



Saturday, July 15 on Main Street in China Grove

A family affair: Hopeful Acres Farm & Gardens still strong after a century

By Brad Dountz

brad.dountz@salisburypost.com

A century farm is a farm that has been officially recognized as being in operation for at least 100 years. Since 1914, six generations have been

working at Hopeful Acres Farm & Gardens, allowing the rest of Rowan County to experience the fruits of their labor and to hear about their long and rich history.

Chris Morgan and Stephanie Frisbee are siblings who work together to

keep the memories of their father, Perry, alive. They both grew up on the farm and still live on the property with their mom and Stephanie's children.

"We're all like a little family compound on the family farm," Frisbee said. "We share the same passion for our farm, for our farming heritage, and are trying to make it be there, so if my boys want to farm, it will be there."

They cultivate several crops like hay, corn, and soybeans while also raising their own cattle. Frisbee takes pride in that she works on her family farm, and even though she is confronted with the obstacles that go along with it, she relishes the opportunity to make it successful.

"If you look at statistics you see that family farms are declining. So, that's something my brother and I are faced with. He doesn't have children, I have two boys. Are my boys going to want to keep farming? What happens to the farm if they don't want to keep farming? I kind of look at ourselves as the stewards of the farm. We are doing what the generations have done before us to ensure



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that it thrives,” Frisbee said.

In 2014, Perry passed away. Since then, Morgan and Frisbee have been stepping up to make sure Hopeful Acres doesn't fall behind in all of the progress it has made over the decades. Stephanie did not have a degree in agriculture, so she began participating in NC Farm School through NC State, where she decided to include specialty cut flowers as a crop.

While selling her flowers, Frisbee realized she could monetize other aspects of the farm more effectively like by acquiring their meat handlers license for their cattle. She also created the tagline “beef and bloom” to make people aware about the new direction Hopeful Acres is taking.

By still having relationships with their customers and other farmers, Hopeful Acres offers a unique slice of what Rowan County agriculture is all about. That connection lets them stand out amongst everyone else. Hopeful Acres peels back the curtain on their practices, processes, and background to create an intimacy with their customers that makes them a place people want to return to.

“We try to tell our story because we want people to know where we

came from. We were raised with these extreme values that your word is everything, your word to someone,” Frisbee said. “I think it's us bringing that personal touch. When people say know your farmer, know your food. If people know you then they will support you.”

Having that love for what they do helps make the tough days go down better, but when someone has been farming for practically their whole lives, it becomes a

part of them and what they'll leave behind.

“Farming's in my blood. You can't get away from it. I guess it's an energy you can't get anywhere else or a feeling you can't get from doing anything else. Doing what your family has been doing for generations, we're just trying to carry on the legacy,” Morgan said.



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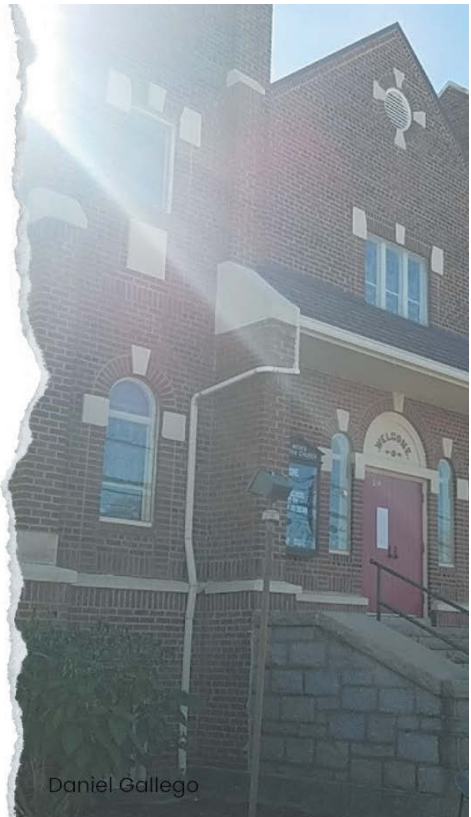
Music at Mark's
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Fellowship Hall

10 AM Christy Snow Band
11:15 AM Men Standing for Christ
12:15 PM Cristo Reina
1:30 PM St. John Neumann Music Ministry
1:50 PM Tom Eure & Amelia Osborne
2:45 PM Oak Grove Baptist Church
Mass Choir

Live Organ Music
10 am
Noon
2 PM

Sanctuary

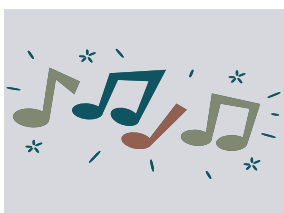


Daniel Gallego



9:00 AM
Opening Ceremony
9:30 AM
Little Mr./Miss.
Farmers Day Pageant
10:30 AM
Southern Style
Cloggers
11:30 AM
Triple Threat Dance
12:30 PM
Fools Gold
2:00 PM
Silver Cadillacs

2023 FARMERS DAY FESTIVAL
MAIN STAGE SCHEDULE
HANNA PARK
180 N MAIN ST
CHINA GROVE



SAT
JULY
15TH

EVENING CONCERT
5:20 PM YMCA Service Club
5:30 PM Car Giveaway
7:00 PM Austin McNeill Music
Dirty Grass Soul

STAGE BREAK
4 - 5 PM

FARMERS DAY est. 1982

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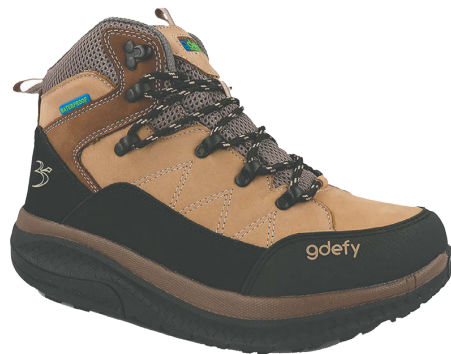
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Fifth generation of Millers provide produce to China Grove

By Robert Sullivan

robert.sullivan@salisburypost.com

Out on Miller Road, halfway between Mooresville Road and West Church Street, stands a lone produce store on the corner of a road. Miller Farm Fresh Produce is the face of the farm that has been in the Miller family for five generations.

Ever since Mike Miller's great-great-grandfather founded the farm in the 1890's, it has been worked by every generation of the family. Each member of the Miller family grew up working the farm, spending hot days in the summer hand-picking produce.

"No pool days, no beach days, no vacation days during the summer. It was hard work and I'm sure we butted heads with my dad about it back then. But that was when we were kids, now I understand it taught us respect for the work. And now we just go out and have fun, we don't work. We enjoy our jobs," said Mike, whose son Adam represents the sixth generation that stands to inherit the farm.

By this point, Miller Farm has grown to become a member of the community in the area it was founded in. Just recently, the family installed an ATM outside the farm store for people from the area to use.

"One of our workers actually mentioned that there wasn't one nearby, and so we thought it would be helpful. It's open 24 hours and we don't make a dime off of it," said Mike.

The Miller family made it out to the first Farmer's Day at China Grove 42 years ago, but Mike said that his family stopped going around 25 years ago



when the festival evolved from focusing on local farmers selling produce into the large-scale event it is today. Five years ago, however, the family began to return to the festival and have been there every year since.

Mike also stated that despite the fact that his brother spun off his own company, Miller and Sons Produce, the two still work closely together almost every day. Miller and Sons makes it out to the Cabarrus farmers' markets throughout the

week while Millers Farm Fresh Produce take their products to the Salisbury Farmers' Market every Saturday.

Ultimately, Miller Farm leans fully into an enjoyable family-owned and -operated work environment. Mike stressed that even though they are picking corn and other vegetables in 90 degree Fahrenheit and up temperatures, the family loves what they do.

"We don't work, we have fun," said Mike.



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Forged in Earth and Iron: James Wise applies job skills to art form

By Chandler Inions

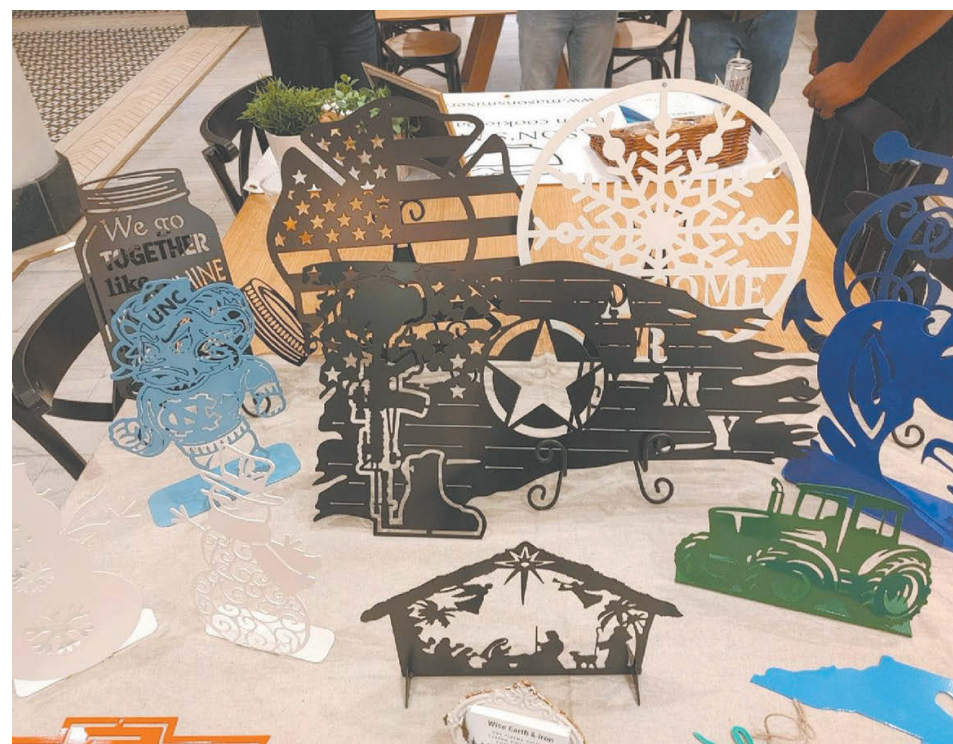
chandler.inions@salisburypost.com

Honing a skill that turned into a passion proved the perfect seed for an entrepreneurial opportunity for James “Jimmy” Wise.

Owner of Wise Earth and Iron, Wise will be among the local vendors at the China Grove Farmers Day on Saturday.

“My background is in industrial systems,” Wise said. “I have worked in maintenance for 12-13 years. During that time, part of my task as a maintenance guy was welding and fabricating. I realized that I really enjoyed fabricating.”

See **Wise**, C10





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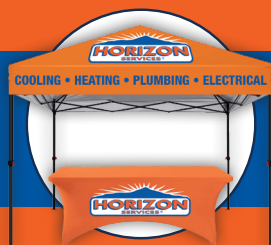
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2023 FARMERS DAY FESTIVAL

MAIN STAGE SCHEDULE

HANNA PARK
180 N MAIN ST
CHINA GROVE

9:00 AM

Opening Ceremony

9:30 AM

Little Mr./Miss.

Farmers Day Pageant

10:30 AM

Southern Style

Cloggers

11:00 AM

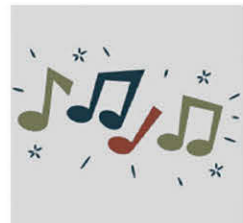
Triple Threat Dance

12:30 PM

Fools Gold

2:00 PM

Silver Cadillacs



**SAT
JULY
15TH**

EVENING CONCERT

5:20 PM

YMCA Service Club

5:30 PM

Car Giveaway

7:00 PM

Austin McNeill Music

Dirty Grass Soul

**STAGE
BREAK
4 - 5 PM**

- Entertainment
- Crafts
- Food
- Kids
- Farmers Market
- Sponsor
- Town
- Civic
- Sidewalk Sale

- Main St. Food Area
- North Vendors
- South Vendors
- Tractor Area
- Beer Garden
- Hanna Park Main Stage
- Bathrooms

TOWN OF CHINA GROVE 42ND ANNUAL FARMER'S DAY JULY 15, 2023



#	Name	Type
131	Chasing Bullseyes Mobile Axe Throwing	Entertainment
132	Military Vehicles	Entertainment
133	Masonic Lodge	Food
134	Encore on Main	Sidewalk Sale
135	South Rowan Y Service Club	Food
136	Poppin' Johns Homemade Ice Cream	Food
137	Sweet Curves Boutique	Sidewalk Sale
138	Kristina Cook - State Farm	Sidewalk Sale
139	Carl Ford	Civic
140	SRHS FFA Ice Cream	Food
141	Rowan County Farm Bureau	Sponsor
142	Greasy Keys	Entertainment
143	Natures Wonderland Carvings	Entertainment
144	Dale's Sporting Goods	Sidewalk Sale

#	Name	Type
45	Holy Cookie Dough	Food
46	Resurrection Cup	Food
47	Mom Boss Baker	Food
48	Southern Catering	Food
49	Mix It Sodas	Food
50	King of Pops	Food
51	Jack's Treat Truck	Food
52	Michelle Caribbean Cuisine	Food
53	Mia's Snow Dessert Bar	Food
54	That's A Wrap	Food
55	Dumpling Girls	Food
56	Russell Boys Concessions	Food
57	Bayou Billy Sweet Dixie Tea	Food
58	Town Merchandise Tent	Town
59	Mottzarellas	Food
60	Kreyol Flavors Food Truck	Food
61	The Old 97 Kettlecorn Co	Food
62	Sno Biz	Food
64	Mountain Melts	Food
65	Duck Donuts	Food
66	Goodes Creations	Food
67	Big City Bites	Food
68	Teriyaki On A Stick	Food
69	Sandwich Express	Food

#	Name	Type
1	Horse Protection Society	Civic
2	Town Games	Town
4	Willy Watson's Nursery	Craft
5	Shay Bird Baby	Craft
6	SRHS Class of 1998	Civic
7	Forget Me Knots By Amy/ Bears Paw Designs	Craft
8	RDF Industries	Craft
9	Cub Scout Pack 301	Civic
10	Message Merchants Co.	Craft
11	Simply Lily Designs	Craft
12	Kindred Spirits Boutique	Craft
13	Comparison Insurance	Sponsor
14	Isla Rose Company	Craft
15	Renewal By Anderson	Sponsor
16	Whitehall Land Survey	Sponsor
17	Howard Electric Heating & Cooling	Sponsor
18	J&B Garage	Sponsor
19	Horizon Services	Sponsor
20	Gammies Jams and More	Craft
21	Papa Bear Keepsakes	Craft
22	Fizzy Friendz Bath Bomb	Craft
23	RS Crafting Co.	Craft
24	Stone & Hide	Craft
25	Just New Creations	Craft
26	Southern Made Signs	Craft
27	Mitchell Family Studios	Craft
28	The Reece Collection	Craft
29	Hawaiian Dave's Island Treats	Craft
30	Watkins Quality Products	Craft
31	Blue Ridge Barkery	Craft
32	Miller Farm Produce	Farm
33	Hopeful Acres Farm	Farm
34	Jarrell's Small Batch Co.	Craft
35	Tarheel Racing Pigeon Club	Farm
36	Rowan Soil & Water Conservation District	Farm
37	Rowan County Beekeeper Assoc.	Farm
38	Country Life Museum	Farm
39	Main Street Marketplace	Farm
40	Happy Roots	Farm
41	Steel Magnolia Farms	Farm
42	NC Bee Exchange	Farm
43	Sovereign Traditions	Farm
44	Windmill Springs Vineyard	Craft

#	Name	Type
70	Oak Grove Baptist	Craft
71	Carlie Mae Designs	Craft
72	Lutheran Chapel Church	Civic
73	Triple Threat	Sponsor
74	The Spice Trade Outpost	Craft
75	Alley Cat's Family Creations	Craft
76	Porky's Snacks	Craft
77	Chris & Carla's Creations	Craft
78	Kenzie's Crafts	Craft
79	Full Service Septic	Sponsor
80	Summitt Virtual Academy	Civic
81	Ron's Woodshop	Craft
82	Mommamatic Monograms and More	Craft
83	Jeep's Forge	Craft
84	Creative Designs by SN	Craft
85	Artist Palette / Hilltop Sierra	Craft
86	Funmakers Sand Art	Kids
87	The Painted Panda Face Painting	Kids
88	KidsPlay	Kids
89	AM Caricature & PM Balloon Artist	Town
90	Kicking Boots Boutique	Craft
91	NC Transportation Museum	Civic
92	Pixie Locks Fairy Hair	Kids
93	Hall Roofing Solutions	Sponsor
94	Rowan Co. Little League Softball	Civic
95	Many Creations By Wendy	Craft
96	All American Gutter Protection	Sponsor
97	Triple Cross Designs	Craft
98	The Pink Boutique	Craft
99	HOPE Rowan	Civic
100	Lands American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146	Civic
101	Rowan County Sheriff's Office	Civic
102	Lands American Legion Post 146	Civic
103	Bathroom Magic	Sponsor
104	Compleat Rehab	Sponsor
105	Rowan Rifles	Civic
106	American Eagle Society	Civic
107	Rowan County Democratic Party	Civic
108	Fame Preservation Group, Inc.	Civic
109	Angie Spillman For Rowan County Commissioner	Civic
110	Rowan Republican Party	Civic
111	NC SECU	Sponsor
112	Old Coots Giving Advice	Civic
113	Lane & Co. Boutique	Craft
114	The Quirkshop Co.	Craft
115	Camp Gladiator	Civic
116	Highest Praise	Civic
117	Gent of Scent	Craft
118	South Rowan Public School Teaching Assoc.	Civic
119	Windstream/Kinetic	Sponsor
120	Angels Heavenly Crafts	Craft
121	DaVin Designs	Craft
122	Wise Earth and Iron	Craft
123	Sazzy Wood Crafts	Craft
124	South English Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses	Civic
125	Lo & Peg LLC	Craft
126	Something Special	Craft
127	Southern Stitch	Craft
128	Tay's Handmade Projects	Craft
129	Hands of a Sportsman	Civic
130	Cabarus Rowan Community Health Center	Civic

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Wise

Continued from C6

Wise went to work for Taylor Pump and Lift in Concord.

"They had a great fabrication shop," Wise said. "I went there so I could hone in on running the shears, press breaks, and make my fabrication skills more

well-rounded.

"When the company learned what I was able to do, they started sending me decorative-type jobs to do."

Wise wanted to go out on his own. After talking with his wife, they decided it was a possibility. He built a shop in his spare

time.

"I decided that I wanted to have my own name on the company," Wise said.

He officially wrapped up his stint at Taylor Pump and Lift in October of last year and began his adventure as a small business owner.

Some of Wise's handiwork is displayed at the Rowan County Sheriff's Office. He recently completed artwork recognizing retired officers and former military personnel that now hangs in the lobby.

"We do a lot of decorative art, like monograms and a lot of custom, military and first responder type things," Wise said. "I have a lot of friends that are state troopers, sheriff's deputies and police officers."

Recognizing those who served is also important to Wise.

"My grandfather retired from the Air Force," Wise said. "I have always respected him and listened to his military stories."

Wise's abilities allow his creative liberties to take flight.

"We like to create a lot of nature scenes and such," Wise said. "We have done a lot of address signs for houses in the mountains, and they have asked for bears and trees and stuff like that, which fits. We wanted an earthy metal theme to our business that was naturistic."

Wise has been pretty successful through word of mouth and social media, but he loves getting out into the community when he can.

"We were trying to hit some events to get our name out there," Wise said.

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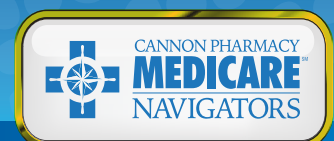
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- Raising beef cattle is the single largest segment of American agriculture. One pound of wool can make 10 miles of yarn. There are 150 yards (450 feet) of wool yarn in a baseball.
- The average dairy cow produces seven gallons of milk a day, 2,100 pounds of milk a month, and 46,000 glasses of milk a year.
- Soybeans are an important ingredient for the production of crayons. In fact, one acre of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons.
- Like snowflakes, no two cows have exactly the same pattern or spots.
- There are 47 different breeds of sheep in the U.S.
- Pork is the most widely eaten meat in the world.
- Elevators in the Statue of Liberty use a soybean-based hydraulic fluid.
- The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.
- The heaviest turkey ever raised weighed 86 pounds, about the size of an average third-grader.
- Cows are herbivores, so they only have teeth on the bottom.
- Cows must give birth to a calf in order to produce milk.

Q: Why do cows have hooves instead of feet? A: Because they lactose!

Q: What is a farmer's favorite Bruce Springsteen song? A: Born in the USA.

Q: As farmers, we hear a lot of jokes about sheep. A: We'd tell them to the dog, but he'd herd them all!

Q: What did the farmer say when his fat pig wouldn't fit into the pen? A: "There's more there than meets the sty."

Ready for a chuckle?

Q: Why did the pig take a bath? A: The farmer said "hogwash"!

Q: What's black and white and eats like a horse? A: A zebra.

Q: Why were the baby strawberries crying? A: Their ma and pa were in a jam.

Q: What did the neurotic pig say to the farmer? A: "You take me for grunted."

Q: Why shouldn't you tell a secret on a farm? A: Because the potatoes have eyes and the corn has ears!

Q: What farm animal keeps the best time? A: A watch dog.

Q: How did the organic vegetable die? A: Natural causes.

Q: What did the mommy cow say to the baby cow? A: "It's pasture bedtime!"

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Summer Recipes:



Pepperoni Pizza Dip with Breadstick Dippers (above);
Big Al's Hot and Sweet Sausage Sandwich (right)

These recipes for "Pepperoni Pizza Dip with Breadstick Dippers" and "Big Al's Hot and Sweet Sausage Sandwich" from "Crock*Pot® 365 Year-Round Recipes" (Publications International, Ltd.)

Pepperoni Pizza Dip with Breadstick Dippers

Serves 8

- 1 jar or can (14 ounces) pizza sauce
- 3/4 cup chopped turkey pepperoni
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1 can (21/4 ounces) sliced black olives, drained
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, softened

Dippers

- 1 package (8 ounces) refrigerated breadstick dough
- 2 teaspoons melted butter
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh Italian parsley
- 1. Combine pizza sauce, pepperoni, green onions, olives, and oregano in a 2-quart slow cooker. Cover; cook on low 2 hours or on high 1 to 1/2 hours or until mixture is hot.
- 2. Stir in mozzarella and cream cheese until melted and well blended. Serve with warm Breadstick Dippers.
- 3. For dippers, bake breadsticks according to package directions. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with parsley.

Big Al's Hot and Sweet Sausage Sandwich

Makes 8 to 10 servings

- 4 to 5 pounds hot Italian sausage links

- 1 jar (26 ounces) spaghetti sauce
- 1 large Vidalia onion (or other sweet onion), sliced
- 1 green bell pepper, cored, seeded and sliced
- 1/4 cup packed dark brown sugar
- Italian rolls, cut in half
- Provolone cheese, sliced (optional)

1. Combine sausages, spaghetti sauce, onion, bell peppers, and brown sugar in slow cooker. Cover; cook on low 8 to 10 hours or on high 4 to 6 hours.
2. Place sausages in rolls. Top with vegetable mixture. Add provolone cheese, if desired.

Tip: Instead of large Italian rolls, use slider buns or medium kaiser rolls to stretch the sausage mixture further and make it easier to eat while watching the game.

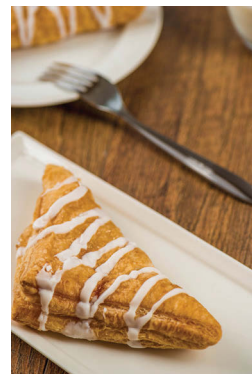
Recipe courtesy of PillsburyTM

Easy Apple Turnovers

Serves 4

- 1 1/2 cups thinly sliced, peeled apples (roughly 1 1/2 medium-sized apple)
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 box Pillsbury™ refrigerated pie crusts
- 1 egg

1. In a 2-quart saucepan, mix apples, brown sugar, 1 tablespoon of the water and lemon juice. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until bubbly. Reduce heat to low; cover and cook 6 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally, until apples are tender.
2. In a small bowl, mix flour, granulated sugar and salt. Gradually stir into apple mixture, cooking and stirring until mixture thickens. Remove from heat; stir in butter and vanilla. Cool 15 minutes.



3. Meanwhile, heat oven to 350 F. Let pie crust pouch stand at room temperature for 15 minutes.
 4. Remove pie crust from pouch; unroll crust on ungreased cookie sheet. Spoon cooled fruit mixture evenly onto half of crust to within 1/2 inch of edge.
 5. In a small bowl, beat egg and 1 tablespoon water; brush over edge of crust. Fold untopped half of crust over apple mixture; firmly press edge to seal. Flute edge; cut small slits in several places in top crust. Brush top with remaining egg mixture.
 6. Bake 25 to 35 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Serve warm or cool. Drizzle with icing, if desired.
- Expert tips: Tart apples, such as Granny Smith or McIntosh, make flavorful pies. Braeburn or Gala apples provide good texture and a slightly sweeter flavor.



704-857-BATH

showroomappointment@gmail.com

CORNER OF 29 NORTH &
OLD BEATTY FORD RD
CHINA GROVE

WWW.LANDISPLUMBING.COM

Old Fashioned Evening in Hanna Park

180 N Main St China Grove, NC 28023
Friday, July 14th 2023 | 5:30 - 8:30 pm



5:45 PM Tractor Parade

6:15 PM Cake Walk Presented by
China Grove Board of Trade

7:15 PM Live Music by
Creek Music



2023 FARMERS DAY ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES

FARMERS DAY

— est. 1982 —



CHINA GROVE, NC

JERRY FRAZEE

CARICATURE DRAWINGS



CORNER OF MAIN
& CENTERVIEW

9 AM - 12:30 PM

FREE

GREAZY KEYZ

FUN MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

TOWN HALL
"FRONT PORCH"

11 AM - 1 PM

FREE



COMBINE SIMULATOR

AG-TIVITY SPONSORED BY ROWAN
COUNTY FARM BUREAU



ROLLER MILL
PARKING LOT

9 AM - 4 PM

FREE

ROLLER MILL

HISTORICAL TOURS

308 N MAIN
STREET

10 AM - 2 PM

\$2 - ADULTS
\$1 - CHILDREN 12 & UNDER
FREE - CHILDREN UNDER 3



STORY TIME

ROWAN PUBLIC LIBRARY - SOUTH BRANCH

ROLLER MILL PARKING LOT

10:30 AM
11:30 AM
12:30 PM
1:30 PM

FREE

CRAFTS 10AM - 2PM



MR. ARCHER

TWISTED BALLOONS



CORNER OF MAIN
& CENTERVIEW

1 - 3 PM

FREE

2023 FARMERS DAY DEMONSTRATIONS



CHAINSAW CARVING

404 N MAIN ST
(BESIDE SOUTH END BARBER SHOP)

10:00 AM
12:30 PM
3:00 PM



FARMERS DAY
— est. 1982 —



CHINA GROVE, NC



BLACKSMITHING

106 S MAIN ST
(ACROSS FROM DALES SPORTING GOODS)

10 AM - 3 PM

Jeep's Forge

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YOU**
”

to our sponsors!



FARMERS DAY
— est. 1982 —



CHINA GROVE, NC



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