

Wide Open Bluegrass

preview inside

I hear music in the air. There's a bluegrass and barbecue celebration coming to downtown Raleigh next week and we have your guide, along with an interview with N.C.'s own Jim Lauderdale. See page C4

the good life

IN A NORTH STATE OF MIND

NSJ

SUNDAY
9.25.16

playlist

September 27

3rd Annual Beer & Branding Showcase Event
Charlotte

Beer & Branding combines the work and creativity of local designers and local home brewers, ultimately culminating in a brewing competition and design showcase. At the Beer & Branding Showcase event, everyone will see the combined efforts and creativity of local designers and local home brewers in a Showcase that features branding packages, as well as beer samples from local home brewing clubs.
charlotte.aiga.org

September 28

Starry Night: Fall Skies at The Morehead Planetarium
Chapel Hill

During the Starry Nights program for adults and older teens, you'll learn how to identify the planets, bright stars, and constellations that are easiest to find during the current season, with expert guidance from a Morehead astronomy educator. You'll hear stories and legends from various cultures about the visible star patterns. You'll also receive a season-specific update on eclipses, meteor showers and other astronomical phenomena.
moreheadplanetarium.org

September 27-October 1

70th Annual Chowan County Fair
Edenton

Thrilling rides, exciting games, delicious food, live entertainment, mechanical bull, wood carvers, contests, pageants, shows, demonstrations and thousands of exhibits.
chowanfair.com

September 30-October 1

Enfield Peanut Festival
Enfield

Join the Town of Enfield as they celebrate the amazing peanut with a fantastic festival. Don't miss the delicious food, live entertainment, games, crafts and more, including the crowning of Miss Enfield Peanut. On Friday you will be able to enjoy a pig cook-off, a car show, and street dancing.

the maker



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE T. NGUYEN | NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Durham-based company Spoonflower was founded in May 2008 and allows designers to create on-demand, custom textiles.

Spoonflower remains focused on creativity and community

In a state where the economy was once dominated by textiles this Durham company found a new and creative way to incorporate that heritage with digital printing technology, a lot of moxie, and a serious dose of customer focus.

By **Jennifer Wood**
North State Journal

SPOONFLOWER WAS THE FIRST web-based custom fabric design service in the world when it was founded in 2008. The birth of the company came when Stephen Fraser's creative wife was looking for a specific fabric for a home decorating project. After the search turned up nothing online Fraser reached out to his friend Gart Davis, a known internet entrepreneurial expert, explaining he believed he had found a unique void in the marketplace. Spoonflower was born. The early days were spent in trial and error - at one point they were working out of an old sock manufacturing plant in Mebane with no air conditioning, which come to find out caused the colors on their carefully printed fabrics to run.

They learned as they grew and today their headquarters are located in Durham. Creativity and design meet in this space with their digital printing process, which is designed around the customer, leading the way. "These printers can show greater design detail and that allows our DIY designers to use as many col-

See **THE MAKER**, page C6



Katherine Popio, floor operator, prepares fabric for shipping at Spoonflower. The Durham-based company was founded in May 2008 and allows designers to create on-demand, custom textiles.

Inside

THE FRAME

Matthew Willey is using art and imagination to raise awareness about the honeybee. Last summer alone he painted close to 1,000 bees around the Triangle—so naturally fall found him in Raleigh at BugFest elevating the pollinator once again.
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