



INDIANA JONES IS COMING BACK!

The action hero returns for more crowd-pleasing adventures in "The Crystal Skull." **7E**

Madonna approaches 50: The former Material Girl has moved on to other concerns. **3E**

Carolina Living

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

COMING NEXT SUNDAY

'Twelve Angry Men'

Julie York Coppens previews the touring play that stars Richard Thomas (you may remember him from "The Waltons") as the the one holdout on a murder-trial jury. **Carolina Living**

charlotte.com/arts



ROBERT LAHSER - rlahser@charlotteobserver.com

When people ask Howard and Dana Scott how many children they have, they tell them four: Chase (on left), who is 12; Aidan, 5; Bryce, 9; and Tyler, in their hearts always one year older than the year before. Friends and strangers built the big treehouse in their backyard in Tyler's honor.

Tyler ever after

Howard and Dana Scott know the searing pain of losing a child. But from that loss comes hope for other cancer patients.

BY ELIZABETH LELAND
eleland@charlotteobserver.com

The first hint of the heartbreak to come for Howard and Dana Scott happened in January 2006 when 5-year-old Tyler fell while playing basketball.

Tyler was the easygoing, sweet-tempered one of their four boys, but that afternoon he cried hysterically. He had trouble moving his left arm and couldn't grip with his fingers, yet Dana didn't see anything wrong. For a week, neither did the doctors. They suspected a strained nerve.

The diagnosis, when it finally came, seemed unthinkable.

Tyler hadn't hurt himself playing ball. It wasn't something Dana and Howard could fix

the way parents are supposed to fix cuts and bruises.

Tyler had cancer. It was a rare, aggressive form of cancer on his brain stem that they had never heard of, called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma. They flew to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, but cancer specialists there told them there was nothing they could do to save Tyler.

One day he was playing with blocks in preschool and life was good and the biggest challenge was to get him to clean his room.

A few days later, he was dying.

It hurt so badly, Howard had to do something.

An idea came to Howard at St. Jude. As painful as it was to watch his son die, Howard felt a sense in the hospital of unbelievable hope. Its



Tyler died at age 5. "If it could happen to Tyler," his mother, Dana, says, "what's not going to happen to somebody else's child."

COURTESY OF HOWARD AND DANA SCOTT



COURTESY OF MINT MUSEUMS

"Scything" (1935), is one of Gabby Pratt's favorite Clare Leighton prints.

A collector's passionate pursuit

Gabby Pratt adored the works of wood engraver Clare Leighton. Now the Mint is showing off these fine pieces.

BY RICHARD MASCHAL
rmaschal@charlotteobserver.com

It was the bold lines and strong images in Clare Leighton's work that attracted Gabby Pratt.

Leighton made wood engravings, using ink on white paper. Pratt remembers her husband saying, "Why don't you get something with a little color?" But Pratt liked the black and white, too.

So enamored was Pratt that for more than 25 years she pursued Leighton's work up and down the East Coast, collecting prints, finding rare watercolors and ceramics.

Four years ago, she gave more than 200 pieces to the Mint Museum of Art, one of the largest gifts it has received. On Saturday,

the Mint put it before the public, opening "Quiet Spirit, Skillful Hand: The Graphic Work of Clare Leighton."

At 3 p.m. today, Charlotte native and historian Caroline Mesrobian Hickman will discuss the British-born Leighton, who became an American citizen, lived in North Carolina for a time in the 1940s and taught at Duke University. It is free with museum admission.

Finding a focus

Two influences in Pratt's life brought her to Leighton: one from her childhood and one from adulthood in Charlotte.

Pratt grew up in upstate New York in the middle of dairy country. Her father was a mail clerk for the N.Y. Central Railroad, but he kept a large garden and was always doing chores.

Leighton, who died in 1989 in her 90th year, celebrated rural life in En-

SEE PRATT, 3E

Web site quiz lures family to Charlotte

Here's a story for teens who feel like mom and dad don't listen to them. Teenager Allison Miles turned her parents on to moving to Charlotte from Southern California. The family arrived in Ballantyne in January.

LIVING HERE



AMY BALDWIN

How did that happen? Allison, now 15, told Laurie and Dana Miles that she wants to study creative writing at UNC Chapel Hill. They told her they couldn't afford out-of-state tuition.

"I became fixated on going to UNC," Allison said. "I just kind of pushed them to move here."

Meanwhile, Laurie, 48, was eager to leave California. She wanted a lower cost of living, a slower-paced life and what she thought would be a better area for her kids - Allison, and Robert, 17, who finished high school in California. She started poking around the

Web, and in January 2007 stumbled on FindYourSpot.com, a Web site that directs users to cities it says they'd find the most liveable based on quality of life issues - weather, housing, culture, sports, schools, taxes, etc.

Laurie, who has lived most of her life in California, took the quiz. Charlotte was in her top three, along with two cities in Florida - Jacksonville and the other she can't remember. She was surprised, because what she knew of the East Coast boiled down to two trips to New York and one to Florida.

"I just started going online and Googling Charlotte and finding out about it," Laurie said. "It kind of took on a life of its own."

Mother and daughter teamed up on Dad, 60, a California native, to get him on board with moving here. Dana, a lawyer, mentioned it to his boss at Ad-

vantage Sales and Marketing, and she said he could work from the Charlotte office.

"It all kind of came together," said Allison, who is finishing her freshman year at Ardrey Kell High School. She's making friends here, but misses her pals back in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.

So far, Laurie is impressed with how friendly people are here.

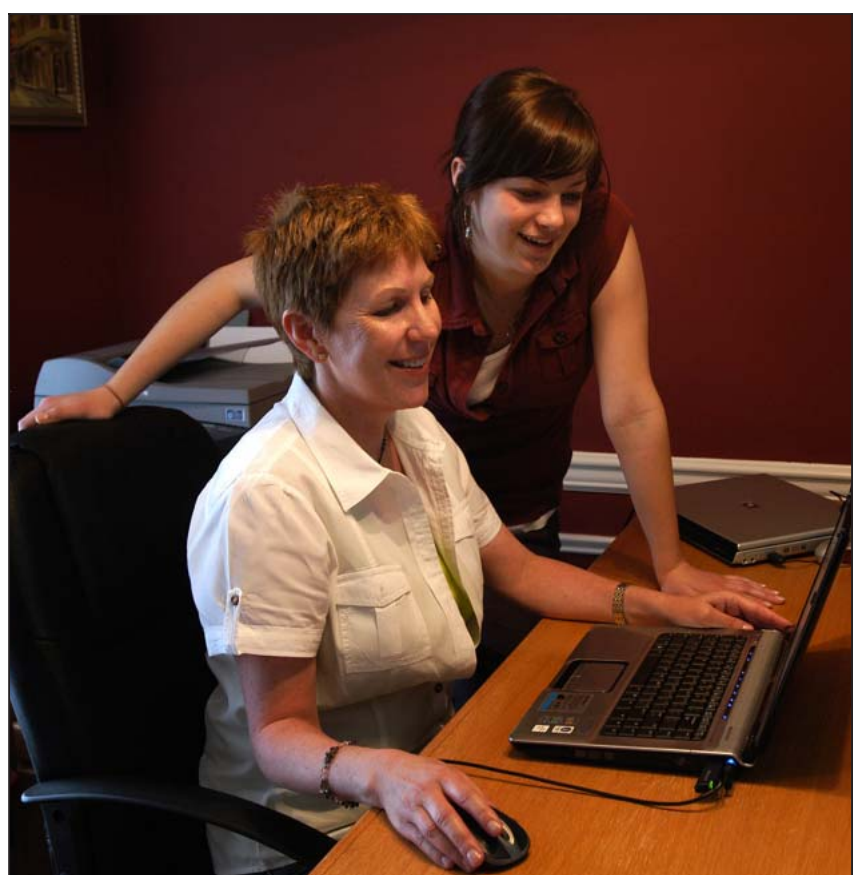
"I have (made) friends here quicker than I ever have in the 48 years of my life," said Laurie, who isn't exactly an introvert. She made one friend standing in line at the bank. "I'll talk to anyone pretty much."

Allison isn't the only aspiring writer in the family. Laurie is trying to launch a freelance writing career. They each have a blog - www.tangy-teen.com and www.mstangy.com. This summer they plan to write a book together - a humorous look at Allison's take on life versus her mom's.

Got a question or comment about living here? abalwin@charlotteobserver.com

NEW AROUND TOWN?

Amy Baldwin's blog and extensive resources from Living Here magazine at www.charlotte.com/living



SUZANNE SUMMERVILLE - ssummerville@charlotteobserver.com

The Miles family moved from California to Charlotte in January after taking a quiz on the Web site findyourspot.com. Laurie (sitting) sold the rest of the family on Charlotte after daughter Allison, 15, told them about the Web site.



ROBERT LAHSER - rlahser@charlotteobserver.com

Tyler was a "worker man" who loved drilling and hammering and cutting wood. Each of his brothers picked out a tool to bury with him. His parents keep the rest of his tools, plus other mementos, in three chests in their living room.

TYLER

■ from 1E

Brothers say goodbye

After four days at St. Jude, Howard and Dana flew back with Tyler to Charlotte so his brothers could tell him goodbye. The boys were 9, 7 and 3 then, and they brought farewell messages with them to the hospital:

We love you.
We'll miss you.
We hope you build a beautiful house in heaven.

Then the boys went home with their grandparents, and Howard and Dana lay down on Tyler's hospital bed, one on each side of him, as his breathing tube was removed.

Tyler gasped for breath. Howard and Dana held theirs and waited.

To their surprise, he began breathing again and settled into a rhythm.

For 8½ hours, Howard and Dana lay beside their son and listened for every breath until he took his last.

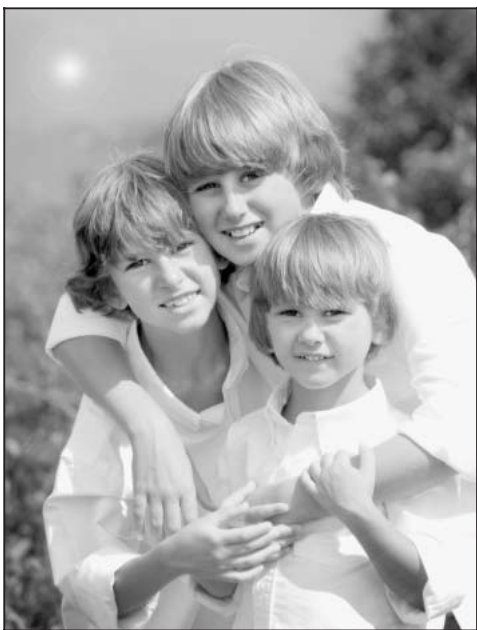
'We talk about him'

Many parents know what it's like to lose a child. Only Howard and Dana know what it's like to lose Tyler.

"I don't expect people to feel the same way I feel," Dana said. "But we don't want people to feel like he's a subject that can't be brought up. We talk about him all the time."

They celebrate his birthday. They hang his stocking at Christmas. They visit his grave. Aidan, their youngest boy, now 5, tells him good night every evening before he falls asleep.

Their memories are happy memories - of Tyler tagging along with his plastic mower as Howard mowed the lawn, or trying to cut down limbs with his little saw, or cleaning up a neighbor's yard with an elec-



For their 2007 Christmas card, the Scotts chose a photo of Chase, Bryce and Aidan with a star digitally added in the upper left to represent Tyler. "Tyler - always in our hearts," the card reads, "Forever with us."

EMILY ANGLE PHOTOGRAPHY

tric leaf blower almost as big as he was.

Tyler didn't live long enough to build a house or write a best-seller or leave his mark on the world in a conventional way.

And so it has fallen on Howard and Dana to make sure he is not forgotten.

The path to healing

Howard, who is 39, channeled his grief by doing what many grieving parents have done - raising money to help other children.

You may recognize some of their children's names:

Hope Stout, who died of a rare form of bone cancer called osteosarcoma. Margaret Harris and David Silverman, who both died of brain tumors. Alex Ervin, who was killed in a car crash.

And some of their causes: Make-a-Wish Foundation. Hopebuilders 5K. Slow Down for Alex.

Just as no one grieves the same way, no parent heals the same way. Some parents who lose a child find that it helps to do something that could save another child's life.

It gives meaning to their child's death. It helps them heal.

Tyler's Treehouse

Ten days after Tyler died, Tyler's Treehouse Inc. was born.

Dana was hesitant. It seemed too soon. Her way of healing was to turn inward, and to family and friends. She and Howard would also go to counseling at KinderMourn for a year.

But Howard needed something tangible to do, and Dana supported his decision.

"You're supposed to take care of your children," Howard said. "I had feelings of 'What did I do wrong?' Could I have done something different?"

"The foundation was something I could control. It was something I could make happen."

At its first fundraiser, a 5K race and a mile fun run in September 2006, Tyler's Treehouse raised \$12,500 to help finance a study at St. Jude of diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma.

Talking about Tyler

Howard works as a business development manager for a bottling equipment company and travels a lot. He's outgoing, comfortable talking with strangers and he tells most ev-

eryone he meets about Tyler.

A man who sat next to him in an airplane was so moved that he came to Charlotte in 2007 to play in a golf tournament that raised money for St. Jude.

In its first two years, Tyler's Treehouse donated \$125,000 to the hospital. It gave away two \$1,500 college scholarships to graduating seniors on their neighborhood swim team and a \$1,000 scholarship to a lacrosse player to play for Team Charlotte.

"I'm a positive person," Howard said. "The foundation helps. It's positive. If I couldn't do something with this, the despair would eat me up."

Not a day goes by that Howard and Dana don't think of Tyler. Not a day goes by that they don't ache to see their son.

Every morning when they wake up, they remember. Every night, as they drift off to sleep, they remember.

With the foundation's help, they hope that one day researchers will find a cure for the cancer that killed Tyler. It is comforting to know that he will have played a role.

In his short life, Tyler will have made a difference.

Want to contribute?

For information about Tyler's Treehouse Inc., go to www.tyler-treehouse.org. The foundation is sponsoring a 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Olde Georgetown Pool off Sharon Road, and a Golf Classic at TPC at Piper Glen on Monday, Oct. 27.

Help with grief

KinderMourn is a United Way agency that provides support groups, counseling services and community outreach programs for families experiencing the death of a child and for children grieving the death of a family member or friend. www.kinder-mourn.org or 704-376-2580.

Symphony meets new conductor - a Honda robot

ASIMO leads humans in 'The Impossible Dream' from 'Man of La Mancha.'

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

DETROIT — The lights dimmed, the sold-out hall grew hushed and out walked the conductor - shiny, white and 4 feet, 3 inches tall.

ASIMO, a robot designed by Honda Motor Co., met its latest challenge Tuesday evening: conducting the Detroit Symphony in a performance of "The Impossible Dream" from "Man of La Mancha."

"Hello, everyone," ASIMO said to the audience in a childlike voice, then waved to the orchestra.

As it conducted, it perfectly mimicked the actions of a conductor, nodding its head at various sections and gesturing with one or both hands. ASIMO took a final bow to enthusiastic shouts from the audience.

"It is absolutely thrilling to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. This is a magnificent concert hall," ASIMO said.

Later, cellist Yo-Yo Ma joined ASIMO onstage to receive an award for his efforts in music education. Ma bent to ASIMO's height and shook the robot's hand. Ma performed later on the program but didn't take questions from the media about ASIMO.

Honda spokeswoman Alicia Jones said it was the first time ASIMO has conducted an orchestra, and it may be the first time any robot has conducted a live performance. ASIMO stands for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility.

ASIMO has its limits. ASIMO's engineers programmed the robot to mimic Charles Burke, the Detroit

During the first rehearsal, the orchestra lost its place when ASIMO began to slow the tempo, something a human conductor would have sensed and corrected.

Symphony's education director, as he conducted the piece in front of a pianist about six months ago. But it can't respond to the musicians.

During the first rehearsal, the orchestra lost its place when ASIMO began to slow the tempo, something a human conductor would have sensed and corrected, said bassist Larry Hutchinson.

"It's not a communicative device. It simply is programmed to do a sense of gestures," said Leonard Slatkin, the orchestra's musical director. "If the orchestra decides to go faster, there's nothing the robot can do about it. Hopefully, I keep that under control."

But several musicians also said ASIMO was more realistic than they expected.

"The movements are still a little stiff, but very human-like, much more fluid than I thought," Hutchinson said.

Honda has been developing walking robots since 1986. The latest version of ASIMO debuted last year. Honda eventually intends its robots to be companions for the elderly and others in need, such as schoolchildren navigating crosswalks. ASIMO can run, walk on uneven slopes and respond to simple voice commands. It can also recognize faces with its camera eyes.

Honda brought the robot to Detroit to highlight its recent \$1 million gift to the orchestra for a music education fund.



Ma



PAUL SANCYA - ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Honda's ASIMO robot conducts the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as it performs "Impossible Dream" during a concert in Detroit last week.

Supremes' sound for a new generation

Greatest hits CD offers 50 tracks of classic soul. Plus, Mary Wilson has an album out soon.

BY MARK BEECH
Bloomberg News

The music of the Supremes, the most successful U.S. vocal group of the 1960s, is about to get a revival, says Mary Wilson, an original member.

"My favorite song?" she ponders, mid-interview, and starts the revival right there. She bursts into "Stop! In the Name of Love," with a dance for the camera. "Think it oh-oh-over."

Her performance, in an interview filmed for Bloomberg TV, leaves passers-by agape at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, where an exhibition devoted to the Supremes opened last week and will be touring Europe for three years.

Wilson releases an album later this year. This week saw a new profile of her former band by Daryl Easlea; the first Supremes DVD, featuring rare concert footage; and a greatest hits CD. The double CD's 50 tracks feature the 12 No. 1's, including "Baby Love," "You Can't Hurry Love" and "The



BLOOMBERG NEWS PHOTO

Mary Wilson, an original member of the Supremes, sings at last week's opening of an exhibition on the group at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Happening."

"It introduces a new generation to the music," Wilson says of the new CD. When asked what a comeback means, she explodes in laughter, saying the music has lived on and

she looks forward to more royalties.

Wilson is the only band member who lasted from the group's formation as the Primettes in 1959, through its glory days with Diana Ross, who left

in 1970, to its breakup in 1977. Since then, there have been various suggested reunions, with pressure getting bigger as acts such as the Police have gotten back together, and millions of dollars are dangled in

front of Led Zeppelin.

Reunion talk

"I'm ready," says Wilson, asked about any Supremes reunion. "Cindy Birdsong is ready. Obviously, Florence Ballard passed away some years ago." (Ballard, unhappy at Ross' dominance, was fired in 1967, battled depression and died at 32 in one of pop history's saddest stories.) Still, the Supremes' record label, Universal/Motown, said its only plans were for the new compilation. Any full reunion would have to involve Ross, who went on to bigger solo success in the 1970s.

Wilson, 64, looks happy and is wearing a simple black dress, contrasting with many elaborate skintight costumes in the V&A show: silks, satins, vibrant 1960s oranges, purples and gold, covered with glitter and sequins.

"These beaded gowns have big rhinestones and they weigh 35 pounds each," says Wilson, pointing to the pink dresses the trio wore at a London performance for the Queen Mother in 1968.

The Supremes' influence has shown through in outfits

worn by Destiny's Child, Beyonce and many more. Wilson is delighted.

Jazz and Nat

"I listen to a lot of older music," she says. "Nat King Cole and Nancy Wilson. Jazz is my favorite."

Wilson started collecting the gowns when each member left the band and she ended up with dozens of boxes at her Las Vegas home.

"Some are still missing," she says. "I have the majority of them - not just gowns but shoes, wigs, hats, capes and boas. After I'd collected so many, I loaned them to the Smithsonian and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. My goal's to have my own museum."

Wilson has a lecture tour called "Dare to Dream." Her first autobiography was called "Dreamgirl." The London exhibition opens with a quote from her writing: "Dreams can come true."

"We were three little black girls from Detroit, Michigan," she says. "My mother couldn't read or write. The more you dare to dream, the more of your dreams you can make come true."