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Biz

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STEVE WILSON

Richard Holcomb hopes to strike it rich with StrikeIron.

Richard Holcomb is not only busy opening a new restaurant in Durham – **The Eno** – but he also is making sure that his baby, **StrikeIron**, is adequately capitalized.

The company recently sold a bundle of convertible notes that are tied to warrants valued at about \$1.226 million.

The takers? Looks like Durham's **The Aurora Funds** and Boston-based **Ascent Venture Partners** have chipped in about \$500,000 each to buy up most of the warrants so far. Aurora and Ascent are previous investors in StrikeIron.

However, the money raised is less than half of the \$2.5 million that Holcomb and his team want for StrikeIron, according to regulatory documents.

Even wallpaper ages. But it can be given a youth makeover.

That's the case at Chapel Hill's **Carolina Inn**, where the hotel's "Vues d'Amerique du Nord," or "Scenes of North America" wallpaper is undergoing a restoration that will be completed Aug. 15.

The public is invited to drop in and view the work.

The wallpaper was first printed in 1834 by French company Zuber et Cie and originally installed in the Carolina Inn in 1946. The wallpaper depicts the port of Boston, the bay of New York, a military review at West Point, the Natural Bridge in Virginia and Niagra Falls.

The wallpaper continues to be produced today from the original blocks, but it's very expensive. Besides the Carolina Inn, the paper adorns walls in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House, the Louisiana Governor's Mansion, the Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia and the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte.

An interesting footnote: First Lady **Jackie Kennedy** had the wallpaper installed in the White House in 1961.

Contributing to Biz were Staff Writers Chris Baysden, Frank Vinluan, Amanda Jones Hoyle and Chris Coletta.