have acquired over a lifetime of being involved with art and music." ❧

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Bees are busy at SCC

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MOST VISITORS TO SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE don't realize the level of bee research and honey production underway on the northeastern corner of the campus near the school's pond.

Since their arrival on May 1, 2010 – thanks to a grant awarded to Dr. Lyn Holmes at UNC-Pembroke – the bees have become an integral part of the school's biology courses.

Teresa Lengner, a science teaching assistant at the college, said the purpose of the original grant was to increase beekeeping in the region by offering the materials at a reduced cost and to increase education on bees. Even though the grant ended several years ago, SCC has kept its bees involved with some of the science

curriculum.

SCC is the only community college in this area that still has bees.

"Originally the bees were associated with the Agricultural Biotechnology Program and their importance to agriculture," Lengner said. "Currently, the biology department is incorporating them into laboratory exercises and projects to teach students about animal behavior, form and function, scientific classification, the social biology of some insects and the pollination of flowering plants.

"Most students have shown an interest and fascination with this complex insect that is vital to our society," she said.



(top left) Teresa Lengner with a season of honey. // (right) Checking the hives.

Lengner said she manages the two colonies of honey bees, supervising the insects' seasonal care and the honey production for the college.

"There is a possibility that we may increase by adding another colony or two," she said. "By midsummer, I take off and extract the honey for our annual SCC honey sale."

The sale is usually in August.

"This allows for everyone to purchase locally harvested 'Honey Rams' honey," she said. "More people have become aware of the health benefits and wonderful flavor of local honey. It does not take long to sell out. Students, faculty and staff look forward to it every year."

She said she would not describe the SCC honeybees as a program, but "they have served in some different areas of the college.

"I recently finished teaching my first beekeeping class through SCC Continuing Education," Lengner said. "The interest was so large we had to make two sessions to accommodate everyone. The second session began April 5 and ran for six weeks."

The class finished with voluntary hive manipulation with Nancy Ruppert, state apiary inspector.

Ruppert, who inspects for the safety of bees and people and assists with treating bee mites, is delighted that SCC uses honeybees as an educational tool for the sciences.

"I enjoy seeing students interpret what they learn in class; the hands-on and up-close experience reinforces the classroom instruction," Lengner said. "I also enjoy the conversations that might start up with faculty or staff when they ask a question about honey bees. These conversations usually end with 'I didn't know that.' But most of all, I just enjoy taking care of the bees."

She said she started working with bees because "I had a friend who kept a few bee hives and it was interesting listening to the bee stories. When SCC offered a beekeeping class, taught by Ed-die Ward, I signed up. I have been keeping bees ever since."

That was in the fall of 2010.

"Honeybees are truly fascinating creatures," she said. "They have taught me how to slow down and pay attention to the seasons."

In April, Lengner, biology instructor Kathryn Davenport and the biology students at SCC presented their class project on the honeybee to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences at

Whiteville's Teen Science Café.

The future looks bright for local bees.

"We are working with the Columbus County Beekeepers Association in offering the beginners' beekeeping class and potentially offering some more advanced classes in the future," Lengner said. "Anyone can keep honey bees, but I recommend they take an introductory class, talk to an experienced beekeeper, and visit a local beekeeping club before investing any time and resources.

"SCC offers an introductory beekeeping class through Continuing Education, N.C. State University has various online introductory beekeeping classes, and the N.C. Department of Agriculture has beekeeping resources available on their website, under the Plants Division."

She said the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association has more than 4,000 members statewide.

"Statewide and beyond our borders, they are the largest and one of the most active state beekeeping organizations in the country," she said. "They offer a beekeeping certification process. This is one of the best resources for a beginning beekeeper."

For those thinking about starting a hive, Lengner said there are several important factors to take into consideration.

"The most important is allergic reactions to bee venom," she said. "Only 1 or 2 percent of the population will have an anaphylaxis reaction. When keeping bees, you will get stung on occasion; it goes with the territory. As the new beekeeper gains more experience working with bees this can happen less frequently.

"More people should have a better understanding of honeybees and their behavioral characteristics," she said. "Honeybees are often confused with the more aggressive wasps and yellow jackets. The educational component is the most critical part in successful beekeeping. I think this would encourage more people to keep them.

"I enjoy watching this fascinating creature and feel I play an important role in educating those who want to keep honey bees and those who do not," she said. "Many people do not understand the role the honeybee plays in providing us with the healthy fruits, vegetables, and nuts we enjoy on a daily basis. What a boring diet it would be without them." -✂

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In her father's eyes

BY NICOLE CARTRETTE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FULLER ROYAL

ARTIST NICOLE SPAULDING MIGHT SAY the bond she had with her father, the late Willie George Spaulding, was a kind of masterpiece.

The Farmer's Union native has fond memories of working on art projects in her dad's shop.

"I loved to paint and draw out in the garage with my dad," she said. "He would say I got my talent from him and then he would laugh. We had a great time together."

They both loved to create new things.

A lawn ornament that the father-daughter duo put together once got quite the reaction from Nicole's mom.

"We thought it was great. My mom came in, saw it and asked, 'What is that?'"

Nicole said her father had always been her biggest fan.

Nicole, whose works have been displayed at the Columbus County Arts Council, the Carolina Civic Center in Lumberton, and the University of North Carolina and Gatewood Gallery in Greensboro, is a former recipient of the William Mangum Artistic Merit Award.

She may have won more Scholastic Art Awards than any student to attend Whiteville High School.

"I was always excited when it was about time for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards," she said.

Ice cream receptions were common at the time.

"My dad would say

that he wanted to go eat ice cream. I would do my best to make sure that he could."

Today, Nicole is an art teacher with Columbus County Schools. She is helping her students have that same sense of accomplishment. This year her middle school students won more than 20 awards in the competition where their work went head-to-head with high school students.

She was invited to speak at the Governor's Mansion during the Governor's Excellence Awards.

"It made me feel great to come back as a teacher. It was a wonderful feeling and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been there as a student and as a teacher," she said. "I saw how happy it made some of my students feel after they won their Scholastic Awards this year. I could relate because I won my first key in middle school when I was a student.

I was just as excited back then as they are now. As a teacher, I am very proud of them."

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro graduate holds a degree in painting and political science. She said coming back home to teach was about giving back to the community that gave so much to her.

"It is a time for me to share my knowledge and love of art with other students," Nicole said. "I wanted to come back home for a while and try to give back to a community of wonderful people who have helped me so much."

She said it is rewarding to help others realize their talents and gifts.

Nicole said excellent art teachers helped guide and influence her.

"I have been very fortunate to have been taught by the best," she said.

She was a student of Debbie Conway, Mary Louise Bannerman, Janet Sessoms and Mark Bannerman in Whiteville City Schools.

"Mariam Stephens, Jennifer Meanly and Barbara Campbell-Thompson all influenced me greatly in college and contributed to my artistic growth there," she said. "I wanted to be able to express myself through art the way my many teachers could. I tried to learn all I could from them."

Nicole said learning is the key.

"I am still learning. You never stop."

She credits teacher Helen Blanks with





I have been very fortunate to have been taught by the best.

teaching her to persevere when facing fear.

"She knew what I needed," Nicole said.

Though her dad always supported her in her endeavors, Nicole credits her mother's way of being tactful but tougher for giving her balance in her life.

"Mama would tell me to observe and learn what I could from others," she said. "When I think about it, I can say the whole community has been very supportive of me and my art."

Sometimes her artwork is an emotional journey of sorts.

"I always enjoy creating art. I get lost in it sometimes," she said. "It gives

me a feeling of peace. It is calming. I have found that as I have gotten older and some of the pieces have become more serious, that they have created different feelings in me. For example, some pieces are playful and because of that when I am creating them they give me a happy feeling inside.

"When I make use of lots of bright, beautiful colors I feel excited and energized. I always get a good feeling if I am creating a piece that I feel will make someone else happy. That is always the best feeling, the thought of making someone else smile."

Nicole is a person of few words. Some might say she is a bit shy.

"Sometimes I am a little quiet," she

cont'd on next page

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admits.

"My biggest fan now is my Aunt Fay, who lives in Charlotte. When she goes anywhere with me she is always talking to people about my artwork."

Nicole said her Aunt Fay rarely meets a stranger.

"She doesn't miss a chance to let them know about my work. As a result, I have sold many pieces of art in the Charlotte area. If I tell her that I am working on something new she gets really excited about it and wants me to tell her all the details."

Nicole's favorite pieces capture human emotion.

"My favorite subjects are people. They are always interesting. It is nice to know a story behind the person that I am trying to capture," she said. "We are all so different,



A self portrait by Spaulding.

yet we are all so much alike."

Her favorite medium is paint. "I also enjoy pencil, watercolor, and collage. I don't always stick with one medium when I am creating a piece of art. I reach for whatever medium I feel is needed at the time."

She defines good art as something that "captures your attention and draws you in."

"It makes you just want to stop and study it for a while. It is the type of art that people carry on conversations about," she said. "People can relate to it. It can cause people to feel different ways. They connect with it and sometimes see themselves or someone else in it."

Her advice for aspiring artist is simple: "perseverance is the key." -✂

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DIY Studded Side Chair

BY ABIGAIL SPACH

ONE OF MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE DIY'S IS THIS WICKER SEAT SIDE CHAIR THAT I bought at an antique store for \$20. It was so easy to see what I needed to do to make it more luxe and more "me." I'm trying really hard not to spend a ton of money on furniture this year. Our entire bedroom suite is from Four Hands Furniture....handmade in Austin, Texas, and super expensive. So, I'm doing a ton more antiques and fun-side projects to make this a more cozy and well-rounded home. Not to mention that my son Cooper is now 21 months. I need things that are either repairable or not too expensive so I don't cry when he breaks my Granny's discontinued Blue Willow vinegar bottle. That was just an example and didn't actually happen, but I am ready to keep decorating and sharing some of my favorite DIY decor and furniture. This is an easy one!

DIY Essentials//

Satin spray paint in black or color of your choice

Gloss spray paint in black or matching color to satin paint

Studs (upholstery nail heads) I used about 100 for this chair

DIY //

Spray your entire chair with the satin paint. Let dry for one day.

Cover or put painter's tape on edge of the wicker area and spray the wicker with the gloss paint. Let dry one day.

Apply nail heads to the edge of the wicker area of chair all the way around with a hammer. I put it in the molded edge just between the wicker and the wood.

VOILA! You are done. I styled mine with one of my favorite DIY pillow projects, "No-sew pillows." -✂



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Abigail Spach is the founding Creative Director of 954 magazine. She is also a Wilmington-based UX designer, #SouthHaus blogger and mama to Cooper. Her blog has been featured on *Domino* and *Yahoo*. She can be found perusing the newest thrift shop, designing digital experiences for a chic online audience, or lolling on the SouthEnd of Wrightsville Beach reading the latest *Outlander* novel.

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YOUR HOME, YOUR MISSION

BY DIANA MATTHEWS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FULLER ROYAL

A Premiere Design

BY KIM HONEYCUTT



Before renovation, the Warlicks' kitchen was dark, cramped, and isolated from the living areas. // The Warlicks' renovated kitchen now opens to the living room in two places, allowing light and conversation to flow between rooms.

WHAT MAKES A HOME ATTRACTIVE, AND WHAT STEPS DO YOU take to achieve that goal?

Local interior designers described their current projects and revealed principles they follow in homes presenting different goals and challenges.

One was a dated ranch house needing many functional and style improvements on a limited budget for a growing family.

One home was recently constructed in a rural setting for a young couple with two full-time jobs, a 3-year-old son, and little free time.

One is an uptown Whiteville landmark rich with architectural

detail, being updated by a single mother bringing up one daughter and planning to be married to a father of two sons.

Mission: Improve-able

Kim Honeycutt has owned A Premiere Design since 2003. Among her current jobs is a North Whiteville house owned by Jim and Erin Warlick.

"We started with a very dated home that was lacking in architectural details. The Warlicks needed more kitchen space and more light," Honeycutt said.

Honeycutt grew up in a family of building contractors and has

Carolina Classic Interiors

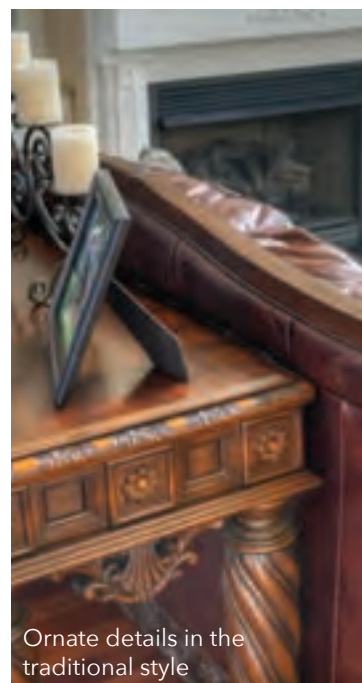
BY JENNY BARNHILL



"You let the house speak for itself." -- Jenny Barnhill



Light touches balance substantial furniture in the Hughes family's vaulted living room.



Ornate details in the traditional style

an eye for subtle details as well as a talent for drafting. She engineered commercial and church buildings before specializing in residential work. "Improving living spaces by redesigning floor plans is very rewarding," she says.

Mission: Impeccable

In Tabor City, Jenny Barnhill has an entirely different project in progress for Needom and Macelynn Hughes, a two-career couple with a young son.

"The home was built in 2012, and it is stunning. The homeowners have done a great job with the furnishings, but they needed

help with the details," said Barnhill, a business teacher, tutor and owner of Carolina Classic Interiors. "The layout is modern, with an open concept floor plan, high ceilings and big windows, but I would describe the style we're achieving as 'young traditional.'"

Most of Barnhill's previous design work has consisted of staging houses for sale. She supplies furniture and decorative items to make an unoccupied house appear more inviting. Her biggest staging job so far is an "exquisite" 4,000-square-foot luxury home.

Mission: Inimitable

Melanie Capps, another teacher with a knack for drafting and



1933 Renovation

BY MELANIE CAPPS



art, has built a reputation as a clever problem-solver for a small number of clients, but now she's taken on a challenge like no other, with herself as client.

Last year Capps saw a For Sale sign at 403 N. Madison Street in Whiteville. She describes the house, built in 1933 for Dr. Leaman Baggett, as "eclectic,

diverse, a raised Cape Cod with Southern elegance."

From 1976 to 2015, the house belonged to the family of Dr. Jerry Paschal, superintendent of the Whiteville City Schools. Capps says she has heard of "at least six couples who were married in the garden."

Once Capps saw its custom dove-

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tail cabinetry and beautiful wood, she knew it was the place to make a home for the blended family she would have with Emanuel Rooks, father of Thatcher, 11, and Camden, 8. She sold her Pine Street house in one week and bought the 82-year-old property from the Paschalls' daughter last August.

In March, Capps and her daughter Anna, 16, were finally able to live in two rooms of the home. She said, "The pros are the cons here. This house is super solid. The construction is phenomenal, and it has nice architectural details worth preserving. That's why work is going slowly and carefully. Every change affects the next."

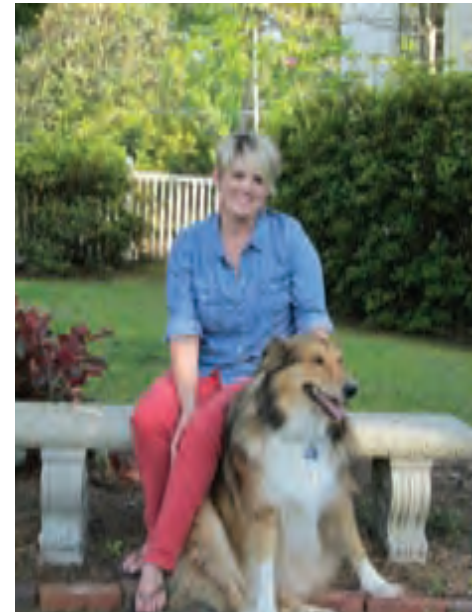
(opposite page, left) The kitchen breakfast area will be a family gathering place. (opposite page, right) Melanie Capps home welcomes a new season. (this page) The work of "peeling layers off an onion" continues.



Kim Honeycutt



Jenny Barnhill & Macelynn Hughes



Melanie Capps'

Inside the Designers' Minds
Each of the three professionals consented to share insights with our readers. The following are their condensed replies.

954: Why do clients hire a professional designer?

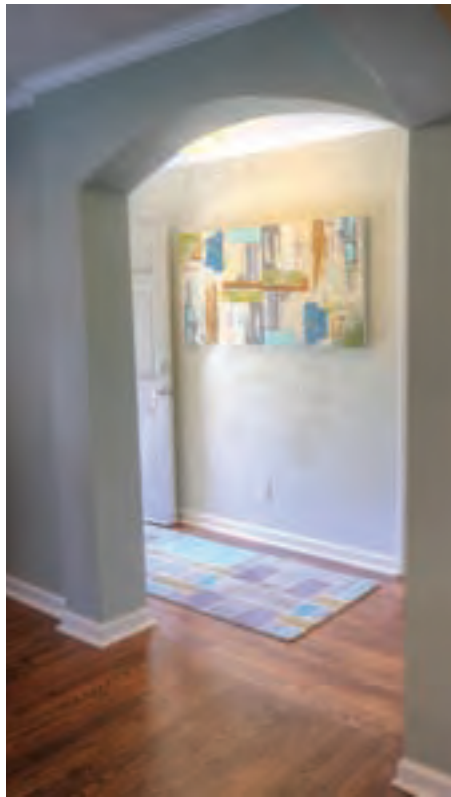
Honeycutt: A professional can facili-

tate the process from conceptualization through realization. In the planning stage, I provide the details that meet their budget. Renovating an older home is always a challenging project, and there can be unexpected difficulties. A designer oversees the team of artisans and craftsmen to ensure success.

Barnhill: Sometimes, clients have a vision

in mind of what they want; they just don't know how to go about creating it. Other clients may not have any sense of what they want at all. Most often, homeowners just don't have the skills or time to invest into putting together a cohesive, stylish look.

Capps: The best thing about design is that a designer brings fresh eyes to a project to



Honeycutt painted the large canvas hanging in the foyer to complement the home's color scheme.

help the owners see potential they were never aware of.

954: How do you know if you've succeeded in a design project?

Honeycutt: I know I've succeeded when the clients say, "Wow, it's more than I expected!" Making the client's heart sing when they see their new living space is my ultimate joy.

Barnhill: If the client is thrilled with the results, then I know I've nailed it!

Capps: The client is enthusiastic. They want to live there.

954: What makes a house attractive?

Honeycutt: I treat a house like a family. The rooms are individuals, but they share DNA. For example, if you use a color in the public rooms of the house, that color should be a thread running through the other rooms.

Barnhill: Everything needs to work together in harmony. It's important to stay true to the house's architectural style when decorating. You let the house speak for itself, and all of the paint colors, flooring,

draperies, furniture and décor should be extensions of that.

Capps: The owners should feel at ease in their space. Sometimes houses that are over-decorated in a Home and Garden TV kind of way look really pretty, but the family feels like it's not their house anymore. It should meet the family's needs for space and functionality.

954: What steps has this project entailed? How will the changes produce a desired effect for the owners?

Honeycutt: I always start by assessing the clients' needs, not just for today but for years from now as the family grows. Opening walls where possible allowed sunlight from the front rooms to brighten the adjoining areas. Larger entries between the living room and kitchen/breakfast room let whoever is cooking feel connected to activities in the other areas.

I designed the new cabinets and breakfast area and created a walk-in pantry. The former den space became a bedroom for the teenager and a new laundry room. You should feel content in the space you're in. We incorporated the preferences of both husband and wife. A transitional look was a happy answer for their style.

Barnhill: Our project began with decorating the living room and having draperies custom-made for the dining room. They had one decorative piece they had purchased and loved, so I used that as my inspiration piece when shopping for other décor items for them.

In another home, the inspiration piece could be a picture, a fabric or a piece of furniture.

But I don't want clients to feel limited to a certain look just because of one major item they already have, unless that item is very important to them.

This is really an ongoing project. The clients are living with some areas that aren't quite what they want while we change others.

Capps: My hope is to breathe new life into the house while keeping it recognizable.

I set goals to add two bathrooms, convert one bedroom to an office, update the other bedrooms, and rework the kitchen. That was when I still thought it was going

to be simple.

When I got into the work, it became like peeling layers off an onion. The bathrooms needed new plumbing, which meant relocating the laundry room and digging up the basement.

We removed walls between the kitchen and breakfast area where the kids will gather to do their homework. That was our first sign of how well the house was built. Those walls were made of maple, pine, mahogany and two kinds of oak, plus horse-hair plaster, then diagonal pine boards and posts and shiplap.

954: What principle can readers take away from seeing your work on this house?

Honeycutt: For one thing, this project demonstrates how a full service design company can help homeowners increase their home's value and avoid costly mistakes.

For another, everything in design is about relationships. We create relationships of scale, balance, and color. The style of the house relates to the needs of the people living

there. By changing room layouts, you facilitate the style of living that makes that family comfortable.

Barnhill: In today's large homes with open concept floor plans and high ceilings, the scale of the furniture needs to suit the scale of the room. An average-sized piece looks lost in a very large room. A lot of heavy furniture, however, needs to be balanced by some lighter touches and greenery. One room has to be harmonious with the adjoining one because you can see everything from one space to the other.

Capps: A home should be an extension of your personality. You should feel content in the space you're in.

If you are invited to put your home on a tour, do it. Get out of your comfort zone.

Your Home, Your Mission

For some homeowners, just hanging a picture is enough of a challenge. With the above principles, however, courageous beginners may be able to take the next step toward a comfortable refuge that reflects their personality. And, if not, that's what designers are for. -X

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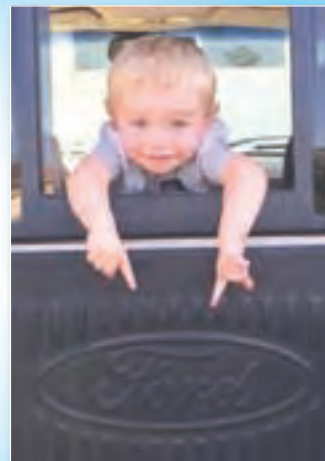
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Dirt Daubers

BEAUTIFY THEIR TOWN

BY CLARA CARTRETTE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GRANT MERRITT

THE NAME “DIRT DAUBER” IS COMMONLY APPLIED TO A NUMBER of wasps that build their nests from mud. Female wasps make the nests, which consist of mud molded into place by the wasps mandibles.

Dirt Daubers Garden Club members of Tabor City don't have much in common with the mud daubers, unless it's “building their nests,” but they build a different kind of nest. The garden club's “nest” is Tabor City, and members' mission is to keep it looking nice for residents, visitors and those passing through. At least twice a year they break out hoes, rakes, garden gloves and other essentials to do spring and fall cleaning and planting.

Focusing primarily on the downtown, club members take care of areas around the Town Gate, Town Clock, the 1870 Mount Tabor Schoolhouse and at entrances into town. These areas are prettier during the spring, summer and fall seasons, but even during winter months there are purple vetch, creeping juniper, hollies with red berries and variegated shrubs.

Club History

The Dirt Daubers Garden Club was organized in 1955 under the leadership of Faye Baxter, now deceased, who was the first president. Marvella Dorman, a charter member who is still active in the club, helped organize it and served as its second president and at two other times.

Two impressive, thick scrapbooks tell the 60-year story of how much members have contributed to the community through their good works. A smaller book contains information about the 2015-16 activities. It has a beautiful cover, “Ready to Plant,” featuring gold and purple flowers in clay pots, a painting by artist and club member Betty Faye Gore.

The Town Gate was the garden club's bicentennial project in 1976. Located between the railroad tracks and Tabor City Public Library, it is the business district's beauty spot. It was designed by Lillian Lane Leggette, now deceased, wife of Wayne Leggette and mother of artist Karen Gore, who inherited her mother's artistic talent.

The club had the attractive brick and wood gate erected and “dedicated to those who served in the armed services to help preserve our freedom.” Some years later, military organizations had a



Dirt Dauber Garden Club members, left to right: Mary Coleman, Gerri Stanley, Margaret Jones, Betty Faye Gore, Cindy Weaver, Marvella Dorman, Katherine Coleman and Margaret Ann Dameron.

beautiful tall granite war memorial installed in the Town Gate park. There is also a memorial to Timothy Shane Miller, a young officer who was killed in the line of duty on his first day with Tabor City Police Department. An American flag flies “in honor and remembrance of the heroes and victims of Sept. 11, 2001,” a donation from Woodmen of the World.

Dirt Daubers planted a living Christmas tree in 2000 in memory of club member Betty Gayle Strickland Gore. It serves as the town's official lighted Christmas tree and is just a few steps from Santa's House, where children rush to talk with Santa after the annual Parade Through the

Lights.

The Town Gate fronts a beautiful, serene park with concrete and steel benches and a tall urn on a concrete pad. Presented by Dirt Daubers, the urn contains seasonal flowers and shrubs provided by the garden club. Even in winter the park is attractively landscaped with creeping juniper, variegated plants and green shrubs bearing red berries.

Clean Up, Fix Up

Tabor City officials declare two clean-up weeks each year, one in April to welcome spring, and another in early October to present the town's best side for thousands who attend the N.C. Yam Festival. Dirt Daubers are busy during those seasons, grubbing, digging, planting and fertilizing in several areas they maintain year-round: the Town Gate, Town Clock, Mount Tabor School, at the town entrances, traffic medians and sometimes in flower beds beside the railroad.

With cold, wet weather hovering, Dirt Daubers had not done their spring planting when photos were made for this story, but they planted flowers and shrubs in the urn and filled an old fashioned tin tub with daffodils and pansies at the old schoolhouse. They'll soon descend on the Town Clock and entrance sign areas.

Projects

Dirt Daubers have held flower shows, bake sales, house tours and other fundraisers to carry out their community projects. In 2001 the club launched a contest to make Tabor City known as the City of Doors during the Christmas season. Residents were encouraged to decorate their doors in holiday motifs. Out-of-town judges spent

two and a half hours choosing first, second and third place winners and six honorable mentions. Club members anticipated visitors would tour Tabor City to see the doors, as "A beautifully decorated door says 'welcome' like nothing else." Judges were surprised at the decorations and number of neighborhoods participating.

A popular project is Yard of the Month. Members place a plaque in a well-tended yard, and once when Bradford pear trees planted from one end of town to the other were in full blossom, Dirt Daubers gave the town the Yard of the Month honor.

Some years ago the club had a working relationship with in-town schools. Dirt Daubers sponsored a "Young Sprout" garden group for students, and some of the plants used to beautify the town were



provided by the schools.

Through the years garden club members have shared an on-going cooperative effort with civic clubs and other groups and individuals, all part of a continuing effort to make Tabor City a better place to live. Joint projects include cleaning vacant lots, removing trash from

Dirt Dauber members, left to right: Caroline Koonce, Angela Jones, Jami Lewis, Julia Fort, Amy Grainger, Sara Jones and Beth Cribb.

streets, identifying areas that need junk, bricks and other items removed and whatever is needed for a better and more attractive community.

Club members decorated a Christmas tree sponsored by In-

"Tabor City is very lucky to have an active garden club here. Those ladies are a great resource and have done a lot to improve our quality of life. Club members headed up the project to replace our Christmas decorations several years ago. They are also at the forefront of getting the Department of Transportation picnic area on the bypass upgraded. I personally appreciate every time the club has a suggestion for me. I can't always accomplish what they have in mind, but I am grateful that there is somebody out there always looking to further beautify Tabor City."

- Town Manager Al Leonard



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Sarah Gore, Katherine Coleman, Beth Cribb, Betty Faye Gore and Sara Jones work at Mount Tabor School. // Mount Tabor School grounds are tended by Dirt Daubers Garden Club. // Sarah Gore, Katherine Coleman, Sara Jones, Beth Cribb and Betty Faye Gore gather around the tall urn in the Town Gate park. // Betty Faye Gore, Sarah Gore, Sara Jones, Beth Cribb and Katherine Coleman, left to right, rest on a granite bench in the Town Gate park.

man-Ward Funeral Home during the Cape Fear Hospice Festival of Trees and have sold garden gloves as a fundraiser.

Dirt Daubers were responsible for new Christmas street lights in 2003. It became a town-wide project, as businesses and others helped the club and the town pay for the lighted snowflake and angel decorations, with donations up to \$500 and \$1,000.

Mayor Royce Harper has publicly commended garden club members and public works employees for cooperating to install the new Christmas lights throughout town.

A new fund-(and fun)-raiser was held in 2004-05 to buy more Christmas lights.

"Members would creep into someone's yard in the dark of evening and stake out a flock of pink flamingoes," a member explained. "A message informs the resident about what to do to rid their yard of the gangly plastic creatures: the garden club would remove them for \$25 to help pay for Christmas lights and deliver them to a friend of that flamingo "victim." The "flocking" soon got around

to most yards.

Anniversary Party

In honor of the club's 25th anniversary in 1980, a reception was held and a cherry tree from the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. was planted in honor of Arbor Day by the Young Sprouts Junior Garden Club, sponsored by Dirt Daubers.

A new Arbor Day project was started in recent years. The club awards a certificate to someone who has saved an old tree by not cutting it down. Dale's

Seafood on U.S. 701 Bypass was the first recipient, giving honor to the huge oak tree in the parking lot. The second recipients were Richard and Margo Wright for an old live oak tree in their yard. Wright's research reveals that live oaks were not native to the area but were likely planted by early settlers.

The club repaired the Town Gate and replaced damaged wood on the Tabor City sign in 1998, thanks to a Sikes Foundation grant. Members participated in Loris Healthcare's Carolina Christmas Preview fundraiser in 1998 and applied for a Sikes Foundation

presidents

1955-57
Faye Baxter
1957-59
Marvella Dorman
1959-61
Allene Dorman
1961-63
Sarah Koonce
1963-65
Sara Wright
1965-67
Lois Dameron
1967-69
Nellie Harrelson
1969-71
Eunice Stevens
1971-73
Joanne Cox
1973-75
Betty Gayle Gore
1975-77
Lillian Leggette
1977-79
Marvella Dorman
1979-81
Peggy Stanley
1981-83
Marna Sweeley
1983-85
Betty Faye Gore
1985-87
Katherine Coleman
1987-89
Cynthia Inman
1989-91
Marvella Dorman
1991-93
Margaret Jones
1992-95
Marlette Watson
1995-97
Julia Ray
1997-99
Betty Gayle Gore
1999-00
Betty Gayle Gore
2000-01
Mary Coleman
2001-03
Lynn Cox
2003-05
Cynthia Inman
2005-07
Sara Jones
2007-09
Margaret Jones
2009-11
Jami Lewis
2011-13
Angela Jones
2013-15
Gloria Rogers
2015-16
Amy P. Grainger

club motto

Preserve God's Beauty

club flower

Rose

current officers

Amy P. Grainger
President
Cindy H. Weaver
First Vice President
Mary Coleman
Second Vice President
Margaret Jones
Secretary
Jami Lewis
Treasurer
Betty Faye Gore
Historian

grant in 1999 to continue their projects, which included the 1870 Mount Tabor Schoolhouse grounds. Members have worked with Extension Service agents and Master Gardeners who offer valuable advice for their projects.

Members dedicated the memorial Christmas tree to Betty Gayle Strickland Gore on Aug. 13, 2000, noting that "as it grows tall and offers its branches, to be decorated at Christmastime, it will stand as a living memory of the many ways in which she stood tall in the community." Sixteen club members were joined for the ceremony by members of Gore's family. A granite monument has been placed in front of the tree.

Nothing could have been more appropriate to Gore's memory than a living Christmas tree. She loved Christmas, played Christmas music year-round, and had a special Christmas room in her home that she kept decorated.

Informative Programs

The Dirt Daubers have had impres-

sive speakers, including a rose specialist from Durham, an herb farm owner, a nursery owner, Cooperative Extension agents and many others. Members always come up with creative ideas, such as presenting new officers with watering cans and outgoing officers with spades during installation services. They hold plant exchanges, a tradition started by Mary Angela Lee, another deceased member, and a big Christmas party and gift exchange.

The club is affiliated with district, state and national garden club organizations and has won awards.

club colors

Red & White

meetings

Second Tuesdays

current members

Katherine Coleman
Beth Cribb
Margaret Ann Dameron
Marvella Dorman
Julia Fort
Sarah Gore
Cynthia Inman
Angela C. Jones
Sara Jones
Caroline Koonce
Gloria Rogers
Gerri Stanley
Lucia Woody

They've dug out nut grass and replaced old dirt with sterile soil, trimmed shrubs and planted a variety of plants, including sweet potato vines between shrubs at the old schoolhouse. Members aren't afraid to get dirt under their fingernails, but they sometimes call on the town's public works department and some of their husbands to help with heavy duty projects.

The club is affiliated with district, state and national garden club organizations and has won awards. The club's scrapbook took third place one year but won first place the next year by following suggestions the judge gave about the third place winner.

Club members are excited about their next project. Due to inquiries by garden club members, the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) will spruce up the picnic area off U.S.

701 bypass just north of the South Carolina border, and garden club members will maintain it. President Amy Grainger

said she and Town Manager Al Leonard met with Keith Beverly of DOT, and Beverly said DOT will replace the old picnic table and trash can, plant magnolia trees and get it in good order before Dirt Daubers take over the upkeep. They are excited about beautifying another part of Tabor City.

"It's the first thing people traveling north see in Columbus County and we wanted it to be attractive," a garden club member said. ☼

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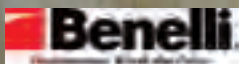
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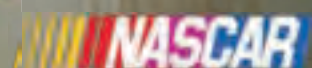
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Spencer's Ocarinas resonate all over the world

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY BY GRANT MERRITT

WITH A LOVE FOR MUSIC, ART, and all things creative, Spencer Register was inspired by a video game to create and manage his own ocarina business in Columbus County. His success as a creator and player of ocarinas landed him an interview and live performance on CBN's *The 700 Club* in 2009.

During his appearance on *The 700 Club*, Register showcased his ability to play the ocarina and announce his 11 song CD album called *Ocarina Hymns*. His live performance on television garnered much interest in his ocarinas and helped sky-rocket his ocarina and CD sales.

Register's parents donated money to *The 700 Club* to help fund the building of wells in needy parts of Africa and Asia, and as a result, the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) sent a representative to visit them. When the representative heard the story about ocarinas and his music, she recommended that *The 700 Club* feature him in a segment.

"It was a fantastic experience and I am very grateful for such a rare opportunity to show the world the instrument I love so much and to tell its story and my own," Register said.

As Columbus County's only known creator of ocarinas, Register carved his own niche in this musical instrument crafting business and has created thousands of ocarinas in the process. But until 1998, Register had never heard of an ocarina.

"Like most kids growing up in the '90s, I played video games," Register said. "One Nintendo title in particular captured my imagination - *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*."

The game tasked the main character, Link, with rescuing Princess Zelda with the aid of an ocarina that could transport him to different locations, unlock doors, and carry him through time.

Dating back several thousands of years ago in China, the ocarina was used in song and dance ceremonies and spiritual

rituals. Not knowing that the ocarina was a real musical instrument, Register discovered an ocarina in Webster's Dictionary while doing school work.

"It was like discovering unicorns are real," Register said. "After my initial amazement, I thought, if ocarinas are real, I want one."

Register's first ocarina was purchased at a local music shop, Music Unlimited, for \$4.99. The store clerk thought it looked like a submarine and was surprised that he had one in his catalog. Register said it was cheap and plastic and sounded terrible, but it was real.

Register recalled a time period where he carried his pocket-sized ocarina everywhere and learned to play all of the *Zelda* songs in the game. He said there was a brief ocarina fad at school when all of his friends had one. As the novelty faded, Register continued to practice playing and wanted a better, more serious ocarina.

"I researched online at the library and found that most high

quality ocarinas were made of ceramic," Register said. "I couldn't afford to buy any, but I realized how simple they were, and then it hit me: why not make my own ocarina?"

As an eighth-grader at Central Middle School, he was introduced to pottery in Janet Sessoms's art class. With a good musical foundation from piano lessons and playing the trumpet in the school band, Register felt it was a natural decision to dive into the world of ocarinas.

Armed with a basic understanding of pottery and acoustics, Register set out with a 25-pound bag of red earthenware that he ordered from Highwater Clays in Asheville. The shape and size of his first store-bought ocarina was his guide to molding clay into his first hand-crafted ocarina.

"After a couple of hours of blowing through an ill-formed mouthpiece, my cold lump of clay finally let out a wispy note," Register said. "And from that moment, I was hooked."

Shortly after, Register grad-



Cutting out ocarina shape in clay. // Hand sculpting ocarinas. // Combining two sides to make a whole ocarina.

uated to more advanced ceramics instruction from the late Ron Cole at Southeastern Community College. Cole was a big fan of Register's work and encouraged him to pursue it. In 2003, Register's business, Spencer's Ocarinas, made its debut.

Creating his own workshop at home, Register purchased clay, glazes, chemicals and two kilns. His tools were custom-made and improvised from anything from bamboo to scrap metal. His most sophisticated tool is a bent sewing needle glued to an ink pen.

Register fires about 20 ocarinas in the kiln at a time. Each ocarina takes about 3 hours to make, but this does not include the several days of drying and the 2 to 3 days of firing in

the kiln. Each ocarina is color glazed and fired a second time in the kiln to give it a smooth, glassy appearance.

"When I realized the ocarinas I was making were comparable to the ones I had purchased elsewhere, I mailed a few to some friends from an online ocarina forum," Register said. "Their feedback was very positive with one saying that he was going to use his for an upcoming performance in Hong Kong because he liked it more than the top tier Japanese models he owned."

Register's most popular ocarina according to sales is the Ocarina of Time, which is based on the video game, "The Legend of the Zelda: Ocarina of Time." It is the same ocarina

that first appealed to Register's love for music and art and later exploded into a thriving business.

"Although the Zelda video game introduced me to the ocarina, it was the unique sound of the ocarina that captured my attention," Register said. "It's haunting, mellow and flute-like sound is what I really fell in love with."

In April 2009, Register filed a US patent for his own internal chamber design of an ocarina, and in Sept. 2010, it was granted. The design improved the clarity, strength and acoustic performance of the ocarina. Register said that patenting his design legitimized his ocarinas and gave his brand a more substantial name in the ocarina

community.

With online publicity and word of mouth in the ocarina community, Spencer's Ocarinas became a respected venue for ocarina production. Through videos, reviews, and social media, Register has distributed his ocarinas all over the world from the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Spain, Australia and Japan in addition to his North American market.

Register's YouTube channel has reached over 675,000 views on his ocarina videos and has obtained over 4,000 subscribers. His most popular video, "Minuet of Forest on Harp and Ocarina", rings in at over 520,000 views. Register is currently working on more videos and believes that video is the



Ocarinas at night // Close up of an ocarina on moss.



best way to advertise.

“To be able to do what I love is extremely satisfying,” Register said. “I’m a creative person who enjoys working with my hands, so to be able to do that every day is great.”

He said that the best reward is receiving a positive note from a customer telling him how happy they are with their new instrument or hearing his ocarina played in a recording or

YouTube video.

What once started out on eBay, has now expanded to his own website. With his basic understanding of HTML coding, Register created his website where he can showcase his work and videos and take orders from customers through SpencersOcarinas.com.

While having to maintain his business from home, Register said it was challenging to juggle

consistent production with the desire for innovation and development of new ideas and products.

“I have to be a problem solver who is able to figure out why certain things don’t work or what went wrong with a bad firing,” Register said. “Working for yourself is harder than many realize because you have to be your own time manager, and you have to find your own

source of motivation. You are forging your own destiny.”

Register is the son of Carlton and Valerie Register and is a native of Columbus County. He is a 2005 graduate of Whiteville High School and a 2007 graduate of Southeastern Community College with an associate degree in art. He currently resides in Whiteville with his wife, Lindsey. -✂

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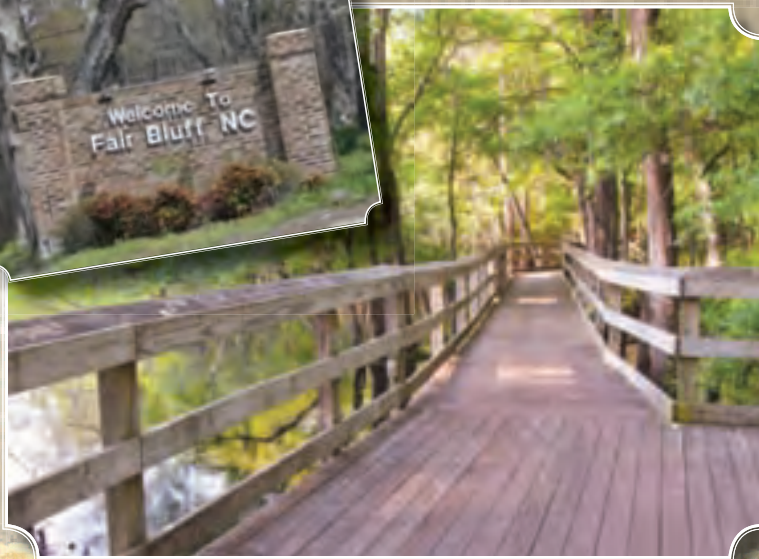
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Information and brochures are found in the Visitors Center telling about great places to visit in Fair Bluff, like our River Walk and our Depot Museum.

Established through a grant from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Commission, operated under the Guidelines of the N.C. Department of Transportation, aided by the Town of Fair Bluff and the Greater Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce, the Visitors Center is located at 1140 Main Street, right in the middle of town. Two main Highways pass by the Center making up Fair Bluff's Main Street, N.C. 904 and US Hwy 76.

The Visitors Center is set up for meetings and special events. Tours of the River Walk are featured and history of the City and the Lumber River.

Please stop and visit us as you come through our beautiful town at 1140 Main St., Fair Bluff, N.C. Call us at 910-649-7202, or email us at visitfairbluff@tds.net. Join us on Facebook at Facebook/Fair Bluff N.C.

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A photo essay

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk with a railing, leading through a forest. The boardwalk is made of weathered wood and has a simple railing. The ground is covered in brown pine needles. The background is filled with green trees and foliage.

on Lake Waccamaw

BY DOUG SASSER

Boardwalk leading to pier at park.





A Lake Waccamaw sunset





Fishing on the dam

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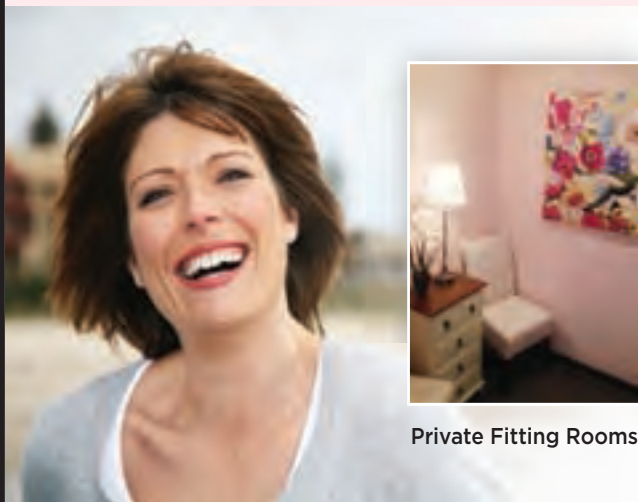
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Carnivorous Plants

WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST INSECTS...
LOSING THE WAR AGAINST HUMANS

PHOTOGRAPHY & STORY BY DIANA B. MATTHEWS

TO SURVIVE AND GROW, plants need more than air, water, and sunshine. Nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium enable them to process those photosynthetic ingredients for survival. Most times when an environment lacks nutrients, plants are feeble.

But some plants gather their own fresh nitrogen in the form of insects and other small prey. Carnivorous plants live on every continent except Antarctica.

The Venus flytrap, however, grows only within a small radius of Wilmington. Some biologists say the radius is 100 miles, reaching north to Jacksonville and south past Myrtle Beach, S.C.; others say 60 or 70 miles.

Why do we in Columbus County have a little bit of Venus growing in our own backyard? What does our area offer that other places don't?

The paradoxical answer is that Venus flytraps live here because of things our environment lacks.

Our wetlands and sand ridge environments actually provide poorer-than-average conditions for growing most kinds of flowering plants, and the Venus flytrap is uniquely suited to thrive where many plants wouldn't.

Shall We Prey?

Lake Waccamaw State Park offers educational talks on



Venus flytraps beside a trail at Carolina Beach State Park... carnivorous plants and other features of the park. Ranger Richard Keenan describes the most common insect-capturing tricks used by carnivorous plants.

Some plants follow passive strategies. Butterworts are simple adhesive traps with sticky leaves. Pitcher plants lure insects into the sweet-smelling depths of their rolled leaves. Slippery walls lined with downward-pointing hairs lead to a pool of digestive juice at the bottom.

Sundews follow a semi-active adhesive strategy, attracting prey with an array of edible-looking droplets on red-stalked glands. When a hungry insect touches down, the syrupy digestive liquid traps it and the surrounding stalks lean inward to surround it.

Bladderworts are aquatic carnivorous plants that vacuum tiny aquatic invertebrate into digestive pouches along their stems.

The best-known meat-eating plant, the Venus flytrap, actively snaps shut on its prey.

Keenan explains, "Native Americans gave the name *pocosin*, meaning 'land that doesn't drain well,' to places such as the Green Swamp. Our boggy areas are low in nutrients but high in sunshine and slow-moving water, which makes them just right for carnivorous plants."

The coastal soil provides optimum levels of acid, oxygen, and bacteria for flytraps. For millennia, the area also provided a just-right level of forest fire activity. On un-

developed longleaf pine savannah, fires set by lightning occasionally burned off dense brush, leaving the tall pines in place and providing favorable light conditions for carnivorous plants. But those days are gone. There may be fewer than 150,000 Venus flytraps in the wild today.

What natural enemies do Venus flytraps have? "Only human beings," Keenan says.

Flytraps Are Losing Ground. Literally.

What would the world lose if flytraps disappeared? Keenan speculates that, "They may not be a keystone species the way beavers are, so that their loss would affect the environment drastically," but, without these oddball meat-eating plants, the world would be "a less colorful place."

Botanist Rebecca Westbrook, who retired in 2015 from Southeastern Community College, says, "Once carnivorous plants lived along the Atlantic coast as far south as Florida. Now they're limited to seven or eight counties of North Carolina and Horry County in South Carolina."

Now serving at the Highlands Biological Station, an affiliate of the UNC system, Westbrook continues studying "very rare species" with the goal of sequencing the plants' genetic information. That information could aid in species restoration someday if species were to be eradicated from the wild.

The main reason for the reduced distribution is habitat loss. As humans have occupied more of the wet coastal areas, we have drained or built on them and disrupted the natural burning cycle. But humans are also at work to protect the fascinating plants.

"You can mention the Venus

flytrap anywhere in the world, and people have heard of it," says ecologist Dan Ryan, "but it only grows here. It's

a unique part of our natural heritage." The Venus fly-trap

boy. "It's amazing how it captures its prey," he says.

"IT'S A UNIQUE PART OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE."

Dan Ryan, Nature Conservancy

Ryan heads the Wilmington office of The Nature Con-

servancy, whose mission is "to protect the lands and water on

in preserving "species that exist nowhere else," such as the Venus flytrap.

The conservancy acquires and maintains land to create safe areas for threatened species. That includes carrying out controlled burns at appropriate times of the year.

As long as they have favorable conditions for growth, "Venus Flytraps are fairly hardy," Ryan says. "But the population wasn't huge to begin with. They've always been behind the eight ball, and they probably always will be."

And that is without even factoring in the second reason for the flytraps' decline: poaching. In spite of the fact that nursery-grown flytraps are available for sale at garden centers, "Some collectors want wild plants." Furthermore, "Snake-oil peddlers claim to cure all kinds of ailments with wild plants."

Ryan is thankful for our region's "great game wardens, who are passionate about protecting plants." He is pleased to see citizens becoming educated about preserving flytraps for future generations. "There should be a sense of pride about these plants. They only grow here."

Carnivores in the Classroom

Biology Instructor Kathryn Davenport's classroom at Southeastern Community College has a terrarium housing Venus flytraps, pitcher plants and sundews in a deep bed of moist peat moss. Science Teaching Assistant Teresa Lengner created the display.

Of all carnivorous plants, "My favorite would have to be the Venus Flytraps," Lengner says. She has midwived thousands of flytraps into the world in the lab and greenhouse where she teaches micro-



Fallaize shows her tour group a tiny sundew at the water's edge

has been Ryan's favorite carnivorous plant since he was a boy. "It's amazing how it captures its prey," he says. The group takes a strong interest

propagation techniques. “They’re the only one with a mechanical trap. There’s only one genus and one species of them.” The fact that they are endemic, or limited, to our area adds to their attraction.

Davenport, division chair of Arts and Sciences, points out that tiny sundew plants, barely visible on the surface of the moss, have sent up delicate flower stalks.

“Carnivorous plants carry out photosynthesis, make flowers and reproduce by seed,” she says. In those ways, they are not too different from many familiar plants. They belong to the biological class of Angiosperms, the group Dicot and the family Droseraceae.

Both instructors consider carnivorous plants “a good example of convergent evolution.” They mean that pitcher plants and sundews, for example, “are not closely related, yet they needed similar adaptations to thrive in nutrient-poor environments, so each developed its own carnivorous strategy independently.” The idea is that mutations produced carnivorous characteristics in nine separate evolutionary processes among unrelated plants worldwide.

Davenport and Lengner share their educational displays with the public several



After three to five catches, a trap dies (right) and a new one emerges from the rosette's center.

times a year. Earth Day brings busloads of fourth-graders to SCC to swarm around the plants. “Every year I get the biggest kick out of those fourth-graders,” Lengner says. “They ask, ‘Can it eat me?’ It’s a wonderful, unique plant in the eyes of a child.”

Biologists Charles Darwin, Albert Linnaeus and William Bartram were also fascinated by carnivorous plants and wrote about them in the 18th and 19th Centuries. SCC biology students will present a flytrap exhibit at Bugfest on May 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, Whiteville.

An outdoor classroom

Carolina Beach State Park rangers offer guided tours through a series of environments ranging from swamp to savannah, showing how carnivorous plants exist alongside other species.

Assistant Park Ranger Ellie Fallaize directs her tour group to look closely at a delicate sundew alongside the trail.

She warns, “They’re a lot easier to step on than to see.”

She says that the grassy area adjoining the trail’s bog is a longleaf pine savannah, and that it was last burned eight months previously. Dead, charred limbs remain from some small deciduous trees and bushes, but the sparse longleaf pines are unharmed. Sunlight streams down onto the wiregrass and a patch of Venus flytraps growing in semi-moist soil nearby.

Fallaize points to several fresh green rosettes with reddish trap surfaces.

She explains that the snap-trap closes when an insect walks across the trigger hairs in its center. As the prey struggles, the trap tightens. Digestive juices flow in. The trap reopens after digestion is complete.

Even for flytraps, however, there is no free lunch. The plant spends a large amount of energy growing and deploying its specialized structures. Each trap lives only long enough to

carry out a handful of catches; then it withers and is replaced.

The mechanism is designed precisely to maximize captures while minimizing wasted effort. The trap doesn’t close unless two or more of its trigger hairs are stimulated one after the other by an object of the correct size. A fleck of wind-blown debris will not spring the trap.

Ours to Save

When Lengner’s SCC students clone hundreds of new flytraps from one original specimen, the process takes six to eight months, compared to at least three years for a Venus flytrap to grow from a seed to adult size in the wild. Through the process, college biology students become familiar with plants’ natural chemical regulators that control stages of growth. Work-study helpers assist Lengner in hauling rainwater or distilled water to the greenhouse.

Bernice McPherson, Lengner’s mother, is a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer

Persons program. Lengner says, "This is her third year volunteering in the greenhouse. Her knowledge of plants has been instrumental in the success of growing the Venus flytrap at SCC.

"The greenhouse is self-supporting," she says. "All of our expenses are paid for by plant sales." The cost is \$5 per plant.

Garden centers sell cloned Venus Flytraps, too. Today any seller of flytraps must possess a certificate from the N.C. Department of Agriculture proving that their plant material was not removed from the wild.

The instructors explain that SCC's Venus flytraps are currently not being used to replace poached plants in the wild. The instructors explain that after many generations of cloning, the flytraps in SCC's

greenhouse may have developed mutations that make them inappropriate for transplanting into the wild alongside plants that have grown from seed. The genetic recombination that occurs when parent plants cross naturally helps to maintain the species' fitness for its environment.

Until more experts agree that transplanting is safe, the instructors say, "We'd rather not open that Pandora's box."

Offering legally grown flytraps at a low price is one way SCC combats poaching; their main strategy is "education, education, education." Lengner and Davenport also praise the park rangers, wildlife officers and Nature Conservancy scientists who are "our front line" in the fight to preserve the Venus flytrap.

Stronger protection

Keith Rogers served in the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission until 2015 and occasionally had to arrest poachers.

"Until 2014, digging up Venus flytraps was only a Class 3 misdemeanor, and the fine wasn't enough to deter people. We used to catch the same people over and over. A lot of them had drug or alcohol problems. They'd fill up grocery bags with plants and sell them to nurseries, who would break the bulbs and grow several plants out of one bulb, then sell them. They were wiping out all the flytraps in an area, just devastating them.

"The new laws have really helped. The punishments are harder now." Poaching is now a Class H felony, with similar penalties to those for arson, embezzling or hit-and-run

driving.

Rogers was pleased to hear that sellers are now required to account for their plants' origin. "For some reason, people all over the world love to get their hands on Venus flytraps."

Uniquely Ours

Venus flytraps occupy a tiny and specialized niche in the ecosystem. "They don't have a lot of predators other than people," Davenport says. "They don't kill a significant number of insects, and nothing really eats them." Yet, if they cease to exist, the world will lose "something unique, and a bit of biodiversity."

Lengner says, "This is something unique to this community that our citizens can take ownership of. It's ours; it represents us. We've got to protect it." ❧

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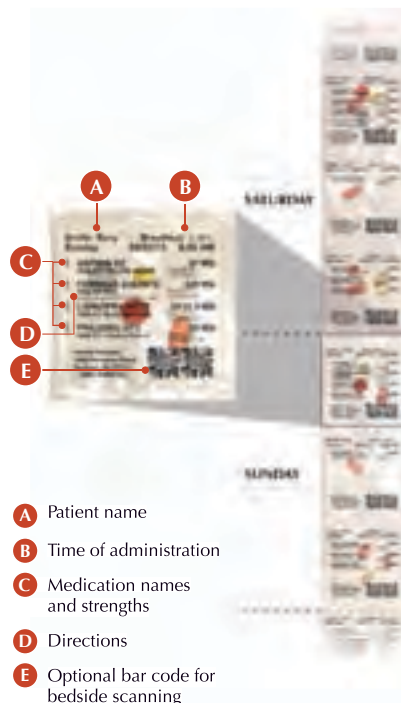


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Homemade Strawberry Jam

BY DIANA MATTHEWS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FULLER ROYAL

Strawberry season is too short. The fragrant berries ripen and are gone within weeks, but you can preserve some of this spring's bright red fruit for the dark winter days ahead. What better gift to honor a Memorial Day hostess, your child's dedicated teacher or the person who taught you to cook?

Extension Agent Meleah Collier Evers "grew up at the Cooperative Extension Office." Her parents, Gray and Esther Collier, "met when they were in 4-H in Raleigh at State Congress in 1951." As a girl, she gardened, helped make pickles and wine, and participated in 4-H. As a teenage volunteer, she helped Extension Agent Betty Thompson with Summer Fun programs.

Today Evers occupies the Family and Consumer Sciences position from which Thompson retired in 2006. She credits Janice Fields, another now-retired extension agent, with teaching her to make jam and preserves.

Evers teaches food safety and nutrition classes to restaurant managers, children and senior citizens. Her 11-year-old son Jude, a Boy Scout, is "getting to the age where he likes to cook."

"People call me with all kinds of questions," she says. One of her favorite reference books is *So Easy to Preserve*, published by the Cooperative Extension of the University of Georgia.

This jam recipe with pectin added is "a little easier" than whole-fruit preserves. The total jam session, with a helper for prep and cleaning tasks, is about two hours.

As she carefully handles her sterilized lids and times her water bath, Evers explains the four keys to food safety: Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill. She uses her dishwasher to sterilize her jars and keep them hot until she is ready to fill them. And she stresses following a research-tested recipe to the letter. "Don't just do it the way Grandma did." The proportions of sugar, pectin, and acid from the fruit are crucial. Strawberry jam only requires a boiling water bath, but green beans or other low-acid vegetables must be pressure-processed.

Fresh strawberries are low in calories and rich in vitamin C, potassium, iron, phytonutrients and fiber. They even contain some calcium and protein. Eat them fresh or freeze them to maintain the maximum nutritional value. But a batch of this easy (and sugar-laden) jam may be "a good sometimes food".

The following recipe comes from the National Center for Home Food Preservation website at nchfp.uga.edu.

Please read the NCHFP website's article, "Using Boiling Water Canners" before beginning. If this is your first time canning, it is recommended that you read "Principles of Home Canning."

Homemade Strawberry Jam

Ingredients:

5 ½ cups crushed strawberries (about 3 quart boxes strawberries)

1 package (1.75 oz.) powdered pectin

8 cups sugar

Yield: About 9 or 10 half-pint jars

Procedure: Sterilize canning jars and prepare two-piece canning lids according to manufacturer's directions.

To prepare fruit: Sort and wash fully ripe strawberries; remove stems and caps. Crush berries.

To make jam:

Measure crushed strawberries into a kettle. Add pectin and stir well. Place on high heat and, stirring constantly, bring quickly to a full boil with bubbles over the entire surface. Add sugar, continue stirring and heat again to a full bubbling boil. Boil hard for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; skim.

Fill hot jam immediately into hot, sterile jars, leaving ¼ inch headspace. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened clean paper towel; adjust two-piece metal canning lids. Process in a boiling water canner.





EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Colander
 Measuring bowl, cups
 Potato masher
 Heavy pot
 Long-handled wooden or heat-resistant plastic spoon
 Half-pint canning jars (may be used if undamaged)
 Rings (may be used but not rusty)
 Lids (must be new)
 Large pot for boiling water bath
 Rack to go inside pot
 Additional pot of boiling water for topping up canner
 Jar-lifter
 Lid-lifter (magnet on a stick)
 Towels, pot holders, cleaning cloths
 Timer

Cost per pint:

3.5 qt. strawberries = $3.5 \times 3.99 = \$14$

8 c. sugar = about \$1.50

Pectin = \$3

New jars, rings and lids. = \$7.50

= \$26 for 10 jars. \$2.60 per half-pint

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Warmer Weather & More Skin... Are You Ready?

BY CYNTHIA HANSEN



SUMMER IS RIGHT around the corner, which means shorts, sleeveless tops and swimsuits as each day gets warmer. In other words, showing more skin! And if you've added a few pounds to your physique during the winter months that you need to shed, you may be wondering which activity you should choose to cram into what free time you have: cardio or strength training.

Cardio and strength training are both integral parts of any fitness program, along with

good nutrition. So which one? Well, the answer depends upon several things, including quantity of cardio or strength training (weightlifting), what types of each, what you are eating, what your goals are, and of course your body type.

Cardio can be any exercise that gets your heart rate up to pump more oxygen through your body, such as biking, running or aerobic exercising. Cardio improves your circulation, increases bone density, improves sleep, reduces

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anxiety and gives you energy. Strength training switches on more of your muscle fibers

and raises your metabolism so you are burning calories better even after you are through with your workout. By including both cardio and strength training to your fitness program, you will have more success keeping your weight under control and gaining lean body mass.

Some people believe that cardio will diminish the effect of strength training by hindering muscle growth. It will not do that if you keep in mind one factor: The more weight you need

to lose, the more cardio you need. Cardio is necessary to build an ideal physique. You are not going to see your muscles until you lose the fat lying over those muscles with some added cardio and much better nutritional choices.

As I mentioned in my first 954 magazine article, High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) is a healthful medium to both cardio and strength training, so you do not have to choose between them; you can do both in the same workout. Instead of

jogging outside or on a treadmill for an hour or more and then spending an hour or more doing weight training, you combine some of each for 30 minutes to an hour of HIIT training. HIIT kicks up your body's ability to burn calories during a workout as well as when your body is resting after the workout, an effect we call the "afterburn."

When training like this you are using any of your regular equipment: dumb bells, kettle bells, bar and plates, as well as cable machines and the movements of strength training. Just combine your choice of exercises and choice of weights in either timed intervals or sets of high repetitions with very little rest (either 15, 30 or 45 seconds, or 1 minute) between sets and intervals. Repeat for as many rounds as you have available for your time limit and endurance level.

The following are examples of strength training exercises to be used. Power lifts include squat, bench press, dead lift and variations. Olympic lifts require you to lift a weight from the ground to over the head in one continuous movement; they include snatches, cleans, thrust-ers, etc. Full-body movements for extra cardio and strength include the Olympic lifts and many more like kettle-bell swings, box jumps, push-ups, lunging, burpees, rope-jumping,

etc. Stability exercises focus on core stability; all of the power lifts, Olympic lifts and body movements train the core, but planks and pull-ups add even more abdominal strength.



So how important is nutrition, specifically calorie intake, building muscle and leaning up your mass? Well, it depends on what your goals are. Let's say you need to lose a lot of fat for the summer in order to be leaner and see a little definition in your arms and/or abs. Usually, when I ask most women and men if they want to be leaner and see those muscles, they answer me with an absolute "YES!" So if you are eating 1200 calories and weigh 200 pounds, you are probably not eating enough. Of course every person's metabolism is different. Sometimes you have to find your calorie level by trial and error. You would start with some

number of calories per day, and if it doesn't work, you would look at what you are eating -- Is it mostly processed foods? Those probably will keep you from losing like you should --

and make some changes.

A general guide for calorie intake is your body weight times 10 to 12. Example: 200 pounds X 10 = 2000 calories. As you lose weight you may have to drop the calories, depending upon your availability to do your cardio and strength training to help burn calories.

Intake of calories is important, but also the kind of calories you eat matters too in achieving weight loss and lean muscle. Drop carbs down but do not eliminate them. Keep a log of carbs and calories by using sites like Fitday.com or MyFitnessPal.com. Find out what foods are high in carbohydrates and stick

to the ones that are lower. High-carbohydrate foods to reduce or eliminate from your diet are of course foods that include high sugar such as candy, cakes, pies and lots of granola

and protein bars. Fruit is high in natural sugar, which is still sugar, so be very careful of your fruit choices when trying to lose weight or maintain your weight loss. Remember that sugar is not good for you for many reasons, including increasing inflammation in your body. Some foods turn to sugar after digested when not needed by your body, and you should try to stay away from them too. They include pasta, rice, white potatoes, bread and some vegetables (You can find a list of those vegetables on the web). Even brown rice and whole grain products turn to sugar, but they do have a little more fiber than white grains and starches.

You have to learn the nutritional value of your food choices so that the calories will be used by your body for nutrients rather than turning into fat. Make sure your body needs the nutrients of the carbohydrates you choose. Beef, chicken, turkey, eggs or egg whites, scallops and fish are sources of lean protein, which helps maintain lean muscle mass as you increase your metabolism with HIIT. About 40 percent of daily food intake should be protein. I believe a little bit of fat in your protein intake is good, but try not to add trans-fat. Of course too much of anything is not good...so switch up your protein choices to make sure you are getting in Omega 3's and 6's.

As I said... learn the nutritional content in the foods you like to eat and make wise choices.

Please do not starve yourself to lose weight. Never let yourself be hungry. Eat small snacks and meals of wise food choices throughout the day, including good carbs and protein to keep your metabolism going to burn fat.

Take control of your body and health. Make time for exercise, and feed your body; don't just entertain your body with your food choices! Success depends upon all of these different angles for a healthy lifestyle change. You can do it! Get ready...and feel the burn! -X



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Columbus Theatre had rich history

BY FULLER ROYAL & ROBB CROSS

WHEN THE CINEMA IN WHITEVILLE closed several years ago, it ended an 85-year run as one of the oldest continuously operating movie theaters in North Carolina.

Owner Jesse Fisher, who died last year, kept the three-screen theater going because he felt it was vital to downtown and the community.

Had technology not intervened, The Cinema might still be open today, but in 2011, all of Hollywood's major motion picture studios and distributors announced the end of film projection of their movies.

Everything was going to digital projection with the electronic download of films directly to theaters, and Fisher could not afford to replace three aging film projectors with new digital projectors, each in the price range of \$75,000 to \$150,000.

There are one or two generations of county residents who don't know that The Cinema did not start with that name or with three screens.

For the first 47 years, it was the Columbus Theatre, and it had only one screen.

On Nov. 1, 1928, the Columbus Theatre premiered its first feature, Paramount Pictures' *Show People*, featuring Marion Davies and William Haynes.

A front page article in *The News Reporter* read, "The new palatial Columbus Theatre will throw open its doors to the pub-

lic tonight. This magnificent show house, which is equipped with two expensive Simplex machines (projectors), is a credit to this town and something that the citizens may well be proud of.

"Music for the opening night is to be furnished by the (Whiteville) high school orchestra.

"Again, tomorrow night, the Columbus will offer Lon Chaney in *While the City Sleeps*, a picture which only such an actor as

Chaney can make."

The theater was in the new Powell Building, named for its builder, A.F. Powell Jr. The building also housed Wiggins Drug Store, the medical offices of Drs. Pearson, Crowell and Whitaker, the Town of Whiteville offices and the Whiteville Police Department.

As sound was brand new, most theaters, including the Columbus, were still running silent features.

The article continued, "The new theatre is equipped for the attachment of Vitaphone, which the management hopes to be able to install at some future date, but this feature will not be put in at the present time.

"With a seating capacity of about 750,

this theatre will be able to put on the very best shows. It has a spacious balcony with a seating capacity of about two hundred."

In 1930, the Columbus changed hands when owner D.R. Connor sold the theatre to W.S. Wishart.

Wishart placed an ad in *The News Reporter* reading, "Having purchased the Columbus Theatre, equipment, good will, etc., I wish to thank all patrons of the show for their patronage in the past, and to assure them that in assuming the active management of the show, I shall endeavor at all times to give to the pub-





(opposite page) Tickets from the 1930s. // The 1958 -grand reopening" with an Alan Ladd film, *Deep Six*.
 (this page) Wild Bill Elliott at Columbus Theatre 1942. // Vivian Jones (Beresoff) and daughter Pamela in front of "daddy's theatre."
 circa 1955 // At the 1958 grand reopening- Eddie Jones at right and Sam T. Gore in center. // The Columbus Theatre in 1953, covered in bamboo for the John Ford, Clark Gable, Ava Gardner film *Mogambo*.

lic photoplays of the best producers, always standing for clean, entertaining and educational pictures.

"Co-operate with me by patronizing the

show and in that way help me to give you the best to be had."

The first film to be shown with the new management was Richard Barthelmess and

Douglas Fairbanks Jr. in Howard Hawks' *The Dawn Patrol*. By this time, the Columbus Theatre had installed its Western Electric sound system.

COLUMBUS THEATRE HAD RICH HISTORY



Wishart stayed for one year. He sold the theatre back to Powell.

In 1931, an outbreak of scarlet fever closed the theater for several weeks. Schools were closed also.

In 1932, the new manager was Fair Bluff native C.B. Floyd, who said in a newspaper article, “We realize the people of Whiteville and territory have discriminating taste and so we seek to please them always.” Floyd would remain the manager for a decade.

In 1938, the theatre underwent renova-

tions and began to make use of its stage in addition to its screen. The stage was enlarged and could “accommodate a 50-member Vaudeville troupe.”

Like its big-city counterparts, the Columbus alternated live shows with the motion pictures.

One such show was in 1937, when the Great Lester, a “master magician,” appeared and with a three-foot buzz saw, “cut a woman in half.” He was considered a master of legerdemain – the skillful use of one’s hands

when performing conjuring tricks.

Another show, in March 1938, featured renowned silent movie organist Jesse Crawford. An ad in *The News Reporter* called Crawford a “poet of the organ” and said that he would be playing the Hammond electric organ, “The Newest Marvel of Musical Science.” The film that followed his concert was Leslie Howard and Bette Davis in *It’s Love I’m After*.

A year later, Calvert the Magician would perform. John Calvert, who died in 2013 at



(opposite page) The Columbus Theatre in 1954, with the late 1940s era marquee it would keep until 1975. // Eddie Jones repairs the neon wiring on the marquee, circa 1955. // Firemen roll up hoses after a 1985 fire gutted The Cinema.
(this page) Eddie Jones, with assistance from Daisy Edwards promoting an unknown film in the mid-1950s. Notice the yellow popcorn machine outside so pedestrians could purchase bags as well as patrons. // The earliest known photo of the theatre, taken in 1936 when Greta Garbo's *Camille* was playing. // Magician at new Columbus Theatre Dec. 1937.

the age of 102, performed on stage, including Broadway, for eight decades. The film that night was *Torchy Plays with Dynamite* starring Jane Wyman, Ronald Reagan's first wife.

Also that year, The New Pine Ridge Folies of 1939, from Tennessee, would perform. Advertised as being from "Pine Ridge to the World's Fair – Sixty Minutes of Modern Music Comedy Song and Dance" and in bold letters "This is not a Hillbilly Show."

The feature film that night was *Little Orphan Annie* with a fairly unknown cast.

It was not until the 1940s that the Whiteville City Council passed an ordinance allowing the showing of movies on a Sunday, provided they did not interfere with morning worship.

In 1940, adult admission was 28 cents including federal and state taxes. The late night or "owl" show was 25 cents including sales tax.

The prices had been increased because of

a new federal tax for defense.

One year later, another adjustment was made, again because of the defense tax.

Adults paid 30 cents and children paid 11 cents.

Theatres in America, especially in the South, were segregated at the time.

There were separate prices for the "colored balcony."

Adults paid 25 cents and children paid 11 cents.

In the 1930s and 1940s, it was not un-

usual for the stars of the films being shown at the Columbus Theatre to show up to promote their movies, especially the cowboys.

Roy Rogers was there in the late 1930s for Republic Pictures.

In 1942, Columbia Pictures star Gordon "Wild Bill" Elliott made an appearance to promote *Bullets for Bandits*, a film he made with Tex Ritter. Also appearing with Elliott at the theatre was character actor Dub Taylor (*The Wild Bunch*, *Bandolero*).

In 1948, Sunset Carson appeared.

In 1946, the Columbus Theatre underwent more renovations including all new seating, lighting, carpeting, lounge fixtures, decorations and stage effects. A new sound system was installed. The theatre also received a new neon marquee.

In 1947, 24-year-old Eddie Jones of Stewart-Everette Theatres took over the management of the Columbus. Jones, a World War II flyer with the Army Air Corps, had disappeared in occupied France for five months after being shot down. Jones' high energy made him a good promoter of the films he showed. He would often set up displays on the sidewalk to promote the films.

On Dec. 14, 1956, with the theatre's stage still in use, Jones hosted an Elvis Presley Pantomime Contest to promote *Love Me Tender*.

First prize was for the man or boy who gave the best Elvin Presley demonstration. Second prize was for the best Elvis pantomime using any of his songs and third prize was for the girl with the most appealing scream.

The first 250 patrons to the theatre received a free photo of Elvis.

In 1956, adults paid 50 cents for admission and children paid a quarter.

Jones also managed the Madison Theatre, down the street where the Sugar and Spice children's clothing store is today.

He and wife Vivian had two children, Edward Jr. and Pamela.

Jones resigned from the management position in 1959 to work for a pharmaceutical company. He died of a sudden heart attack in 1961. His widow would later marry Gil Beresoff. Vivian Beresoff and her children survive today.

Movie theatres were suffering during the

1960s and the Columbus was no exception. Television had taken a huge chunk of the weekly movie audience and movie attendance was at an all-time low. Studios were undergoing big changes and independent film companies were springing up.

Big hits were few and far between.

By 1970, the Columbus Theatre was showing its age, and in 1971 management had resorted to occasionally showing pornographic films.

Things came to a head in May 1971 when Whiteville's chamber of commerce and three of its civic clubs – Rotary, Lions and Civitans – all passed resolutions asking the Whiteville City Council and the Whiteville Police Department to do something.

Playing at the theatre that week was *101 Acts of Love*, Rated XX.

The News Reporter reported that several members of the city council, along with several private citizens, viewed the movie so they would have "sufficient knowledge to give testimony in court."

The News Reporter's editorial read, "Any movie that is not fit for a man and wife and family is not fit to be exhibited in our community."

That same week, the theatre's manager, Jerry High, was charged with showing an "obscene film."

He agreed to withdraw the film and the charges were dropped.

The next week, Walt Disney's *The Barefoot Executive* starring Kurt Russell premiered, followed by George C. Scott in *Patton*.

The theatre continued to languish, due in no small part to the lack of blockbuster films from Hollywood.

That would all change in 1975 when Universal Pictures released Steven Spielberg's *Jaws*. The film was the first to pass the \$100 million mark in one summer and set new standards for the summer film releases to follow. It was a huge shot in the arm for the motion picture industry.

The Columbus Theatre ended its run under that name in the fall and closed for the most extensive renovations it would undergo.

When it reopened on Christmas Day, 1975, it had been renamed "The Cinema." Cape Fear Theatres, out of Fayetteville, had

taken over the operation with Ron Eaton as manager. The company installed a new, automated platter projector, sound equipment, screen and 280 larger lounge style seats.

The new projector allowed all of the 10-minute reels to be spliced onto one large spool, eliminating the need for a second projector. And, no longer was an attending projectionist required.

Adults paid \$2 and children under 12 paid \$1. Students paid \$1.50.

The premier movie was *Winterhawk*, followed the next week by Peter Sellers in *Return of the Pink Panther*.

Ten years later, the Cinema would suffer a devastating fire.

On an October night in 1985, the Cinema burned. Owner Fisher and manager Jay Benson estimated the loss at \$350,000.

Fisher decided to rebuild, and within weeks construction began as the contents of the building were removed.

When it re-opened in May, 1986, it had three screens and was renamed the Cinema 1•2•3.

The main auditorium had been divided into two screens and the balcony was enclosed for the third. It would remain that way until its closing.

Fisher's sons Powell and John are hoping to someday revive the old theatre into a single screen with digital projection. There are not yet any concrete plans.

There are few residents of Columbus County who have not seen a motion picture at the Columbus Theatre. Movies often changed two or three times during the week. Movie fans could visit the Columbus Theatre three times a week and see something new every trip.

Saturdays – and weekdays in the summer – were ideal for youngsters. Parents could drop them off and they would spend the entire day watching Warner Bros. cartoons, Walt Disney True Life Adventures and Lone Ranger and Tarzan films. And all for a fraction of what moviegoing costs today.

It was not unusual to see a dozen or more bicycles parked on the sidewalk in front of the Columbus Theatre.

The good ol' days really were – especially at the Columbus Theatre. -✕

Editor's Note: Robb Cross, who died in November, laid the groundwork for this story, locating and scanning every story and major newspaper ad he could find. His research covered more than just the Columbus Theatre.

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Council Tool on the cutting edge for 130 years

JOHN PICKETT COUNCIL'S QUEST FOR BETTER TOOLS IS STILL ALIVE TODAY.

BY JEFFERSON WEAVER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FULLER ROYAL

A LOCAL FARMER'S DESIRE FOR a better tool more than 100 years ago is made reality every day off Pecan Lane at Lake Waccamaw.

John Pickett Council was hard-pressed to keep up with local demand and still maintain his own farming operations in post-war Columbus and Bladen counties, but today tools bearing the Council Tool Company name are used around the world.

"We've come a long way," said Margo Council, one of the fourth generation of Councils to operate the company. Cameron Council, who is in charge of the firm's website and Internet business, makes the fifth generation.

"Like every company, we've had to adapt with the times," said John Council, company president. "John Pickett Council needed better tools, and when other farmers and woodsmen saw his work, they came to him. Today we find a tool we can make, then figure out how to market it." Naval stores and a better mousetrap

Born in 1855, John Pickett Council was too young to serve in the War Between the States. While his brothers and male kin were serving in the Confederate Army, young John had to step up to maintain the family farm as well as the blacksmith shop and naval stores business.

"He likely had to grow up fast," Margo said, "but people began working harder and younger back then."



(this page) Kendicks Keaton polishes axe heads. // (opposite page) (seated), John Council, (standing left to right) Cameron Council, Mago Council Wright and Pickett Council Ellis. (middle) A robot touches up a tool. (bottom) American steel waits its time in the forge.

Naval stores—the catchall term for tar, pitch and turpentine, derived from the sap of the longleaf pine tree—were a larger crop than tobacco or cotton in North Carolina until the early 1900s. Pitch, or pure resin, was used for waterproofing; turpentine was distilled from

pine resin to create a key ingredient in everything from paint to medicines; and tar, which was rendered from resin-rich heart pine, was used as a heavier sealant.

John Pickett Council began making tools for the turpentine harvesting industry in the late 1800s, according to the company history, because he was dissatisfied with the quality of tools available for purchase. Years after most firms had dropped turpentine hardware from their retail list, Council Tool continued making the products, both out of tradition and because the few resin harvesters left preferred quality tools.

Blacksmiths in nearly every community made tools, but Council had a special touch. Since his tools were better than most, John Pickett Council soon began spending more time making tools than farming or working the pine

plantations, Margo said.

In 1886, as a national financial recovery was underway, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that businesses could be taxed in the same manner as individuals. The decision led to a rush of incorporations across the country. Council Tool Company was one of the earliest, Margo said.

"Today we're one of the oldest in the country," she said. "Companies like Wells Fargo and several more incorporate at the same time, but we're pretty sure we're among the only ones still owned and operated by the family."

Council had already expanded from his blacksmith shop to a small manufactory by the time it became advantageous to incorporate, but by the early 1900s, Council Tool had a small but growing complex at Lake Waccamaw, near the almost-forgotten community of Wannanish.

The plant was located a short distance from the Wilmington and Manchester rail line, as his original home and shop had been near the crossing on the Wilmington-Charlotte line, at what became the Bladen community of Council Station. Now simply known as Council, the community once had a rail station that served North State Hunting Club, which John Pickett Council helped start. “Family tradition said he loved to hunt and fish,” Margo said, “and that was one reason he bought as much property as he could get near Lake Waccamaw.”

Work ethic

When Council had time to enjoy his outdoor pastimes is unknown.

Council Tool began to grow just as the second wave of the timber industry kicked into high gear. Cypress, cedar, and juniper were pulled from Columbus County swamps with mules and draft horses, milled in Bolton, Hallsboro, Evergreen, Boardman and Butters, then shipped to destinations around the world.

Juniper from Columbus County was used to build water tanks atop buildings in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia and London. Timber from local pine plantations no longer able to produce the prized golden resin made its way via train to Wilmington and south from there to help build the Panama Canal. Shingles manufactured in Columbus County put roofs on houses and businesses as far away as the West Coast.

Many of the trees harvested for those timber products came down or were processed using tools made by John Pickett Council’s growing company, and Council tools for harvesting naval stores were preferred by larger firms dealing in the products to waterproof the building supplies. A number of the tools made by Council himself, as well as a number of examples from the early days of the firm’s entry into manufacturing, are displayed in the boardroom at Council Tool Com-



pany at the Lake.

Council was well known for taking a shift in the shop as well as working the front office of the firm he created.

“He was a woodsman,” John said. “We honor that today with a lot of our products.”

In addition to manufacturing specialized garden tools, sledgehammers, drift punches and other forged tools, Council Tool is one of the best-known producers of craftsman quality axes. Unlike the “clad” axes and hatchets John Pickett Council and thousands of other blacksmiths made, wrapping softer iron around a tempered cutting edge – a method still used by some manufacturers – Council axes, along with other cutting and striking tools, are cut from single bar stock, forged and pounded in a multi-ton drop hammer.

The tool heads are then polished and finished by hand and machine before receiving a final sharpening and hardening and being fitted – again, by hand and machine—with only the best quality hickory handles.

While Council offers fiberglass handles in many of its tool lines, wood is still preferred by many serious foresters and “anyone who likes a good tool,” John said.

Around the world

Axes made in Lake Waccamaw are sought after in Russia and the timber-rich countries of Northern Europe, as well as England. The Velvicut line of craftsman quality axes is well known in a number of foreign countries, and has a growing following in the United States as well.

“Learning to compete in those foreign markets, and dealing with the different way you have to do business there—it’s challenging,” John said.

When state and federal governments began placing more of an emphasis on forest management and conservation, the Council reputation was enough that professional foresters and the N.C. Forest Service approached the company with requests for wildfire fighting equipment. Today, Council tools are standard wildland firefighting equipment across the country. The Council Rake is considered a standard wildfire-fighting tool in most

states, along with the patented “Fire Swatter.”

A natural outgrowth of that specialty was structural entry and firefighting equipment, from specialized crowbars to firefighting axes designed to shift more of the tool’s weight into a stroke, allowing for more power with less movement by a fireman wearing bulky turnout gear.

At the same time, Council Tool expanded into specialized lawn and garden implements such as the Ground Hog line of hand tools and the “Apocalaxe,” similar to the Woodsman’s Companion hand axe/multi-tool popular with soldiers in World War II.

The Apocalaxe features a hammer-head, skinning edge, chopping blade, and gut hook. Although the tool retails for around \$130, it has developed a following among outdoorsmen, campers and hikers.

“You can cut wood, build a shelter, clean a deer, just about anything with it,” he said. “We have customers who like to have one in the truck or in the boat. It’s handy around the hunting camp, and” – he said with a laugh – “if there’s a zombie apocalypse, this is the tool you want.”

By using only American steel, John explained, costs are going to be higher for many Council tools, “but our customers expect that. They are willing to pay for a quality tool they know they can count on,” he said. “We still have to struggle to keep prices and costs within reach. If we price ourselves out of the market, it doesn’t matter what kind of tool we make.”

Multi-generation team

A visitor returning to Council Tool after an absence of 50 years would encounter some of the same names from the last time he took a trip down Pecan Lane.

Second-generation employees are not



(top photo) Cameron Council (left) and Yogi Simmons (right) in front of the stamping machine used to make the popular GroundHog gardening tool and ApocalAxe multi-purpose tool. // (bottom photo) Sledge hammers await their handles.



uncommon, and John Council said several of the firm’s 50-plus employees are in their second or third decade of employment.

“It takes a special kind of person to do this kind of work,” he said. “You can’t just go pick someone off the street and put them in charge of a drop hammer.”

Modernization has created a challenge in terms of preventing layoffs, John said.

Where boxes and crates of tools were

once shipped by rail to other businesses that then distributed them, Council Tools are also now available through Amazon.com. Council is moving away from its own direct marketing on some products, using the Internet rather than field representatives.

A robot now performs some of the finishing work on tool heads forged on a 1920s era press. Unlike human workers, who can get tired, the robot maintains the exact tolerances

and performs the same task hundreds of times per day, freeing up workers for other duties. It even lets the operator know when it needs maintenance.

Employees will soon have access to a room similar to those used by Toyota and other large companies, where updates are posted on whiteboards, a multi-media center allows everyone to see everything from video proposals for new projects to YouTube reviews of products, as well as handling samples of potential future product lines.

“You have to constantly strive for a way to do things in a better, more efficient manner if you’re going to be a success,” John said, “but at the same time, we have a heritage to protect here, and a reputation.”

Margo pointed out that even when the plant was destroyed by fire – on three different occasions—Council Tool did not lay off workers, and was back in production within weeks.

“You can’t do things halfway,” she said, “and expect to have a quality product. Great-Grandfather John knew that a century ago, and it’s still true.”

“So many tools now are made to be thrown away,” John said. “People just toss an axe or pick with a broken handle and buy a new one. Ours are made to be passed down and used.” -X



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Local dog trainers make national splash

LABRADORS BRING HOME HONORS AS WELL AS DUCKS

BY JEFFERSON WEAVER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY FULLER ROYAL

MANY WATERFOWLERS HAVE CANINE companions for retrieving downed ducks.

Three local men and their dogs take retrieving to the next level.

Steven Bright, Josh Bright, Glen Rogers, and Jimmy Pierce train Labrador, Golden and Chesapeake Bay retrievers, along with water spaniels and other breeds. Their devotion to retrieving, obedience and competition has created a string of national honors for their dogs Daisy, Ace, Visa, Josey, Jill and Jazzy.

"I can't describe why somebody would do this like we do," Bright said. "It's just

something you grow to love."

While all three men have participated

"Let's say the ducks are flying, and your dog is retrieving one bird when you knock down another one. He has no idea where to look, and you have to guide him."

-Glen Rogers

in national-level events with their dogs, Rogers has racked up the most mileage,

participating in Master National contests in California, Alabama, Maine, Florida and elsewhere. He has two dogs in the national retriever's hall of fame. He owns Gooseneck Retrievers in Riegelwood.

Bright's operation, White Marsh Retrievers, acts as a headquarters for serious local retrieving enthusiasts. A converted tobacco barn is used for a social hall, and a series of manicured small ponds and terrain features give trainers options ranging from formal training to just exercising their dogs.

"All I ever wanted was some obedience



training for a dog," Bright said, "and I contacted Glen. Next thing I know, 11 months later, I'm bringing my dog home

with a title."

Retrieving on the national level is more than throwing a floating "bumper" into a body of water and telling the dog to fetch. The training is based on real hunting skills that make the difference between a good pet and a fine hunting dog.

"All our dogs hunt," Bright said. "That's the purpose behind teaching them to be-

Labs demonstrate a water entry to retrieve a Dokken decoy. The retrieving range in competition is up to 125 yards.

gin with. Every dog I send out makes a good housedog as well as hunter. It's important for them to be part of the family.

"I have some people who just want some obedience training for their dogs," he explained, "but most of what I do involves training them for the hunt."

Although throwing or projecting bumpers in the dog's line of sight takes up a lot of training time, the true measure of a dog's performance is when the retriever doesn't know where the dummy is wait-



ing.

"It's like really hunting," Rogers explained. "Let's say the ducks are flying,



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and your dog is retrieving one bird when you knock down another one. He has no idea where to look, and you have to guide him.”

Among the hardest parts for some dogs to learn is how to stop swimming forward, turn toward their handler, and

tread water.

“If he gets off track,” Pierce said, “you need him to turn around and look at you.”

“It’s not natural for a dog to tread water,” Bright said. “For them it’s a learned skill. It takes work.”

Using a series of whistles and hand

signals, Bright guided Daisy, a young female Lab, across two ponds separated by a grassy strip, then up a bank between two trees to a stash of bumpers. She then brought the bumper back. Jazzy, an 11-year-old, handled the course a little more slowly, but just as ably as her young-

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er companion.

Dogs in trials do not necessarily compete against each other, Rogers explained.

"You're competing against a standard, not each other," he said. "That makes for a different atmosphere. You end up cheering each other on, especially the kids. Some dogs and their handlers might come out on top, but nobody loses, really."

When potential retrievers are still puppies, Bright said, he takes trainees "everywhere you can take a dog."

"You take them into stores, Bass Pro, down the street, everywhere," he said. "You want them to get used to being petted and messed with, so they don't get distracted when it's time to go to work. They're used to being around people and other dogs and noises, so it's no big deal."

At seven to eight months old, Bright said, the real training begins.

"We teach what is called 'fetch on command,'" he said. "Almost any retriever will go into the water after a duck on a nice day, but you get a day when there's a lot of ice on the water, he might sit there and think about it. By teaching them to go on command, they understand that it's a job. They still enjoy it, it's still fun, but it's their job."

All dogs are different, Rogers said.

"You get some that are hard-headed, and some who just can't get everything just right," he explained. "You have some who just dive full in, no matter how cold the water is, and others who have to be taught."

The sport is not without its dangers, Rogers said. All three men related stories of dogs injured by jumping onto submerged sticks or logs, snake bites and, in Columbus county, the ever-present problem of alligators.

"You have to watch out for your dog," Bright said.

Rogers said that in some areas of the far west, an innocuous-looking weed common around waterways can be deadly to enthusiastic water dogs.

"The seeds are barbed," he said, "and the harder a dog works to get it out of his nasal passages, the deeper it goes. They



(opposite page) Josh Bright and Bailey; Steven Bright, Daisy and Ace; Jimmy Pierce, Jill and Josie. // (this page) Steven Bright works with Daisy as she "honors" another working dog. // Glen Rogers with his black lab, Visa.

can get in a dog's lungs and cause permanent injury. When they start sneezing blood, you have a really serious problem."

In addition to hip dysplasia and other ailments common in larger breeds, working retrievers sometimes have to contend with sports injuries similar to human athletes.

"I've seen them with torn ACLs, just

like a runner," Bright said. "That can cost \$3,000."

North Carolina lacks many public facilities where retriever trials can be held, Bright said, "and that's a shame."

"You have places for field trials, and fox and coon hunts," he said. "People don't realize the economic impact of even a small retriever event."

A "small" event at White Marsh recently drew 50 dogs and their handlers. Rogers said it isn't uncommon to see hundreds of handlers, their families and dogs at larger events.

"These events can last two weeks," he said. "Think about the motel rooms, the meals—we rent a house when we can, and buy gas, supplies, you name it. Imagine the impact something like that would have on Columbus County."

"We have property around here that's no good to farm, no good to build, not good for much of anything except what we do," Pierce said. "A lot of times, people hear the words 'dog training,' and they think it's something like deer hunters riding their trucks around in their fields. It's nothing like that."

Rogers said families often participate in the sport together, even when the entire family doesn't hunt.

"It's a clean, family-friendly sport, and anybody who's willing to work and practice can do it," he said. "It's really rewarding, and you get to have a lot of fun with a dog that might otherwise just be laying around the rest of the year."

Bright said stewardship of the environment plays a big role in their sport.

"We take care of the land as well as our animals," he said. "We love what we do, and the dogs love it. There's nothing like watching a young dog making a perfect retrieve for the first time, or an old dog still trying to keep on going."

Bright motioned to one of his prize dogs, a 10-year-old female who still hunted all last winter in Arkansas.

"They might slow down, but they'll keep going as long as we'll let them," he said. "The dogs love it as much as we do."

—X



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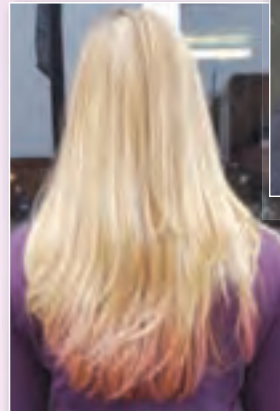
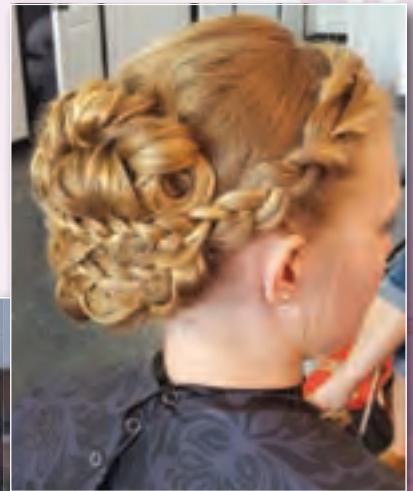
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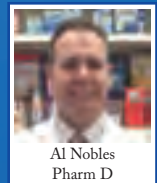
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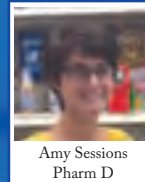
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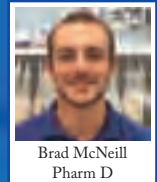
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The Mary Lawrence Family Choir

SINGING FOR MOM BECOMES A LEGACY

BY SHALON SMITH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PERRY FRINK

MARY LAWRENCE'S 78TH BIRTHDAY GIFT was one that launched a legacy that lives on today in a new generation of singers and musicians.

When the family celebrated Mary and her twin sister, Martha's 78th birthday, Mary's children and grandchildren hosted a ceremony in her honor. A service at First Baptist Church in Chadbourn included a choir of Lawrence children and grandchildren. The family choir was a hit that people wanted to hear perform again.

Mary, a quiet, kind and understanding woman, and sister, Martha, were born in Chadbourn in 1902. Mary married Horace Lawrence and they had 15 children: James Edward, Sarah Lee (Davis), Mable, Mary Jane (Flowers), Annie Lee, Blanchie (Frink), Horace Jr., Baby Girl Lawrence, Roosevelt, William, Evangeline (McBride), Walter, Napoleon, David, and Clara (Dunn).

The births of their younger children over the years never slowed Mary down. She continued to work alongside Horace and the older children on the family's farm.

"One of the older kids would stay at home because every two years she would have a baby. My mother would like to be in the field, so she'd leave one at home. The main one that wanted to stay home would

be my sister, Ann—she didn't like the sun," Mary Jane said.

The birth of the Mary Lawrence Family Choir came when sisters Sarah Lee and Mary Jane listened to a recording of the 78th birthday celebration and wanted the choir to continue.

Within two years, the group had their first concert at First Baptist Church in

Clara M. Lawrence, Mary J. Flowers, Blanchie L. Frink, Phylisa F. Kelly, Alexander Kelly Jr., Adgeline Lawrence, Annie L. Lawrence, David Lawrence, William Lawrence, Evangeline L. McBride, Cynthia D. Nealy, Keith Lawrence, Sharon F. Peele, and Milton Frink (organist and director). The oldest member was Sarah; the youngest was Keith.

"We did pretty good that first concert. Folks kept saying, 'My God, y'all sound good—you need to do that again,'" Milton said.

The family decided to do another concert the following year with proceeds this time benefiting the campaign of former U.S. Congressman and Chadbourn native Edolphus Towns.

Milton said that each time they sang, they improved. From the annual concert a new benefit was formed.

Proceeds from the

third concert in 1984 established the Mary Lawrence Scholarship Fund.

The \$300 scholarship was awarded to a deserving high school senior who was not of immediate familial relation to children and grandchildren of Mary Lawrence at West Columbus High School.

"Though we've had plenty of grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Mary Lawrence go on to college, we never gave the money to anyone in our immediate



Chadbourn on the first Sunday in September of 1981 at 5:30 p.m.

Proceeds from this first concert went to First Baptist Church to make repairs to the church organ. The annual concert remains on the same Sunday in September just as it has for 35 years.

The original choir included children, grandchildren, and in-laws: Mary J. Speight, Margaret H. Davis, Sarah L. Davis, William L. Davis, Laverne L. Dukes,

family,” Milton said.

The Mary Lawrence Scholarship Fund’s first recipient was LaGina Frink.

Following the passing of Mary Lawrence in 1995, the family requested that community members give to the scholarship fund instead of giving flowers for the funeral service.

“Well, they gave to the Mary Lawrence Scholarship fund and they still gave flowers. There were so many flowers they couldn’t put them all in the church—they had to put them out on the porch,” Milton said.

This strengthened the scholarship fund to the point where the family could increase the amount to \$500 and award it to two deserving seniors at West Columbus High School.

As the years progressed and some of the original choir members began to pass away, donations to the scholarship fund continued to increase in honor of Mary Lawrence and her children. The concerts continually draw more guests, and, with the increased income, the family gives more back to the community.

Being director of the Mary Lawrence Family Choir wasn’t always an easy task for Milton. He was responsible for selecting 10 to 12 songs for the concert, sharing the music with each of the choir members—including those that live out of town and out of state—which involved mailing tapes and song lyrics, and held practices the two days leading up to the event.

“People admired us for this concert because we did this in a weekend. We did all of our practices and the concert in one weekend,” he said.

Milton organized rehearsals that would start at the church on Friday night after all of the family members could get into town. They’d also practice Saturday and then again on Sunday for an hour before the concert began. Eventually Milton added Thursday night practices to their schedule when they realized they needed to start learning new songs—Mary Jane’s idea.

“She was right—she was committed and there’s nobody any more committed than her. She knew what it took in order for a choir to perform. Although I was preaching it and telling it, they wouldn’t listen to me—I was the baby in the group.



(opposite page) Mary Lawrence and her children. (Standing) Roosevelt, Blanchie, William, Napoleon, Annie Lee, David, Clara, Walter, Evangeline (Seated) Sarah Lee, Mary Lawrence, Mary Jane // (this page) (above) Mary Lawrence with grand and great grandchildren // (below) The original Mary Lawrence Choir and New Generation Choir. photos by Perry Frink.

A prophet is without honor in his own home,” Milton laughed. “Mary Jane could say it and they would listen to her because she was one of the older ones; they weren’t going to disrespect her.”

Continuous complaints and strife from about five family members about the rigorous practice schedules for those two days over the Labor Day weekend started to wear on Milton. He had gotten to the point where he wanted to give up on the

choir when someone told him to reach out to James Marley, voice major at Pfeiffer College. Marley joined the sixth year of the concert and remained through its 30th year.

“He took a lot of the pressure off of me. They listened to him,” Milton said.

“He didn’t play—he worked ‘em,” Colene “Tootie” Kelly laughed.

Gradually, the choir transitioned new songs into their set list as they retired old



(this page) (left) New Generation Choir Musicians // (right) Mary Jane Flowers // (opposite page) Mary Lawrence. photos by Perry Frink.

ones. A few crowd and family favorites were never removed from the list.

The family had decided that after 30 years, the Mary Lawrence Family Choir was going to call it quits and the New Generation Choir was introduced with a couple of songs during the second half of the family choir's 30th choir concert.

"Some family members had said that we didn't need to just cut it out but that we've got to keep it going. I told them that the young folks or somebody else was going to have to step up," Milton said.

In 2011, the New Generation Choir performed the entire choir concert. The New Generation Choir includes some grandchildren that were original members of the Mary Lawrence Family Choir and grandchildren that started singing when the choir formed. The remainder of the membership is great-grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family.

Director of the New Generation Choir Tootie said a goal of the choir's membership is to have at least one of each of Mary's children represented.

"This will be the first year in a while that we will have all of her children represented—that's one of the exciting things," she said.

With extended family members now on the choir roster, Tootie and other family members decided not to turn away young folks who were "extended-extended family" interested in joining the choir to make sure there was a balance of ranges represented.

"We don't have a strong Mary Jane (an alto) like that, so I have to get a whole lot of altos so I don't have to run my Aunt Shirby (Sharon Peele, an alto) most of the time. We had to gather some more—even with the sopranos, we don't have my Aunt Clara or my Aunt Sarah, who were strong sopranos. Because of that, we started bringing other people in who are like extended family to the New Generation Choir," Tootie said.

Unique to the New Generation Choir are instrumentalists. The Mary Lawrence Family Choir simply had Milton as the organist and Marley as the pianist and director. The new, younger choir has an organist, pianist, saxophonist, drummer, bass guitarist, and dedicated director.

"The thing that we were looking for and prayed for was for this Mary Lawrence group to step up to another level and this New Generation Choir took us to another level, in performance, with the musicians

she has to help her. With the new generation, we're talking about new music, new styles of performance—different—and for young folks to be that involved, it runs chills down my spine," Milton said.

Milton and James Marley were trained musicians; however, Tootie has two trained musicians who were also music majors on her choir staff. The addition of these further musicians and dedicated directors has allowed the new choir to be transformed into a blend of gospel choir and praise team—a tremendous feat since the majority of the members of both choirs are not members of any church choirs.

"These people don't sing on Sunday mornings," Tootie said. "Out of every one of the family up there, Shirby is the only one that sings on somebody's church choir."

The musicians are JaShaun Peele, Eric Green, Byron Powell, David Spencer, Jamal Bellamy, and Tiffany Powell. Even though most of them are not members of the family, they have committed themselves to the annual event.

"Something about our family drew them in," Tootie said. "No matter if they are available to play for us or not, they find a way to be there."

The first choir concert by the New Generation Choir in 2011 was a success.

"We were so worried about whether or not the Mary Lawrence Family Choir could continue and go on after we had done it for 30 years. Well, after they performed that first year, there was no doubt in my mind that the Lord had really laid his hands on the Mary Lawrence family and the New Generation Choir and that this was what we were supposed to do," Milton said.

With today's technology advances, Tootie has an easier task than Milton had organizing the practices for the Labor Day weekend concert. The choir members are able to practice on their own, before waiting on the two-day practice runs with the full choir. Through email, she sends out song lists including YouTube videos and lyrics as early as June for choir members to start learning the individual pieces of music. Knowing the songs and lyrics along with the music before Labor Day weekend allows the choir and musicians to practice to perfect selections as an ensemble, not just to learn the songs and sing them together.

The members of the New Generation Choir by section are: Sopranos—Sharon Burton, Margaret Davis, Shaunesi Davis, Courtney Edge, Sharon Johnson, Ashawntia Kelly, Tonia Lawrence, Courtney Oxendine, Shauna Pervis, Mary Speight, Vanessa Tart, and Shawn Williams; Altos—Raquel Boone, Monica Brown, Laverne Dukes, Tonya Flowers, Wytisha Carter, Katonia Kelly, Phylisa Kelly, Adgeline Lawrence, Charmeka Menefee, Cynthia Nealy, Sharon Peele, Joy Pervis, and Monique White; Tenors—Ivan Bartley, Jonathan Davis, William Davis, Corey Edge, Ronald Frink, Rashad Johnson, Dante Kelly, Keith Lawrence, Robert Lawrence, Shaun Pervis, and Charles Williams; Bass—Christopher Brown, Darius Frink, and Alexander Kelly Jr.

The youngest member of the New Generation Choir is Ashawntia Kelly, 19, and the oldest is Mary Speight, 67.

Unlike the original choir, which had more of a standard gospel selection list, the New Generation Choir is ministry-based in its song selection. Most of the selections change year after year. A favorite of

the new choir and fans alike is "Jesus, My Rock," led by Ivan Bartley.

"Originally, we tried to do all old-school songs in the first half of the concert, to keep with the tradition of the original choir, but it's hard to do that this day and time the way music is made. Music has changed, but we always try to keep at least a song with Aunt Mary Jane or Aunt Patsy (Evangeline)—they don't always sing, but you still can know where the foundation of this choir is," Tootie said.

Milton said the impact of the choir to the Lawrence family and the surrounding community is threefold. He thinks the Lawrence family serves as an example of a family that enjoys bonding and spend-



"Y'all done good."

—Mary Lawrence

ing time together, even though only once a year. Second, as a family, they spread the spiritual message of Christ to the community through their music in the hope that it has a positive impact on the lives of those that attend the concert. Third, they help someone wishing to further their education by giving a scholarship.

He said the Lawrence family is not a perfect family but their influence from the educational standpoint, the spiritual aspect, and the family example of being together and bonding is what it's about.

"There are so many families that don't

come together like we do. More of our family members have come to the family reunions because of this concert. It has brought us closer together and because of the spiritual aspect of it, we have allowed God to come into our family and let him solve the problems that many people think they can solve when it comes to keeping families together," Milton said.

Two songs that have been long-time family and fan favorites are "Somehow I Made It," led by Mary Jane and "God Is," led by Sharon Peele, songs the family says perfectly describe the impact the Mary Lawrence Family Choir has had on their own family and on the community.

Tootie said the family choir and concert is about family as a whole but more so the love they have for one another and the community. She said the concert kept them together through challenges of death, misunderstandings, hurt feelings and disappointment. When Mary Lawrence died in 1995, the family choir concert was less than two weeks away.

She said, "The only reason you knew there was a challenge, would've been if you just knew. Through all of that, God was still glorified—"

"Through it all he brought us through," Mary Jane interjected.

"And somehow we made it," Milton finished the line of the song. "That's why that song is so popular—right on time, Mary Jane," he said.

When Sarah Lee Davis, daughter of Mary Lawrence, passed away the Friday before Labor Day in 2013, it was the Friday before Sunday's concert. Tootie was the one who had to deliver the news to the family members waiting at the church for the Friday night practice to start. The family had to deal with her passing during the concert weekend and buried her the following week.

"It goes back to the song—that's why everyone requests it. Through it all he brought us through, somehow we made it. That is why we've been able to keep this legacy alive, because God is," Milton said.

When asked what Mary Lawrence herself would say of what the family has done over the years continuing the legacy of her and Horace's children, her granddaughter Vivian said the woman of few words would simply say, "Y'all done good." —✕

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WHAT IS REAL FOOD? "Food," as defined in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is something that nourishes, sustains or supplies. "Real" is defined as not artificial, fraudulent or illusory. My definition of "Real Food" is food that is in its most natural state without altering it in any way. We need real food to live.

About 70% of the so-called food available to buy at the supermarket is not food. It is processed and it is not wholesome to our bodies. Food scientists have engineered this food. Our bodies do not respond well to these food-like substances. By eating these types of foods, we are putting ourselves at risk for

diabetes, cancer, heart disease, obesity, depression, and digestive problems.

The next time you are grocery shopping, you may need to ask yourself, “Would my great-grandparents be able to recognize what I am throwing into my shopping cart?” In my opinion, life is about balance and enjoying real, wholesome food. Think about where your food came from, how it makes you feel and whether it safe to put into your body. Food can be your biggest ally or your worst enemy. As Ann Wigmore says, “The food you eat can be either the safest and most powerful form of medicine or the slowest form of poison.” I could

not agree more.

Numerous studies have found that eating a diet high in good, whole foods does have a positive impact on our health and wellbeing. These studies have also proven that eating good foods does lower the risk of disease.

Eating real foods, such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains is very important. Consumption of these foods sustains our body. They are full of vitamins and minerals.

So, at this point, you are probably thinking, “Well, what can I eat?” You can and should eat whole foods such as fruits, vegetables, organic dairy products, organic meats/poultry,

wild caught fish, nuts, seeds, legumes, and whole grains. With a diet high in real foods, you will not only be supplying your body with vitamins and minerals, you will also be nourishing your body with antioxidants, fiber and phytochemicals that protect against disease. It would be wise to avoid processed junk foods. These foods take little to no preparation to make but provide zero nutritional value. What I call “fake” or convenience foods are usually high in calories, high in fat, high in salt, and high in sugar.

My rule of thumb and the best advice I can give you is to stay away from the middle aisles at the grocery store.

Only shop the perimeter of the store. Cook your meals from scratch. Plan your meals ahead of time. Shop at your local farmers market. Read food labels and the ingredients. If you can't pronounce the ingredients, then don't buy the item. Real food choices come from Earth. Real food is nourishing to our bodies and minds. You can grow real food. Real food heals. Real food goes bad and rots. Real food makes you feel good. EAT REAL FOOD!!
-XX



The Good Apple, LLC was created by Briana Cahn, RD, LDN. She is a Registered Dietitian based out of Whiteville, North Carolina. Her weight loss center works with people to change the way they think about eating.

Briana graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics. After rotating through all clinical and community areas of nutrition, she completed her Dietetic Internship at The College of Saint Elizabeth's in Morristown, New Jersey. Along the way, Briana had developed a deeper understanding of how to work with different people's needs and give them individualized plans for success. She maintains this passion and believes the key to a happier life and disease prevention starts with nutrition education, a healthy diet, and an active lifestyle. The Good Apple, LLC, 611 North Madison Street, Whiteville, NC 28472. 910-759- DIET (3438).

CAULIFLOWER RICE STIR-FRY WITH PUMPKIN SEEDS

Courtesy of The Clean Slate Cookbook from the Editors of Martha Stewart Living

Finely chopped cauliflower gives this dish a rice-like texture. Ginger and garlic are anti-inflammatories, while pumpkin seeds are rich in omega-3 fatty acids. Serve the stir-fry by itself or alongside a protein source, such as steamed black cod or poached chicken breast. Serves 2.

½ head (1 pound) cauliflower, cut into florets
2 tablespoons of coconut oil or extra virgin olive oil
1 small red onion, sliced
4 garlic cloves, minced
Coarse salt
¼ cup organic vegetable broth
1 tablespoon minced, peeled fresh ginger
1 thinly sliced small red chili (optional)
½ head (1 pound) broccoli, cut into florets
1 large carrot, julienned
½ red bell pepper, diced
Juice of ½ lemon
2 tablespoons raw hulled pumpkin seeds (toasted)
2 tablespoons fresh cilantro leaves

DIRECTIONS:

Pulse cauliflower florets in a food processor until finely chopped.

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add half the red onion and half the garlic; cook, stirring, until tender, about 6 minutes. Add cauliflower and season with salt. Stir in broth; steam, covered, until broth has evaporated and cauliflower is tender, about 6 minutes. Transfer to a bowl, and cover to keep warm.

Wipe pan clean, and heat remaining onion; cook, stirring until tender, about 5 minutes. Add remaining garlic, the ginger, and chili; cook 1 minute. Add broccoli florets, carrot, and bell pepper; cook, stirring, until tender, about 5 minutes. Season with salt. Remove from heat, and add lemon juice.

Top cauliflower with broccoli mixture. Sprinkle with pumpkin seeds and cilantro and serve.

PER SERVING: 498 calories, 21 grams of fat (3 grams saturated fat), 0 mg cholesterol, 44 grams of carbohydrates, 18 grams protein, 15 grams fiber

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Nobody Knows He's Famous

BY FRANKLIN DAVIS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLIE JARMAN

NOAH JARMAN IS COMPLETING HIS sophomore year at South Columbus High School. He is typically on the principal's list, a member of the Stallion Marching Band, an All-County Band selection and the tennis team.

All of these are good accomplishments for a high school student, but what really could make Noah stand out in a crowd he is humble about.

Few people know that Noah is USA Volleyball Beach's seventh-ranked player nationally in the U16 and U18 divisions.

Noah may be Columbus County's least known star athlete.

For Noah, volleyball means sand, a partner and fun, with the emphasis on fun. The rankings are secondary to Noah.

Most of his classmates don't have a clue about his success. "Maybe five of my friends know how involved I am and what I've done in beach volleyball," Noah admits.

"Some of my students will ask me about Noah because they know we went to a tournament the previous weekend. The volleyball team at South knows because Noah helps with their practice," says his mother Misty, at teacher at South Columbus High School.



PHOTO BY FULLER ROYAL

Noah prefers to stay out of the limelight. "Volleyball is something I do," he said. "It doesn't define who I am."

Noah plays tennis at South Columbus, but finds it more stressful. "If I fail as an individual in tennis I have let the entire team down."

"In beach volleyball, the accountability is shared between the two players. That allows me to loosen up and be freer on the court. I get a thrill out of a well-played point. A good set that leads to a kill, a hard shot down the middle or a well-placed shot in a corner are all exciting to me.

"I enjoy the points much more when earned against a good team than just random points you get from others' mistakes."

Growing up in an area where beach volleyball doesn't exactly thrive did not hinder Noah. He played Dixie Youth Baseball and tried his hand at basketball during his eighth-grade year at Williams Township. Neither sport captured Noah's fancy. What he did look forward to was attending the volleyball matches his father, Charlie, played.

Charlie attended Kinston High School, where basketball was the sport of choice for most. He learned it was not something he was adept at playing, so he gravitated to volleyball. After high school, Charlie spent three years in Hawaii where he could play volleyball every day at virtually any time. This cemented his love for the game that he would later pass on to Noah.

When life brought Charlie to Columbus County, volleyball was not something he could easily find a group to play. Charlie, Vann Holcomb and Greg Ward of Lumberton formed a group that began playing regularly on Thursday nights.

Noah began accompanying his father to some of these matches when he was 7 years old.

Noah would keep score. Noah would be allowed to "bump" with the adults between sets. The "bump" is a basic soft pass used in

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volleyball.

At roughly age 11, Noah was allowed to participate in some games prior to the "serious" group play. Although the adults didn't go at him full throttle, it quickly became apparent that Noah had a knack for the game. Noah rapidly advanced to the point where he could play with the adults and more than hold his own.

Charlie remembers Noah bumping with

as Noah's best practice opportunity. He is around volleyball most of the year. He will work out with the South Columbus club team.

"If they want to run laps or work on

volleyball IQ. He can read the opposition like an elite quarterback, applying strategies and making adjustments quickly. He has the arm speed to really power the ball," Jenny said. Noah is quick to blush when she

(opposite page) Noah Jarman with his winning medals. // (this page) Alex Scharpenburg, Jenny Johnson and Noah Jarman at USA Jr Beach Tour National Championships in Virginia Beach, Va.



him as young as age 4. He has been exposed to and played volleyball over a long period of time, but it has never been a chore. Noah's role models are the people he watched play and now plays with on Thursdays.

Their enthusiasm helped instill the passion to play volleyball at a higher level. Noah actually models his game after one of the Thursday group, Dr. Doug Gensel. "He is just an awesome player," Noah said.

Noah doesn't have a regular workout regimen. The Thursday night games serve

ways to improve to someone who is excited about playing."

The Jarmans credit Jenny Johnson with helping Noah improve his skills and especially with developing a deeper understanding of strategy and an ability to read the court. Johnson is the South Columbus Sports Club volleyball director and along with husband Scott, the primary force behind the surge in volleyball popularity in Columbus County.

"Noah is a natural and has a very high

fundamentals, I'll do that with them," Noah said.

Misty says the beach volleyball community is competitive, but also very much about growing the sport. "Some of the older players are very helpful. They are willing to give advice and point out

tells the participants at camps, club practices and clinics about his national ranking.

She sees Noah's accomplishments as something that could inspire more young athletes, boys and girls, to pursue the sport.

"Noah's success should help grow the game locally. His skill certainly has helped our girls improve their games," Jenny said.

Noah competed in beach volleyball tournaments in Wilmington, Cary, Apex and Virginia Beach, Va. in 2015. He partnered with Alex Scharpenburg, formerly of Lake Waccamaw, to win three titles. He has also partnered with Lilli Inman of Whiteville.

Noah says the gender of his volleyball partner does not matter as long as they have the skill and aptitude to compete. Noah plans to play in as many events this season as possible. "It will depend on finding a partner as much as anything," he said. "It could be every week, but is more likely a couple of times a month."

Noah's ranking is based on his best five tournament finishes in the previous 365 days. Although Noah has been competing as a 14 and now 15 year old, he typically

competes at the 18U level. This earns him points in the 18U and 16U divisions, thus providing him a ranking at both levels.

Noah does not have his future plans wrapped around volleyball. He wants to continue playing, but college choice will be about academics, not athletics, he said. He is interested in teaching or engineering as fields of study.

"Noah wants to be good at everything he does. He wants to make sure he carries his share of the load. He practices volleyball more than he lets on, but he doesn't let it consume him," Charlie said. "Noah is competitive, whether it is volleyball, tennis, music or a test score. He is very even-tempered when the results are announced. He gives his best effort and moves on to whatever is next. We are very proud of him."

In the current world of youth sports, Noah's story is refreshing to many. For Noah it is a lifetime sport where "friendships are forged" and he encourages others to discover it. "It is a great opportunity to be a part of the foundation of volleyball in Columbus County." -



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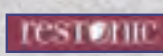
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COLUMBUS CHAMBER

ANNUAL DINNER

JANUARY 25



Retiring Chamber board members Nancy Sigmon, Amy Carter, Sue Hawks and Kevin Williamson with immediate past board chairman, Geoff Hopkins, and newly-elected board chairman, Terri Edmund.



Incoming Chamber Board of Directors Brad Crowell, Bill Gore, Matt McLean, Rebecca Murphy, with immediate past board chairman, Geoff Hopkins, and newly-elected board chairman, Terri Edmund.



Nicole Hopkins, Geoff Hopkins and Debbie Nance



Columbus Chamber Board of Directors (Seated) Stuart Rogers, Nancy Sigmon, Jennifer Holcomb (President), Terri Edmund, Stephanie Miller (Back Row) Rebecca Murphy, Geoff Hopkins, Rhonda Dutton, J.E. Thompson, Jonathan Medford, Matt McLean, Bill Gore, Dr. Anthony Clarke, Brad Crowell

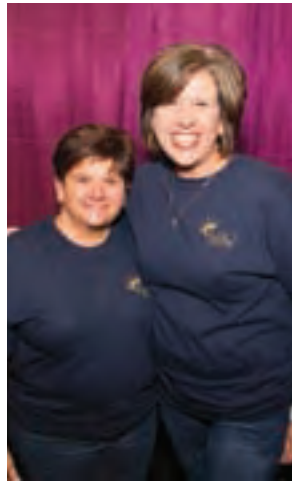


Lacie Jacobs and Terrie Priest



Linda Leder, Peggy Blackmon, Tim Blackmon, Robert Leder and Jeffrey Rosier

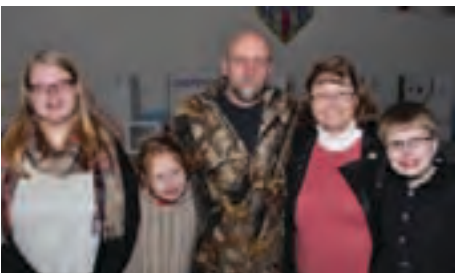
WOMEN *of* WORTH
CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 5 & 6



Jessica Overby, Jolene Murray, Rachel Williams // Jackie Ray, Mandy Wilkins // Gwen Smith, Tracy Gore, Missy Long, Jessica Turbeville, Crystal Duncan // Ramona Merritt, Tammy Trent, Marie Merritt // Theresa Clifton, Tammy Trent, Anita Daneker, Carrie Hammond

COLUMBUS COUNTY
memorial vfw post
70th anniversary

FEBRUARY 13



Brietta, Gabriona, Russell, Selena, and Kylan McPherson // Michael & Helen Branch, on Right is Will, Donna, and Jonathan McCulloch // David Corbett, Kendra Corbett, David Harrelson, WH Morris // Ashley Powers, Danny Britt Jr., Dale Spivey, Charles Mercer



LAKE WACCAMAW

depot museum dinner

FEBRUARY 12

Brent Jernigan, Andy Wells, Becky Lane and Rory Montgomery // Guests bid on silent auction items.



COLUMBUS JOBS FOUNDATION

membership social

FEBRUARY 25



(top left) Sandy Best, Jennifer Holcomb, Lisa Fisher, Carla Hollis and Lisa Thomas // (top right) Gail Dew, Cathy McMillan and Amy Carter // (second row middle) Senator Bill Rabon and Sandy McNeill // (second row right) Louise Barkley, John Gayle Barkley, John Stoll and LaDonna Stoll // (bottom left) Anne Williamson, Greg and Melinda Powell // (bottom middle) Lake Stocks, Anna-Marie Inman, Dick Simms, William Wood and Samantha Alsup // (bottom right) Rick Edwards and Bill Clark

DANCING WITH THE VINELAND STARS

social

MARCH 8



Vineland Dancing Stars // (middle top) Sheila and Dalton Dockery // (top right) Jim Newman, Dr. Peggy Newman and Suzanne King // (left bottom) Rita Capps, Jackie Brooks, Dr. Jim Brooks, Nikki Walker // Dur Thomason, Carla Brown, Liz McLean, Bill Gore and Mary Bennon Wheatley

WEST COLUMBUS 50th ANNIVERSARY

alumni prom

MARCH 25



Iris Oliver, Clarice Faison // Twins Cheryl Sibbett and Carol Butler // Sharon Lewis, Shellie Britt, Pam Britt

annual
COTILLION
BALL

MARCH 19



Fun waiting for the debutante presentation.
// Escort, Davis Inman dancing with his step-mother, Lynne Inman. Debs having fun dancing together.
// Debs on stage.
// Debs with dads and escorts:
Ashley Gray Carter
Madison Taylor Hinson
Samantha Brooke Lane
Megan Allison Lynne
Meredith Paige McPherson
// Ashley & David Carter, Sam & Doug Lane during the Father/Daughter Dance.



37th annual
SCC
FOUNDATION
dinner theatre
honoring Leon M. Fox, Jr.
 APRIL 9



Lonnie and Ann Fox // Lonnie Fox, center, joined by his family // Ed Grigsby, retired V.P. of Instructional Services and wife, Barbara with Sue Hawks, SCC Executive Dean-Institutional Advancement // Henry Edmund, chair SCC Board of Trustees along with former SCC President Steve Scott and wife, Patsy // Harry Foley, Lake Waccamaw Town Manager with Kevin Butler, Duke Energy and wife, Lisa Butler

Saturday, May 21
7th Farmer's Market Fun Run & Walk
The Columbus County Farmer's Market hosts the annual 3.1 mile Run/Walk at 9 a.m. and half mile Kids Fun Run at 8:45 a.m. Start and finish at the Farmer's Market. Visit www.fmrn.com to register.

Monday, May 30
Whiteville Optimist Majors Tournament Championship at Harritan Field 7:30p.m.

Saturday, June 4
National Trails Day
 Explore the Lake Waccamaw State Park trails including the short Sand Ridge Trail, easy Boardwalk Trails and the longer Lakeshore Trail from the visitor's center to the Waccamaw River.

Tuesday, June 7
Last day for students attending Whiteville City Schools. Early release and summer fun begins.

Wednesday, June 8
Last day for students attending Columbus County Schools.
Whiteville High School graduation ceremony.

Thursday, June 9
Columbus County High School Graduation Ceremony, June 9.



Mid-June
Dixie Youth League Tournaments begin. Watch The News Reporter sports for tournament schedule.

June 13 – 17
NC Wildlife Action Pioneer Day Camp at the Helms Nature Preserve. Must pre-register. Form available at <http://www.nc-wildlifeaction.org/> or email info@nc-wildlifeaction.org



Saturday, June 18
North Carolina Cardboard Boat Championships sponsored by The Rotary Club at the Lake Waccamaw Sailing Club at noon.

Saturday, June 18
Summer Vegetable

Day at Columbus County Farmer's Market
 Cooking demonstrations, free samples of grilled summer vegetables & recipes



Saturday, July 9
Watermelon Day at Columbus County Farmer's Market
 Free samples, recipes and nutritional information

Saturday, July 16
Watermelon Festival in Fair Bluff

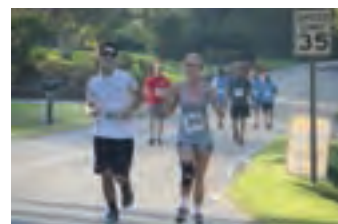


Saturday, August 20
Kids' "Back-to-School" Fun Day
 at Columbus County Farmer's Market

Sunday, August 27
Take the Lake X-treme at Lake Waccamaw

Labor Day Weekend
Saturday, September 3 –
Monday, September 5

Take the Lake events at Lake Waccamaw. Including new family 10k events.
Saturday, September 3
walk/run with 8 a.m. start



Sunday, September 4
paddle with 8 a.m. start

Sunday, September 4
bike with 2 p.m. start.
Monday, September 5
swim with 8 a.m. start

Friday, September 16
Columbus County Industrial Golf Tournament at Land O Lakes Golf Course

Saturday, September 17
Old Fashioned Farm Day at Columbus County

Farmer's Market
 Celebrate farm heritage with demonstrations, historic displays and cooking demonstrations.

Saturday, September 24
Families First & Columbus County Arts Council Lip Sync Contest - Whiteville



October 1

Pine Tree Festival in Bolton

Tuesday, October 11 – Sunday, October 16

Columbus County Fair at the Columbus County Fairgrounds

Saturday, October 15

Sweet Potato Day at Columbus County Farmer's Market

Thursday, October 20

Taste of Tabor in Tabor City

Saturday, October 22

31st Annual NC Yam Festival in Tabor City

Friday, October 21 & Saturday, October 22

Waccamaw Siouan Pow Wow at the Tribal Grounds located at 7275 Old Lake Road in Bolton



Thursday, October 27

Shuck n' Shag Oyster Roast in Whiteville

Friday, November 4

Pecan Harvest Festival Queen's Luncheon in Whiteville

Saturday, November 5

24th Annual North Carolina Pecan Harvest Festival in Whiteville



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Linda Rice
Colorectal Cancer Survivor



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