

No Way to Ride Cycle Gallery's Turner hopes vaccine reboots bicycle supply

BY CHRIS DAY

For the Perquimans Weekly

ELIZABETH CITY — Mark Turner is like many small business owners who've watched their business suffer since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But unlike other owners who've seen a decrease in demand, Turner doesn't have that problem. His problem is supply.

Turner said because of global supply and manufacturing issues resulting from the pandemic it's been months since his Cycle Gallery has received a shipment of new bicycles.

Turner said the shortage is likely because 90% of his products are manufactured in China, where production has been slowed because of the pandemic.

"It's terrible," Turner said. "We just can't get goods from China right now."

The bulk of Turner's business since March, which marked the outset of the pandemic, has been fixing bicycles. A fourth of his showroom floor in fact is filled with 20 or more bicycles brought in for tune-ups and repairs. There are no new Raleigh or Cannondale bicycles, the brands Turner typically carries.

"We're sitting here without bikes," Turner said. "All we're doing is repairs."

While he's grateful for the repair business — he's "surviving" because of them, he said — Turner really wants to sell some bikes. He's hopeful the nation's efforts to ramp up vaccinations of people against COVID-19 may reboot the global supply chains on which small businesses like his depend.

"I think the vaccine is going to help," Turner said. "Hopefully it's going to get better, if they get the vaccinations out."

There was an irony to Turner's loss of bicycle supply.

At the start of the pandemic, North Carolina, like other states, ordered a slew of business closings, which included gyms, as a precaution against the spread of the virus. People who could no longer visit their gym and families seeking ways to spend time outdoors, rushed to buy bicy-



PHOTOS BY CHRIS DAY/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Mark Turner, owner of Cycle Gallery, repairs a bicycle in his shop on Thursday. While the COVID-19 pandemic has hurt other small businesses by reducing demand for their product, it's had a different effect on Cycle Gallery. Turner said he has been unable to get a consistent supply of bicycles since the pandemic began.



The showroom floor at Cycle Gallery is filled with bicycles dropped off by their owners for repairs. Shop owner Mark Turner says bicycle repairs are keeping his small business afloat, as the sales of new bicycles and bicycle parts have plummeted during the pandemic.

cles, Turner said. "Then it got worse," he said.

In addition to a shortage of new bicycles, the situation also has led to a dwindling supply of accessories, like bicycle seat covers, cycling shoes and other equipment, Turner said.

"It's just bad," he said.

The bicycle and bike supply shortage is not limited to North Carolina or even to the

United States; it's worldwide. The internet is filled with articles and reports on the subject.

According to The NPD Group, a marketing firm that monitors the bicycle industry, the industry took in \$1 billion in April 2020. That demand is compared to the \$550 million in sales for the same month in any other year.

Bob Margevicius, the executive vice president of Spe-

cialized Bicycle Components, said nearly all bicycles sold in the United States are manufactured overseas.

"About 98% of all bikes sold in the United States are imported," said Margevicius, who was speaking during a webinar hosted by the National Bicycle Dealers Association. The webinar, which was held Dec. 21, is titled "Managing supply in an unprecedented time" and can be viewed at YouTube.com.

While bicycle imports were up 21% in 2020, there was still a gap between the number of bicycles imported in the number that are sold, Margevicius said.

"That yields inventory levels, and inventory levels at wholesale around the world today are less than one month on hand," he said. "So, the situation is pretty challenging from an inventory standpoint and from an availability standpoint."

Cycle Gallery is currently offering a bicycle tune-up special for \$49.95. The shop is open weekdays and closes at 1 p.m. on Saturday and is closed on Sunday. To reach by phone, call Cycle Gallery at 252-338-1559.

Chris Day is multimedia editor of the Daily Advance.

SMITH REMEMBERED



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

John Haywood "J.H." Smith, 80, of Hertford, died Saturday, January 23, 2021. Smith was the owner of Edenton Floral Company and Antiques. He made this arrangement for the December 2020 Candlelight Tour of Homes, which is held in Edenton.

OBITUARIES

John H. Smith

HERTFORD - John Haywood "J.H." Smith, 80, of 125 Smith Cove Road, died Saturday, January 23, 2021 in Vidant Chowan Hospital, Edenton.

Mr. Smith was born in Perquimans County on February 8, 1940, and was the only son of five children born to Johnnie Martin and Hilda Byrum Smith.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two of his sisters, Linda Joyce Smith and Eva Ann White; and by a grandson, Christopher Wayne Spivey.

The owner and operator of Edenton Floral Company & Antiques (formerly Lula White's Flower Shop) since 1968, he continued to work until his death. A faithful member and deacon of Edenton Baptist Church, he provided the flowers for the sanctuary every Sunday for many years.

Community involvement included his long-time membership in the James Iredell Association where for over 30 years he chaired the committee on its furnishings, and served several terms as the Association's president. He obtained many items and furniture that remain an integral part of the historic site, and worked tirelessly to furnish the home as it would have been when the Iredell family lived there. His work continued with the Historical and Preservation Commission on other historical homes throughout the state.

Other areas of service included his time spent as a member of the North Carolina Army National Guard.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Evelyn Foxworth Smith; three daughters, Crystal Bunch (husband, Art) of Hertford, Valerie Spivey of Edenton, and Amanda Betts (husband, Battle) of Elizabeth City; two sisters, Deborah S. Williams (husband, Billy) of Elizabeth City and Gail S. Smith (husband, Lewis) of Hertford; his brother-in-law, C.D. White (wife, Joanne) of Hertford; and four grandchildren, Justin Spivey, Corby Bunch, Lizzy Betts, and Parker Betts.

A graveside funeral service was held Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. in Beaver Hill Cemetery and was conducted by his pastor, The Rev. David Brooks. Miller Funeral Home & Crematory, 735 Virginia Road, Edenton, is assisting the family with arrangements and online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LOG

Perquimans County Sheriff's Office arrests between Jan. 15 and Jan. 21:

■ John Kosma of Micmac Trail, Hertford, was arrested Jan. 17 and charged with communicating threats. Bond

was set at \$500 secured. ■ Diane Roberts of Newport News was arrested Jan. 18

and charged with obtaining property with worthless checks. Bond was set at \$500 unsecured.

OBITUARY POLICY

For information on submitting obituaries or death notices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 252-329-9505 or email obits@appenc.com and

specify that you are interested in obituary information for The Perquimans Weekly. On weekends and holidays, email obits@appenc.com. We do not

accept notices by fax. Obituaries must be received, processed and approved by noon on Tuesday to appear in print in the Thursday edition.

Death notices are \$25 and can include the name and age of the decedent; funeral and visitation or viewing information; and the name of the funeral home.

BROADSTREET COUNSELING CENTER

- DWI/DUI
- S.A. Evaluations
- Assessments
- ADETS Class

110 Market Street
Hertford, NC 27944
252-426-3130
Cell: 252-301-8272
broadstreet.counseling@gmail.com

R.L. ARNOLD CPA PC
Accounting & Tax Service

- ✓ CORPORATE & INDIVIDUAL TAX PREPARATION
- ✓ BOOKKEEPING
- ✓ PAYROLL PROCESSING

PO BOX 10
220 WINFALL BLVD, WINFALL 27985
(APPLE TREE MALL)
(252) 426-1040
Fax: 1-866-254-2994

e-file

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 9AM - 6PM
www.richardarnoldcpa.com

Modern Dentistry
in a relaxed environment
for the entire family.

The dental hygiene team at Albemarle Dental Associates.

DR. CHRIS KOPPELMAN, DDS
DR. ETHAN NELSON, DDS

COMFORT • QUALITY • EXPERIENCE

"We always welcome new patients."

482-5131

ALBEMARLE DENTAL ASSOCIATES
General and Cosmetic Dentistry

103 Mark Dr. Edenton, NC
(behind Chowan Hospital)

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

(USPS428-080)
Published Each Thursday

A publication of Adams Publishing Group
Established 1934
111 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944

Robin L. Quillon.....Publisher
Sean O'Brien.....General Manager
Miles Layton.....Editor
Bev Alexander.....Advertising Representative
Phone 252-404-2161 ■ Fax 252-426-4625
Email: mLAYTON@ncweeklies.com

Subscription Rate
Home delivery..... \$35 + tax per year

Information
For subscription questions, delivery issues, classified ads, legal notices, and obituaries, please call Customer Care at 252-329-9505

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Perquimans Weekly, Hertford, NC 27944