

The Waxhaw Gazette

A CSgN Publication serving the people of Waxhaw, North Carolina

Forty~Seventh Edition

Published Every Week on Friday

October 17th, 2008

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Welcome to this weeks edition of The Waxhaw Gazette! If you own a business and have any news worthy happenings planned or know of someone new coming

29th Annual Waxhaw Scottish Highland Games

OCTOBER 25

You will think you are in the Scottish countryside!



by Arthur Lightbody
Scottish Society of the Waxhaws

The Scottish Society of the Waxhaw's Chieftain Marietta Morrison says, "We invite everyone to enjoy The Waxhaw Scottish Highland games. This great family event includes great music, athletic games, a great setting, and a chance to learn about the Scottish heritage of our neighbors here in the greater Charlotte area."

The 29th Annual Waxhaw Scottish Games and Gathering of the Clans convenes on Saturday, October 25, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Cane Creek Park outside Waxhaw, N.C. The colorful opening ceremony with massed bands starts at 11:00 a.m.

Guests will enjoy cheering on the heavy athletes with their tossing the caber and throwing the Scots hammer; the Parade of the Tartans; pipe bands; Scottish highland and country dancing demonstrations; the ladies' competitions; Scottish folk music; meat pies; and children's activities.

Continued on page two >



Around Town:
~ ~ ~ ~



Waxhaw Family Physicians First to Occupy Presbyterian Facilities
~ ~ ~ ~

Waxhaw Woman's Club presents the 2008 Holiday Tour of Historic Homes
...Click Here For More Info!

~ ~ ~ ~
One Sad Face of Development

in Waxhaw
~ ~ ~ ~

PUBLIC FORUM TO PRESENT DRAFT Comprehensive Town Plan

SET FOR NOV. 10
~ ~ ~ ~

Three Major Waxhaw Projects Wrapping Up

Two are having their Grand Opening this month!

Here in Waxhaw we have THREE major construction projects underway that are coming up on being finished in the very near future;

First is the project by Presbyterian Healthcare for the Waxhaw Family Physicians & Sports Medicine Center, located at 3614 Providence Rd. They are just about all moved in and will be celebrating their new building with a free family event on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



~ ~ ~ ~

Warren Sileo Newest Waxhaw Resident & Manager of the New Lowe's!

by John Tiley, October 15th, 2008



Warren Sileo, Manager
Warren along with his wife and two sons now call Waxhaw home, so if you see him come up to you with a smile and his hand out... smile back, shake his hand and welcome him to Waxhaw!

Warren

This afternoon I had the opportunity to sit down with Warren Sileo and discuss his move to our fair town of Waxhaw. Having spent time with him on a number of occasions now, I would describe Warren as a very friendly and outgoing

person who could easily be your best friend while at the same time; remain focused on any number of tasks, large and small, going on in the periphery. After all, a person certainly doesn't get to the level of managing the opening and operations of a new Lowe's without having proven himself.

Our discussion ranged from his personal side of making a major move for his family and himself to his reaction to the people he has encountered in his short time here:

Q: How do you like living here?

in, send me a press release and I will be happy to include it. Contact me directly with comments or suggestions at: jtiley@thewaxhawgazette.com

~ ~ ~ ~

Next is the Grand Opening of Lowe's Home Improvement located at 2508 Cuthbertson Road. Here the over 110,000 sq. ft. building is completed and stocking is well underway. The public Grand Opening is all set for October 30 at 10:00 AM.



~ ~ ~ ~

The last project on our list today is the facility being constructed by CMC. It is well under way and even though I don't have current information on it's completion, I would suspect major construction should be done by the end of the year at latest.



Things are moving right along here in Waxhaw!

A: Well, we are still trying to find things and of course there are many boxes yet to be opened. And living in Waxhaw is a great community that represents many of the aspects of life my family and I hold as very important making us very happy to call Waxhaw our home.

Q: How do you feel about placing a Lowe's here?

A: At Lowe's we felt that the Waxhaw area has grown to the point that a Lowe's here makes a lot of sense. And at Lowe's the decision was, with all of the growth in the area to date, that Waxhaw is and has been more than ready for a Lowe's. Of course Lowe's looked long and hard before making such a decision as this as it is a huge commitment to the area for us.

Q: Tell me something about your experiences dealing with getting this project under way.

A: Of course when you are putting a project of this magnitude in place, there are always going to be hiccups, but over all it has gone very smoothly. At Town Hall, it has been a pleasure dealing with the Town Manager, the Fire Department ...planning and zoning; everybody has been great! The people of Waxhaw have been quick to offer a helping hand at every turn.

I would also like to say that the Waxhaw area has offered some of the best and most qualified workforce I've seen concentrated in one area. Our facility spans over 110,000 sq. ft. and we have hired over 100 people to staff the facility ...the vast majority of which are from the Waxhaw area.

Lowe's is serious about partnering with the people of the towns we are located in and having such a strong presence of townspeople on our sales force here in Waxhaw will make it that much better of an experience for everybody.

Q: I understand you are awarding a Charitable Grant during your grand opening ceremonies October 30th?

A: Lowe's is very serious about being a good corporate citizen and to start things off, we will be awarding our "One Grand Grant, the recipient being a non-profit organization which will be announced Thursday, October 30th.

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OCTOBER 25

You will think you are in the Scottish countryside!

From the start, the Games stressed education on the history and culture of the Scottish people, entertainment in the form of music, dance, crafts, and athletics; and participation by the general public so they could appreciate Scottish heritage. The Waxhaw Scottish Highland Games are the third oldest games in the state.

Admission is \$11.00 for adults, children 6-12 years are \$3.00, and children five and under are free. Volunteers gain free admission for helping at the Games for a minimum of two hours. Call Mary Morrison at 803-329-6990 to volunteer. Pets are not allowed.

See www.wshg.org for directions to Cane Creek Park and more information.

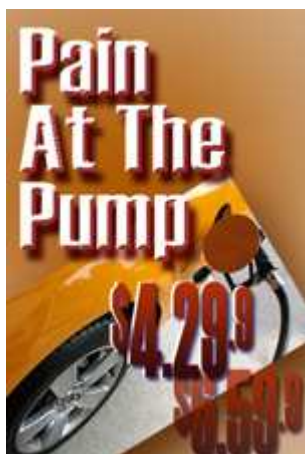
New Town Bridge Still Closed



According to NC DOT web site, the bridge Near Waxhaw that was damaged when we had those heavy rains I believe, is closed and will remain so through November 17th. According to the Web site, it is for maintenance: "Road Closed with Detour. New Town Road will be closed just west of Twelve Mile Creek Road for a bridge replacement project. New Town Road, near SR-1341 (Moore Rd) will be closed in both directions with a detour. *New Town Road to Twelve Mile Creek Road to N.C. 84 to N.C. 16 back to New Town Road.*



The re-arrangement of the intersection Route 16 and Cuthbertson Road is in progress with the new light already installed and road construction nearing completion.



WOW!

One look at the current prices and the fact that just about everybody has gas tells us that a recession was all we really needed to get those prices down to a more respectable level!

Area prices for gas in the Waxhaw area

	3/20/08		10/16/08
Texaco:	\$3.19.9	All Flavors	\$3.29.9
Pure:	\$3.24.9	All Flavors	\$3.29.9
Little General:	\$3.24.9	Reg Only	\$3.59.9
Shell:	\$3.24.9	All Flavors	\$3.29.9
Wax. In n Out:	\$3.26.9	All Flavors	\$3.49.9
Mineral Springs:			
M. S. Grocery	\$3.20.9	All Flavors	\$3.29.9
Texaco:	\$3.21.9	All Flavors	\$3.23.9

BP on New Town

\$3.21.9**All Flavors****\$3.29.9**

Editors Note: Usually I personally check the prices posted for the above companies. However, occasionally when time is short I call the stations on the phone to check for current prices. If no pricing is offered the above reflects the last visually confirmed pricing.

Let's "Keep Waxhaw Alive" folks by supporting our local merchants!

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Photo by John Tiley
[Click here to see a larger version](#)

One Sad Face of Development in Waxhaw

by John Tiley

Last week I wrote about the landscape here in Waxhaw. Well, this morning was beautiful and a perfect day for taking pictures. There was the new signage for the Waxhaw Physicians Group to take, and the state of the CMC facility; then there is Prescott's development.

You will remember, the development that never got developed by Terry Predzinski ...who clear cut I don't know how many acres and now is trying to sell it a"as-is". Well, a picture is worth a thousand words and, after looking at the above photo, I am sadly at a loss for words.

~ ~ ~ ~

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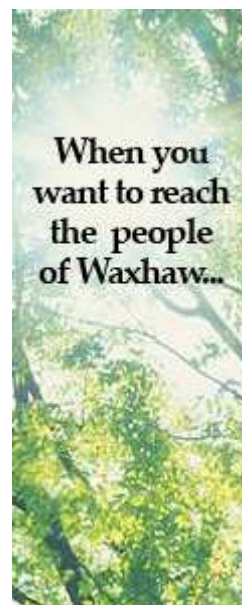
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When you want to reach the people of Waxhaw...

Is Your Tree House Getting A Little Too Small?



Let the experts at MultiCraft Renovations show you how to branch out with a home renovation or addition.



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Waxhaw's Events Calander



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.

National Collection Week is November 17-24.

How to Pack a Shoe Box

1. SHOE BOX

Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.

2. BOY OR GIRL?

Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Print out the appropriate boy/girl label shown above. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

3. FILL WITH GIFTS

Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child. Use the gift ideas provided on the bottom of this page.

4. INCLUDE YOUR DONATION

Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. You can give online by using our EZGIVE option, or you can write a check to Samaritan's Purse (note "OCC" on memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation.



NEED LABELS?
 Click to download.

Is Your Tree House Getting A Little Too Small?



Let the experts at MultiCraft Renovations show you how to branch out with a home renovation or addition.

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 704-243-2265
 info@multicraft.biz
 www.multicraft.biz

5. DROP OFF

Place a rubber band around each closed shoe box and drop off your box(es) at:

Ice Cream & Pizza Works
 any time before November 22nd.

You can also send your shoe box gift to:
Samaritan's Purse
Operation Christmas Child
 801 Bamboo Road
 Boone, NC 28607 | 1-800-353-5949.

GIFT IDEAS

TOYS

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS

toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER

Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

A PERSONAL NOTE

In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

DO NOT INCLUDE:

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



Waxhaw Woman's Club presents the 2008 Holiday Tour of Historic Homes

Waxhaw, NC (September 14, 2008) – The Waxhaw Woman's Club presents the Holiday Tour of Historic Homes on Saturday, December 6th from 10 am to 8 pm and on Sunday, the 7th from 1- 5 pm. The Holiday Home walking tour features eight homes in Waxhaw's Historic District. Ticket prices are \$15 per adult and \$7.50 for each child ages 2 - 12. Presale tickets to groups of 4 or more are \$12.00 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased at select Waxhaw merchants and at the Waxhaw Woman's Club located at 200 East South Main Street on the day of the Home Tour. For more information contact Paula Kovack at (704) 243-4049.

About Waxhaw Woman's Club

The Waxhaw Woman's Club was founded in 1911 and is a non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the community through service, fellowship, the preservation of historical heritage, and a confident look toward a bright future. The Waxhaw Woman's Club is located at the historic Belk Building in downtown Waxhaw, NC.

Contact: Paula Kovack
Email: KovackP@carolina.rr.com | Ph: (704) 243-4049

Announcing NEW 4-H Horse Program group forming at Monarch Farm, North Carolina!

We are pleased to announce that a new 4-H Group is forming! The Breakaway Riders will be a 4-H Horse Program chartered in Mecklenburg County with meetings in the Monroe area. We will be a part of the newly redistricted West Central 4-H District. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A HORSE TO JOIN!** Our leaders and members' families have access to a number of safe horses and ponies that you would be able to use in any activities requiring your own individual mount.

We will be following the 4-H Horse Program goals (listed below) as well as doing community service work to benefit local equine groups in our area.

4-H HORSE PROGRAM GOALS

The purposes of this program are to encourage 4-H members:

1. To develop leadership abilities, build character, and assume citizenship responsibilities.
2. To experience the pride of owning a horse or pony and be responsible for its management.
3. To develop an appreciation of horse-back riding as a healthy and wholesome form of recreation.
4. To learn skills in horsemanship and an understanding of the business of breeding, raising and training horses.
5. To increase knowledge of safety precautions needed to prevent injury to yourself, others, and their mounts.
6. To promote greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
7. To be better prepared for citizenship responsibilities by working in groups and supporting community horse projects and activities.
8. To teach good sportsmanship through a friendly, competitive atmosphere.
9. To promote future horse industry development and expansion.

Our first meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 26th at 3:00 PM at the Union County Saddle Club in Monroe, NC (off East Sandy Ridge Road between Stack Road and Hwy 207/Wolf Pond Rd.) Prospective members and parents are cordially invited to attend in order to learn more about our group, the leaders, and our goals for the 2008/2009 season.

The meeting will include a planning session for the parents to share their input in picking regularly scheduled meeting dates and times.

If you have further questions concerning the North Carolina 4-H Horse Program, you can go their website for information: it is http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/4h_Horse/4hmain.htm

If you have questions concerning our group in particular before the meeting scheduled for October 26th, please contact Miranda Kaplan at mfk@alltel.net or Erin Desloge at MonarchFarmNC@aol.com

Hope to see you in October!

**PUBLIC FORUM TO PRESENT
DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE TOWN PLAN
SET FOR NOVEMBER 10**

Waxhaw, NC – October 15, 2008 - The Town of Waxhaw is hosting the third community-wide meeting to discuss the update to the town's Comprehensive Plan. The public forum will be held at the Museum of the Waxhaws located at 8215 Waxhaw Highway on Monday, November 10 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Community residents, business owners, and other interested citizens are encouraged to attend the meeting.

The Comprehensive Plan process is being led by a Steering Committee comprised of Waxhaw residents, town planning staff, and the planning consulting firm Clarion Associates. The plan seeks to address future growth and development, economic development, design of new developments, environmental protection, historic preservation, as well as community programs and infrastructure projects through 2030. A copy of the draft plan is available for public review at Town Hall, the Planning, Zoning and Engineering Department, the Waxhaw Public Library, and various business establishments around town. An electronic copy of the draft will be available on the town's website as of October 22.

Attendees of the Comprehensive Plan Public Forum will be offered the opportunity to provide input on the draft plan. The objective of the meeting is to educate the public on the components of the draft plan and identify areas where the plan can be improved.

For information about the project and upcoming meetings, please call Bryan Lightfoot, Waxhaw Town Planning and Zoning Administrator, at 704-843-2195 or blightfoot@waxhaw.com or refer to the town's website at www.waxhaw.com.

Family Fun & Health in Waxhaw

Waxhaw Family Physicians & Sports Medicine Center Will Host Open House for the Community

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Waxhaw Family Physicians & Sports Medicine Center is celebrating its new building with a free family event on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Free health screenings will be offered, including blood pressure checks and blood sugar screenings.

Waxhaw Family Physicians & Sports Medicine Center is dedicated to providing outstanding, personalized healthcare for the entire family – from newborns to grandparents. Services include:

- Care for newborns to seniors
- School, sports, camp and employment physicals
- Preventive care and immunizations
- Women's health, including GYN exams
- Developmental screenings
- Industrial medicine
- Sports Medicine
- Physical Therapy
- Treatment of minor injuries
- Minor surgical procedures
- On-site echocardiogram and ultrasound
- On-site laboratory and X-ray
- Extended evening and weekend hours
- Same day sick visits

Waxhaw Family Physicians & Sports Medicine Center is located at 3614 Providence Rd. in Waxhaw. For more information, visit www.waxhawfamilyphysician.com or call 704-384-8640.

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Presbyterian Healthcare is affiliated with Novant Health, a non-profit healthcare system serving communities reaching from southern Virginia to northern South Carolina, and along the southeastern coast of North Carolina. Presbyterian is made up of physician clinics and five hospitals: Presbyterian Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital Matthews, Presbyterian Hospital Huntersville, Presbyterian Orthopaedic Hospital and Presbyterian Hemby Children's Hospital. The hospital system is recognized as a leader in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular, cancer, orthopaedic and women's health conditions. Novant Health and Presbyterian have been named winners of the national Codman Award, presented by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, for excellence in improving the quality and safety of health care. In addition, Novant Health is ranked 4th in the nation by the 2008 Verispan Top 100 Integrated Healthcare Networks, published in Modern Healthcare magazine.

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In Your Opinion

Do you have something to say, we want to hear it.....

I'm against the \$85,000,000,000.00 bailout of AIG.

Instead, I'm in favor of giving \$85,000,000,000 to America in a We Deserve It Dividend.

To make the math simple, let's assume there are 200,000,000 bonafide U.S. Citizens 18+.

Our population is about 301,000,000 +/- counting every man, woman and child. So 200,000,000 might be a fair stab at adults 18 and up..

So divide 200 million adults 18+ into \$85 billion that equals \$425,000.00.

My plan is to give \$425,000 to every person 18+ as a We Deserve It Dividend.

Of course, it would NOT be tax free.
So let's assume a tax rate of 30%.

Every individual 18+ has to pay \$127,500.00 in taxes.
That sends \$25,500,000,000 right back to Uncle Sam.

But it means that every adult 18+ has \$297,500.00 in their pocket.
A husband and wife has \$595,000.00.

What would you do with \$297,500.00 to \$595,000.00 in your family?
Pay off your mortgage - housing crisis solved.
Repay college loans - what a great boost to new grads
Put away money for college - it'll be there
Save in a bank - create money to loan to entrepreneurs.
Buy a new car - create jobs
Invest in the market - capital drives growth
Pay for your parent' s medical insurance - health care improves
Enable Deadbeat Dads to come clean - or else

Remember this is for every adult U S Citizen 18+ including the folks who lost their jobs at Lehman Brothers and every other company that is cutting back. And of course, for those serving in our Armed Forces.

If we're going to re-distribute wealth let's really do it...instead of trickling out a puny \$1000.00 ("vote buy") economic incentive that is being proposed by one of our candidates for President.

If we're going to do an \$85 billion bailout, let's bail out every adult U S Citizen 18+!

As for AIG - liquidate it.
Sell off its parts.
Let American General go back to being American General.
Sell off the real estate.
Let the private sector bargain hunters cut it up and clean it up.

Here's my rationale. We deserve it and AIG doesn't.

Sure it's a crazy idea that can "never work." But can you imagine the Coast-To-Coast Block Party!
How do you spell Economic Boom?

I trust my fellow adult Americans to know how to use the \$85 Billion We Deserve It Dividend more than I do the geniuses at AIG or in Washington DC .

And remember, The Birk plan only really costs \$59.5 Billion because \$25.5 Billion is returned instantly in taxes to Uncle Sam.

Ahhh...I feel so much better getting that off my chest.
Kindest personal regards,
Birk
T. J. Birkenmeier, A Creative Guy & Citizen of the Republic

PS: Feel free to pass this along to your pals as it's either good for a laugh or a tear or a very sobering thought on how to best use \$85 Billion!!

The Congress, the con men and a nation of easy marks



DICK FEAGLER

Dick Feagler is a Columinest with the Cleveland Plain Dealer and is a writer I have followed since growing up in Cleveland.

Enjoy his take!



The Waxhaw Gazette welcomes your letters. and opinions wether we agree or not. Please include your name, address and a point of contact where we can reach you. We only alter your letters for grammatical and spelling issues and will, as long as they are written in good taste and are relevant, publish all letters sent.

*Thank You,
The Management*

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Need a laugh today, they're plenty in today's edition!

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"Always do right - This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."
 --Mark Twain

And now, directly from the Internet.....

bits and pieces that your Editor will not testify to for correctness, accuracy nor even believability but they are certainly humorous? So Enjoy!

Liquid Assets:

If you had purchased \$1,000 of shares in Delta Airlines one year ago, you would have \$49.00 today. If you had purchased \$1,000 of shares in AIG one year ago, you would have \$33.00 today. If you had purchased \$1,000 of shares in Lehman Brothers one year ago, you would have \$0.00 today But, if you had purchased \$1,000 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the aluminum cans for recycling refund, you would have received \$214.00. Based on the above, the best current investment plan is to drink heavily & recycle. It is called the 401-Keg. A recent study found that the average American walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found that Americans drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year (at Fox's). That means that, on average, Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon! Makes you proud to be an American! So Fox it, don't fix it!!



The Tiger Temple or Wat Pha Luang At Bua is a Theravada Buddhist temple in Thailand and has been a sanctuary for many endangered animals including several tigers that walk around freely once a day and can be petted by tourists.

The temple received several tiger cubs where the mothers had been killed by poachers. As of 2007, over 21 cubs have been born at the temple and the total number of tigers is about 12 adult tigers and 4 cubs.

The tigers are tamed by being fed with cooked meat to avoid giving them a taste for blood. The staff keep the tigers under control and the abbot will intervene if the tiger gets agitated. They are treated as family members in the temple and visitors are asked to give a donation if they want to take photos with the tigers. Also unruly children can be left for tiger food.



THIS IS INDIA. IT IS WHERE YOU CALL WHEN YOU HAVE A TECHNICAL PROBLEM WITH YOUR COMPUTER.



The Sack Lunches

I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought.

Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation. 'Where are you headed?' I asked the soldier seated nearest to me. 'Chicago - to Great Lakes Base. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Iraq'

After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached Chicago, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time.

As I reached for my wallet, I overheard soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to Chicago '

His friend agreed.

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq; it's almost like you are doing it for him.'

Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you like best - beef or chicken?'

'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned and went to the front of plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class. 'This is your thanks.'

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. 'I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.' He handed me twenty-five dollars.

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand, and said, 'I want to shake your hand.'

Quickly unfastening my seatbelt I stood and took the Captain's hand. With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers.

Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed in Chicago I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You.'

Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers. As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers were giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals.

It seemed so little...

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