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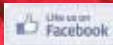
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# about the cover

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This month's cover was shot in studio by Rick Haithcox. Pictured is Alex Faires, son of Robert and Elizabeth Faires. Robert is the owner of Total-Garage in Gastonia, see related article page 10. Cover graphic design by David James.

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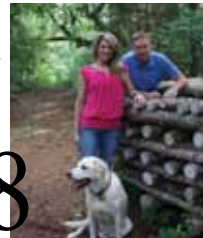
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# Neat & Organized



*Robert and Elizabeth Faires*

*By David Hamrick*



*All of the stuff on the cover is now stored neatly here!*

**GA!: Tell us a little about yourself...**

**Robert:** My wife, Elizabeth, and I are both from Gastonia. We both graduated from Ashbrook High in 1990 and attended N.C. State, where I earned a BS in Industrial engineering. After graduating from State I worked for Henredon Furniture Industries, in Spruce Pine, NC. Then I worked for Turbo Conveyors, in Kings Mountain. In 2002 I went into the custom cabinet business, and have been designing and building cabinets for over 10 years now. We have 3 beautiful children, Alex (4), Walt (3), and Elise (6mths).

**GA!: What is the story behind Total Garage?**

**Robert:** Total-Garage is a company I started to fill a need I saw in the garage storage and organization market. I wanted to provide an affordable and simple option for people who need help organizing their garage, but were not necessarily trying to make their garage into a showroom. A lot of people can't ever park a car in their garage. I have an economical solution to get the stuff off the floor and get your garage space back.

**GA!: We know you own the local Monkey Bars franchise-tell us about Monkey Bars...**

**Robert:** Monkey Bars is a patented 2 in 1 shelving and rack storage system designed to use the wasted space in a garage or storage room. With Monkey Bars we can store 3 times the stuff as other systems at less than half the cost.

**GA!: Do you have various solutions for a messy or cluttered garage?**

**Robert:** Definitely, that is why I chose the name Total-Garage. We have a full range of products and services to help anyone clean up their garage. The Monkey Bar system is very versatile, there are 2 different size shelves to take advantage of different spaces, and we have a shelf designed specifically to use the wasted space over the top of a garage door, which the neighbors don't see when the door is up. In addition to the Monkey Bar



*Storage shelf above garage door where neighbors can't see!*



products, we do work benches, overhead storage racks, slat wall systems, floor coatings, and a stock line of cabinets designed for the garage.

### **GA! Some folks have tons of kids' stuff- balls, bikes and strollers etc.-can you help?**

**Robert:** Yes, the Monkey Bars system is especially good for this. We can hang bikes, strollers, riding toys, sports equipment, lawn tools, we have 10 different hooks to hang just about anything. And we have specialty items as well, like ball bags, shoe bags, kayak racks, bucket racks, and we even have a way to hang saddles, and it is all fully adjustable and easily accessible.

### **GA!: What about business applications?**

**Robert:** Anywhere there is a mess we can find a solution. We have some specially designed products for sheds, and we can install over all types of wall surfaces, studs, block wall, concrete. One of my

customers was so pleased with her garage, she said she wanted me to come to her marina and put in some storage systems there.

### **GA!: How does our background as a cabinet maker impact your business?**

**Robert:** My 10 plus years of experience in the custom cabinet business is a great fit - after all, cabinets are basically dressed up boxes for storing and organizing your things. In fact I am building a custom set of pantry cabinets right now for a garage application. They will have rollout shelves and allow for storage of canned goods and paper products that take up too much room inside the house.

### **GA! What is your idea of a perfect vacation? What/where was your last vacation?**

**Robert:** I would love to go to Scotland and Ireland and play some of the great golf courses over there, going out west and skiing is always fun too! We just got back from taking the kids to Bald Head Island, it was a blast, the kids really love the beach.

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# MUSIC

## Music in CRAMERTON



by **Ben Dungan**  
bdungan@charter.net

Kevin Costner had a string of hit movies in the late 80's and early 90's. He was unstoppable. There was *Dances With Wolves*, *Robin Hood*, *Bull Durham*, and *The Bodyguard* just to name a few.

And then there was *Field of Dreams* - where Costner plays an Iowa farmer who hears a voice in his

driven through their downtown area...until a few weeks ago.

Over the last ten years, the town has seen a 40% increase in population. However, the spread-out nature of the town makes it hard to bring neighbors together. The downtown area of any city or town is and should be the focal point for its residents. Cramerton has a downtown area, but they didn't have a defined open space that they could use for events - that is, until now.

This past winter they unveiled a brand new open-air amphitheatre on the green. It was first used in December for the town's annual Christmas festival. It also is used for the Cramerton Farmers Market. But it will also be used for music.

So many cities and towns in our area offer live music in the summer. With the addition of their new amphitheatre, Cramerton can join in on the fun.

Cramerton could be the county's best kept secret, but it won't last forever. On Saturday, June 30, the town will be celebrating the grand opening of Goat Island - a 30-acre island that sits right smack dab in the middle of the South Fork River that will feature a playground, an 18-hole disc golf course, picnic shelters, an observation pier, and more.

Now all eyes and ears will be there in the center of town. Whether it's a Saturday morning trip to the Cramerton Farmers Market or an evening under the stars watching a movie or listening to local music, Cramerton citizens don't have to leave town to experience a night of family-friendly fun.



cornfield telling him, "If you build it, they will come." And thus, Costner's character takes this to mean that he is to build a baseball field on his farm.

I wonder if town officials and leaders in Cramerton have been hearing that same voice too. Over the last decade or so, town leaders have been making a concerted effort to build a space that will attract residents from all over to their downtown area.

What was once just another mill village in Gaston County has transformed itself into a booming town. Cramerton was founded in 1915 and incorporated in 1967. However, when you mention Downtown Cramerton to folks, many think you're talking about the Burger King and Food Lion located on Wilkinson Boulevard.

Cramerton is one of those towns that you have to get off the beaten path to discover. I have lived in Gaston County for over twelve years now and I had never



**For more information on upcoming events in Downtown Cramerton including the grand opening of Goat Island featuring musical performances by Tony Rogers, Rebekah Todd, and Bam Jazz, visit them online at [www.cramerton.org](http://www.cramerton.org).**



# COOKING



## Chilaquiles

Spiced up Breakfast or a meal for any time!

Recently I was on a trip to Napa with a few co-workers and we were lucky enough to stay at the Carneros Inn. This is an amazing place and close to so many great wineries. On the first morning there, we had breakfast at the Inn. I had never had this dish up until that moment and thought that this was one of the best breakfasts I have ever had. I will warn you, if you are counting calories, turn the page now!

So what was this great breakfast? It was Chilaquiles, and I was able to come away with this recipe.

### Red chile sauce:

7 dried guajillo or New Mexico chiles  
1 28-ounce can whole tomatoes, drained  
1 medium white onion, chopped (1 1/2 cups)  
5 garlic cloves, chopped  
1 jalapeño, with seeds, chopped  
1/8 teaspoon smoked or Hungarian sweet paprika  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
2 teaspoons honey  
Kosher salt, freshly ground pepper

### Assembly:

Vegetable oil (for frying)  
9 6" corn tortillas, quartered, or 36 large tortilla chips  
Kosher salt  
1 cup (4 ounces) crumbled queso fresco  
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Monterey Jack  
4 large eggs  
Finely chopped white onion  
Chopped fresh cilantro  
Lime wedges

## Preparation

### For red chile sauce:

Place chiles in a medium bowl; cover with 2 cups boiling water. Let chiles soak until softened, about 15 minutes. Drain, reserving soaking liquid. Discard stems and seeds; place chiles in a blender. Add tomatoes, next 4 ingredients, and 1 cup reserved soaking liquid; purée until smooth. Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Add purée (it will splatter) and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and simmer, partially covered and stirring occasionally, until slightly thickened, about 15 minutes (add more reserved soaking liquid if too thick). Stir in honey and season to taste with salt and pepper. DO AHEAD: Can be made 3 days ahead. Cover and chill. Rewarm before using.

### For assembly:

Place a wire rack on a rimmed baking sheet. Pour oil into a large skillet to a depth of 1 1/2". Prop deep-fry thermometer in skillet with bulb submerged. Heat over medium-high heat until thermometer registers 350°F. Working in batches, fry tortillas, occasionally turning with tongs, until crisp, 2-3 minutes. Transfer chips to prepared sheet and season with salt. Preheat broiler. Toss chips and 1 cup sauce in a large bowl. Transfer half of chips to a large ovenproof platter or skillet. Scatter half of cheeses over chips. Top with remaining chips and cheeses, along with 1/2 cup more sauce. Broil until cheese is golden and melted, 4-5 minutes.

Meanwhile, pour oil into a nonstick skillet to lightly coat. Heat over medium heat. Add eggs and fry until whites are set but yolks are still runny, about 4 minutes. Top chilaquiles with chopped onion, cilantro, and lime wedges. Top with fried eggs and serve with remaining sauce alongside.

Ciao,  
Glenn and Glenn

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# Know Your Food And Your Farmer: **Meet Job White**

*By David Hamrick*



**GA!: Job- You don't come from a family with a history of farming. Was there a "Farmer" table at career day in high school?**

**Job:** No, there was definitely not a "Farmer" table at career day.

**GA!: Tell us a little about yourself.**

**Job:** I am a Gastonia native and 1995 Ashbrook graduate that loves family, friends, fishing, hunting, and being in the outdoors. I attended the University of North Carolina Wilmington graduating with a BS in Natural Resource Management. As the youngest of three boys, the importance of family is top on my list. My passion for the outdoors led to my discovering the taste, quality and preparation of food. A journey of educating myself on how to grow naturally grown food from dirt to dish began, so that one day I would be able to share this with my family and community.



**GA!: What are you farming now and how do you choose what to produce?**

**Job:** For the summer, I am growing shitake and oyster mushrooms, heirloom vegetables such as lemon, crook neck, and straight neck squash, Kennebec potatoes, Star of David and crimson okra, and climbing speckled lima beans. Soon I will harvest honey from my beehives, and prepare the soil for late summer and early fall crops. In the fall, I anticipate having

carrots, beets, collards, cucumbers, garlic and onions. My crops are based on what other farmers are not offering and successful plantings from last season. The crops are unique from what most farmers are normally offering which is exciting to offer so many flavorful varieties that are new to Gaston County!



### **GA!: What are heirloom vegetables?**

**Job:** A true heirloom is a cultivar that has been nurtured, selected, and handed down from one family member to another for many generations. Based on Wikipedia, a cultivar is a plant or group of plants selected for desirable characteristics that can be maintained by propagation. They also have a reputation for being high quality and easy to grow.

### **GA!: Was it hard to get started in bees, and to learn to be a beekeeper?**

**Job:** No, not really. A friend keeps bees and I became interested in them immediately. My focus was more toward using the bees to pollinate my vegetable crops, although harvesting honey sounded good too. I attended bee workshops across the state becoming a certified bee keeper through the Gaston County Beekeepers Association. If one is interested in beekeeping, The Bee School classes offered by Gaston County Extension Office are excellent, offering an instant resource to a network of experienced beekeepers.

### **GA!: What is the funniest or most unusual thing that has happened to you since you began farming?**

**Job:** Probably when my bees decided to swarm when I was standing right beside it. Sounding like a freight train coming through the field, thousands of bees surrounded me. I just sat there and watched. After hovering for a few minutes they decided to land back on top of the hive. Having never seen anything like it, I called my mentors from Bee School, Robert and Debbie Hinkle, who have been just an amazing resource of knowledge, to help catch this swarm. They helped catch the bees to start a new hive. More bees means more Honey!

*>> Article continued on page 20.*

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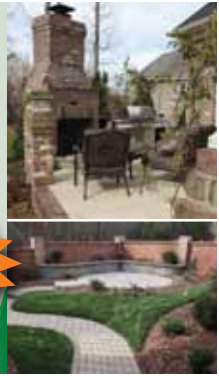
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>>Article continued from page 19.

**GA!: Where do see yourself going as a farmer, and how do you think the Eat Local movement will evolve?**

**Job:** I hope to continue farming for the rest of my life. There's just something about putting a seed in the ground and watching it grow. I plan to keep learning from other farmers as well as by trial and error. I consider myself a Farmer in Training because I'm always learning something new every day. Continuing to create more awareness for our local food movement and educating people on its benefits would be a homerun! Hopefully this movement causes people to become hungry for change. Maybe then, we'll see a "Farmer" Table at career day

**GA!: What do you do when you are not farming?**

**Job:** I love to spend my spare time with my sweetheart Julie, being with my family, friends, and my best bud Dakota (a white Lab). Fly fishing, hunting, relaxing in the mountains, traveling to the coast and trying new recipes in the kitchen are also things I enjoy. Before I forget, I would like to personally thank Rob and Sharron Davis for allowing me the opportunity to farm on their property. Along with the rest of my family, they have been a huge support and inspiration to my work. I couldn't have done any of this without you guys. Thank you!



Job with girlfriend Julie Roberts.

**GA!: How can we get some of your produce?**

**Job:** I am a farmer with Home Harvest: a unique food company that links farmers to the people of our community. Home Harvest believes that locally grown produce can be affordable and accessible. They hope to re-connect people, food and community. (Their website has information on products and ordering. [www.homeharvestnc.org](http://www.homeharvestnc.org)).

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<b>LEGEND</b>	BREAKFAST	B	CATERING	C	\$	LESS THAN \$10
	LUNCH	L	OUTDOOR DINING	SS	\$S	\$11-\$20
	DINNER	D	BEER/WINE	SSS	\$SS	\$21 AND UP
	SUNDAY BRUNCH	SB	LIVE MUSIC	♫		

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\$-\$\$ **D SB**

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\$ **B L**

**City Café**  
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**Friends Sports Bar & Grill**  
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**Hickory Tavern**  
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**JAX Backstreet Tavern**  
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\$-\$\$ **D C**

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Owner Peter Wu opened in February 2012



## GA: What does Asian Fusion mean?

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## GA: What is the most exciting part of opening your own restaurant?

**Peter:** We have a wonderful staff who enjoy making our customers dining experience special. I especially enjoy creating special dishes for our customers tastes and seeing the smiles and saying they can't wait to try what someone at another table had when they come in next time.



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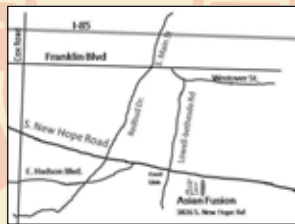
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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Sun.-Thurs: 11:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

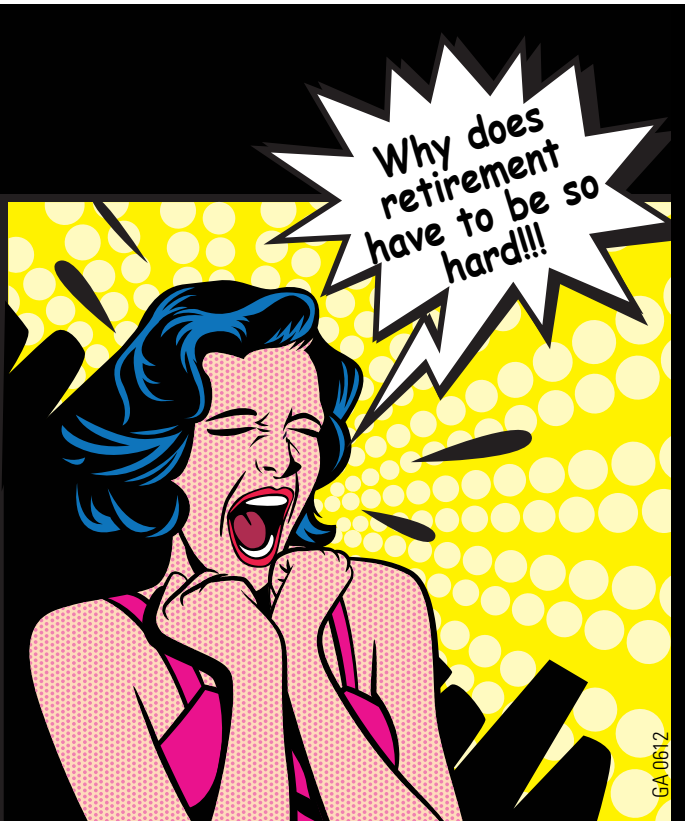
Fri.-Sat. Dinner: 11:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m.



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