

# The State Port Pilot Neighbors



Laura Kimball

## Good ol' car

*Saying goodbye to an old friend*

I may have just filled my right rear tire with air for the last time. It's a shame, really, that just when I'm about to get rid of my car I find a gas station that doesn't charge me to occasionally boost the bounce of my 14-year-old BMW.

Guilty feelings overcame me as I pulled the hot pink air hose from its bracket and dragged it to my back tire. The very slow leak, which demands attention about every four weeks, was just one of the eccentricities of my car that I learned to deal with — and maybe even like.

I don't mind so much that my car is a little noisy when it idles, or that the driver's seat is worn or even that only two windows roll down.

It's my faithful car, and I'm attached to it, even with all her flaws. After all, these flaws led me to meet some interesting folks.

For example, if it had not been for my car, I never would have run a garage by myself one afternoon a few months ago. I was having a little work done at a local shop — something supposed to take just a few minutes — when the owner looked at his watch and asked me if I was in a hurry.

"I need to pick my kids up from school," he said. "Could you answer the phone for a few minutes?"

I was in no hurry, so he jumped in his truck and drove away.

Alone in the office, I settled onto the black stool and watched cars go by. I wondered what I would do if someone actually called with a problem or showed up with an automotive question. I thought it might be fun to pretend like I knew what I was doing.

Then the phone rang. The irritated man on the other end of the line wanted to know if his truck had been towed to the garage yet.

"Well, I don't know," I answered.

"What does it look like?"

"It's an old, light blue pick-up."

I looked around the lot, seeing only old boats and abandoned cars.

"No, it's not here," I said.

"What!?" the man fumed. He wanted to know why.

I didn't know. I told him I didn't work there, that I was waiting to have some work done too. This didn't ease his irritation, so I asked him where the car was, in case the owner had forgotten to send a tow truck.

"It's across the street from you," he said, as if I should already know.

I looked across the street and saw the blue truck, motionless under a group of shady trees. I wondered why he couldn't just push it across the street, but told him I would pass along the message.

I put the phone down in disbelief, wondering how I had gotten into this. I eyed my only means of escape, which towered high in the air on a lift. We were stuck.

The phone rang again. I was tempted to let it go, but I had said I would answer it.

"Hello?" I asked timidly, mentioning the name of the business.

It was the garage's accountant. She asked me questions about books and papers and dates, ignoring my claims of ignorance. I took her name and number and told her he would get back to her.

I hung up the phone again and paced around the garage, wondering what the next call would be and sizing up the abandoned tools.

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## Back in time

# Local artist captures Cape Fear in 1864

By Laura Kimball  
Staff Writer

If you've ever longed for a glimpse of what Southport looked like during the late 1800's, take a look at a new historical painting by Shallotte resident V. Ryan Lauzon.

"On the Cape Fear" depicts a scene on the Cape Fear River, viewed from Southport near the Walker-Pyke house, reputed to be the oldest house in Southport.

The painting is the first in a series of historical landscapes in the southeast to be distributed throughout the country by Lexington & Wells, a company that designs and publishes fine art prints of historically

significant places. Other scenes to be offered in the future may be the James River, Wilmington or southeastern wetlands. A different artist will be chosen for each painting.

Lauzon, a Shallotte resident, was asked to paint the Southport scene while Lexington & Wells was searching the country for just the right artist.

Lauzon ran into Bill Mezian, a company representative, while in a Shallotte art

gallery, and the rest is history.

"I went into the gallery not even intending to be there that day," she said.

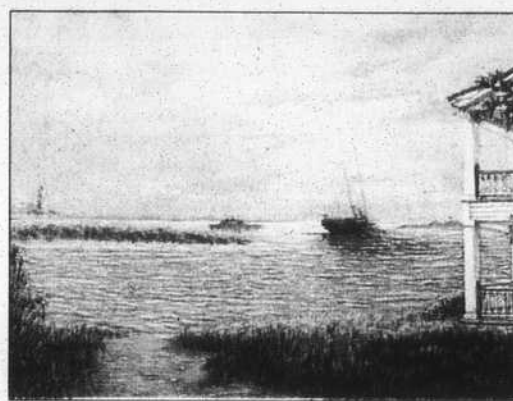
She heard that an artist was needed for the Cape Fear project and suggested herself.

"I just said, 'Why don't you consider me?'" she said.

After looking at her work and background, Mezian knew she was the one. Lauzon started on the project in May, working with Southport historian Jim McKee who helped her picture what the scene must have looked like in 1864.

"What we wanted to do was produce an

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"On the Cape Fear," painted by V. Ryan Lauzon and distributed by Lexington & Wells.



Deborah Martinson, a nurse with Dr. Kahai, and her daughter helped out with the Halloween Funfest. Photos by Jim Harper

# Frightfully fun

By Laura Kimball  
Staff Writer

Oak Island was crawling with costumed kids last Friday at the first annual Halloween funfest, held at the Doshier Building.

Vampires, cowboys, princesses and lots of little pumpkins rode a pony, threw darts, played basketball and tossed whipped cream pies at the face of a local pediatrician,



Jugta Kahai wincing as another whipped cream pie comes close to the bulls-eye — which is her face.

Jugta Kahai.

And, believe it or not, Kahai didn't have to be begged to be the target for the afternoon — it was her idea. Troubled by the recent losses from Hurricane Floyd and the serious flooding, Kahai wanted to organize a fun event for a dual purpose: to raise money for victims and to give kids in the community something fun to do.

"I just started thinking, 'I

want to give these kids something to smile about,'" she said.

Kahai, who in July moved to the Southport-Oak Island area from Buffalo, N.Y., had never experienced a hurricane before. In particular, she had never seen the aftermath of a hurricane and the destruction that it could cause.

"This is all new to me," she said. "This must be a pretty miserable time for the families."

So she started planning. Her office staff helped her, and she was overwhelmed with support from the community, including local businesses and individuals. In particular, she mentioned professional wrestler Rikki Rhodes, Lorie Windsor, Terry Wilson, Darlene Long, Deborah Martinson and Margaret Rivera.

Over \$1,000 was raised at the event, which will be donated to Hurricane Floyd victims.

One of the highlights of the event was the chance to throw a pie at Kahai, something many of her patients took advantage of.

"Come on, folks, throw a pie for charity," she taunted the crowd, smiling.

Though many children (and some adults) came close to the mark, she later offered everyone a chance to stand up close and slap a pie right in her face — for the price of \$5.

Since turnout was so good this year, Kahai plans to organize the event again next year.

"It went wonderfully," she said.



## Here's more fall fun

**Southport carnival.** Southport Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor a Halloween Carnival from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, October 29 at Franklin Square Park. Rain location will be the Southport City Gym.

The carnival will include games, candy, prizes and a costume contest at 6 p.m.

Categories for the contest will include best homemade costume, scariest costume and parent/child look-alike. There will be a preschool category and a category for ages 6 to 12 years.

**Fall Festival.** First Baptist Church of Boiling Spring Lakes will have its annual Fall Festival from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, October 29. There will be games, prizes and refreshments for those 12 and under. Costumes are welcome, but not required.

**Hallelujah Night.** Grace and Mercy Christian Church will have Hallelujah Night from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, October 29 at the church, 2385 N.C. 17 Business, Bolivia. Participants are encouraged to come dressed as a Bible character. There will be prizes, games, food and a cake walk.

**Island carnival.** A Halloween carnival will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 30 at the Oak Island Recreation Center. There will be games, prizes and candy. Call 278-5518 for more information.

**Treat bags.** The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department will provide free trick or treat bags to county youth for Halloween.

Bags are available at the following locations: Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department; Communities In Schools family resource centers located in Ash and Leland; the Robert Rourk Library in Shallotte; Southport Library; Leland Library; G.V. Barbee Library located on Oak Island; the Southport Visitor Center; and the South Brunswick Islands Chamber located in Shallotte. For more information please contact the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department at 253-2670 or 1-800-222-4790.

**Pumpkin carving.** The Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department will have a time of pumpkin carving for ages 6 to 12 at 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 28 at the recreation center. Participants should bring their own pumpkin and carving supplies; paint and markers will be provided. Please register by October 26.

**Haunted trail.** Oak Island Parks and Recreation Department's annual Haunted Trail will open from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning Friday, October 29 behind the recreation center. Get ready for ghosts, goblins and other scary stuff!

**Hallelujah Fest.** Joy Assembly of God will host a Hallelujah Fest from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, October 31 at the church, N.C. 211 in Southport.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will include food, games, prizes, hay rides and Carol Anne & Co.

**Annual Fall Bazaar.** Sharon United Methodist Church will hold its fourth annual Fall Bazaar the weekend of October 29. Activities will include a silent auction, music, nature by the sea, "This and That" shop, a country pantry, bakery and other creative things. In addition, a breakfast of ham or sausage biscuits and coffee will be served at 8:30 a.m. on October 29 and 30, hotdogs will be served for lunch both days and a barbecue dinner will be served from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on October 29.

The church is located at 2030 Holden Beach Road, Supply (on N.C. 130 toward Holden Beach).

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