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Saddletree Community Center Honors Senior Citizens

The Saddletree Community Center held its 12th Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Banquet recently. Antioch Baptist Church was the host church. A special presentation was made by Karen Locklear and Demetrice Hunt in honor of Delora Jane Locklear.

Over 160 Living Christmas Trees were given to the Saddletree Senior

Citizens.

Special awards presentations for the most Dedicated Husband and Wife members of the Saddletree Center went to I.V. and Mable Brewer (middle and right). Outstanding project chairperson of the year was presented to Alvina Blanks who is also the president of the Community Center. A special thanks to everyone for supporting our community, said President Alvina Blanks.



Shown left is Alvina Blanks receiving the Award for Outstanding Project Chairperson. Middle and right are members I.V. Brewer and Mable Brewer receiving Award for Husband and Wife Participation and Dedication to their community.



Shown left is Karen Locklear, daughter-in-law of the late Delora Jane Locklear; Demetrice Hunt, daughter of Delora Jane Locklear and the Saddletree Community Center President Alvina Blanks. Karen Locklear and Demetrice Hunt presented over 160 live Christmas Trees to senior citizens in honor of Delora Jane Locklear.



Karen Locklear, left, and Demetrice Hunt, right, present living Christmas Trees to senior citizens of the Saddletree community. Mrs. Sandy Lowery, middle, is shown receiving her Christmas tree.

Finding The Right College

(NAPS)—Finding a college, comparing colleges, applying to college...what's a busy family to do? Many are logging on to the Web where, often, a fast solution is just a click away.

Increasingly, college and university Web sites are often proving to be a gold mine of information for time-pressed families who cannot visit each and every school. Web-based descriptions of current course offerings, academic environment, social environment and photographs of the school all help to paint a portrait of the institution. Some Web sites even offer an interactive space where prospective students can interview current students and glean insights into which dorm is the coolest for freshman and where to get a good pizza on campus.

Other Web sites serve as interactive guides to help students choose from among many colleges. Collegeboard.com, a Web site affiliated with The College Board, is one of the leading sites in this area. It provides a free and unique interactive tool that allows students to quickly locate colleges with similar characteristics to schools students are already considering. For example, a student inter-



GETTING HIGH GRADES among students who are getting ready to apply to college, collegeboard.com is a site that does everything from locating and comparing colleges to where to find the best pizza on campus.

ested in attending a four year public university with a strong engineering school can input criteria into LikeFinder on the college board.com Web site, and get back from the site a list of similar schools. Students can also use this tool to narrow down choices and to find in-state schools with similar characteristics to schools that are far from home. Then, with list in hand, families can plan campus visits to a few institutions that best meet the student's personal choices.

For more information on planning, finding, applying, testing and paying for college, visit www.collegeboard.com.



Joseph E. Roberts, MD, SRMC



W. Scott Ryan, MD, SRMC



George W. Mozingo, MD, SRMC

SRMC Medical Staff Names New Officers

Physicians at Southeastern Regional Medical Center have elected the following officers to lead the SRMC medical staff for a two-year term from January 1, 2002 through 2003. They are: W. Scott Ryan, M.D., president; George W. Mozingo, M.D., president-elect; and Joseph E. Roberts, M.D., secretary/treasurer. Dr. Boyd B. Gasque Jr. is immediate past president.

Somnath N. Naik, M.D. and Charles S. Haworth, M.D., will continue their two-year terms as chairmen of the departments of medicine and surgery, respectively.

"I plan to carry on the fine tradition we have seen during the last two years under D. Gasque," said Dr. Ryan.

Dr. Ryan, a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, has been associated with Lumberton Children's Clinic, 400 Liberty Hill Rd., since 1985. He earned a medical degree from the University of Kansas in 1973 and completed residency training at Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona in 1976. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and is a member of the Robeson county Medical Society, the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Pediatric Society.

Dr. Mozingo, a urologist who joined the Lumberton Urology Clinic in 1986, earned a medical degree from Medical College of South Carolina in 1976. He completed residency training at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1983 and is certified by the American Board of Urology. His office is located at 815 Oakridge Blvd. in Lumberton.

A family practitioner, Dr. Roberts earned his medical degree from UNC Chapel Hill in 1987 and completed residency training at Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro in 1990. He opened his practice, Lumber River Family Practice, 3005 N. Elm St. in Lumberton in 1995. He is certified by the American board of Family Practice.

Tolerance is the greatest gift of the mind; it requires the same effort of the brain that it takes to balance oneself on a bicycle.

—Helen Keller

Yesterday is a cancelled check; tomorrow is a promissory note; today is the only cash you have, so spend it wisely.

—Kay Lyons

2001 Festival of Trees Raises \$30,000 for Care of Terminally Ill Patients in Robeson County



From left, Festival of Trees coordinator Ann McLean and husband Buddy McLean, Maureen and Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill, commanding general of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Ft. Bragg and keynote speaker, and Karen and Sen. David Weinstein, festival sponsors.

The 16th annual Festival of Trees hosted more than 1,000 visitors at its new location in the Osterneck Auditorium of the Robeson County Public Library. In the process, about \$30,000 was raised through sponsorship of 28 uniquely decorated Christmas trees and from sales at the Santa's shop there. All proceeds from the Dec. 9-11 event and from the Tree of Honor will go to directly benefit terminally ill patients and their families in Robeson County.

"Festival of Trees has found a new home! We are so pleased at the spaciousness of the auditorium and the help we've received from the library staff that we have already booked the location for next year's festival," said Ann McLean, SRMC director of marketing and Festival coordinator.

This year's Festival featured three

more trees than those of past years. "In this economic climate, we were very appreciative of those sponsors who stepped forward to fund this worthy cause," McLean said. "Now, more than ever, the families of hospice patients need and deserve the care that hospice can offer. Festival funding will make it possible to provide for patient and family needs, including medications and sickroom supplies."

Some of the funds raised by the Festival will also benefit Camp Care, a camp for youth ages 8 to 16, who have experienced the death of a loved one. One of the trees at the Festival, sponsored by Kiwanis of Robeson, was decorated by Camp Care kids.

Sponsors, including individuals and businesses, donated in one of four sponsorship categories. 2001 sponsors include: Kiwanis of Robeson, Pepsi-

Cola Bottling Company of Lumberton, Lumberton Radiological Associates, Buckeye Lumberton, southeastern Cardiology, Benson Construction Company, Smith Advertising & Associates, Triangle Ice Company, Locklear & Son Funeral Home, Skinner, Lamm & Highsmith, The Robins & Morton Group, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ivey, Kenli Enterprises (McDonald's), BB&T, T. R. Driscoll, Inc., Forms & Supply, Inc., S. Preston Douglas & Associates, Peterson Associates, Sen. and Mrs. David Weinstein, Cape Fear Construction Company, Barnes Paving Company, Lumberton Children's Clinic, West Primary-Urgent Care, Emergency Physician Associates, Three Secret Sanctas and the Memorial Tree.

Ray Lowery, Cast Member of "Strike at the Wind" succumbs to massive heart attack

By Vinita Maynor Clark

Ray Lowery, who is known as the character of Boss Strong in the outdoor drama Strike at the Wind died on December 26, 2001 of a massive heart attack at his place of work. Lowery first joined the cast of the outdoor drama in 1992 in the role of Henderson Oxendine and the following season assumed the role of Boss Strong, the brother of Rhoda, wife of Henry Berry Lowrie.

Over eighty cast members and the Board of Directors of Robeson Historical Drama Association attended both the visitation at Floyd Mortuary in Lumberton and the funeral service at Mount Olive Pentecostal Church in Pembroke where Lowery was the Assistant Choir Director for the Adult Choir. Over 500 people attended the visitation on Friday night.

Lowery's daughter Amilia Lowery reflected with cast members the many memories she had of her father with the outdoor drama. "I remember the first time I went to see the drama with my mother," she stated. "My father was playing the role of Henderson Oxendine and when it came to my father getting hung, I cried out loud 'oh, God not my daddy!' Both cast and RHDA Board Members signed cards of sympathy and presented them to Lowery's daughter as a gesture of their love and support. On the front of the cards were the nickname that he

often called his daughter "Daddy's little princess." Before the funeral service Miss Lowery went around and met with some of the cast members and told them "my father would not want to see you cry for he has gone to a better place." Although she was not acknowledged at either one of the services, Amilia held her head high and we all know that her father would have been proud of her.

Many cast members were still in shock over the death and offered these words: "Ray will truly be missed" (RHDA President Pearllean Revels). "It is not everyday that you find someone like Ray Lowery" (Tasha Bullard). "Ray not only had exceptional talent, he had a good heart for he was a person that would help anyone in need" (Vinita Clark). "He was a good friend of mine" (Robert Bryant). RHDA Board Members and several cast members brought food to Lowery's wife Suzanne who was staying with her parents and offered their support. Members of the 2001 cast and RHDA Board Members were Honorary Pallbearers for the service. RHDA President Pearllean Revels presented a tribute to the family on behalf of the cast and RHDA. At the end of the service cast members lined the hallway as the body of Lowery was ushered out of the church. Those from SATW and the RHDA included Board Members Pearllean

Revels, David Carter, Rudy Paul, Levern Oxendine, Floyd Locklear, Vicki Locklear and Willie French Lowery. SATW 2001 cast members included, Robert Bryant, Steven Pate, David Oxendine, Misha & Corbin Eddings, Edith Ward, Delores Steen, Edwina Chambers, Terry & Alazah Steen, Sharon Locklear, Margaret Freeman, Tasha Bullard, Anjelica Wells, Natasha Lowery, Laury Rose Chavis, LaDonna Locklear, Linda Locklear, Justin Jacobs, Todd Harris, Colette D. Locklear, Vinita Clark and a host of others from seasons past.

"To say that Ray Lowery will be missed is putting it mildly for he was a kind, honest and humble man," stated Clark.



Ray Lowery as Boss Strong

New Child Abuse and Neglect Rates Show Troubling Trend

Raleigh— In a December 17 press release, DHHS released data about the rising number of children investigated and found to be abused or neglected. Today, new per capita rates for child abuse and neglect are being released, based on the latest population figures available from the Office of State Planning. The data show that:

Out of every 1,000 children in the state, 50.97 were reported as being abused or neglected last year, down from 51.26 the year before.

16.25 children per 1,000 were substantiated, that is, actual abuse or neglect was found by county investigators, compared to 16.21 respectively for the previous year.

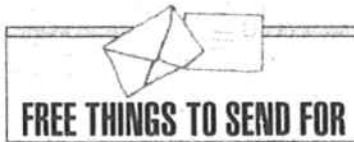
"The fact that the proportion of children who are victims is increasing while the proportion of children who are reported is decreasing reflects the greater severity and risk of harm associated with the reports that we receive," said Chuck Harris, chief, NC Children's Services Section. "Specifically, more or the reports involve families with serious substance abuse and domestic violence problems."

The total number of children reported and the total number of children who were abused or neglected increased last year over the previous year, as reported in the Dec. 17 release. Those figures showed, after a slight decrease last year, numbers have risen above two years ago.

Last state fiscal year, 102,158 children were the subjects of reports of abuse and neglect that were investigated at county departments of social services, up from 100,682 the year before. Of these 32,581 children were substantiated, that is the investigator found evidence of actual abuse or neglect, up from 31,828 the year before.

These previously released data are accurate. The previous release referred readers to a web site with 2000-2001 child abuse and neglect rates. It was determined that these rates could be calculated with more up-to-date population figures. The corrections changed the statewide rates by less than 1 percent. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

To view county and state rates for child abuse and neglect, go to <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/childrenservices/stats/programstatistics.htm>.



(NAPS)—"Civil War Minutes"

is a DVD and video program that uses soldiers' letters to explain how they lived. It's narrated by Michael Kraus, historical consultant for the film *Gettysburg*. With this video, Kraus hopes to preserve the thoughts of these soldiers for generations to come. For more information, visit www.CivilWarMinutes.com or call 1-877-201-7040.

Learning more about the ways men and women experience pain may help health care professionals and patients learn how to manage pain more effectively. Partners Against Pain is a resource created to educate people about appropriate pain management. For additional information about pain management, consult your doctor or pain specialist. You can also get free information about pain management from Partners Against Pain at www.partnersagainstpain.com or by writing to Partners Against Pain, 1 Stamford Forum, Department M, Stamford, CT 06901-3431.