

Meet the Merchants



Kelsianne and Kris Bebout of Ornaments had a fine day of it at the Seven Lakes Business Guild's Annual Spring Meet the Merchants, on Saturday, May 19.

Board ready to cut stables herd

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Taking a hard look at stables cost versus usage, the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors appears ready to reduce the size of the Association's herd to five horses and two ponies, from the current eight horses and three ponies.

"We, as a Board, do not want to get rid of the stables," said SLLA President Bob Darr during the Monday, May 14 Work Session, "but we are looking at what we are getting for our \$63,000 — and if there is a way to still provide the amenity but reduce that cost."

Darr estimated that reducing the herd would save the Association \$8,700.

"The first question we need to look at is: What is the right size of the amenity?" Darr said. "And we accomplish that by looking at the number of rides."

Darr said the number of rides totals 431 annually and the annual cost of maintaining and operating the stables totals \$63,236. But it's important, in evaluating those numbers, to understand that Darr is talking about 431 rides, not 431 riders. In other words, the horses were taken out of the barn 431 times for trail rides that could include as many as six or

(See "Stables," p. 33)

Budget may get a haircut

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Some members of the Moore County Board of Commissioners are still not happy

with the \$1.3 million increase in spending in the \$131 million budget County Manager Cary McSwain has proposed for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

During a Thursday, May 17 Work Session, the three Commissioners in attendance

looked for ways to close the gap. Commissioners Jimmy Melton and Craig Kennedy did not attend the session.

One money-saving option may be to avoid filling some of the twenty-seven vacant positions in the County's workforce of more than 600 employees.

"I'm not looking to fire people. I'm not looking to lay people off," said Commissioner Nick Picerno. "I am looking at positions that are vacant . . . There are only 'X' amount of dollars."

Defending his proposed budget, McSwain told the Board, "I would like the Board to have some appreciation about how lean this County is."

(See "Budget," p. 35)

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



"The year was a very challenging year for us," Treasurer Don Freiert said, summing up his financial review of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association's [SLWLA] Fiscal Year 2012. "There were quite a few unanticipated events that impacted the planned budget and the goal of adding \$500,000 to our reserve accounts."

Freiert made his presentation during the Tuesday, May 22 SLWLA Board Work Session.

Association revenues totaled \$1.5 million for the

year, and \$480,000 was added to reserves, Freiert explained.

The contribution to reserves was divided among three separate accounts:

- Road Repairs – \$295,000;
- Dam Repairs – \$10,000; and
- Capital Projects – \$175,000.

"We were able to achieve many of the goals, while managing the difficult year," explained Freiert.

Operating expenses exceeded budgeted amounts by \$108,000 due to "several negative variances," including:

- \$21,000 in infrastructure and maintenance for the yard waste area;
- \$11,000 in additional road

(See "Westside," p. 18)

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A rash of nighttime thefts from Northside cars

A dozen or more unlocked cars were entered unlawfully on Saturday night, May 12 in Seven Lakes North.

Six residents have filed reports with the Moore County Sheriff's Office about the break-ins, which involved a total of eight vehicles. Anecdotal reports from residents suggest that the actual number of break-ins could be higher, but some victims have not reported the incident to the Sheriff's Department.

Captain Richard Talbert of the Sheriff's Office told *The Times* that it is very important for residents who believe their vehicle has been entered

unlawfully to contact the Sheriff's Office, even if nothing was taken.

"The more information we have, the more likely we can establish a pattern," Talbert said.

Talbert also urged residents to lock their vehicles; all of the vehicles entered in Seven Lakes North were unlocked, despite the fact that some contained valuable electron-

ics, or even cash. Talbert pointed out that entering an unlocked vehicle without permission of the owner is still a crime. But vehicle owners should protect themselves by locking their vehicles.

Seven Lakes Security Director Steve Ritter is also encouraging residents to remove valuable items from parked vehicles — particularly electronic devices like cellphones,

GPS receivers, and iPods.

Four of the incidents reported to the Sheriff's Office occurred during the evening of Saturday, May 12 on Edgewater Drive, Amberwood Court, Firetree Lane, and Wildleaf Court, in the neighborhood across from Seven Lakes Health and Fitness. Two incidents reported were on Cardinal Lane where it parallels Seven Lakes Drive; one of those incidents occurred on Saturday, May 5; the other, on Saturday, May 12.

In the May 5 incident on Cardinal Drive, a resident rose during the night to get a glass of water and saw two male intruders inside her unlocked vehicle in the driveway. She turned on the front light and the suspects fled. Nothing was taken from the car.

May 12, on Cardinal Drive, two unlocked vehicles were entered and a pair of pliers were stolen, while a GPS and another set of pliers was left behind.

An unlocked vehicle parked

at a home on Amberwood the evening of May 12 was entered and \$100 in cash was stolen from a purse left in the car.

Three unlocked vehicles parked at a home on Wild Leaf Court were entered on May 12. A smartphone and charger was taken from one and a backpack was removed, but not taken, from another.

An unlocked vehicle parked at a home on Firetree Lane was entered on May 12, but nothing was taken.

Finally, that same night, the enclosed porch of a home on Edgewater was entered by someone who took fireworks from the porch and a boys bicycle from the carport.

Police reports indicate that evidence, including fingerprints, was collected at some of the crime scenes.

On Monday, May 21 Talbert told *The Times* that he had received no reports of vehicle break-ins or thefts from Seven Lakes during the weekend of May 19 and 20.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be e-mailed to mail@sevenlakesnews.net, dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376, or faxed to 888-806-2572.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Jun 1	Jun 8
Jun 15	Jun 22
Jun 29	Jul 6
Jul 13	Jul 20
Jul 27	Aug 3
Aug 10	Aug 17
Aug 24	Aug 31
Sep 7	Sep 14
Sep 21	Sep 28
Oct 5	Oct 12
Oct 19	Oct 26
Nov 2	Nov 9
Nov 16	Nov 23
Nov 30	Dec 7
Dec 14	Dec 21
Dec 28	Jan 4

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

Correction

It's nearly 1,000 boats on Lake Auman — not nearly 2,000.

A story in the May 11 edition of *The Times* on a recent Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board Work Session reports that nearly 2,000 boats have been registered for use on Lake Auman this year.

During the Work Session, Lake & Dam Director Bruce Keyser reported the registration of 1,430 power boats and over 500 unpowered craft.

Thursday morning, after Friday's edition of *The Times* had gone to press, Keyser informed *The Times* via email that the number of power boats registered was actually 429. Keyser said he "forgot we start with 1000," referring to sticker numbers.

So, the total number of boats, power and non-power, is less than 1,000, rather than the nearly 2,000 that we reported.

The Times regrets the error.

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SLLA considers making barcodes mandatory

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Barcodes are the most efficient method of identifying members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] and moving them through the community's gates; but not everyone seems to be getting that message.

The newly-formed SLLA Security Committee is recommending that the Association move toward making barcodes mandatory; Security Director Steve Ritter shared that recommendation with the Board of Directors during their Monday, May 14 Work Session.

"Approximately one-third of our membership are without barcodes — and that is a fairly substantial number," Ritter explained. "I don't understand why people are willing to sit behind two or three cars in the guest lane, when they can look to their right and see cars buzzing by in the barcode lane."

Moving toward mandatory barcodes topped the list of recommendations from the Security Committee, which includes four retired law enforcement officers — Ritter, former SLLA Director Chuck Mims, Mike Vasillo, and Don Harkey — along with Southsider Brenda Massimo.

"We as a committee have looked at how these policies would fit in with our rules," Ritter said, "and whether we are doing what is right for our community and protecting all of our residents at the same time."

"We are looking at access as how it pertains now as well as we grow. We are thinking forward to attack issues before they become issues," he said.

Access Control is Rule #1

"I want this community to be open to everybody who wants to come here," said President Bob Darr. "I am not interested in restricting the Westside or West End folks, but we have to find some way under our own sys-

tem to make sure we know who is in here."

"Our first rule in the Green Book is that only members will be admitted — and guests, with prior approval of a member. That is rule (See "Barcodes," p. 30)

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New manager brings plenty of experience

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



After living all over the US, and in Germany, to boot, the West Side's new Community Manager, Jeanette Mendence, has decided to put down roots in the Sandhills.

"I moved seventeen times in twenty-two years," said Mendence of her years following her husband, a US Marine Corps officer (now retired) from assignment to assignment. "This is the last time I am ever unpacking a box."

She was in Germany when the Berlin Wall came down. "At the time, it was unreal," said Mendence, adding that she enjoyed being up close and personal with an important historical event.

While living in Germany she was able to travel all over Europe — to Holland, Italy,

and Portugal, among others.

Mendence grew up in Connecticut and received her Bachelor's of Science in Industrial Technology with a minor in Business from Central Connecticut State University.

She has two sons and one daughter. One son, a former Marine, is now attending Sandhills Community College; her other son lives in Texas; and her daughter attends UNC-Charlotte.

Mendence started with Community Association Services, Inc. [CAS] more than six years ago, as a customer service representative.

That position lead to man-

aging portfolios for sixteen communities throughout Moore County — including McClendon Hills.

Because of her many years with the CAS, Mendence has already had the opportunity to meet and get to know each of the employees currently working in the Westside Office before she was named Community Manager.

"I am excited to guide the community where it wants to go," said Mendence. "It's beautiful out here . . . I have always loved Seven Lakes."

Mendence officially took up the reins as Westside Community Manager on Monday, May 21.



New SLWLA Community Manager Jeanette Mendence.

Zumba at 7 Lakes Baptist

Everyone is invited to join in for a Zumba Dance Class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church every Tuesday evening from 7 pm – 8 pm, in the SL Baptist Church Family Life Center. A Zumba licensed instructor will be teaching. This is a Free class. Questions? Call the church at 673-4656. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes



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Pumpkin Creek Café has a secret recipe

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Product, presentation, and price — those “Three Ps” are the secret business recipe of Darrell Marks, who, with his wife Susan, has just opened Pumpkin Creek Café alongside Phoenix Fashion, the Seven Lakes business they have run for 25 years.

“You match those Three Ps to the people that you are trying to serve,” Marks told *The Times*. “That’s what we’ve done at Phoenix for 25 years, constantly adjusting the product mix, changing the way those products are presented in the store, and always maintaining that low price.” Marks said constantly working on the Three Ps has allowed Phoenix to stay ahead of the competition.

And it’s that philosophy that Darrell and Susan have brought to the new forty-seat family restaurant next door.

Deciding on product — what menu selections to offer and highlight on the Pumpkin Creek Café menu — was a matter of looking at what was missing from the existing Seven Lakes restaurant lineup.

“As a longtime member and twice President of the Seven Lakes Business Guild, my aim was not to hurt or to be like any other restaurant business in Seven Lakes,” Mark said.

“We’ve never had a salad bar in this town, but we have plenty of customers who want a healthy and inexpensive lunch. So a salad bar was a must from the beginning.”

Filling other holes in the local dining landscape, Marks settled on fresh barbecue, cooked on site, and something available nowhere else in Moore County: Calabash-style seafood, which Pumpkin Creek offers only on the dinner menu.

With those elements as its core, the menu is rounded out with an assortment of burgers and sandwiches, including a three-cheese grilled cheese sandwich, a buttered steak sandwich, and a turkey club. Appetizers include two kinds of stuffed

mushrooms, potato wedges, a breaded onion, and shrimp cocktail. And an assortment of innovative desserts includes Kool-Aid Pie, Cold Oven Pound Cake, and Three-Layer Chocolate Pudding.

What you won’t find on the menu is alcohol.

“We didn’t want to compete with Sandhills Winery,” Marks told *The Times*, “because they are doing a great job. We didn’t want to compete with the fellow who took over the old Jack’s. We didn’t want to hurt any existing business, so we pulled out the bar, and got rid of the ABC permits.”

A second reason for that move takes us from Product to Presentation.

“I wanted to hire local kids,” Marks said. “From the beginning, I intended to hire local high school and college students.”

Pumpkin Creek’s oldest employee is 19-year-old Chelcey Parker, a Sandhills Com-

munity College Culinary Arts Major and crackerjack volleyball player that Marks’ daughter — a teacher and coach — discovered in Robeson County. She started at Phoenix last June and moved over to the Café when it opened. Marks says he expects Parker will ultimately run the restaurant.

Other locals include Pumpkin Creek’s own versions of “The Harvey Girls,” Mary and Anna, along with their brother Russell; Zack & Zane Hoffman; Mary DeVane; and Rebecca Bouchelle.

“We are paying \$1,200 a week in payroll to sixteen and seventeen year-olds from Seven Lakes,” Marks said. “They have that first job. That’s why we dropped ABC.”

“We have created an environment in which kids can succeed.”

Those youthful servers are an integral part of the Presentation at Pumpkin Creek.

(See “Pumpkin Creek,” p. 24)



Darrell & Susan Marks have opened Pumpkin Creek Café in Seven Lakes Business Village.

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Commissioners ready to fund school budget

by Greg Hanking
Times Editor



Citizens urged the Board of Commissioners to fully fund the \$26 million Moore County Schools [MCS] local funding request during a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 15 meeting — and the Commissioners appeared ready to do just that.

The hearing was aimed at gathering public input on County Manager Cary McSwain's \$131 million FY2012-2013 County Budget, but public input was focused on the schools.

Military families, which make up a large portion of MCS students, were represented by two parents: Army Major Frank Rodriguez and Laura Kermsey.

"Although we could have chosen anywhere to live, we chose Moore County," said Rodriguez, who explained that education is the foundation for any democracy.

"As elected officials, it is your responsibility to show the community that educating the children of Moore County is a top priority," said Kermsey, who asked that the Board fully fund MCS for the upcoming school year.

School Board Chairwoman Kathy Farren thanked the Commissioners for the "wonderful working relationship" between the two Boards.

Speaking for the Moore County Chamber of Commerce Linda Pearson empha-

sized the importance of education — not only to the students, but to the County as a whole. "Education is one of our top priorities," said Pearson, "And helps close the deal when companies decide to come to Moore County."

"I don't see any cuts coming towards education," Commissioner Nick Picerno told those in attendance. "What you are preaching to us — we are already on that page."

Picerno said he had met with MCS Superintendent Aaron Spence and School Board Chair Farren two months ago to discuss the future of MCS. "I think the schools are very fortunate to have hired Dr. Spence," Picerno said. "I think he is going to be a tremendous asset to the County."

One area that Spence has emphasized is the need for more technology in the classrooms. Picerno said he and Commissioners Chair Larry Caddell had been presented a \$15,000 pilot project presented that would buy iPads for one third grade classroom and measure their impact on learning, as a trial run for more technology in schools.

"It seems like the kids who have access to those [computers] do better in school," said Caddell.

The Commissioners met in a Work Session on Thursday, May 17 to further discuss the budget; The final budget is expected to be adopted in June.

Increase in Utility Rates?

In comments at the close of Tuesday's meeting, Commissioner Picerno asked that the Board consider increasing the Moore County Public Utilities \$6.00 base water rate by one to two dollars to help offset the costs of bringing more water into Moore County.

"As I look over the budget — especially when it comes to utilities," Picerno said, "there is very little money set aside, if any, for us to move forward with any deal, whether we go with Harnett County or Robbins or any of those special sources."

Picerno told *The Times* that adding money to the base rate now would allow a way to "pay as you go" for future water projects. The Commissioners adopted a similar strategy several years ago, increasing sewer rates in order to build up a reserve to pay for improvements on the Addor Water Pollution Control Plant.

"This is a really bad economic time to be considering any kind of increase," said Commissioner Lea. "But, whatever we do — whether

it is a gradual increase or we do this over a period of time — I'd like for us to give consideration for not only new projects but also looking at where we can pay off existing debt — Where we can pay off millions and millions of dollars in existing debt."

Even at the favorable interest rates available to local governments, when the County has to borrow to fund projects, interest expense significantly increases the final cost of projects. Lea noted that at water supply project currently on the negotiating table with Robbins is estimated to cost \$29 million, but would actually cost nearly \$40 million after interest is factored in.

"In the long run a lot people

would be very appreciative if they understood just how much of the debt service we have," said Lea. He noted that the County is currently obligated for a total of \$222 million in principle and interest payments that stretch across various projects, from the County's new public safety building to new schools and a substantial upgrade at the Addor water pollution control plant.

Picerno told *The Times* that gradually increasing the utility rate and setting the money aside — solely for bringing more water into the County — would be better than paying so much in interest and increasing rates by a substantial amount all at one

(See "Commissioners," p. 36)



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11 White Bean Chicken Chili ♥ Salisbury Steak Dinner	12 Potato Bacon Soup Chicken Divan Dinner	13 Mushroom Bisque Pot Roast Dinner	14 Beef Barley Soup ♥ Shrimp Stroganoff Dinner	15 Curried Carrot Soup ♥ Walnut Pork with Cranberry Merlot
18 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Shepherd's Pie Dinner	19 Chicken Dumpling Soup Chicken with Artichokes Dinner ♥	20 Crab & Shrimp Bisque Herb-Roasted Turkey Dinner	21 Gazpacho ♥ Poached Salmon Dinner ♥	22 Corn Chowder Beef Stroganoff Dinner
25 Tomato Florentine Soup Sausage & Cheese Manicotti Dinner	26 Split Pea with Barley Soup ♥ Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	27 Chicken Brunswick Stew Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	28 Beef Vegetable Soup Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	29 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Ginger Beef Stir Fry Dinner ♥

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Spence thanks County for budget consideration

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



The budget that Moore County Manager Cary McSwain has proposed for Fiscal Year 2012-2103 includes funding for the full \$26 million requested by Moore County Schools, Superintendent Aaron Spence told members of the Board of Education during their Monday, May 14 meeting.

"He requested full funding for the school systems request for funding," said Spence, "we are very appreciative of that."

Final approval to the County budget is scheduled for June.

Spence said MCS staff continues to look at the issue of school start times for next year, due to concerns from some members of the community.

"We continue to carefully look at changes that can be made within the proposed budget," said Spence. "I do believe some changes will be made." He added that both the Board and the community would be informed of any changes to start times before the end of the school year.

Financial Report

MCS is "right on target" with their budgeted expenditure of federal, state, and local dollars, reported Finance Officer Mike Griffin, providing the Board with a quarterly financial report.

Griffin said the system is scheduled to receive eight replacement buses for the upcoming year, paid for by the state. Eight older buses will be taken off the road and reserved for parts or additional needs.

The Board unanimously approved the financial update.

Special Olympics

The Board highlighted Moore County Special Olympics during Monday

night's meeting.

Kevin Allen gave an overview of the program, which is open to students of all ages, with over 150 athletes and 200 volunteers participating in the event this year.

"Volunteers do make it happen," said Allen, "and that is the only way this can happen."

Allen was joined in the presentation by two of this year's Special Olympics participants, Carley Cooper and Daniel Harris.

"Developing confidence, courage and determination in our students," said Allen. "Within our mission, we talk about those life long skills . . . that is exactly what we are doing through the Special Olympics, and MCS is partnering with them."

Allen thanked the Board their support of Moore County's Special Olympics.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Moore County Board of Education meeting on Monday, May 14 included

- Growing to Greatness Awards were presented to Janet Shutt for her work as a teacher assistant at West Pine Elementary School and to Grace Tutton for her volunteer work at West End Elementary School.
- Among individuals recog-

nized for obtaining their Master's Degrees, two were from West End Elementary: Assistant Principal Teresa Dunn and Art Teacher Caitlyn O'Brien.

- The North Moore High School Women's Cross Country Team was recognized for having the highest cumulative GPA — 3.8 — among cross country teams statewide.
- The Union Pines High School Women's Tennis Team was also recognized for having a state-high GPA, at 3.8.
- Dr. Spence recognized Principle Robin Lea from Union Pines in his monthly Superintendent's Salute.
- Captain Arthur Frye is retiring after 30 years and a luncheon on June 21 at Union Pines at noon will be held. If interested in attending call the school for a \$10 ticket to the event.
- The Board approved its meeting calendar FY2012-2013.
- The Board approved a proclamation of appreciation for teachers and staff.
- The Board approved the second reading of five legislative and policy committee reports including: drug free workplace, service animals in schools, grouping for instruction, acceptable use of electronic media, and homework.



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LAKEFRONT

126 Cardinal Lane — 3BR, 2BA, one of a kind, brick ranch on 1.25 acre. Huge walk out basement, artist studio, & massive area for workshop, golf cart storage, and possibly auto. Lots of privacy & gorgeous lake view.

Call Norma\$375,000



SPECTACULAR WATERFRONT

177 Morris Dr. — 3BR, 3.5 BA, premium location on Lake Auman. Granite countertops, 3 door stainless fridge and gas range. Open floor plan with Carolina room and workshop.

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BEAUTIFUL LAKEFRONT HOME

103 Standish Pt. — 3BR, 3BA, best of the best, tiger wood flooring, solid surface counter top, cherry cabinets, tiled bath & shower, Jacuzzi bathtub, stacked stoned fireplace, study. Many extras.

Call Tom\$799,000

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Pinehurst Patio – A real family business

With the dream of owning their own business, a background in outdoor furniture, and \$32,000, Bob Luttrell and his wife Maryann opened Pinehurst Patio & Casual Furnishings in January 1987, in a 3500 square foot building on Juniper Lake Road. The space was split between showroom and warehouse space. Two years later, based on their retail experience, the Luttrells identified the need for a quality patio umbrella manufacturer with quick turnaround.

So, in 1988, they launched Pinehurst Umbrellas, which quickly became one of the largest wholesale patio umbrella manufacturers in the country. By offering high-quality custom umbrellas in a two-week turnaround, Pinehurst Umbrellas quickly outgrew the sewing room at the Juniper Lake location. In 1989, the Luttrells built the 14,000 square foot building that is home to Pinehurst Patio today.

In order to focus on their fast-growing umbrellas business, the Luttrells sold the retail business to Sara and Allen Harris in 1993. For the next eleven years, the Harises and Luttrells worked in the same building running

their respective businesses, Pinehurst Patio and Pinehurst Umbrellas.

By 2004, it was time to retire and the Luttrells began seeking a buyer for Pinehurst Umbrellas. Dwight Ellison convinced his wife, Cindy, that they could “learn” her father’s business; and, in May 2004, the Ellisons purchased Pinehurst Umbrellas. The very same year, the Harises decided to retire, and the Ellisons purchased Pinehurst Patios, bringing the two businesses once again under the same ownership.

Fortunately, that second acquisition occurred at the end of the patio furniture season, allowing the Ellisons a few months to work with sales reps, learning the business and ordering furniture and accessories for their new retail store. Though the learning curve was steep, Pinehurst Patio sales doubled within two years.

Since the Ellison’s acquisition of Pinehurst Patio in 2004, they have made numerous changes to the business. In addition to expanding and remodeling the inside of the showroom, they have added an outdoor hardscape designed and installed by The Southern

Landscape Group.

Services offered include furniture refurbishing and repair, custom replacement cushions, and furniture and cushion cleaning. Increased sales staff and an in-home consultation service assist customers in designing their own personal outdoor living space. Retractable awnings were added to the offerings in 2011.

In 2007, the Ellisons expanded into a new season, opening a Christmas store, Santa’s Closet. Santa’s Closet sells high-end pre-lit trees, wreaths, and garlands, as

(See “Patio,” p. 24)



Bob & Maryann Luttrell founded Pinehurst Patios in 1988.

WELCOME MANDY!

Quality Care Pharmacy welcomes Mandy Martin, ANP, to the Seven Lakes Health Care Community.



Mandy is the new nurse practitioner with Dan Matthews at FirstHealth Family Care Center of Seven Lakes.

Mandy and her lovely family are originally from Richmond County but have been residents of Seven Lakes for the past few years.

The Seven Lakes area is fortunate to have another extremely qualified family medical specialist in Mandy.

Please stop by FirstHealth Family Care and welcome Mandy to our community!

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN’S DAY IS MAY 25TH

Quality Care is offering Free Be Smart Be Safe Child ID Kits during the month of May (while supplies last). These kits provide the ability to take fingerprints and DNA samples from your children — and much more!



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— APPETIZERS —

House Breaded Fried Mushrooms	\$4.75
<i>served with a cool side of Ranch Dressing</i>	
Crab Stuffed Mushrooms	\$4.75
<i>1/2 dozen caps filled with crab stuffing and cheese</i>	
Pumpkin Creek House Breaded Onion Rings	\$4.75
<i>with a side of "Creek Sauce"</i>	
Eight Fresh Baked Potato Skin Wedges	\$5.75
<i>with cheese, bacon and sour cream</i>	
Shrimp Cocktail	\$5.75
<i>5 large shrimp with Lemon & Housemade Cocktail Sauce</i>	

— SOUP OF THE DAY —

CUP . . . \$2.95 BOWL . . . \$4.95

— SALAD BAR —

Side salad (bowl)	\$2.95
Meal (platter)	\$4.95
Add a Grilled Chicken Breast or Cup of Boiled Shrimp	\$3.00

— DRINKS —

Soft Drinks	\$1.85
<i>Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Mello Yello, Root Beer, Lemonade</i>	
Iced Tea	\$1.85
Coffee	\$1.35

— SLOW ROASTED BBQ PORK —

Select from Pulled or Chopped
All BBQ plates served with your choice of potato,
hushpuppies or rolls, cole slaw or salad bar

SMALL PLATE	\$7.75
LARGE PLATE	\$9.75
1 lb. boxed to go	\$8.95
Family Sides to Go	\$2.75
<i>Choice of French Fries, Hushpuppies, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans</i>	

— HOUSE MADE DESSERTS —

<i>Chelcey's "Low Cal" KoolAid Pie</i>	
Key Lime . . . \$2.75	Dreamsicle . . . \$2.75
<i>Pumpkin Creek Cold Oven Pound Cake</i>	
Plain . . . \$2.25	With Fruit or Ice Cream . . . \$2.75
Three Layer Chocolate Pudding	\$2.75

— KIDS MENU —

(For children 12 and under ONLY)

Grilled Cheese Sandwich	\$4.75
All Beef Hot Dog	\$4.75
3oz. Kid's Burger	\$4.75
House Breaded Chicken Strips	\$4.75
<i>Kid's Selections come with Fries or Fresh Fruit, Ice Cream, and Drink</i>	

— BASKETS —

Each Basket comes with your choice of french fries, house breaded onion rings, sweet potato fries, baked beans, fresh fruit, or hushpuppies. For an additional dollar, you can choose a side salad, baked potato or cup of soup as your side.

Three Cheese Grilled Cheese	\$3.75
2oz. All Beef Hot Dog - chili, slaw, onion, mustard	\$3.75
Buttered Steak Sandwich	\$5.75
<i>Thin slices of top round, creek sauce on a buttered bun</i>	
1/3 lb. Fresh Hamburger	\$6.75
<i>Cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato - all for one great price</i>	
1/3 lb. Fresh Mushroom and Swiss Burger	\$6.75
1/3 lb. Carolina Burger - Chili, slaw, onions	\$6.75
1/3 lb. BBQ Sandwich	\$6.75
<i>Pulled or chopped, with Housemade Cole Slaw</i>	
Grilled Chicken Sandwich	\$6.75
<i>Cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato, and mayo</i>	
Grilled Ham and Cheese on Texas Toast	\$5.75
Turkey Club on White or Wheat Toast	\$6.75
<i>Turkey, ham, cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato and mayo</i>	
House Breaded Fried Chicken Breast Sandwich	\$6.25
<i>Lettuce, tomato and mayo</i>	
House Breaded Fried Chicken Strips with Honey	\$5.75
<i>SIDES for \$2.00</i>	
<i>French Fries, Hushpuppies, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Fruit Cup</i>	
<i>SIDES for \$3.00</i>	
<i>House Made Onion Rings, Baked Potato</i>	

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and flash fried in 100% vegetable oil

	SMALL	LARGE
Flounder Filets	\$9.75	\$11.75
Popcorn Shrimp	\$9.75	\$11.75
Clam Strips	\$9.75	\$11.75
Scallops	\$10.75	\$12.75
Deviled Crab	\$6.75(2)	\$8.75(3)
Boiled Shrimp (hot or cold)	\$9.75	\$11.75
COMBINATIONS		
Any Two Items	\$9.75	\$11.75
Any Three Items	\$10.75	\$12.75

All seafood served with your choice of potato, hushpuppies or rolls, and cole slaw or salad bar.

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Congratulations to the Class of 2012



**Eli Matthew
Brewer**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Eli is the son of Jack and Lori Brewer of Foxfire Village.

Eli will be attending Sandhills Community College in the Fall.



**David Ryan
Byrd**

Union Pines High School
Cameron, NC

David is the son of Andy and Paige Byrd of West End and his grandfather is Jim Schrum of Seven Lakes West. He was a member of National Honor Society, Marching Band, and a Jr. Fireman of Seven Lakes Fire Dept.

David will attend Sandhills Community College.



**Nicholas
Castro-Giovanni**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Nicholas is the son of Craig and Deborah Castro-Giovanni of Seven Lakes West.

His grandparents are Gertrude Hintz of Seven Lakes South & Sandra Adinolfi, Seven Lakes North.

He will attend Appalachian State University to study Computer Science.



**Caleb Wilson
Davidson**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Caleb is the son of Scott & Vicki Davidson of Seven Lakes.

He will be attending the Art Institute of Pittsburgh to pursue a degree in game art and design.



**Sara A.
Davis**

North Moore High School
Robbins, NC

Sara is the daughter of Pam Davis and the late Tebe Davis of Carthage.

Sara will be attending Sandhills Community College and then transfer to a four year college.

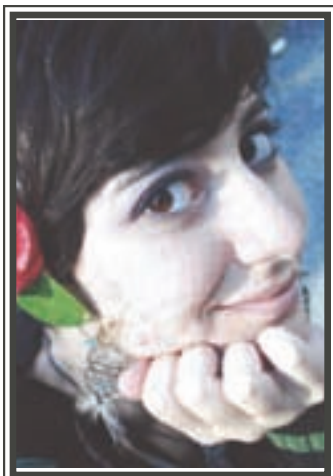


**Amanda LeighAnn
Hall**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Amanda is the daughter of Chris and Sandra Hall of Seven Lakes West. She is the granddaughter of Simon and Loraine Bruinsma of West End and Hubert and Lamelle Moss of Aberdeen.

Amanda will be attending UNC-Charlotte to pursue a degree in Biology.

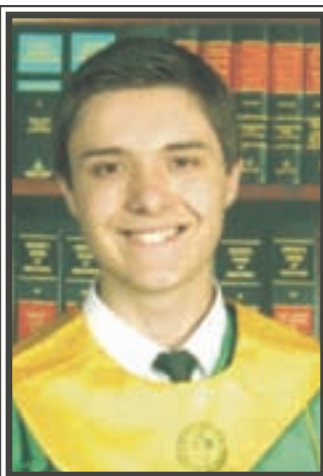


**Mary Elizabeth
Harvey**

Wildleaf Academy
Seven Lakes, NC

Mary is the daughter of Henry and Jody Harvey of Seven Lakes West. Her grandparents are Mary Anna & P.Z. Dunn of Greensboro.

She is a songwriter, artist and guitarist. Mary will attend Sandhills Community College to pursue a degree in Cosmetology.



**Zachary Michael
Hoffman**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Zachary is the son of Ken and Karen Milligan of Seven Lakes West. He was a member of National Honor Society, Debate Team, and an AP Scholar with Honors.

Zachary will attend Ashland University in Ashland, OH as an Honors and Ashbrook Scholar.



Katrina Johnson

Annapolis Senior High School
Annapolis, MD

Katrina is the daughter of Mark and Kristi Johnson of Arnold, MD and the granddaughter of Nancy Blythe of Seven Lakes North. She was a member of National Honor Society, swim, lacrosse, and varsity soccer teams. Katrina will work & volunteer for a year in New Zealand, then attend University of Virginia.



**Katherine Rita
Kamis**

Dominion High School
Loudoun County, VA

Katherine is the daughter of Tracy and George Kamis of Sterling, VA and the granddaughter of Lois & Tony Rocco of Seven Lakes West. She was a member of National Honor Society and excelled in the Sciences. Katherine will attend the University of Virginia as a Rodman Scholar.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012



**Dustin Chay
Kavanaugh**

NC School of Science & Math
Durham, NC

Dustin is the son of Dr. Barry and Penny Kavanaugh of Seven Lakes.

He will be attending University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.



**Katherine Elizabeth
Kearns**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Katherine is the daughter of Deana Kearns of Seven Lakes North and Randy Kearns of Durham.

She will attend University of North Carolina of Charlotte in the fall majoring in Dance.



**Anna Paige
Kilpatrick**

Tippecanoe High School
Tipp City, OH

Anna is the daughter of Andrew and Mary Kilpatrick of Tipp City, Ohio.

Her grandparents are of Jim and Ellie Kilpatrick of Seven Lakes.

She will attend Wright State University in Dayton, OH.



**Dustin Keith
Lyerly**

North Moore High School
Robbins, NC

Dustin is the son of Chris and Dawn Cagle of Eagle Springs.

He is the grandson of Chuck and Pat Stephenson of Seven Lakes North.



**Matthew M.
Schoemmell**

The O'Neal School
Southern Pines, NC

Matthew is the son of Rick and Marie Schoemmell of Seven Lakes North.

He will be attending Appalachian State University in Boone to major in Construction Management.

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Congratulations to the Class of 2012



**Talmadge Dale
Shepherd**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Talmadge is the son of Dale and Gayemell Shepherd of Seven Lakes West.

His grandparents are Grace & Rosser Campbell of Sanford, and Bob and Dolores Shepherd of Morganton. He will attend NCSU in the Fall.



Alex Wilson

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Alex is the son of Jennifer and Ray Wilson of Pinehurst. His grandparents are Linda and Craig James of Seven Lakes.

He will be attending the Appalachian University School of Music.



**Charles C.
Fernsell V**

Lees-McRae College
Banner Elk, NC

Charles is the son of Deborah Fernsell of Foxfire Village. His grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Herz of Bal Harbor, FL.

He received a Bachelor of Science in Religious studies.

Charles plans to work in law enforcement/intelligence.



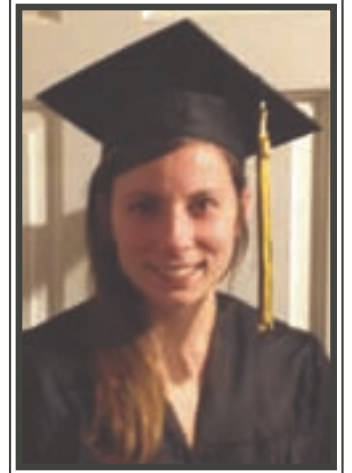
**Cassie Dawn
Hamilton**

St. Andrews University
Laurinburg, NC

Cassie is the daughter of Marvin and Mary Hamilton of Seven Lakes South and Judy Saunders of Star.

She received a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education.

Cassie looks forward to working in her life long dream as a teacher.



**Brooklyn Starr
Johnson**

Appalachian State University
Boone, NC

Brooklyn is the daughter of Lisa MacDougall and the granddaughter of Rosetta MacDougall of Seven Lakes North. She received a Bachelor degree of Science in Enviromental Studies and a minor in Geography. She will pursue a career in natural resource management.



**Coby Ryan
Kavanaugh**

University of NC-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC

Coby is the son of Dr. Barry and Penny Kavanaugh of Seven Lakes.

He received a BS degree in Economics and Political Science with a minor in History.

Coby will be working for Epic Systems in Madison, Wisconsin.



**Evan Michael
Pusillo**

Medical University of SC
South Carolina

Evan is the son of Michael Pusillo of Seven Lakes South and nephew of Michael and Patricia Patullo of Seven Lakes West.

He received his Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Dr. Pusillo will be practicing PT in Charleston, SC.



Diane E. Rabstejnek

University of NC-Chapel
Chapel Hill, NC

Diana is the daughter of Joe and Heidi Rabstejnek of Seven Lakes North.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education.

Diana was a member of Kappa Delti Pi, Gamma Sigma Alpha, and the Order of Omega.



**Anne Merritts
Smith**

Sandhills Community College
Pinehurst, NC

Anne is the daughter of Joe Leggett and Kelly Smith of Seven Lakes North.

She received an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and will be transferring to the University of North Carolina - Pembroke.



**Lauryn Marie
Steelman**

Central Florida University
Florida

Lauryn is the daughter of Mark Steelman of Longport, NC and Vicki Vartanian of West Palm Beach, FL. She is the granddaughter of Ed & Nancy Steelman of Seven Lakes West.

She received a Business degree and is employed by Paychex in West Palm Beach.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012



Meaghan Steingraber
University of NC
Kenan-Flagler Business
School
Chapel Hill, NC

Meaghan is the daughter of Dale and Patty Steingraber of Seven Lakes North.

She received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Meaghan will relocate to New York City to work as an Advertising Account Coordinator for the NY Post.



Brooke Nicole Strider

University of NC-Greensboro
Greensboro, NC

Brooke is daughter of Vicky and Rickey Strider. She spent her early years in Seven Lakes North.

She graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting.

Brooke will return to school to earn a Masters Degree in Accounting.



Crystal Marie Trace

Eastern Carolina University
Greenville, NC

Crystal is the daughter of Phillip and LaVerne Trace of Seven Lakes North and granddaughter of Howard Trace of Seven Lakes South. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreational Therapy. Crystal will pursue a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy.



Tiffany Marie Wenerd

Eastern Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC

Tiffany is the daughter of Michael and Barbara Wenerd of Treasure Lake, PA. She is the granddaughter of Joseph Piper & the late Beatrice Gina Piper of Seven Lakes West. She graduated magna cum laude with a BS in Education. Tiffany will be a teacher in Moore County.



Katie Meredith Woloshin

James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA

Katie is the daughter of Michael and Donna Woloshin of Medford, NJ and the granddaughter Ed & Nancy Steelman of Seven Lakes West. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication. She will work for ING at Tysons Corner, VA.



**110 Dorset Road
Seven Lakes South**

Lucy and Clint Ingram

Country style, approximately 2000 Sq. Ft, two-story home, built in 2000. Almost maintenance free, with vinyl shakes and siding on outside. Porch across front with swing, oversized two-car garage, prepared garden space with rich soil, many trees and other plants, and split rail-fence in back.

Small but efficient kitchen, with eat-in area, leading to cement patio in back. Some floors are carpeted, some hardwood. Gas logs with remote control in beautiful blue-tile fireplace. A closet for every need. Three bedrooms and 2.5 baths, vinyl blinds on all windows, two huge upstairs storage areas, one heated and cooled and one not.

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A mission to the homeless for WEPC youth

by Chip Pope

Associate Pastor

West End Presbyterian Church

Earlier this year, fifteen middle school youth and four adult advisors from West End Presbyterian Church spent a weekend in Charlotte participating in the CROSS Missions program.

CROSS, a ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian Church, provides opportunities for youth to share Christ's love through feeding the hungry, housing the homeless and loving those in need.

The mission team had the opportunity to visit two ministry sites as part of this program. The first was to the Crisis Assistance Ministry, a wide ranging ministry that provides rent assistance, medical aid, and free clothing. The team of youth spent the morning sorting, folding, and hanging clothes for the store that is free for Crisis' clients.

The second stop was to the Men's Shelter of Charlotte which provides safe shelter, meets basic needs, and provides access to transitional services for homeless men in the greater Charlotte area. The middle school students of WEPC prepared and served an afternoon dessert and then played board games and cards in the dining hall with a few of the residents.

Associate Pastor Chip Pope shared about this visit with the congregation: "After about an hour [of being at the shelter], I went off to the side of the room to just watch. As I looked around the room, I

saw two 7th grade girls leading four other men in a game of Monopoly, occasionally reading the Chance cards and pushing the game along. I saw one of our sixth grade boys listening intently and making eye contact for what had to have been over twenty minutes to a man tell his story. And three others had taken it upon themselves to serve lemonade and cookies. And others were engaged in a heated game of Scrabble. The youth and the residents were all wonderful."

Eighth-grader Mackenzie Lewis expressed sentiments felt by many of the youth,

"I did not realize the extent to which homelessness is a problem. I had a great time getting to know the men."

Sixth grader Dustin Fletcher added, "We should pray for those who live in this kind of situation."

The youth of West End Presbyterian Church have a long history of attending the CROSS Missions program, and this year marked the fourth consecutive winter the middle school youth group has made this trip.

They plan to continue this partnership in the future.

West End Presbyterian Church is a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation, located at 275 Knox Lane, West End, one block northwest of the intersection of Hwy. 211 and Hwy. 73.



West End Presbyterian Church middle-schoolers recently journeyed to Charlotte to participate in a mission project.

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116 Pinnacle, SLW

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..... \$179,000



107 Fawnwood, SLW

Beautiful, immaculate, one-owner home. Extra attention to detail, custom-built wide staircase in garage to attic for storage, curbing in driveway, a landscaper's dream! Three bedrooms, two baths, formal dining, eat-in kitchen, split bedroom, 2-car garage

..... \$260,000



137 Sunset Way, SLN

Wonderful home sitting on a knoll. This brick beauty has a Carolina Room in addition to three bedrooms, two baths and a dining/kitchen combination. It has floor to ceiling storage cabinets in the garage and a large workshop "man cave"

..... \$178,000

Rentals Available!



258 Longleaf Drive, SLW
Overlooking the 9th tee of the Beacon Ridge course, this beauty has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, bonus room and screened porch. The master suite has a sitting area. Make an appointment to see this one!

..... \$299,000



121 Sunset Way, SLN
Tri-level home on a large corner lot. Oversized family room for the active family, formal dining, split bedroom plan, two and one half baths and a backyard designed for privacy. House has lots of storage space and a work area in the double car garage.

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4.961 acres of Commercial Land on Hwy 211 with Village Business Zoning. An opportunity not to be missed. No setbacks. Ideal location for many types of businesses. Over 1205 feet of Hwy 211 frontage. Only..... \$749,000

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Seven Lakes West

113 McCracken Only \$19,900!

Perfect for a walkout with lower level.

123 Dennis Cr. \$49,900

Just reduced! Beautiful lot with height and woods.

106 Butterfly Ct. \$299,000

Waterfront. Awesome views! Bulkhead and docks.

Carolina Equestrian Village

Appaloosa Lake Rd Membership Lot \$3,500!

Equestrian Lane Two Lots Combined .. \$14,000

Equestrian Lane 14 Lots Combined ... \$37,500

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L Cooper Road, Cameron Each \$22,000

Two 1+ acre lots. Level, cleared & ready for your home.

Old River Road, Carthage \$99,000

12+ acres with pond. House "as is." Easement from road to property in place.

157 Watts Sr. Dr, Jackson Springs \$17,500

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Women of Seven Lakes make contributions

At their May meeting, the Women of Seven Lakes presented donations to the West End United Methodist Church Food Pantry and Friend to Friend in support of the wonderful services that both groups provide to those in need in the community.

The funds for these checks were from the proceeds of the 8th Annual Taste of the Town held at the end of March.

The WEUMC Food Pantry, run by volunteers at the Methodist Church, distributes food to more than 250 families every other week from Western Moore County.

Friend to Friend is a non-profit Moore County based organization which offers help to all persons affected by interpersonal violence.

The Women of Seven Lakes has enjoyed a community presence for more than thirty years.

This active organization strives to provide support for local charitable agencies through membership dues and fundraising events and activities.

It also provides a schedule of informative and entertaining programs. The Women of Seven Lakes meet from

September through May. Visitors are always welcome. Information about meeting times and places, as well the program topic to be presented, are published in the *Seven Lakes Times*, community newsletters, membership brochures, and via emails to members.

This organization is a wonderful way to meet and socialize with friends and neighbors in an informal setting and work with others in the pursuit of philanthropic endeavors.

In 2011-2012, the Women of Seven Lakes distributed more than \$7,300 to the following organizations: The Chapel in the Pines Empty Stocking Fund, Seven Lakes EMS, Seven Lakes and West End Fire Departments, Reading is Fundamental Program, Seven Lakes Business Guild, West End Methodist Church Food Pantry, Friend to Friend, Animal Advocates, God Sent Angels Mission, Golf Capital Chorus, North and West Side Children's Christmas Parties, Backpack Pals, MIRA Foundation, Inc., and the WSL's Nursing Home Outreach Program.



The Women of Seven Lakes recently presented checks to several local causes. Shown above are Anne Friesen, Director of Friend to Friend, Lana Schempp, WSL President, and Larry McCune and Rev. Dr. Won S. Namkoong of the West End United Methodist Church.

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Thursday – Fish & Chips

All You Can Eat! • Only \$8.95

Saturday – Karaoke Nite

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Poise, grace, and determination: just a few

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Poised, skilled, and infinitely patient with her young charges, Marcie Milbredt embodies the very essence of dance: grace under pressure.

Fifteen years ago, she formed Seven Lakes Dance as a youth recreational program, with the encouragement of former Seven Lakes Landowners Association Assistant Community Manager Chad Beane. Classes were held in the Community Activity Center and a recital was held in the North Clubhouse for those first twenty-four students. Since then, the program has blossomed into a year round endeavor with over 120 students, three instructors, and several award-winning competition teams.

In early 2012, Milbredt and

her family made the bold decision to purchase a stand-alone dance studio in the Seven Lakes Business Village, and she quickly began developing an even broader scope of dance and dance-related programs.

"This was a dream," Milbredt told *The Times*. "And I say 'a dream' more than 'a goal,' because I was not sure if it was obtainable. It is still surreal and we still have a lot to get done . . . But I was so glad to get the girls in here — and that they can feel good about their dance studio."

Located at 360 MacDougall Drive, near Seven Lakes Kennels, the new facility includes two dance rooms, and classes are offered in ballet, Pointe, lyrical, tap, jazz, and hip hop for children ages three and up. All classes are age appropriate and focus on proper technique, improving balance, and coordination. In addition, the studio also offers adult yoga and Zumba classes, pageant preparation, and private lessons.

One thing that has not changed with the transition to a newer, bigger facility is the hands-on approach to

making sure each child is successful.

"My philosophy is that we really work on making sure they gain that self-confidence that will help throughout life — both academically and with anything else they want to do," said Milbredt. "Dedication is a very important lifelong quality they can learn at a very young age."

Milbredt knows what she is talking about. A graduate of Appalachian State with a degree in early elementary education and a minor in dance, she has taught in Moore County Schools for

many years, and is retiring at the end of the current academic year, so she can focus exclusively on Seven Lakes Dance.

She is assisted by her younger and equally-talented sister, Lauren Kicklighter. A fellow graduate of Appalachian State, Kicklighter has a degree in psychology with a concentration in business and a minor in dance. Co-instructor LeAnn Garrison rounds out the professional teaching staff and primarily assists with the competition teams — though she is well-

(Continued on page 17)

Summer Dance Camps

Summer dance camps are open for registration now. Seven Lakes Dance will be offering weekly camps from June 18 and through August 1.

Each week will focus on a different genre, including ballet technique, jazz leaps and turns, hip hop jazz and funk, and tap technique. The studio will host NY Choreographers camp the week of July 28, with guest instructors from New York City.

Fees for Summer dance camps run \$50 per week for children ages three to eight, and \$65 per week for nine years and above. Discounts are offered when registering siblings or for more than one class. Seven Lakes Dance also offers weekly yoga and Zumba classes for adults (13 years and up). Detailed information is available at www.sevenlakesdance.com

Contact Seven Lakes Dance by email 7lakesdance@nc.rr.com or call at 910-673-13263.

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of the skills taught at Seven Lakes Dance

(Continued from page 16)

known for her tap skills and, like Kicklighter and Milbredt, has an extensive background in many forms of dance.

"Our tap steps and technique that we teach is very rhythmic," Milbredt said. "We excel in that area and do very well in competition with tap." She noted that tap is a wonderful first step into dance for young girls.

"The three year olds? It just grabs them and pulls them in. They love the noise of the taps on their shoes," she said warmly.

That enthusiasm for her students is sincere. The studio prides itself on the personal relationships the instructors maintain with students, as well as students' families. Each child is treated as an individual and as an intricate part of the team.

With a fifteen year history in the community, Milbredt had a unique anniversary this year.

"We have our very first graduating class!" she said. "Our first set of three-year-olds are graduating from high school and have danced with us through the years. It is sad, but it also warms your heart to know that you've been able to influence the girls in such a positive way."

While best-known for its tap program, Seven Lakes Dance also has a strong contemporary dance and jazz component and competition teams ranging from beginner to senior levels that compete throughout North Carolina and South Carolina.

"The competition program is what sets us apart in this area," explained Milbredt. "Since our main goal is promoting positive, self-worth, we believe competition does that. When girls are able to succeed, they have reached their goal. It makes them feel good, but competition also teaches them to be humble. That is, that you are not

always going to win. But if you have done your best, then you are already a winner."

Seven Lakes Dance will

hold their annual dance recital on Saturday, June 2 at 6:00 pm at Robert E. Lee Auditorium at Pinecrest High School. The evening program

includes every member of the studio. The public is welcome to attend. Tickets are \$7.00 at the door, and children under five are free.



Marcie Milbredt and Lauren Kicklighter of Seven Lakes Dance with a happy crowd of young tap dancers outside the new dance studio on MacDougall Drive in Seven Lakes Village.

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Westside meeting

(Continued from front page)

- maintenance costs;
- \$55,000 in administrative costs, due to \$31,000 in legal fees and collection costs for unpaid dues; and
- An additional \$9,000 in income tax due to investment income received.

Almost \$650,000 was spent on capital projects last year. "Some of this was planned, some of this was unplanned," said Freiert.

One item that was not planned was a \$94,000 payment to the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway Company that the Association made to ensure that the Lakeway Drive rail crossing would become a permanent, public crossing.

Other capital project expenses included:

- Lower pond dam and Longleaf Drive improvements – \$249,000;
- Longleaf Drive Culvert Replacement – \$194,000;

- Johnson Point resurfacing project – \$80,000; and
- the Fire hydrant program – \$32,000.

After these expenses, the Association's restricted reserves remain at over \$1 million, Freiert said.

Income from boat and stor-

age fees totaled \$45,000 last year, and the Association made \$17,000 more than anticipated on its investments.

The financial report will be made available on the community website.

7 Lakes Garden Tour

Come out and enjoy the Annual Seven Lakes Garden Tour on Saturday, June 2, from 9 am to 1 pm. Directions to gardens on display will be at the entrances to the North, South and West sides. There is no charge to view the gardens, and several of the locations will have overstuffed themed baskets and you can purchase raffle tickets for them.

There will be ponds with waterfalls and koi, raised

beds with fountains, various herb gardens, small and large vegetable and fruit gardens, delightful landscaping surrounding a local business, pergolas, swimming pools, a wildflower meadow and perennials and annuals galore.

All of this beauty and ingenuity right here in your Seven Lakes neighborhoods. The Garden Club looks forward to seeing you on the tour!

Quarterly Report

Moving from an annual perspective to a quarterly review, Freiert said the Association currently has \$1.1 million in total funds available. Of that, \$273,000 is in short term accounts and \$817,000 is in long term investments such as callable CDs and treasury bonds.

In April, \$85,000 was removed from a callable CD and placed in step-up callable CD with Wells Fargo. A \$95,000 CD with Harris Bank was also called — that money was received on Monday, May 21.


Two additional CDs have been called, Freiert, said,

including one from Southwest Bank that is paying five percent interest on \$95,000 and will be called on June 18. The second is with First Financial Bank for \$50,000 at 2.4 percent and is being called on June 8.

The Association will receive full value from the called CDs, explained Freiert, and the money is "likely" to be reinvested into similar callable CDs.


The total cash disbursements for April were \$123,000, after an amendment by Freiert was made to add \$40,900 to last month's total due to an end

(See "Westside," p. 19)




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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 18)

of year payment made to the security company.

Lake and Dam

Lake and Dam Director Bruce Keyser made and then, after discussion, withdrew a motion to place an electronic gate at the boat and trailer storage facility at a cost of \$6500. The gate was originally projected to cost \$5,000.

Although the Board has agreed to replace the storage gate, Events Director Rosemary Weber is still not happy with the cost associated with the project. "It seems that we are getting really sophisticated with the gate for a storage unit and we are spending a lot," Weber said.

During member comments, former Director John Goodman agreed with Weber. "I think it is just a recipe for a lot of problems," he said, referring to the use of an electronic lock on the gate. "If there is any way to keep it manual I would go that route."

Architectural Review Director Dan Blue asked for more details on maintenance included in the contract. Referring to the electronic keypad that would be used to open the gate, he asked: "If we put it out there and it fails in three weeks, who's on the hook?"

Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy said the first quote for the project was \$9,000, and Keyser has managed to bring that total down to \$6500. "I think its a fair price for an electronic gate," he added.

According to Keyser, repairing the current gate would cost \$1,000. "We just felt that — that was money wasted," said Keyser, "if we are eventually going to put a different type of system in there."

The bid for the gate was received at 4:00 pm before Tuesday night's meeting. President Mick Herdrich asked Keyser to review the information and re-present it to the Board at their next meeting.

This weekend is the Memorial Day holiday, and Keyser

asked for everyone on the lake to be aware of increased traffic. Lake Safety Patrol started monitoring Johnson Point last weekend, he added.

Mowing and trimming of the dam and storage areas are complete, with Pine Island area scheduled for Wednesday, May 23. The swim platform has been placed in the water at the Johnson Point swim area.

Events Committee

The next event in the Johnson Point Concert Series will

be held on Friday, June 1, with music by "Paris" —which offers everything from easy listening, dance, county, rock, and party music said Events Director Weber. The concert is being dedicated to the Vietnam Vets Chapter 966.

On June 11, Sergeant Tom Brady and Officer Steve Clark of Moore County Schools will host a basic self defense class at 6:30 pm at the Community Center. The program is free, but individuals need to sign up by emailing Weber or calling the CAS office.

Weber reminded everyone of the community picnic on June 23.

July 4th events will begin at 10:00 am with a kids parade at the Community Center. The Boat parade will meet at Pine Island and begin at 1:00 pm. The fireworks are scheduled to take place at dusk.

Weber is trying to organize the Association's first ever bus trip to see the Durham Bulls minor league baseball team on Friday, July 20. The cost is \$44 a person and

includes transportation, bottled water, snacks on the bus, infield box seats and \$5.00 in "Bulls Bucks" to be used at the concession stand. A full bus is needed for the trip to move forward, Weber explained.

Weber has asked for those interested in the Bulls trip to call her or the CAS office to reserve a seat no later than May 28.

Manager's Report

New Community Manager
(See "Westside," p. 21)

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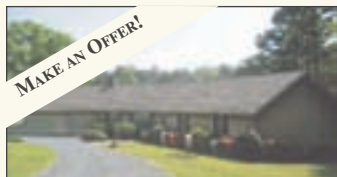
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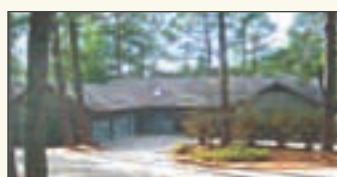
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John & Bunny Whelan

Westside meeting

(Continued from page 19)

Jeanette Mendence reported that the electrical breaker at the gate house has been repaired. The CAS office will be closed on Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day.

The yard waste disposal site will not be open on Saturday, May 26 due to the holiday. Mendence reminded everyone that the yard waste hours are Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Both of the West Side's Automated External Defibrillators have been serviced and pads have been replaced by EMS," Mendence reported.

The West Side Park Community Center pool has passed inspection and will open on Saturday, May 26. Pool passes are available in the CAS office. The playground equipment at West Side Park has also been inspected and repaired, said Mendence.

The trash bin has been repaired and repainted by John Hoffmann and a group of volunteers, and bulletin boards have been hung in the library.

At the request of the Amenities Committee, the piano from the Great Room was donated to Magnolia Garden Assisted Living Center. "They were very pleased to get that," said Mendence. Drainage issues at the Westside Park have been fixed.

Legal Report

The Board approved an increase in the transfer fee applied to non-dues paying lots to a total of \$350, in order to replenish infrastructure reserves, as requested by Legal Director Jack Stevens.

Stevens gave a brief overview of a presentation on records archiving given by Wayne Walker from Carolina Records Center. Both Keyser and Director Jim Pierman attended the meeting.

"I think it is the wave of the future," Keyser said of the electronic archiving of Association records, "and a very good opportunity for this Board and future Boards to get information compiled and put into place, so that it is there and not scattered about the community."

Pierman agreed, saying the first step is to establish the archiving needs of the community.

Stevens says the two-year old project is no where close to being finalized but the Archiving Committee continues to investigate the needs of the community.

The Board approved Terry Card as a new member to the Legal Affairs Committee.

Architectural Review

At the request of ARC Director Dan Blue, the Board approved on second reading a change to ARC Standard 7:12, which now reads: "Docks may be constructed

from May 1 through October 1 on the condition that the entire dock construction process be completed within five consecutive working days."

Blue informed the Board that in his absence both ARC co-chairs can sign a permit application in his place.

The Board approved the combination of two lots for the Niewalts.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Board's Tuesday, May 22 meeting included:

- Secretary Jane Sessler announced that the message board on the community website has been reinstated. The new message board is "very organized," said Sessler, making it easy for the user to look for club-related versus Board-related posts.
- The Board appointed Jim Ballew and Charles Spellman to the Infrastructure Committee. The Committee will be focusing on erosion said Infrastructure Director Jim Pierman.
- The Board approved a request from Pierman for \$6,000 for landscaping and

soil stabilization work on Longleaf Dam #2.

- The three Requests for Proposal sent out for the Seven Lakes West Vision and Master Plan have been received, Director Friert reported. The Long Range Planning subcommittee working on this project will bring a recommendation to the Board at a later date.
- Safety and Security is investigating installing more cameras at Johnson Point, Director McCarthy reported. During member comments, Westsider Jean Downer said, "I hate to see us spending more money

on cameras that don't work."

- During member comments Nancy Workman asked that the Long Range Planning Committee take into consideration the possibility of making the East Gate a manned gate when drawing up blue prints for the area.

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FRIDAY, MAY 25

- **New Horizons Band Spring Concert** – 3 pm, Spring performance. Come and enjoy the wonderful music of this adult band. A fun listening experience! 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm. Buffet 5-6:30. \$10 (all inclusive). Pork Stir Fry over rice, salad, rolls & dessert. Games & socializing.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

- **Rotary Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast** – 8 am to 11 am. At the Pinehurst Village Chapel, Pinehurst. Hot pancakes and sausage, a variety of juices, fruit, fresh coffee. Only \$6/person. Dave Berger, Rotary Club of Pinehurst 910-315-7575. Proceeds benefit The Marine Corps League, sponsor of Toys for Tots program and Rotary Foundation.
- **Farmers Market at Sandhills Winery** – 9 am - 12 pm, local produce and handcrafts. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Cooking Demo** – 12 pm - 2 pm. *Chilled Soups*. A satisfying meal, some of which even require little to no cooking! 905 Linden Road Pinehurst, 910-295-3663.
- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Wine Tasting** – 12 - 4 pm. *Artisan Pinot Noir*. For your Memorial Day Picnic. Aroma of violets, the of ripe berries and a little bit of spice. California wine.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **Weymouth Woods Paint Hill Hike** – 3 pm, Take this opportunity to hike at Weymouth Woods property, the Paint Hill tract, and discover some new trails. 1.5 mile loop. Meet at the Visitor Center, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, and car pool, 910-692-2167.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45

pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guests *Darin Aldredge Band, Audrey Auld and Anne McCue*. Buy your tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

- **Financial Forum: Understanding Annuities** – 3 pm, Mark Hollingsworth and Brianna Dillon, Financial Advisors with Raymond James and Associates, will be at the Senior Enrichment Center on, to give an informal and interactive educational presentation. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.

- **Gallery at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 7 pm to 9 pm – *Opening Reception* to showcase "Studies in Pencil and Pastels" by local Artist, Roy Horton will be featured. Other artists including: Jane Morelli, Helen Pardue, Andrea Schmidt, Debbi Robins, Gisella Danielson and Magda Sonderfan will be included. St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Welcome Home Bible Study** – 7 pm, at West End United Methodist Church. The church will begin a Bible Study designed for the reverts; those who went to the church when they were young and strayed away or were not active in the church. Rev. Dr. Won

Namkoong will lead. WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion with a meal for \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30, \$10 (all inclusive). Chopped Steak w/mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable & dessert. Food, games & socializing.
- **Johnson Point Concert Series** – 7 pm, "Paris" performing with songs from the 60'S, 70'S, 80'S, 90'S & today. Free, please bring your own chairs, blankets, snacks and drinks. (*Event for SL West Side Residents*)

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

- **MANNA! in Motion** – 8 am, at Sandhills Commu-

nity College, 3395 Airport Road, Southern Pines. Race starts at SCC and winds through Reservoir Park, Southern Pines. 5K and 10K. Fun Run will follow the start of 5K and 10K. Register www.active.com, and on Race Day June 2 at SCC. Pre-registration held Friday, June 1 at 5 pm at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1517 Luther Way, Southern Pines.

- **Seven Lakes Annual Garden Tour** – 9 am to 1 pm. Directions to gardens on display will be at the gate entrances to the North, South and West sides. No charge to view the gardens. Ponds with waterfalls and koi, raised beds with fountains, various herb gardens, small and large vegetable and fruit gardens, delightful landscaping surrounding a local business, pergolas, swimming pools, a wildflower meadow and perennials and annuals galore.
- **Farmers Market at Sandhills Winery** – 9 am - 12 pm, local produce and handcrafts. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Elliott's Provision Co. Free Cooking Demo** – 12 pm to 2 pm. *All About Cheese*: Cheeses like ricot-



What's When Calendar

MONDAY, MAY 28

- **Memorial Day**

TUESDAY, MAY 29

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, meeting this month at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. "Eight Years of Death": Jeff Beane, a renowned herpetologist, will speak about a fascinating herpetology survey studying vertebrate mortality on Moore County roads. Visitors welcome. Call 910-692-2167 for information www.sandhillsnature.org

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- **Seven Lakes Dance** – 6 pm, annual dance recital at Robert E. Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School. Program includes lyrical ballet, jazz, and tap dances with every member of the studio participating. Public welcome to attend. Tickets at the door \$7, children under five admitted free.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

- **Youth Sunday at West End United Methodist Church** – 8:30 am and 11:00 am Services. Graduates of the Church will be honored in the first service and the Youth will lead both services with Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong preaching. Covered dish meal in honor of the graduates will be held immediately following the 11 am service. Bring casseroles, vegetables, salads, and desserts to share!
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **Belford Baptist Church** – 3:30 pm, hosting a 100 Men in Black program. Pastor Lavon Newton of Bible Way Church, of Rockingham will speak. 925 Windblow Rd, Jackson Springs.
- **SL Lions Golf Tournament** – at Seven Lakes Country Club, with a 1:30 pm, shotgun start. Format Captain's Choice with four Person Teams. Cost \$80/golfer, includes a buffet dinner. Prizes. Proceeds benefit programs for the Blind, the Sight Impaired, Hearing Impaired and the local community needs. Make checks payable to: The Seven Lakes Lions Club, P.O. Box 841, West End, NC 27376. Contact Bill Seldomridge 910-673-2590 or 910-690-9500.
- **Weymouth Woods Ticks, Chiggers and Spiders** – 3 pm. Ticks, chiggers and spiders are very prevalent in the Sandhills. Poisonous spiders and disease-carrying ticks will be identified as well as others that are

not harmful. Meet at Visitor Center, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 910-692-2167.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guests *Fan Modine, Brett Harris*. Buy your tickets online. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, JUNE 4

- **June UFO Gathering** – 10 am - 2 pm, Do you have UFOs (unfinished objects and projects), letters you have to write, mending that needs tending to, or anything else you can't seem to get to? Meet at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, bring your lunch and work on your projects. Meet some new friends and catch up with the old ones. St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All local artists are welcome join the group.
- **Moore Republican Women** – monthly Luncheon meeting at the Pinehurst Country Club. Valet Parking available. Registration: 11:30 - Luncheon 12 noon. Checks payable: Pinehurst LLC. Cost: \$ 16 Inclusive. Speaker will be Ilario Pantano a combat veteran, and best-selling author. Pantano fought in Desert Storm and ten years later, re-enlisted in the Marines after witnessing the attacks of September 11. Reservations, call Joan Ward at 910-295-6544.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All

are welcome.

- **Foxfire Women's Association** – All Foxfire women are invited to the Foxfire Resort Country Club, 11:30 am Social, 12 pm, Luncheon. A Special Dance Performance by the Sophisticated Ladies and the chance for many to win several door prizes. Cost \$12.50 includes tax & gratuity. RSVP to Carolyn Gilbert 910-673-2934 by Thursday, May 31. Make check payable FWA.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:00 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

- **United Way of Moore County Tee Off Classic** – 2012 Tee Off Classic Charity Golf Tournament at the Country Club of North Carolina, 1600 Morganton

Road, Pinehurst. Shotgun Start. Modified Captain's Choice. Registration and Putting Contest. Awards Luncheon. \$200 per player. Call 692-2413 for registration information.

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal for \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30, \$10 (all inclusive). Chicken fingers, tater tots, salad, rolls & dessert. Food, games & socializing.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

- **Weymouth Woods Bird Walk** – 8 am. Many species of birds that winter in the tropics spend the summer and nest in the Sandhills.

2 mile hike to look for these winged gems. Meet at Visitor Center, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 910-692-2167.

- **4th Annual Woof Woof Open** – held at Longleaf Golf and Country Club, Southern Pines. Shotgun start: 8:30 am, with Lunch immediately following play. Format is Woof - Woof Step Aside Scramble with Teams consisting of Four person, Men, Women or Mixed. \$75/person. Entry Forms available at Longleaf Country Club. Proceeds Benefit Moore Humane Society's Pooch Park in the Pines.
- **Farmers Market at Sandhills Winery** – 9 am - 12 pm, local produce and handcrafts. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Seven Lakes Lions Club Free Eye Screening** – visit the Vision Van in Seven Lakes, at Seven Lakes Food Lion parking lot, 9 am to 3 pm. Residents of all ages are welcome, Persons under 18 must have a parent or guardians provide written consent. Unit will provide screening for visual acuity and a variety of eye diseases and disorders.

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Pumpkin Creek

(Continued from page 5)

fitting right in with the cheery country decor on the café walls and the checkered tablecloths on the tables.

That brings us to price.

"You pick the right price first," Marks said, explaining his decision to set every price on the menu as low as possible, from day one.

"Phoenix has always done that pricing strategy," he explained, contrasting it to the big department stores, which start their goods out at an enormous mark-up, and then use a combination of discounting and couponing to bring the price down as the season wears on.

Pumpkin Creek Café has adopted the same strategy of getting the price right the first time. A burger basket

is \$6.75; a large barbecue plate, \$8.75; a flounder plate, \$9.75.

"Seven Lakes has a lot of people living on fixed incomes," Marks noted, "a lot of older singles — widows and widowers. We own the building, so we don't have to worry about a big rent payment. We are going to try to make these prices work."

So why "Pumpkin Creek?" Nearly a dozen years ago, Phoenix Fashions, which was selling its women's clothing both at retail in Seven Lakes and at wholesale to shops around the country, ventured onto the internet with an online store. They didn't want to undermine the Phoenix label being sold by their wholesale clients, so they needed another name.

"Pumpkin Creek sort of rolls off the tongue," Marks

told *The Times*, and reminded him of the happy days he spent with pals on the creek bank in his childhood.

So the Internet store became Pumpkin Creek, and it has been an runaway success. Online sales now account for thirty-five percent of Phoenix Fashions' overall business, and are growing by more than sixty percent each year.

So "Pumpkin Creek" made perfect sense as the name for the new café; a Pumpkin Creek Clothing logo will also soon appear on the shop windows at Phoenix Fashions.

Product, price, presentation — that's the formula at Pumpkin Creek Café. A salad bar, fresh barbecue, and Calabash-style seafood; excellent service from your neighbors' kids; and low, low prices. All brought to you buy a family

that has been a pillar of the Seven Lakes business community for 25 years.

Pumpkin Creek Café is located on NC Highway 211 in the heart of the Seven Lakes Business Village, right next to Phoenix Fashions.

The restaurant is open from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, with

Early Bird Specials Daily from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. It can be booked for private parties on Sunday or Monday.

Take out is available, though Marks says Calabash-style seafood is best piping hot!

The phone number is 910-673-1519.

Patio

(Continued from page 8)

well as ornaments, custom arrangements, hand-tied bows and all the trim. Residential design services are also offered through the Christmas store. Santa's Closet is open each year from November 1 through mid-January.

Pinehurst Patio is proud to be part of Moore County's growth and history over the past 25 years. As a special thanks to the community and to their loyal customers, Pinehurst Patio is hosting a 25th birthday party on Saturday, May 26, 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Lunch will be provided and drawings will begin at noon for furniture giveaways from Pinehurst Patio and its vendors.

Pinehurst Patio is located at 6835 NC Hwy 211, 5 miles west of the traffic circle. Showroom hours are Monday-Saturday 9:30 am - 5:00 pm and Sundays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. The showroom phone number is 295-2541, and the website is found at www.pinehurstpatio.com. You can stay current on special sales and events by liking the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pinehurstpatio.

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Sunday Worship Schedule

Holy Communion - 9:30 am

Adult Christian Education - 10:45 am

Tuesday Mornings

Intercessory Prayer

& Healing Service - 11:00 am

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Woof Woof Open

The Woof Woof will be held on Saturday, June 9, at Longleaf Golf and Country Club, Southern Pines. Shotgun start: 8:30 am, with Lunch immediately following play. Format is Woof - Woof Step Aside Scramble with Teams consisting of Four person, Men, Women or Mixed. Cost is \$75/person.

All Proceeds will Benefit Moore Humane Society's Pooch Park in the Pines.



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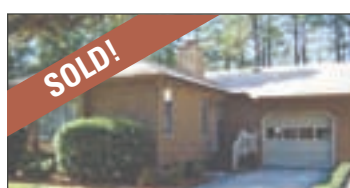
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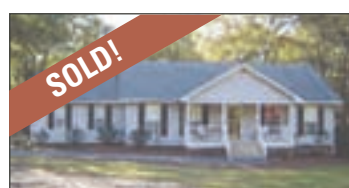
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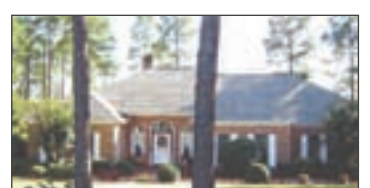
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OPINION

Who are you, on Facebook?

What do bleachers, the Bible, and Bunco have in common?

The correct answer is me, at least according to Facebook.

Yes, I admit it. I cued up one of those annoying chain status posts. You know the type: I'll show you mine if you show me yours. I normally don't indulge in such pointless drivel but I unexpectedly fell off my high horse yesterday. Luckily, the damage was minimal — no broken bones.

How did we meet in one word? The answers to that query were as random and broad as my own friends list: church, school, work, neigh-

bors, weddings, pizza, and my personal favorite, stalking.

You can label it innocently, "Me? I'm just browsing."

Or you may prefer the intellectual route, "Google is a verb, and this is very important research."

You could be like me and get called down to the carpet honestly, "Busted! I'm a creeper."

But no matter how you reconcile or rationalize your searches, stalking is part and parcel of traveling on the world wide web.

Want to know what your old high school buddies are up to? Skip the reunion — and the inevitable hangover

— and click on over to LinkedIn. Need a digital image to remind yourself why teenagers should never be

a surprisingly sophisticated site that lists — gulp, you probably don't want to know.

"Oxymoron" is probably the most appropriate way to describe Internet privacy. Put more simply, there is an alarming amount of

dollar investment. No wait! Make that a \$14 billion wedding gift for Mr. and Mrs. Zuckerberg. Or was it \$10 billion?

It seems that keeping track of that slip-sliding IPO value is like chasing rocks off a cliff.

Luckily, I have a nice comfy seat in the spectator section to watch this blame game. I'm easy to spot.

Just look for me way up high in the gymnasium bleachers with my friend, Rollie; eating pizza with Nancy; dropping Jello shots with Gail; reading the Good Book with Brenda; and rolling those proverbial dice with Edie and Mary Ann.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

allowed to procure marriage licenses? Drop a few bucks and you'll get to troll the Classmates page.

Want to know what your neighbor's house is worth? Our country-bumpkin county seat up the road maintains

information about you that is "out there."

And no, I'm not just talking about that universally scorned Facebook timeline.

Not that investors and stock flippers cared last week. You can't argue with a \$16 billion

How do I pray for another?

Question: I belong to a small church that has a "prayer chain." Whenever a member is ill, all the members are called and asked to pray for that member.

I always say that I will, but I confess that the only prayers I know begin with "Now I lay me down to sleep;" "God is great, God is good;" and "Our Father, who art in heaven." How do I pray for someone else? Do you think prayer for others does any good?

Response: Recent research has indicated that patients who are prayed for are more likely to improve than those who are not prayed for.

There appears to be no scientific reason for this and researchers admit that it is difficult to eliminate all of the other factors that could influence the results of the study.

Nevertheless, I have seen many miracles that occurred as a result of prayers by

members of congregations like yours, and I pray for other people whenever I am asked.

Many times I hear people such as radio and television commentators use the words, "Our thoughts and prayers are with you." And I wonder if they really intend to

actually pray for that person. Perhaps I am too skeptical.

Your question is much like that of Jesus' disciples, who, after observing the importance of prayer in Jesus' life, said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray." It was then that Jesus taught them to pray "Our Father, who art in Heaven."

Allow me to make a few suggestions that may help you to pray for others. First, recognize that God is not far off somewhere, but that God is within you and surrounds you by the Holy Spirit with God's presence. Secondly,

prayer does not depend on your knowing the correct words to say; indeed prayer often requires no words at all. Imagine that you are

seeking help from a very wise person. After you asked the initial question, would you keep talking? Listening is a more important ingredient of prayer than talking.

Find a quiet place in your home or a special place of beauty and serenity in nature. Say out loud the words: "God is present here with me." Wait in silence for as long as you can, then speak the name of the person for whom you are praying. Repeat the name several times. Then wait again in silence. There is no need for you to describe the person's

need; God already knows. There is no need to use a lot of religious words to flatter God; God is beyond flattery. There is no need to ask God to be with the person for whom you are praying; God is already there. Believe it! Will this help anyone? One thing for sure, it will help you! Trust God to help your friend.

You mention a children's prayer that begins with the words: "Now I lay me down to sleep." I often ask a person who is approaching anesthesia before surgery to pray this simple prayer with me: Now I lay me down to sleep. I ask Thee, Lord, my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake; I ask Thee, Lord my soul to take. Can you think of any prayer more appropriate than this?

Don Welch, the minister of The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, welcomes your comments and questions at dwelch1@nc.rr.com The Chapel website is sevenlakeschapelinthepines.com

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

Published every other Friday for residents & landowners of Seven Lakes, Foxfire, & McLendon Hills, NC by Seven Lakes Times, LLC, P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376 910-673-0111 • 888-806-2572 (fax) • mail@sevenlakes-times.net www.sevenlakes-times.net

Greg Hankins & Tom Hankins, Publishers
Greg Hankins, Editor • Marcy Hankins, Layout & Copy Editing
Laura Douglass & Stacy Naughton, Reporters
Sarah Hankins, Ad Layout

Founded in 1985 by Seven Lakes Times, Inc.
J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent,
William C. Kerchof, Ruth H. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Tucker

The aftermath of Amendment One

Standing in line at the polls on primary election day, my heart broke as I saw how divided people were over the issue of marriage.

From what I have read in the paper and in the social media, it seems as though people are cornered into one camp or another. Those who are for the amendment are painted as ignorant, homophobic, hatemongers while those against the amendment are looked at as anti-biblical Sodom and Gomorrah refugees, who hate God.

I don't think that either is true or that the issue is that simple. People are oversimplifying a complex issue to make it appear that only two alternatives are possible.

Both sides have resorted to using ad-hominem arguments, which seek to discredit

I also scratch my head when others claim that the Bible doesn't call homosexuality a sin, when clearly it does.

The truth of the matter is that the Bible teaches that all of us have sinned and we all fall short of



a person's argument by attacking their personal character, origin, associations, and so on.

It is offensive to me as a Christian when I hear of "Christians" who spew hatred towards people because of their sexual orientation.

God's glory. Sin is offensive to God — whether it is the sin of lying or the sin of adultery, or homosexuality, or any of the other sins listed in the Bible.

Unfortunately, many on both sides have become like the Pharisee of Jesus' day.

We want to point our finger at other's sins while refusing to acknowledge our own.

Some have pointed to the woman who was caught in the act of adultery in John 8 as being similar to the issue that we face, and I would agree. In this chapter a woman was brought to Jesus after being caught in the act of adultery. The Pharisees were trying to paint Jesus into a corner and said that the law required them to stone this woman — and they wanted to know what Jesus would say.

We are told that Jesus stooped down and started writing in the sand and then told the Pharisees that he who is without sin should cast the first stone. Each one dropped their stone and went away. I often wonder if Jesus was writing the sin of each Pharisee in the sand.

What happened after all of her accusers were gone was just as profound. Jesus told her to go and sin no more. The act that she was caught in was still a sin, but Jesus was going to pay for that sin for her.

Jesus didn't pay for our sins so that we could continue to do them. He paid for that sin because He loved people.

I pray that no matter on what side of the issue you find yourself, you will lay down your stone and try to follow the example of Jesus. Love the sinner without condoning the sin.

Can't we disagree on an issue without hating one another?

Rev. Chris Hrabosky is pastor at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. Email your questions or comments to chrabosky@mac.com

Seven Lakes leaders should unite, not divide

Dear Editor:

We moved to Seven Lakes West eleven years ago at the beginning of the growth of our beautiful, friendly community.

After reading and agreeing with Greg Hankins and Rev. Crawford's Opinions, we felt a strong need to respond.

1. We do need to have a civic group or be a municipal or real town that has extra territorial zoning jurisdiction that allows us to control developments on our fringes, and guide (not control) us in Seven Lakes North, South and West communities.

2. The enormous problem that has occurred in Seven Lakes over entering our gates is embarrassing and threatening for us. We are neighbors and Seven Lakeres. We have relatives, friends and clubs, whether computer, bridge, quilting or many others that we all enjoy. We're not blaming anyone, but there has to be a compromise. If our community of 5000 can't solve this dilemma, how can we ever expect a peace-

ful camaraderie to exist?

To quote from Daniel Webster about why the Constitution of the USA was made. "There are men in all ages that mean to govern well, but *they mean to govern*. They promise to be good masters, but *they mean to master*."

As Rev. Dudley said, "This necessity for control and security at the risk of giving up our sense of community

is undermining more than our property values at times and creates a form of tension that's very unhealthy for gracious living."

Please, volunteers who have been elected by us, help us to regain a wonderful, hospitable community and not divide us.

*Don and Mary Hauck
Seven Lakes West*

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What sort of town does 7 Lakes want to be?

What exactly is the town of Seven Lakes?

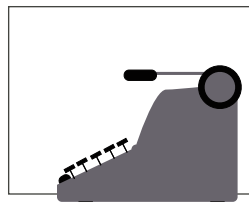
This past January, I moved from New Jersey to Seven Lakes to live with my mother, who has been a resident of Seven Lakes West for over twenty-five years. It's been an adjustment, living in a small town with little traffic and lots of pine needles; but I do love the weather, the lakes and the friendly people.

One of my passions is martial arts; and, soon after settling here, I was thrilled to find an excellent Karate dojo within a mile of my new home. The Goshin Dojo anchors a strip mall with Subway on the Seven Lakes-West End border, and both businesses cater to families. While at Karate class last week, I found out that an Internet Sweepstakes gaming parlor is scheduled to open in a small business space between the Subway and the dojo. I was surprised to learn that the strip mall owner (also franchise owner of the Subway) had approved this new business and that the business operator is seeking a Moore County business permit.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the Internet Sweepstakes business model, customers don't actually pay to gamble. They pay for online computer time to check Facebook activity, catch up on the stock market news, revise their resumes, or play various sweepstakes games. Obviously, customers spend most of their time and money play-

ing for the sweepstakes.

Another sweepstakes operation is scheduled to go into a vacant space next to Food Lion, with a new tobacco shop coming in right next to it. Is this how we want to develop the Seven Lakes' Business District?



Your Turn

Hollis K. Colquhoun
Seven Lakes West

As a newcomer, I don't know much about the way that Seven Lakes or Moore County are governed, but I was very involved in the New Jersey community where I lived for twenty five years. I was shocked to find out there isn't any town council or committee here to handle planning or zoning issues, and that business permits are awarded by Moore County. The residents of Seven Lakes have no say in the type of business that comes into their Village!

Seven Lakes' population is approximately 5000 — bigger than Carthage. In my mind

this makes us a decent- sized town. But right now we're acting like an absentee town, meaning we don't feel the need to govern ourselves, design a short and long-term Seven Lakes' community plan, or set up laws and ordinances that will protect and enhance our town.

The subject of incorporation was seriously discussed a couple of years ago, and I understand it was dropped because many residents thought it would impact the ability of Seven Lakes West, North, and South to stay gated communities. This no longer seems to be an issue. It was determined that the three communities can remain gated, in which case the town will receive less revenue from the state.

Becoming incorporated would allow Seven Lakes to establish certain governing bodies to oversee and make policy for the business district.

So the questions facing us as Seven Lakes residents

now are:

- Do we want to take part in designing our collective destiny?
- Do we want to determine the type of businesses that are established here?
- Do we want to have a say in how our tax dollars are put to use?

For me, the answer to each of these questions is an unequivocal "Yes!" The way the residents of Seven Lakes are involved in the operation of their town from now on will have a great impact on the character of the overall community. As the area grows and new communities spring up, those towns and

communities that take an active role in planning their own future will be the more desirable places to live, with higher property values.

This isn't just a letter to rant about the problems in Seven Lakes. I love being a resident of this community, and I'm willing to volunteer my time to help the town achieve these goals.

It is my hope that in the last two years residents have come to realize that Seven Lakes needs to take charge of its own destiny. We really don't want to have an internet sweepstakes operator on every business corner.

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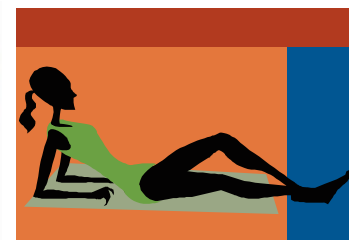
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Keep the stables, unite the community

Ms. Beardslee submitted a copy of this letter to The Times, in addition to sending it to members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors.

Dear Board of Directors:

Last summer, I wrote to the Board indicating our pleasure and positive assessment of how the stables are run, the good care of the horses, and the professionalism, courteous, most accommodating, and all-around great horsemanship and people skills that Ms. Karen Reeder, Stable Manager, demonstrates. Obviously, my letter fell on deaf ears.

The stable amenities are one of the big reasons we chose to come to Seven Lakes, looking forward to retirement. We have grandchildren from all over the country, who, when they visit us, are sure to ride at the stables and look to Ms. Karen for her friendly guidance.

Our granddaughter from Texas is of age this year to take part in Summer Horse Camp and is signed up and very excited to come. We also have nearby grandchildren and guests who enjoy riding with me whenever the opportunity presents itself.

When I am able to retire and no longer have to work, I am looking forward to riding more often as well.

It is with great disappointment and anxiety that I have read in *The Times* that you are considering reducing the number of horses and cutting back in this area of recreation. Please do not do this!

I am adamantly opposed to saving money at the expense of our recreational amenities, because, for most of the residents, this is why we chose to live here in the first place! I urge you to reconsider making it a priority of recreation to keep our stables active in the same capac-

ity within our development. We are blessed to have Ms. Karen holding the reins, so to speak, and administering at our stables, keeping them clean, our horses healthy, and serving the

again, this is what attracted us to Seven Lakes. Initially, we owned on the West Side, but ultimately settled on the North Side on Lake Sequoia. And, now, I say again what

all those good people have said before me: unify our "sides" as opposed to more separatism. Can't we all play together like

big kids or adults? Life is all too short for all the day-to-day unkind, unfriendly nonsense. We are "Seven Lakes," but sounding more like the Hatfields and the McCoys.

We are neighbors with our families and friends in North, South, and West. I propose yet again unity & peace among Seven Lakes in its entirety. How can we ever hope for peace on earth if we cannot achieve it among our immediate neighbors and members of our community? What messages and legacies we we sending/leaving to our children and grandchildren?

May I borrow a quote by Mr. Henri Nouwen, as I can-

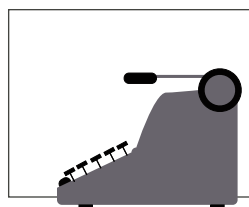
not say it any better: "In our world full of strangers, estranged from their past, culture and country, from their neighbors, friends and family, from their deepest self and their God, we witness a powerful search for a hospitable place where life can be lived without fear and where community can be

found." Yes, Rev. Dudley Crawford, I believe it is what we all dream of, and with the help of God's grace, only we can make this happen here in our community of Seven Lakes.

If you will, just one last quote: "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13: 34-35)

Your Turn

Judith B. Beardslee
Seven Lakes North



community maintaining a wonderful and healthy hobby for all our residents and guests.

If we're looking to save money, let's re-evaluate what were paying to outsiders — e.g., Talis Management Group! To quote Mr. Marty Kane, "You are chasing mice, when there are elephants running around!"

Secondly, I'd like to comment on what's going on between the neighborhoods and reiterate Phyllis Mahin's, George Jenner's, and our local ministers' contributions in *The Seven Lakes Times* in the venue of "Seven Lakes needing more unity!" Once

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Barcodes

(Continued from page 3)

number one, and what we have is massive violations of that! If we are going to keep that rule then we have to find a way — over and above decals and barcodes — of how we are going to take care of security in our community.”

Despite the move to mandatory barcodes, the Security Committee recommended continuing to issue color-coded windshield stickers, in order to provide an easy way for Roving Security to quickly identify member vehicles.

“Just a barcode on a vehicle, it could be from anywhere,” Ritter said. “But, when security drives by and sees people at an amenity, and they see vehicles with windshield stickers, then, odds are, it is a resident.” He added that windshield stickers provide an immediate way for gate guards to identify member vehicles if, for example, the barcode reader were knocked out by a lightning strike.

Darr cautioned that mandating barcodes could be problematic, since there are laws that prohibit an Association from denying a resident access to his or her property.

“The only way to enforce barcodes is to make it part of our dues fee structure,” he said. “Barcodes will help a lot, but it will not solve everything.”

Who Sticks the Sticker?

In a related discussion, Northsider Chuck Stephenson said a system using two decals — a window sticker and a barcode — left the door open for misuse.

“I see people coming in the gates with barcodes, but their window sticker is two or three years out-of-date,” he said. “If they paid their dues, where is their current sticker?”

Ritter said one way to prevent any abuse of stickers would be to adopt the current Westside practice of requiring that only office staff may apply the decals to vehicles.

“That would prevent any stickers from being passed

around,” Ritter said. “But, if you truly want to secure the gates, the best example I can give you is the military.”

Prior to 9/11, military installations distributed color-coded stickers; however, that system was abandoned in favor of checking the identity card of everyone entering the base.

“That is the only way to positively assure you know who is coming in your gate,” Ritter said. “But the backup would be to Food Lion, and that is an extreme we don’t want to go to. What we’re trying to do is put a process in place. Will there be holes in it? Yes.”

One way to improve security is for residents to take a more proactive role, Ritter said, suggesting to Stephenson that, if he observes a vehicle with an expired sticker, he should report it to the office.

“What it may boil down to is that the first of next year, we hope to have members upgraded [to barcodes], and that we get voluntary compliance,” he said. “And if not, they need to understand they will be stopped at the gate, and it will be inconvenient.”

No Fee Change Suggested

The Security Committee recommended no change in the current barcode fee: a one-time \$15 charge per vehicle. They suggested that new members should be required to purchase barcodes immediately and that the mandatory barcode requirement would extend to all members at some point in the future, possibly the end of the current fiscal year.

“Knowing there is a financial impact,” Ritter said, “we felt it was reasonable to expect current residents to update to barcodes no later than April 30 [2013]. It puts people on notice for next year, when they pay dues.”

Ritter said he would like to clear up any misunderstandings on fees, emphasizing that members are charged a one-time fee for as long as they own the vehicle. Family members and Westside residents may also purchase barcodes — for a fee of \$15 and \$20, respectively — but those fees are assessed on an annual basis.

“Our recommendations were made with the big picture in mind, rather than a tit-for-tat with any other association,” he said.

More Recommendations

Other gate access recommendations presented by the Security Committee included maintaining a list or roster of names provided by organizations or groups that use amenities — for example, Project Linus and Women of Seven Lakes — and no changes to the current system of issuing guest passes to members of the Seven Lakes Health & Fitness Center or Seven Lakes Country Club.

However, a much more stringent access policy was recommended for contractors. In addition to providing a list or roster of employees or subcontractors for any job site, the general contractor would also be required to provide vehicle information. Once

that information is received by the office, the contractor would be issued a time-limited pass up to a maximum of six months.

The Security Committee suggested that harsher language should be included in the Yard Debris Site information distributed to contractors, noting that the use of amenities is not allowed and that a contractor found in violation would be charged with trespassing.

“The contractor policy would state that when you are in here, you’re here to do a job,” Ritter said.

Community Manager Alina Cochran said she knows of at least one homeowner who has purchased a guest pass as a gift to their contractor.

(See “Barcodes,” p. 31)

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Barcodes

(Continued from page 32)

"That is an inappropriate use of a guest pass, and we need to get that message to the homeowner," demanded Ritter.

Cochran also reported the current system of issuing contractor passes includes tracking license plates, but not employees by name.

Darr expressed concern that a major job site — such as new home construction — would require a massive amount of follow-up to keep track of all the various sub-contractors.

A plea for unity

Nearly lost in the hour-long policy discussion on access was the simple desire by the majority of landowners present to preserve the neighborliness for which Seven Lakes has been known.

"Could someone please explain to me why we can't be one community?" asked Southsider Donna Rouse. "I am totally and completely upset about the whole thing. I hate it! This is not the community I moved into, and it makes me sad and mad."

Northsider Tim Burgess asked whether the barcode systems used by the SLLA and SLWLA are compatible, and if there was a notification policy in place when a name was removed from the system.

Ritter replied that the two systems were compatible, but that database was not shared, except by individual request.

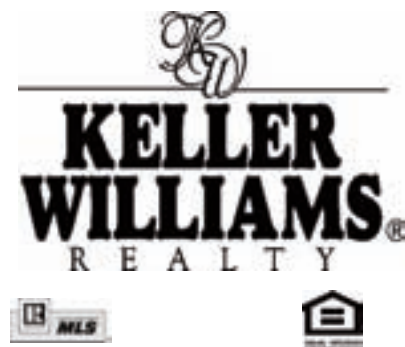
"Barcodes are a wonderful way to monitor access," Burgess said, "you know who is in or out. But I just want us to be one community."

Darr agreed.

"I hope we can find a way to open up our side and work towards that combining again," he said, "but we are faced with a lot of opposition as it relates to access. We're going to try to work through and see what we can do."

Quick Decision Needed

With no window stickers being issued by the Seven Lakes West Landowners (See "Barcodes," p. 32)



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140 MORRIS DR • 7LW



3 BED + BONUS, ALL BRICK - \$325,000

406 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW



4 BD + 3BA NEAR BACK GATE • \$295,000

2 WATERFRONT LOTS • LAKE AUMAN



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143 OWENS CIRCLE • LAKE AUMAN



UNDER CONTRACT!

WATERFRONT LOT - \$209,000

123 ANDREWS DR • 7LW



AMAZING WATERFRONT - \$750,000

230 FINCH GATE • 7LW



GOLF FRONT CRAFTSMAN! - \$320,000

155 HASTINGS • 7LS



GOLF FRONT, MINT CONDITION! - \$209,000

110 DORSET DR • 7LS



REDUCED!

STORAGE GALORE! - \$167,000

119 ANDREWS DR • LAKE AUMAN



CUSTOM WATERFRONT IN MINT CONDITION! \$879,000

168 SIMMONS DR • LAKE AUMAN



3 BR, ALL BRICK, NEW KITCHEN - \$684,000

141 WERTZ • LAKE AUMAN!



2 KITCHENS, MANY UPGRADES • \$565,000

129 HARRELL RD • 7LW



3 BED + DEN, SPACIOUS, GREAT VIEWS! - \$548,500

221 LONGLEAF • 7LW



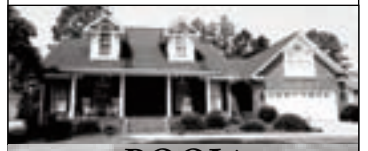
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148 MORRIS DRIVE • 7LW



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121 PINENEEDLE • 7LN



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112 DOGWOOD LN • 7LN



3BD/ 2 BA ON ALMOST 1 ACRE! - \$129,500

113 LONGLEAF • 7LW



4BR + BONUS - \$300,000

Barcodes

(Continued from page 31)

Association [SLWLA] and new access policies effective at their gates as of May 1, Darr said the SLLA Board needs to act quickly to define its policy.

"We said we would accept [SLWLA expired] window stickers until June 1, but then we will need to do something else," he said. "I think what we have on paper [i.e., the Security Committee recommendations] does not give us enough control or a policy stance to instigate something that is in line with our present rules and what we are trying to do."

Darr asked the Committee to draft new policy language in the next few days, with hope that a quick turnaround would allow time for a special work session prior to a vote at the next open meeting, scheduled for May 30.

"We made a decision when we came into office that we would be transparent, and that still holds, Darr said. "But we also said that what we do needs to be in black & white and documented. I don't have a problem with making changes to our rules, but it must be written down. This is the way we run this organization. We can't be just willy-nilly and say we'll do this today and not tomorrow."

Yard Debris Site

Addressing a popular amenity that is often more like a money pit than a site for waste collection, Maintenance Director Chuck Leach reported he may have found a way to reduce expenses at the Yard Debris Site.

His proposal includes a dumpster installed at the site and shifting the cinder-blocks to an L-formation. These changes would allow for more efficient loading by the hauler, and costs would decrease, because there would be fewer trips, he explained, with estimated potential savings of several thousand per year.

Director Steve Ritter asked whether the new plan would also include any on-site shredding services.

Leach responded that such work requires a great deal of space.

"He would need an acre of storage to justify the cost of bringing in the [mulching] machine," he said.

Drumming up volunteers to staff the Yard Debris Site — with intent to curb misuse or residents leaving oversize or inappropriate materials — is another ongoing cost-savings initiative. Any resident interested in spending a few hours a week at the Yard Debris Site is encouraged to contact the SLLA office at 673-4931.

Lot Combination Policy

Property owners may combine two residential lots, but the combination will not be approved by the SLLA Board until a new deed is filed with Moore County that clearly defines the combination as a single lot.

"We want to be very, very sure, in terms of combining, that we have data in-house that supports that combination," said President Darr. "As you know, there are people here who own the vacant lot next to their house; and they may decide they want to protect that as part and parcel of the property they live on as one piece. In the past, what we had was a lot of lot combinations with no backup data."

Specifically, he said the proposed addition to the already recently revised lot combination policy will further clarify this point.

"What [SLLA Treasurer] Conrad [Meyer] has done, he's added those pieces of substance that makes it legal and brings our files up to date," he said. "The combination will be effective and recognized on the date the deed is platted."

Sequoia Island bulkhead

A delay in getting the contractor to sign on the dotted line should not impact the anticipated completion date for refurbishing the bulkhead around Sequoia Island, reported Darr.

"We have awarded the contract, but it is not yet signed,"

he explained. "As soon as it is received and we are sure it is what we need, then work will be done."

Director Leach suggested adding a deadline to the contract and, if work is not completed by that date, imposing a ten percent reduction in final compensation for each week the job is not finished.

Community Manager Alina Cochran reminded the Board the approved contract did, in fact, include a deadline.

Association Website

Director Dave Buckingham distributed a draft layout of a revamped community website. He anticipated work on the project would be complete within a few weeks.

Northsider Al Anderson asked Darr if there had been any progress on other options: specifically, a suggestion to have The Times print the Interlake.

Darr responded that the primary purpose of looking at eliminating printing the Interlake in-house was to

reduce costs, and that outsourcing the publication would not achieve that goal.

"One of the issues Dave [Buckingham] is working on is to not print the Interlake [instead posting online] and we can save ourselves a bunch of money," said Darr.

He noted that a limited number of hard copies will still be made available at the SLLA office.

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Stables

(Continued from front page)
as few as two riders.

At no time during Monday's discussion was any information shared on the total number of riders served; all the data presented focused on rides, not riders.

The ride total is a revised count undertaken after an initial presentation last month was derided as inaccurate. However, all of the figures discussed at the Work Session were again disputed.

Southsider Debra Kester, a frequent rider, argued passionately that the number of rides was too low and that other factors had not been considered in Darr's analysis, for example, that rides are cancelled for inclement weather and that limited hours at the stables had reduced the total number of potential rides per day. Kester also objected that income from lessons and other paid activities were not factored into Darr's cost figures.

On the expense side, Finance Committee member George Temple cautioned Darr that his total estimated cost of the stables was too low, because it did not include costs including employee benefits, pasture mowing, utilities, and maintenance of the physical structures. Adding in those costs, Temple estimated the total cost of the stables would be closer to \$75,000 to \$80,000

per year.

A Unique Amenity, and An Easy Target

Seven Lakes North has offered stables and riding as one of its amenities since the very beginning of the community. It may be the only community in Moore County that offers the amenity of free trail rides for members and their guests.

The size of the herd at the stables has ebbed and flowed, with some horses serving the community for many years. Currently, the herd includes eight horses and three ponies. One of those horses is lame and no longer ridden: a gentle giant named "Swift Slew," but more commonly known as "Bonnie." She is a retired thoroughbred racehorse and the granddaughter of Triple Crown winner "Seattle Slew."

Despite the stables being a unique and attractive amenity, the facility is an easy target when finances are tight. The future use of the stables has been on the Board's discussion table before, often creating controversy.

In December of 2008, a split vote of the SLLA Board of Directors placed the stables and three other common recreation areas under a protective Deed Restriction, and action designed to prevent future Boards from selling off community assets. As

approved, the deed requires a supermajority vote of six of the seven directors to transfer ownership of these properties.

The current SLLA Board is facing cost pressures as they try to pave the roads, overcome years of deferred maintenance, and manage the existing amenities — all without raising dues.

"When you are elected to the Board, one of your major responsibilities is fiduciary," President Darr explained. "As a Board, we look at what we need to provide and what we can provide with the amount of money we have to operate . . . My situation and this Board's is we need to look at every one of our expenditure items to see if there is any way we can cut or reduce expenses."

"We told Karen [Reeder, the SLLA Stables manager] that we did not want to cut down on the number of rides, but asked for her suggestion," Darr continued. "She said she could still provide the same number of rides by reducing to five horses and three ponies."

Nailing Down the Numbers

Reinforcing that recommendation with data, Darr posted several pages of figures and percentages that illustrated the number of rides,

the number of potential rides, and the actual usage based on sign-in sheets for trail riders.

The majority of trail rides are taken in the months of November, April, and July — averaging approximately 50 rides per month. A specific example cited: 53 rides were recorded over twenty-one open stables days in April 2011, averaging 2.52 rides per day.

Darr said the analysis of actual and potential rides demonstrated the stables could accommodate as many riders with fewer horses.

Taking a closer look at the actual riders in 2011, Darr said 59 percent were members and 41 percent were guests. When rides by those using a non-resident pass [available for purchase by Westside residents only] were excluded, the percentage use by members dropped to 51 percent. In addition, Darr

argued that approximately 75 percent of that member usage is limited to five riders who ride very frequently — often several times per week.

Debra Kester quickly disputed those numbers, arguing the analysis was inaccurate because the earliest and latest trail rides considered are no longer applicable due to limited hours at the stables.

Another frequent rider, Kathy Lishawa, reminded the Board that Karen Reeder was injured last Spring and that had an impact on the number of rides counted. She also noted the stables are closed one day each week and can also be shuttered due to inclement weather.

"When you start adding back in cancellations, those numbers would increase," she said.

However, any productive points of discussion were fre-

(See "Stables," p. 34)

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Stables

(Continued from page 33)

quently lost in the tense back and forth as Kester and Darr each challenged the other's findings.

Darr flatly rejected Kester's request to personally review the sign up sheets from last year, citing confidentiality, and told her that she would have to accept that the compiled numbers were not put together to make a case or with a set agenda in mind.

"If you have five horses to take out, you have one lead and four on horses," Darr said. "It seems to me we could work with our current time schedule of trail rides."

Policy changes also recommended

Recommending no change to the size of the herd while further research is accumulated during the heavy use period this Summer, former SLLA Director Laura Douglass presented the Recreation Committee's recommendations that focused on policy rather than figures. Director Bob Racine was unable to participate in the Work Session due to a health issue.

Using the current definition of a member and a guest, Douglass said the committee recommends no change in the current policy towards members, which allows unlimited riding privileges as space allows. However, frequent guests — identified as a guest at the stables who rides more than two times in any given month — would be charged a rate of \$20 per

ride for any additional use. The same policy would also apply for pony rides, but at a reduced rate of \$5 per ride.

This means that an SLLA member may sponsor any guest they desire, but that the same guest may only ride twice in the same month — regardless of which member is the sponsor — or be assessed the riding fee.

Further recommendations offered by the Recreation Committee include eliminating the option for non-residents to purchase passes for a single ride or an annual pass — presently only available to Seven Lakes West landowners — and a more stringent approach to signing in guests. The proposed policy would require the SLLA member to personally register their guest at the stables, though the member would not be required to accompany the guest on the trail ride. For example, a Seven Lakes grandparent could sign in their visiting grandchild without actually going on the trial ride.

Darr expressed concern that the guest pass system can be abused, with a non-resident potentially having unlimited access to the stables for just over \$6.00, a fourth of the \$25 annual guest pass [four cards are issued].

"What the Recreation Com-

mittee has recommended — free rides for residents — is a huge over-utilization," Darr said.

Northsider Chuck Stephenson suggested that members should be allowed to ride as often as desired, but that guests should be limited: strictly to family only.

Douglass responded that the Recreation Committee was looking for equity among all the community's amenities.

"We do not count the number of times a resident goes out fishing or uses a lake, visits the pool, or uses a beach or playground," she said. "So we do not feel it is reasonable to limit the number of trail rides, until we reach a saturation point when a member cannot go out because of the high volume of other users."

A call for action

"These utilization numbers came from Karen," Darr said, "and she said she could handle the same number of rides per week with five [horses] and three [ponies] — that she could handle the flow of traffic — and what I'm asking the Board to do is to downsize to that."

Opposed to the Board making any decision at this point, Debra Kester lobbied that the number of horses should be left alone until accurate

numbers are presented.

"I could not find any other community in this entire country that has what we have, for the cost that we pay," she said. "Our lakes, swimming, tennis, and stables. If you are talking about bringing property values down over a deteriorating island bulkhead, then we should be looking at our overall amenities and not make decisions based on just finances."

Another resident argued the pool is also a major expenditure and is only open fourteen weeks, versus the stables, which is open year-round.

"If the Board is looking to reduce costs, the pool is more expensive than the stables," he said.

Darr agreed but said the stables discussion was not tied to an analysis of numbers

for the pool.

"I'll say what I have before," Darr said. "We are looking at everything we spend money on: what is its utilization and what it costs us."

Darr continued, "For example, I saw five ladies playing cards in the Game Room this week and four of them were from the Westside! The point is: That is the kind of number stuff we are reviewing. Who is using it and how much does it cost? We have to look at every cotton-picking thing we have expenditures on."

After over an hour of discussion that ranged from helpful dialogue to shouting matches, Darr drew the line.

His request for a show of hands from the Board in support of reducing the herd was unanimous. A vote will be called at the May 30 Open Meeting.

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Budget

(Continued from front page)

"If I just go and start cutting things, it would be like a blind surgeon," he said, "and that's no way to wield a scalpel. You look at parts you can cut while having a responsible budget, and that's what we are trying to do."

This year's budget reflects the addition of ten full time employees and providing existing employees with a 1.5 percent Cost of Living Allowance [COLA] — an increase that has already drawn criticism from Commissioner Tim Lea in this budget cycle.

"People that pay these taxes — who pay these bills — are laying people off," said Lea. "They are not giving increases."

According to Human Resources Director Denise Brooks, offers have been made to candidates who would fill some of the twenty-seven vacant positions, but the County is waiting for the prospective employee to accept the offer of employment.

Commissioner Picerno asked that each department discuss with McSwain which positions they absolutely need and which can be cut — particularly in the Department of Social Services [DSS].

DSS Director John Benton told the Board that positions

in his department are vital. "They [Staff] do a super job from the bottom up and top down," said Benton. "Just keep that in mind."

Lea Expresses Concern About County Debt

Commissioner Lea, having participated in the development of seven County budgets — this being his last — said the County needs to get a handle on its debt, which he pegged at \$222 million, a figure that includes principal and interest.

"We don't have the money," Lea said. "We don't have the reserves" to fund future projects in the County that could include building a high school, increasing the size of the courthouse, and bringing more water to Moore County.

"You don't spend every penny you have," said Lea. "You save that money for a rainy day fund."

Lea noted that the County has a mandatory revaluation of real property coming up in 2015. He expressed concern that the impact of the recession on property values may mean the County will be working with a lower tax base than it has now, which could make it very difficult to avoid an increase in the tax rate.

Picerno has asked McSwain

to investigate the possibility of paying down some of the County's indebtedness. He noted that a significant portion of the debt is the result of school bonds approved by the voters.

The County's financial consultant, Davenport and Company, is scheduled to make a presentation at the Board's next meeting on Tuesday, June 5.

"If we can save one dollar of County money, it's worth it," said Picerno.

Picerno Aims to Shrink Government

In keeping with his small government philosophy, Picerno said, "I am trying to get our budget down to the \$84 million mark." Picerno was referring to the General Fund, which does not include Moore County Public Utilities, and totals just over \$85 million in the Manager's proposed budget.

He added, "I want to apologize to Cary, because maybe he doesn't really understand what, as a Commissioner, I think the budget for Moore County should look like . . . The thing that bothers me just a little is that any time that you have additional

spending, it needs to be prioritized."

Picerno said that education and law enforcement should account for the majority of the County's spending. Currently, education claims the largest share of the budget, at 44 percent, with law enforcement taking up 13.5 percent of the budget.

"Education, I am not willing to cut," said Picerno. "I think they are at a fair level and are working really hard with us." However, Picerno said he noticed that the proposed budget asks for cuts in law enforcement.

"Our goal was to hold the line on the budget," said Chairman Larry Caddell. "The number one priority is the

public safety of the people and their families." Caddell explained that it is important for the Sheriff's department to be properly funded.

How and whether the Commissioners can whittle \$1.3 million out of the Manager's budget has yet to be determined, but Chairman Caddell said he is optimistic.

"We are going to try and do the best we can," said Caddell. "We aren't going to try and cut any more than we have to."

The Board will meet for another budget work session before their Tuesday, June 5 regular meeting.

Women & the Civil War

The Moore County Historical Association invites you to a free lecture by Mary Wayne Watson on "Women's Attitudes Toward Secession and the Civil War." The lecture is Sunday, June 24 starting at 2 pm, at the First Baptist Church, Southern Pines. Visitors should

use the May Street entrance.

Her lecture focuses on unpublished manuscripts and correspondence by gifted North Carolina women whose perspectives of the Civil War period show the impact of Sherman's scorched earth policy.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 6)
time.

Any decision on raising rates is likely to await the results of Public Utilities Director Randy Gould's comprehensive study of the options, and associated costs, of bringing more water to Moore County.

Proposed Sale of County Property to Bojangles

The County has been approached by a company that would like to buy a 1.3 acre tract of county-owned land in the Carriage Oaks Center in Carthage as a site for a Bojangles restaurant. The restaurant would be located adjacent to the tract currently occupied by a Hardee's restaurant, between Hardee's and the Moore County Veteran's Memorial.

The Commissioners have apparently discussed the property sale in closed session, and may have violated North Carolina's Open Meetings Law in so doing.

County Manager Cary McSwain brought the issue before the Board in Tuesday's meeting, asking them to approve a resolution to authorize the County Manager to inform the buyer that the County is interested in selling the property at a fair market value, contingent upon a pending report (expected in thirty days) from a space allocation study the County has commissioned, and subject to an upset bid process.

Commissioner Lea asked that the resolution indicate the location of the property, as well as the name of the buyer. He also asked that it should indicate that the county would be "potentially" interested in selling the property. And, finally, Lea noted that the County's interest would be contingent upon the results of a space allocation study.

Commissioner Picerno spoke in favor of adding "potentially" to the language of the motion. He also asked that McSwain remove the parenthetical reference to the space allocation study being completed in thirty

days. "What if the study is not done in thirty days?" Picerno asked. McSwain immediately struck that portion of the resolution.

Lea asked that his four points be included in the motion before it was voted on, "since those are what was discussed in closed session."

Chairman Caddell then turned to Commissioner Melton, who said he saw no reason to include the additional points Lea had suggested, and ultimately made a motion to approve the County Manager's language without them. That motion died for lack of a second.

After considerable word-smithing by the County Manager, the Board eventually approved a version that included Lea's points — but not before Lea had asserted that the Commissioners are allowed to discuss the purchase of property in closed session, but not the sale of property. "Whenever we are in the process of selling the County taxpayers' assets," Lea said, "that is supposed to be done in Open Session, so that we have an opportunity to maximize the return on your asset . . ."

The property in question is currently a grassy space, but has been considered in the past as a possible site for a County Administration building. Lea told *The Times*

after the meeting that he felt the depressed real estate market made this a terrible time to be selling county property, in terms of getting the taxpayers the highest possible value for their asset.

He said he was also concerned about the aesthetics of placing a fast-food restaurant so close to the Veteran's Memorial. He told *The Times* that, inevitably, restaurant patrons would use the benches of the Memorial as a convenient outdoor lunch spot, and leave behind trash.

Open Meetings Law Violation?

Lea also told *The Times* that the Board had discussed the potential Bojangles purchase in at least three closed sessions, which he said violated the state Open Meetings Law.

At Lea's request, County Attorney Misty Leland circulated an email to the Commissioners containing the relevant statute, and highlighted portions of "Open Meetings Law," a book authored by the NC School of Government's David Lawrence. Lawrence writes that, in the General Statutes, "There is no authorization for discussing property disposition in closed session." It is Lawrence's opinion that no part of a discussion of the sale of County-owned real estate may take place

in closed session.

Leland told *The Times* that she did not disagree with Lawrence's assessment. However, she said it is appropriate for the Board to consult with its attorney about how a sale of property should be handled

in Closed Session.

Picerno confirmed that the Board had discussed the prospect of selling the property in closed session. But he said those discussions focused on consultations with (See "Commissioners," p. 37)



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 7)

the County Attorney on the process, rather than the terms of any offer, and thus were within the bounds of the Open Meetings law.

The Times has asked the Board to open the minutes of any closed sessions in which the Bojangles offer was discussed.

Keep Moore County Beautiful

In a presentation on Keep Moore County Beautiful, Chairwoman Beatriz Gill, told the Commissioners that more than 3,200 volunteers participated in the program last year and that \$221,000 was raised.

"It says a lot about the work ethic and commitment you folks make to this process," said Commissioner Lea.

Other Business

The Board approved the following items during their Tuesday, May 15 meeting to include:

- The close-out of the 2009 Scattered Site Housing Community Development Block Grant, which funds repairs to sub-standard housing owned by low-income families.
- A funding plan for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Program, which will allocate \$181,000 in state funding largely to two programs: Moore County Youth Services and Moore Buddies.
- A new agreement with the Sandhills Regional Library System, which operates the Moore County Public Library, as well as those in four other counties. Sandhills Regional Library

System Director Carol Walters explained that the contract needed to be rewritten to bring it into conformity with changes in state law. The library system has been in operation for fifty years, Walters said, and "we are still doing the same thing, and we love serving the communities we serve."

- A request by Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips to purchase an ambulance from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles, Inc. for Moore County EMS for \$177,000. The money has been budgeted for this year and will be paid for from the Advanced Life Support fund.
- A request by Public Works Director Randy Gould to purchase Badger radio read meters from Carolina Meter and Supply, Inc for \$43,000. The County gained \$43,000 from recycling old manual read meters.
- A request by Child Support Director Jane Parris to purchase a replacement van for \$16,000 for the Youth Services Program.
- A resolution requested by NC Senator Harris Blake and Representative Jamie Boles, who will seek \$50,000 from the General Assembly to repair a Lake-view road in the unincorporated planning jurisdiction known as Crystal Lake Support, Inc. The road is needed for general commuting and will be used during the 2014 Men's and Women's US Opens.

Appointments

The Board approved the following appointments dur-

ing their Tuesday, May 15 meeting:

- Dr. Christine Paszko, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Accelerated Technology Laboratories, Inc. in West End to the Workforce Development Board.
- The reappointment of Debra Ensminger and Ronnie Fields to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

June UFO Gathering

Do you have UFOs (unfinished objects and projects), letters you have to write, mending that needs tending to, or anything else you can't seem to get to?

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Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church on Seven Lakes Drive around 10 am, bring your lunch and work on your projects. Stay until around 2 pm.

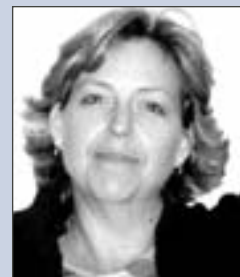
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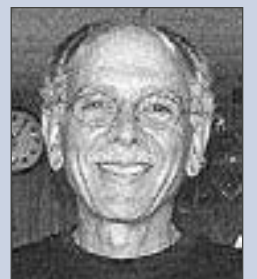


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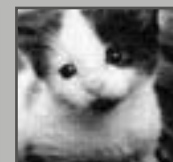
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