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DEC 2025



Home. Faith. Forever. The Lee Family.

Also Inside: Christmas Trivia, Avoiding Neck Pain, Holiday Safety & More!

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KYRA RODRIGUEZ

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PINEHURST NEIGHBORS

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Holiday Cheer in The Pines

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the days grow shorter and the festive glow of the season begins to warm Pinehurst and Southern Pines, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the fourth issue of Pinehurst Neighbors Magazine. Thank you, once again, for opening your doors and your lives to us.

This time of year carries a unique magic throughout our local neighborhoods. We see it in the twinkle of lights across our quaint communities, hear it in the cheerful holiday events held at the Village Shops, or the familiar rumbling of trains through Downtown Southern Pines, and feel it in the genuine goodwill shared among neighbors. This is truly a season defined by gratitude, reflection, and connection.

It is this spirit of connection that lies at the heart of our magazine. When I first envisioned Pinehurst Neighbors, my goal was to create more than just a publication; I wanted to build a platform for local storytelling. I wanted to highlight the incredible people, traditions, and hidden gems that make our neighborhoods the most desirable and special places to call home.

As we turn the page toward December, I am reminded of all we have to be thankful for. I am grateful for the families who have shared their stories, the local businesses who enrich our daily lives, and the dedicated community leaders who work tirelessly to preserve the unique character of the Sandhills. Most of all, I am grateful for you, our loyal readers, whose engagement and enthusiasm make this magazine possible.

In this holiday issue, we've gathered stories that celebrate local traditions and introduce you to the generous hearts that make a difference during this charitable time. We hope it provides a moment of warmth and inspiration as you prepare for your own holiday celebrations.

May your December be filled with peace, joy, and the company of those you hold dear. From my family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With warm regards and community spirit,

Chris Foster

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Photo by Tess Gillespie

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ALL THINGS MOORE COUNTY



Bright Ideas: A Local Expert's Guide to Safe and Stunning Holiday Lighting



BY DAN WEIDMAN AND RICK LOZANO

When the holidays arrive in the Sandhills, homes light beautifully. The season is a time for warmth, celebration, and tradition, but it's also one of the busiest times of year for electrical fires and accidents. As professional electricians serving Pinehurst and surrounding communities, we're here to share a few insider tips on keeping your holiday lighting display both breathtaking and safe.

1. Start with the right foundation.

Before you untangle a single strand, take a moment to inspect your lights. Look for frayed wires, cracked sockets, or loose connections. Discard any set that looks worn, holiday lights are inexpensive compared to the risk of an electrical short. Choose LEDs whenever possible; they use 75% less energy, produce minimal heat, and last far longer than traditional incandescent bulbs.

2. Respect the limits of your home's power.

A common mistake we see every year is overloading outlets or extension cords. That single outlet on your porch was never meant to handle ten strings of lights, inflatable decorations, and a heated driveway mat. Follow this rule of thumb: no more than three light strands per extension cord, and never daisy-chain power strips together. If you're unsure whether your system can handle the load, call a licensed electrician for a quick safety inspection, it's far cheaper than repairing a blown circuit or fire damage.

3. Use outdoor-rated everything.

Not all lights are created equal. Only use lights, cords, and timers labeled for outdoor use if they're going outside. Keep electrical connections off the ground, and consider using weatherproof cord protectors or raised clips to prevent moisture intrusion. Pinehurst weather can shift from warm afternoons to frosty nights quickly, and condensation can create hidden hazards.

4. Invest in smart safety devices.

Modern smart plugs and outdoor-rated GFCI outlets offer extra protection by cutting power instantly if a fault is detected. They also make controlling your display effortless, schedule lights to turn on at dusk and off after bedtime, saving energy and ensuring you never forget to shut them down.

5. Think beyond the holidays.

Once the new year arrives, resist the temptation to leave lights up indefinitely. Prolonged exposure to sun and moisture weakens insulation and increases risk. Store your decorations neatly in labeled containers to prevent damage and make next year's setup a breeze.

The bottom line: Holiday lighting should bring joy, not risk. With a little planning and the right precautions, your home can shine brighter than ever, safely and beautifully. If you'd like a professional safety inspection or help installing outdoor lighting this season, the experienced electricians at **Mister Sparky of**



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Stay bright, stay safe, and enjoy a worry-free holiday season.

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Fun Facts and Knowledge: Christmas Edition

BY JESSICA ANDREANO

Christmas by the Numbers Holiday Shopping

- The average American spends **\$870 on Christmas gifts** every year.
- **1 in 3 shoppers** admit to buying themselves a present while shopping for others!
- Nearly **60% start shopping before December even begins.**

Deck the Halls

- **75% of households** put up a Christmas

tree — 80% artificial, 20% real.

- The average tree twinkles with **300 lights** and **50 ornaments.**
- **92% of families** decorate their homes for the holidays!

Festive Eats

- Santa enjoys an estimated **336 million cookies** on Christmas Eve worldwide.
- The top holiday dessert in the U.S.? **Pumpkin pie**, followed closely by **sugar cookies.**

- Americans sip over **\$185 million worth of eggnog** each December.

Holiday Favorites

- The most-watched Christmas movie ever is **Home Alone.**
- **Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You"** earns about **\$3 million** every year in royalties.
- Americans stream over **1 billion hours** of holiday music and movies each season!

Christmas Trivia Fun!

1. What traditional Christmas decoration is actually a parasitic plant?
2. In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," what gift is given on the seventh day?
3. What popular Christmas beverage is also known as "milk punch"?
4. What country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
5. What are Frosty the Snowman's eyes made of?
6. What was the first company that used Santa Claus in advertising?
7. What Christmas song was originally written for Thanksgiving?
8. In Home Alone, where are the McCallisters going on vacation when they leave Kevin behind?
9. What is the name of Ralphie's little brother in A Christmas Story?
10. Which reindeer shares a name with a famous Valentine's Day symbol?
11. In the movie Elf, what are the four main food groups for elves?
12. What do people traditionally put on top of a Christmas tree?
13. Which ocean is Christmas Island located in?
14. In what year was How the Grinch Stole Christmas first published?
15. What is the name of the ballet traditionally performed around Christmas time?

11. Candy, candy canes, candy corns, and syrup
12. A star or an angel
13. The Indian Ocean
14. 1957
15. The Nutcracker

6. Coca-Cola
7. Jingle Bells
8. Paris
9. Randy
10. Cupid

1. Mistletoe
2. Seven swans a-swimming
3. Eggnog
4. Germany
5. Coal

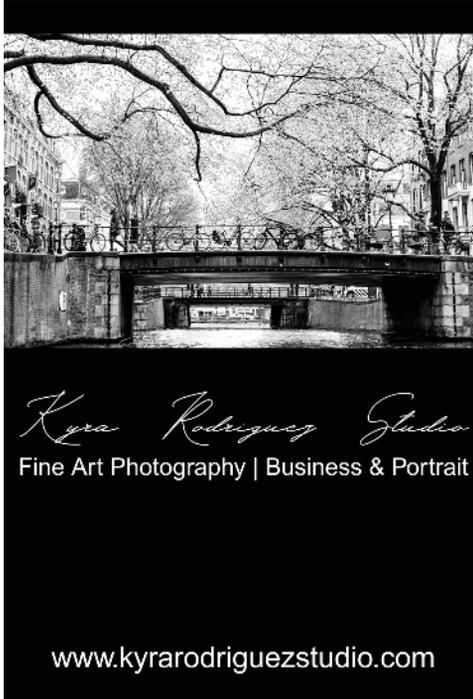
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Home. Faith. Forever. The Lees' Journey to Pinehurst.

BY JESSICA ANDREANO | PHOTOS BY KYRA RODRIGUEZ

Some love stories begin quietly, but for Jeremy and Kelly Lee, everything fell into place quickly and naturally. Both were single, divorced adults in their 40s, living in separate states when they met through an online dating site. Their first meeting took place in Greenville, South Carolina, where the connection was immediate. They shared the same values, faith, and a deep appreciation for adventure and family life.

Within just five weeks of meeting, Jeremy and Kelly were married. Though the timeline might surprise some, the decision felt completely right to both of them. They now make their home in Moore County, where they are proud to share their lives with the Lord and are grateful to have built a life rooted in faith, family, and purpose.

A Foundation in Career and Calling

Before their marriage, Jeremy and Kelly had each established strong professional careers that reflected their individual passions and drive.

Jeremy earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Golf Course Management from Western Kentucky University. During college, he landed an internship at Augusta National, an experience that helped shape his understanding of the sport and the business behind it. He went on to help build two golf courses for the Trump Organization, developing skills that would later guide his entrepreneurial work.

After more than a decade in sales, Jeremy decided to return to his first passion: golf. He pursued PGA membership and became the Head Golf Professional at Deercroft, where he led and taught for several years. During that time, he also



built a golf course search engine—a project that reflected his growing interest in combining technology with the game he loved.

Eventually, Jeremy joined TrackMan, a leader in golf performance technology. His work there inspired a new vision: to bring a membership-based, indoor golf experience to Pinehurst—something similar to the modern golf venues found in cities like Nashville. Together with Kelly, he turned that idea into reality. The couple designed and built Twenty Fore Golf from the ground up, creating a local space that blends community, innovation, and the timeless appeal of the sport.

Kelly's professional background is equally impressive. She holds two Bachelor of Science degrees, one in Civil Engineering and one in Environmental Engineering. She began her career as a consulting engineer, where she spent nearly a decade overseeing technical projects and working closely with clients to design infrastructure solutions.

After several years in engineering, Kelly transitioned into distribution and sales management with the largest underground infrastructure distributor in the United States. Over the next thirteen years, she traveled extensively, managing accounts, building partnerships, and overseeing national operations.

Today, Kelly serves in business development for the world's leading composite concrete water tank company, where she manages projects throughout the Carolinas. Her company's work extends worldwide and includes the construction of five 20-million-gallon tanks for the World Cup in Qatar—an achievement that highlights the global reach of her field.

A Busy, Active Family

The Lees' home is filled with energy and activity, thanks to their five children and two dogs. Their family includes Connor (17), Addison (16), Ava (16), Gabriella (14), and Delilah (13), along with their two dogs—Zoey, a 12-year-old Lab mix, and Luke, a 2-year-old Cavapoo.

Sports are an important part of their family life. Connor grew up playing hockey in Wisconsin, while all the girls have backgrounds in competitive swimming. Today, Ava is a ju-

nior on the Pinecrest High School swim team; Gabriella is a freshman and a member of the Pinecrest softball team; and Delilah plays volleyball for West Pine Middle School and the AC Sandhills travel volleyball team.

The family shares a strong appreciation for physical fitness and time outdoors. Summers are filled with early morning walks with the dogs, paddleboarding on local lakes, and evening jeep rides through the backroads of Moore County. They also enjoy spending time together traveling, skiing, snorkeling, and exploring new places as a family.

Faith is another central pillar of their lives. The Lees are active members of Christ Community Church, where they stay involved and grounded in their shared beliefs. Their faith continues to guide their family decisions, both personally and professionally.

Building a Forever Home

When Jeremy and Kelly married, they quickly decided that they wanted to build their forever home together. They purchased a lot in Forest Creek almost immediately after moving to Pinehurst three years ago. The location offered everything they wanted—peace, natural beauty, and a sense of belonging.

Their lot includes a small creek that runs through the property, a feature they particularly love. The Lees hope to move into their new home by September 2026. The neighborhood's overall design and aesthetic, along with its water features and golf course views, make it the ideal setting for their family's next chapter.

Even during construction, they have already gotten to know many of their neighbors and appreciate the kindness and friendliness of the community. The Lees describe Forest Creek as a place that feels peaceful, quiet, and welcoming—a perfect setting for evenings on the back porch, watching the sunset, and enjoying the slower pace of Pinehurst life.

Although they have not yet had time to participate in neighborhood activities, both Jeremy and Kelly plan to get involved once their home is completed. With Kelly's frequent work travel and Jeremy's new business, their schedule is full, but they are both natural leaders who look forward to contributing more to the community in the future.

Shared Adventures and Family Traditions

Travel has always played a major role in the Lees' relationship. Many of their best memories together include trips and outdoor adventures—skiing out west, hiking to waterfalls, snorkeling in tropical waters, and visiting beaches across the East Coast.

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Their favorite family memory so far is snorkeling in Mexico, where the water was vividly blue and filled with colorful fish. They also enjoy their annual ski trips, with recent destinations including Whitefish, Montana and Winter Park, Colorado. Future plans include a trip to Whistler, which they have long wanted to experience.

As a couple, their favorite beach getaway is Racoonoke, while as a family, they love biking on Hilton Head Island. Whether traveling near or far, their trips are always centered around time together and shared experiences.

Kelly grew up in Wisconsin, just a block from Lambeau Field, the home of the Green Bay Packers. Football remains an important family tradition, and the Lees travel to Green Bay several times a year—especially during the NFL season. Packers games are often a lively household event, complete with authentic Wisconsin touches like cheese curds and New Glarus beer.

Jeremy, originally from Kentucky, brings his own southern traditions into the mix. The family often laughs about the differences in their regional expressions. For example, Kelly calls a winter hat a “beanie,” while Jeremy calls it a “toboggan”—a word that, in Wisconsin, means a wooden sled with metal rails. These lighthearted differences add personality and humor to their household.

The Four-Legged Family Members

The Lees’ two dogs, Zoey and Luke, are just as much a part of the family as anyone else. Zoey, a Lab mix, is twelve years old and known for her love of food and sunshine. She is gentle and affectionate, happiest when cuddled up in blankets or stretched out in the sun. Her favorite place to be is the beach, where she can relax with Kelly.

Luke, their two-year-old Cavapoo, brings youthful energy and constant entertainment. He is a small dog with a big personality—curious, friendly, and always eager to play. He loves to visit children, chase his football, and has even been known to watch television when something catches his attention.

Life in Balance

Jeremy and Kelly share many interests, from travel and faith to sports and fitness. They also appreciate the beauty of everyday life in Pinehurst. Fall is one of their favorite times of

year, with crisp weather perfect for evenings spent outdoors roasting s’mores and enjoying the changing colors.

Jeremy, who has spent most of his life surrounded by women—three older sisters, a sister-in-law, four daughters, his wife, and Zoey—often jokes that bringing Luke into the family added some much-needed “boy energy” to the household.

Despite their busy lives, Jeremy continues to dedicate himself to improving his golf game and sharing his passion through lessons and community engagement. Kelly continues to excel in her career while maintaining a deep commitment to family and faith.

Looking Toward the Future

As construction continues on their Forest Creek home, the Lees are filled with gratitude for how far they have come. In just a few short years, they have built a family, a business, and a life that reflects their values: faith, love, hard work, and adventure.

Their days are full, their home is lively, and their future is bright. Pinehurst has become not just a place where they live, but a place where they feel truly at home. Surrounded by family, friends, and faith, the Lees look forward to the years ahead continuing to grow, explore, and build a life that celebrates everything they love most.

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Holiday Back & Neck Survival Guide

BY SHARON WRIGHT, DC

The holidays in Pinehurst bring a familiar bustle: wreaths hung on picket fences, tables set for family dinners, and last-minute errands between strolls around the greens. I've treated neighbors here for many seasons, and what I see each year is predictable—joy wrapped around tension. People arrive at my clinic with a stiff neck from too many hours hunched over gift lists, a sore low back from hauling boxes to the attic, or a constant ache that started as a tight shoulder and grew into something that interferes with sleep. The good news is that most of these problems are preventable. With a few intentional habits and a gentle awareness of how stress shows up in the body, you can keep your spine comfortable and your holiday plans uninterrupted.

Recognizing how the holiday pace affects your posture is the first step. When you rush—reaching up to place decorations, twisting while carrying a stack of wrapped gifts, or leaning over a counter to chop vegetables—your body compensates. Muscles that should share the work tighten, joints stop moving through their normal range, and small strains accumulate into nagging pain. Add late nights, poor sleep, and elevated stress, and the nervous system amplifies muscle tension. This combination explains why a cheerful weekend can turn into a week of stiffness.

Practical changes don't need to be dramatic to be effective. Before lifting a heavy box from the car, pause for a moment and bring the load close to your chest; use your hips and knees to lower and lift rather than bending from the waist. When you're decorating a high porch light or stringing garland across a mantel, use a sturdy step stool so you're not reaching overhead while leaning. If you find yourself carrying many shopping bags from Pinehurst Village back to the car, redistribute the weight—switch arms frequently or use a backpack so one side of your body is not over-

loaded. During long gatherings in drafty homes or after a long drive from out of town, support your lower back with a small folded towel or lumbar cushion and stand up to walk around every 30 to 45 minutes to restore circulation and reset posture.

How you sleep during the holidays affects recovery. A supportive pillow that keeps your head aligned with your spine and a mattress that provides even support for your low back will do more for pain prevention than an evening of ibuprofen. Side sleepers benefit from placing a pillow between their knees to reduce twist through the pelvis, while those who sleep on their backs often feel better with a thin pillow under the knees. If overnight visitors crowd a guest room, consider a temporary arrangement that preserves spinal support rather than squeezing onto an ill-fitting mattress.

Stress is as physical as it is mental during this season. I often teach patients to use brief breathing pauses—just a minute or two of slow, diaphragmatic breaths—to calm the nervous system and release the constant low-grade tension that sits across the neck and shoulders. Micro-breaks are powerful: every half-hour of standing, stretching, or simply changing position breaks the cycle of stiffness. Gentle, deliberate movement between tasks—walking to the mailbox, doing a slow shoulder roll, or a seated neck-glide—keeps joints mobile and muscles responsive.

Cooking and hosting often means repetitive motion and prolonged standing. Organize your kitchen into work zones so you minimize bending and reaching; move ingredients to a comfortable height for chopping and alternate tasks between the hands. Standing on a cushioned surface when you'll be at the counter for a long time reduces strain on the lower back and legs. When guests arrive, invite help with



set-up and clean-up—sharing physical tasks preserves your energy and protects your spine.

Travel brings its own set of considerations. Long drives and flights compact time in static positions, and the Pinehurst roads that thread between neighborhoods are no exception. Use a small lumbar roll or a rolled towel to maintain the natural curve of your low back in the car, keep your knees slightly lower than your hips, and take short walks after extended travel. When you unpack at your destination, distribute heavy items into smaller loads rather than carrying everything at once; it's a slower approach but kinder to your back.

Knowing when to seek hands-on care is important. If stiffness and soreness persist despite conservative measures, or if you have recurrent episodes of the same problem, a focused chiropractic visit can restore segmental mobility, reduce pain, and help you progress safely with strengthening and flexibility work. Immediate medical attention is warranted for symptoms such as numbness, weakness in the arms or legs, or sudden loss of bowel or bladder control.

Ultimately, the most reliable holiday protection for your neck and back is a blend of movement, mindful lifting, stress management, and adequate rest. Small choices—pausing before you lift, changing position regularly, breathing deeply for a minute—add up to a season where you remember the warmth of gatherings rather than the ache afterward. Enjoy the Pinehurst winter light, the neighborhood walks, and time with family and friends with a spine that feels as good as the memories you're making.



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Dr. Brian Dial, a proud Robeson County native has spent over 20 years serving his community with grit and compassion. A graduate of UNC Pembroke and Life University of Chiropractic, he's not only a seasoned chiropractor but a dedicated father of four who believes in helping others live pain-free, full lives. Known for his personal touch and innovative care, Dr. Dial now leads the charge with Laser Now therapy—a cutting-edge, drug-free solution that's changing lives across the region. His mission is simple: restore freedom, movement, and vitality to the people he proudly calls neighbors.

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December

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Merry Moments & Local Events

BY JESSICA ANDREANO

What: Christmas Tree Lighting

When: Friday, December 5th @ 5PM

Where: James W. Tufts Memorial Park

Music, holiday cheer, and of course, the chance to see Santa! Enjoy festive fun from 5:00pm-7:30pm and the official lighting of the tree is scheduled for 6:30pm. Vendors will be onsite with food & beverages available for purchase.

What: A Village Christmas Holiday Open House

When: Friday, December 5th @ 4-7PM

Where: 1 Village Green Rd W, Pinehurst,

Pinehurst Business Partners invites you to shop local this holiday season during our Holiday Open House, in this special collaboration with the Village of Pinehurst Tree Lighting!

Stroll the village's downtown specialty shops, galleries, and boutiques. Enjoy extended hours and pop-up shops!

What: Service Industry Night - Cornhole Tournament

When: Monday, December 8th @ 6PM

Where: 750 SW Broad St, Southern Pines,

Join us for good vibes, great music, and competition every Monday for our service industry corn hole tournament. Prizes for the winning team.

What: North Carolina Symphony - Holiday Pops

When: Wednesday, December 10th @ 7:30PM

Where: Bradshaw Performing Arts Center - 3395 Airport Rd, Pinehurst,

Sophie Mok, conductor Taylor Troyer, vocalist. Join us for the Symphony's most cherished holiday tradition as we bring beloved seasonal classics to life, from timeless carols to spirited renditions of festive favorites.

Tickets available on Ticket Master.

What: Jingle Tails & Ales Howliday Market

When: Saturday, December 13th @ 12-4PM

Where: 150 W. New York Ave, Southern Pines Growler Company,

Join us for a festive dog-themed mini market at Southern Pines Growler Company with holiday goodies, great food, drinks, and photos with Santa Max, 2-4 PM. Enjoy raffles and our Pet Angel Tree, all supporting local rescues and shelters.

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As we welcome the new year, we want to hear from you! Share your favorite winter memories, snowy adventures with family, cozy recipes that warm your heart, or creative DIY crafts and décor that make your home feel extra special this season.

Don't forget to send in those fun snow day snapshots too – we'd love to feature your winter magic in our January issue!
jandreano@bestversionmedia.com

What: Victorian Christmas at the Farm

When: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December 18th-20th @ 5-9PM

Where: 272 Edgewood Road, Cameron,

Step back in time – Victorian Christmas on the Farm

Join us at Lazy Fox Lavender Farm for a magical holiday evening on Dec 18 (Youth Vendor Night), Dec 19 & 20 – 5-9 PM each night.

Enjoy a candle tour of our 1910 Edgewood farmhouse, festive tractor & trailer rides, a European-style Christmas Market with artisan demos (Dec 19 & 20), Movies by the Barn, wandering carolers, a greenhouse hot-cocoa station, local food trucks, youth & artisan vendor booths, and friendly farm animals to visit. Tickets required – \$35 / person (children 2 & under free).

Grab yours at lazyfoxlavenderfarm.com – spaces are limited.

What: Mini North Pole at the NAV

When: Friday December 19th & Saturday, December 20th @ 5:30-9PM

Where: 201 Air Tool Drive, Southern Pines,

Delight in the twinkling Christmas lights, indulge in s'mores, and enjoy family-friendly games. Immerse yourself in the joy of the season with an event that will entertain all ages.

*Child Ticket - any children 10 years old and under (\$10)

*Individual Ticket - Any person 11 years old or older (\$15)

*Family Tickets - 2 Adults and their children (\$35)

*Dog Ticket - Valid for 1 dog (\$5)

What: Christmas Market

When: Sunday, December 21st @ 11-4PM

Where: 490 SW Broad Street, Southern Pines. Hatchet Brewing Company,

Come celebrate community, shop local, and maybe even catch a last-minute glimpse of Santa himself. Local makers & artisans with holiday gifts galore, food, drinks & cozy cheer, festive vibes to close out the season.

What: Christmas Brunch at Pinehurst

When: Thursday, December 25th @ 11AM

Where: 80 Carolina Vista Dr. Pinehurst - Carolina Hotel

Enjoy live music while indulging in a delicious brunch on Christmas Day in the Grand Ballroom featuring a curated buffet menu. There will be a complimentary glass of champagne for all adults and a mocktail for children to enjoy.

Tickets: \$54-\$120

www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-day-brunch-at-pinehurst-tickets-1497271081109

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Pinehurst Paws



BY JESSICA ANDREANO

Hey Pinehurst Neighbors! We know your pets are part of the family — and we'd love to feature them! Send us a photo of your furry, feathered, or scaly best friend along with a short note about what makes them special. Whether they make you laugh, keep you company, or just have the best smile, we can't wait to meet them!



Anakin is a 2-year-old 65 lb. neutered mixed breed. He is UTD on vaccines and worming, is Heartworm negative and microchipped. This boy is so cute and waiting for his furever home!



Todd is a 2-year-old, 47 lb. neutered Hound mix who is fun, goofy, very friendly and great with other dogs! Who wants to adopt Todd?



Manola is 1-2 years old, 64 lb., well mannered, good with other dogs and walks great on a leash!! Apply today!



Onyx 2-year-old, 38 lb. and spent her life tied to a tree having litters of puppies. After finally being surrendered to us we got her healthy and she is now ready for adoption!!! Who wants this happy momma?



Klaus is a 4-5 month old, 19.5 lb neutered mixed breed. This boy is very sweet, good with other dogs and learning to walk on a leash!!! Apply today!



Jenny is a 7-8-month-old, 25.6 lb. spayed mixed breed. This sweet girl is waiting for her furever home, and we know it's out there!!! Apply today!

Mercedes-Benz of Fayetteville proudly sponsors the Pinehurst Paws section.

You can find all these adoptable pets, and more, right here in Pinehurst at <https://caringheartsforcanines.com/dogs/>



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From Our Neighbors' Calendars

BY JESSICA ANDREANO

***Pinehurst Happenings:
Shared by Our Residents!***

A Symphony of the Season

Celebrate the season with the Moore Philharmonic Orchestra at their 21st Annual Holiday Concert! Enjoy an evening of classical holiday favorites performed by this talented, all-volunteer community symphony orchestra.

The concert will take place on Saturday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the R.E. Lee Auditorium at Pinecrest High School. Lobby doors

open at 6:00 p.m., with seating beginning at 6:30 p.m.

In addition to the performance, guests can take part in the orchestra's annual basket raffle and a special painted violin raffle, with tickets available for purchase upon arrival and during intermission.

Admission is by donation, and all proceeds support the orchestra's mission to provide free, high-quality performances for the community.

Submitted by: Moore Philharmonic Orchestra
www.mporchestra.com

Wreaths Across America Ceremonies

Honoring Our Heroes:

Wreaths Across America Unites Moore County

As the holiday season approaches, the spirit of gratitude and remembrance fills the air across Moore County. The Wreaths Across America initiative stands as a meaningful reminder of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women, bringing our community together to honor their service.

Wreaths Across America is more than a seasonal event—it's a year-round commitment to remembering our veterans. While ceremonies take place during the holidays, wreath sponsorships are accepted throughout the year, allowing individuals, families, and businesses to contribute at any time.

Last year, more than 1,500 wreaths were placed to honor local veterans. This year, organizers hope to exceed that number, moving closer to the goal of honoring every veteran in the cemeteries listed below.

By sponsoring a wreath for \$17, you help ensure that every veteran receives the recognition they deserve. The deadline to sponsor for the 2025 ceremonies is December 3.

Local groups supporting this effort include Cub Scout Pack/Boy Scout Troop 800, Sandhills Classical Christian School, SCCS National Honor Society, Instant Teams/Twelve Million Plus, Temperance Smith Alston Chapter NSDAR, Alfred Moore Chapter NSDAR, Town of Vass, Moore Philharmonic Orchestra, AF&AM Roman Eagle Masonic Lodge No. 550, Order of the Eastern Star-Aberdeen Chapter 259, Sandhills Sons of the American Revolution Chapter, Moore Republican Women, and the Vietnam Veterans of America- Chapter #966 Moore.

To make a contribution, visit <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/About/Location-AndGroupSearch>. Please be sure to use the group codes listed below to ensure wreaths are received at Moore County cemeteries.

- **December 12 - Yates Thagard Baptist Church Cemetery, 12 PM**
Sponsored by Sandhills Classical Christian School's SOSA (National Honor Society Club)
- **December 12 - Johnson Grove Cemetery, Vass, 4 PM**
Sponsored by James Williamson
- **December 13 - Bethesda Church Cemetery (Aberdeen), 10 AM**
- **December 13 - Seven Lakes Cemetery, 10 AM**
- **December 13 - Pinelawn Memorial Cemetery (Southern Pines), 2 PM**

Submitted by: Holly Williamson

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Real Estate Stats / Home Values

BY GENTRY REAL ESTATE TEAM

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES SALES January 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025

SUBDIVISION	# OF SALES	SOLD VOLUME	AVERAGE SOLD PRICE	AVERAGE DOM
CCNC	8	13,575,000	1,696,875	96
Fairwoods on 7	3	3,896,000	1,298,667	15
Forest Creek	12	16,631,250	1,385,938	55
National	11	11,946,050	1,086,005	69
Old Town	11	11,803,500	1,073,045	205
Pinehurst No. 6	46	28,263,550	614,425	58
Grand Total	91	\$86,115,350	\$946,323	79

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WOW Moments at Christmas

BY LUCY WELLMAKER

It was some years ago, and the Christmas season was upon us. That year, I made a decision—I would keep Christmas simple. A few days after declaring my new approach, my husband came to me and said, **“A package will soon be arriving in the mail.”**

Eagerly anticipating the fact that he was creatively keeping my Christmas gift a surprise, I listened intently, grinning from ear to ear.

“When it arrives,” he said, **“just wrap it and give it to me for Christmas.”**

My smile faded as a few thoughts went through my mind—and maybe

a couple of words slipped out, too. It was then that I remembered my goal: Keep Christmas simple. My husband had picked out, ordered, and purchased his own gift. How much simpler could it get? Wow.

Sometimes life delivers our intentions in ways we would never expect. Life is full of moments like that—little reminders that make us pause, reflect, and realize something important about ourselves, others, or life in general. They are ordinary moments with extraordinary meaning. I call them “WOW Moments.” They can be subtle, yet powerful, and they remind us to pay attention to the lessons life quietly offers.

Another WOW Moment came not long after my mother-in-law passed away. I had received some of her belongings, and among them was a candle holder I had once given her for Christmas.

I remembered the day I bought it—standing in the store, wondering if it was good enough, if it suited her, and if she would like it. I thought about how it would look in her home. I never imagined that it would one day be in mine. As I held it in my hands, it was as if the energy I had poured into that gift years ago now surrounded me. It was a surreal reminder that what we put out into the world has a way of coming back to us, one way or another.

Much like one of my favorite Christmas movies, A Christmas Carol, when Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future, those moments remind me that it’s never too late to change or see things differently. I love that scene when he wakes up on Christmas morning and realizes—he still has time. The truth is, so do we. Like Ebenezer, we just have to wake up.

That lesson came back to me one year while decorating for Christmas. I used to put candles in all the windows, with greenery resting on the outside sills. For a couple of years, the process involved dragging out the ladder, carrying it around to the front of the house, balancing the greenery, scissors, and tape while climbing up to each window.

Then one year, it hit me—all I had to do was open the window. Wow. How often do we make life harder than it needs to be? Christmas is full of moments like that—times that make us laugh, reflect, and learn, but it can also be a difficult season for many people. Loneliness, financial stress, loss, or health challenges can make the holidays feel heavy.

That’s why it’s so important to pay attention to those **WOW Moments**, to let them soften our hearts and remind us of what really matters. As we celebrate the season, may we also find ways to be the reason someone else smiles and says “wow”—especially those who may least expect it.

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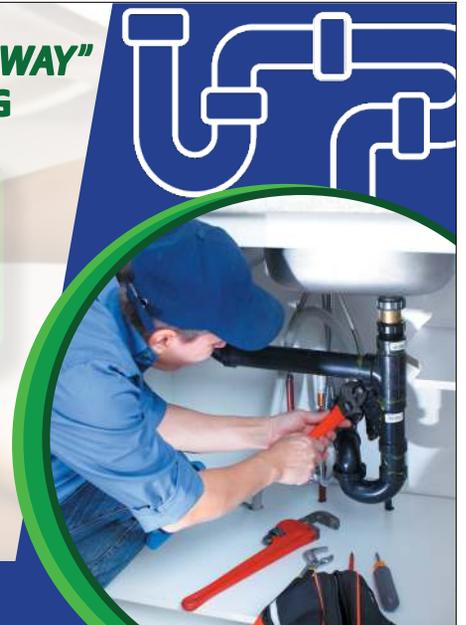
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