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## Moore Regional Offers Advanced Pacemaker to Congestive Heart failure Patients

PINEHURST- "I've had a weak heart for about 10 years now," says red Springs resident Betsy Overstreet. "My heart has functioned on 30 percent of its potential for years, but I'd never had a heart attack until that particular morning when I woke up and I couldn't breathe."

After suffering her first heart attack at age 81. Overstreet became the second patient at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital to receive an advanced biventricular pacemaker implanted by Ker Boyce, M.D., of Pinehurst Medical Clinic. Dr. Boyce started Moore Regional's Electrophysiology program in 1999.

The biventricular pacemaker is a cardiac resynchronization therapy device specifically designed to enhance the heart's ability to beat in patients suffering from mild to moderate congestive heart failure.

The advanced device received FDA approval on Aug. 29, 2001. Moore Regional Hospital performed its first biventricular pacemaker procedure on October 9; its second on October 10th with Overstreet; and its third on October

An estimated 15 to 20 percent of congestive heart failure patients- or 650,000 people each year-quality for biventricular pacemakers.

"Patients with this device are going to find that they have more energy now that their heart-pumping action is more normal," says Victor Chacon, a member of Moore Regional's Heart Care Team. "They're also going to find that they feel a lot better and that their quality of life has improved."

The day after the procedure Overstreet says the morning after she received her biventricular pacemaker she was up at 6 o'clock and ready to roll.

"It's been a wonderful experience," she says, "and I'm just real glad to be a part of this pioneer program."

By mid-afternoon, she had given herself a sponge bath, walked the halls sev-

eral times and visited with friends and family.
"I'm 81 years old." Overstreet says, "and a lot of people wouldn't dare try

anything like tis, but there's nothing to fear. I don't have any shortness of breath or anything like that. In fact, the folks here at the hospital told me in a month I'd be looking for a husband. One even said that I'd be running the marathon.

While she doesn't expect anything like that, she does expect to continue living by herself and looking after herself.

"I'd like to see this happen to a lot of other people who have heart problems," she says. "I can't say enough good things about my experience here." Pacemakers and the heart

\*Congestive heart failure causes the heat not to pump effectively, which affects blood supply to the body," says Chacon. "One of the big things in some patients with congestive heart failure is that the heart's ventricles do not beat in synchrony. One of the hear's four chambers is barely working. The new biventricular pacemaker resynchronizes the heart's ventricles at the proper timing to increase blood output to the body. The whole lower heart beats at the same time as it would normally."

The heart has four separate chambers- the upper right atrium, the upper left atrium, the lower right ventricle and the lower left ventricle.

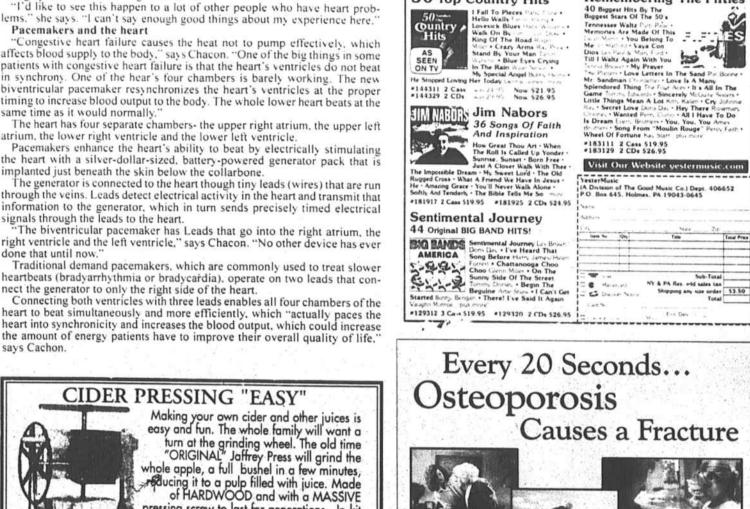
Pacemakers enhance the heart's ability to beat by electrically stimulating the heart with a silver-dollar-sized, battery-powered generator pack that is

The generator is connected to the heart though tiny leads (wires) that are run through the veins. Leads detect electrical activity in the heart and transmit that information to the generator, which in turn sends precisely timed electrical signals through the leads to the heart.

"The biventricular pacemaker has Leads that go into the right atrium, the right ventricle and the left ventricle," says Chacon. "No other device has ever done that until now."

Traditional demand pacemakers, which are commonly used to treat slower heartbeats (bradyarrhythmia or bradycardia), operate on two leads that con-

Connecting both ventricles with three leads enables all four chambers of the heart to beat simultaneously and more efficiently, which "actually paces the heart into synchronicity and increases the blood output, which could increase the amount of energy patients have to improve their overall quality of life,"





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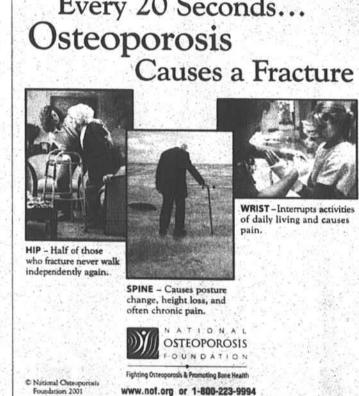
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Dealer inquiries invited.

The Parent Student Center of the Public Schools of Robeson County and South Robeson High School is holding a meeting at the school on Monday, October 29th from 5-8 PM. It's a time for parents, teachers, students and staff to get together for fun and fellowship. The purpose of the meeting is to increase parental in-volvement in education. Everyone is invited to hear Johnny Allen with the U.S. Department of Education talk on the subject of "Move the Child". Refreshments will be served:



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Hope is the feeling you have that the feeling you have isn't permanent.

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The most-visited house museum is Elvis Presley's Graceland, in Memphis, Tennessee. It's seen by more than 600,000 people per year.

## **Book on Indian basketball** nearing publication date ...

As many of you know, Tim Brayboy and Bruce Barton have been working on a book about Indian basketball in Robeson & adjoining counties for some time. And the end is in sight.

They expect to present the book at the second annual meeting of the Indian Basketball Alumni Association, Inc. at the Indian Education Resource Center (located in the old "Indian" Pembroke High School building), next door to the UNC-Pembroke chancellor's residence. The meeting will be held tentatively on December 13, 2001, beginning at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there. More information will be forthcoming in the next few days and weeks. The name of the book is:

PLAYING BEFORE AN OVERFLOW CROWD, The story of Indian basketball in Robeson & adjoining counties between 1939-1967.

The book, now about 90% complete, is a history of "Indian" basketball in Robeson as we remember it. Information is scant, but it was a time of rank segregation although positive currents emanated from the unique social incubator and experiment. The book explores what happened, where it happened, when, how, who, and, most importantly, WHY?

Also, what valuable lessons can be learned from this special moment in time?

TO RESERVE A COPY, fill in the blanks and send it to Indian Basketball Book, c/o Bruce Barton, Post Office Box 362, Pembroke, N.C. 28372. Or call 910-521-2054 for more information. We also welcome old "Indian" basketball photographs and memories.

Name Address



Proud of her Lumbee Indian heritage, Connie Brooks-Fernandez, M.D., wanted to learn more about other Indian tribes. After completing her residency in Florida, Dr. Brooks-Femandez moved to Mescalera, N.M. She worked on the Apache Indian reservation there for two years before moving home to Favetteville.

"Growing up in a bi-racial family (my mom is Caucasian and my father is Lumbee), I understood more than most the concerns of health care in rural areas. When I was 5 years old, my 39-year-old father died suddenly from a heart attack. I knew soon after that I wanted to be a doctor, to help families going through similar circumstances.

"I enjoy being a family care physician, because I get to treat a variety of health issues. Rural medicine is especially interesting because of the complexity of patients."

Downtime catches the sports enthusiast playing a little one-on-one basketball with her husband or enjoying family activities such as camping and biking.

> 923 West Third Street Pembroke, NC 28372 (910) 521-6029 www.firsthealth.org

Dr. Brooks-Fernandez Has No Reservations About the Quality of Rural Health Care in Pembroke.



