

Eagle Scout Project



Eagle Scout candidate Russell Harvey gets an assist from Jack Douglass assembling benches for an outdoor classroom and nature trail under construction at Sandhills Children's Center. [See page 11 for story.]

CAS named SLLA manager

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Effective September 1, Community Association Services [CAS] will take over management responsibilities for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA].

President Bob Darr announced the selection of CAS during the SLLA Board's Monday, July 9 work session. Darr had announced that a management search was underway during the June 27 open meeting, saying he had asked seven companies for proposals and received four responses, two of which were too costly to consider. That left two finalists, one of which was clearly the cur-

rent contractor, Talis Management, of Raleigh.

CAS, Inc. is a Pinehurst-based firm that manages more than 200 North Carolina Communities, including Seven Lakes West and McLendon Hills.

"There was a not insignificant difference in contract price," Darr said during Monday's meeting, explaining the decision to move the management contract. "But that was not the deciding factor in the Board's decision."

Darr told *The Times* that the savings from making the move to CAS "wasn't as large as we at first hoped it would be," but is "not insignificant." He declined to provide a dollar figure.

(See "SLLA Manager," p. 29)

Mixed reviews for Master Plan

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



More than 40 Westsiders attended a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday,

July 11 to weigh in on whether to spend \$40,000 to hire an outside firm, Clarion Associates, to guide Seven Lakes West in creating a Vision and Master Plan.

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association

[SLWLA] Board has designated the proposal a matter of significant interest to the community, triggering provisions in the bylaws that call for enhanced opportunity for member input and two separate votes by the Board.

Long Range Planning Director Don Freiert presided over the meeting, and began with a presentation that made the case for the project.

"A community-developed master plan will set goals and direction for leadership," Freiert said. "It will help guide future Boards — whoever they are."

"Without a clear vision and goals, the community stag-nates and will not be the best community possible."

(See "Town hall," p. 28)

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Waving colorful banners and American flags, a large crowd of veterans attended

the Moore County Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, July 17, to protest potential development of county-owned land near the Veteran's Memorial in Carthage.

While the Board stopped short of taking any formal action that would protect the memorial — instead tabling discussion while they await results from an ongoing space allocation study — the vets did not leave the meeting

empty-handed.

"As long as I am a commissioner, this will be sacred ground," said Commissioner Jimmy Melton, before he was drowned out by raucous applause and a standing ovation.

That assurance was echoed by each of his fellow commissioners.

Bojangle's offer sparked debate

The Veteran's Memorial at the center of the controversy is actually a recent addition to the county.

Dedicated in 2006, the memorial sits on a grassy corner of the Carriage Oaks property at the intersection

(See "Commissioners," p. 14)

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Guild gets primer on advertising strategy

by Cheryl Ann Darwell
Seven Lakes Business Guild

The Seven Lakes Business Guild met in June at Sandhills Winery. The meeting was co-hosted by Marie Bonner of Mische Bags, who provided some terrific snacks and demonstrated her attractive and ingenious purse system.

The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Greg Hankins, owner and editor of *The Seven Lakes Times*.

Hankins gave an insightful and entertaining session on small business marketing. He captivated the Guild members with examples of brand building, discounting, and event oriented advertising.

He also discussed how to build an advertising budget and ad-to-sales ratios.

Join the Seven Lakes Business Guild on Monday, July 23 for Part Two of Hankins' presentation, covering strategies in print advertising.

This meeting will also be

held at Sandhills Winery at 5:30 pm and will be co-hosted by Guild President Karen Milligan, owner of Karen Simmons Designs.

Signage is available for \$45 on a first come basis for Guild storefront members who would like their name on the

Village sign.

Contact Cheryl Darwell if you plan to attend the meet-

ing, or if you need more information about the Village signage at 673-SAIL.



Leslie Rose, Marie Bonner, Greg Hankins, and Bob Rose were hosts and presenter at the June meeting of the Seven Lakes Business Guild.

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@sevenlaketimes.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.

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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
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Everyone's invited to a "Beach Party and Hawaiian Luau (two events combined into one night) on Saturday, August 25, at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

Festivities begin with Cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by a fabulous Buffet at 6:30 pm featuring Hawaiian Chicken, Sliced Ham with Pineapple Sauce, Roasted Parmesan Potatoes, Summer Veggie Medley, Fruit Display, Rolls, Sheet Cake w/Whipped Topping, Coffee & Tea, Lemonade and Iced Tea. Music & entertainment provided by DJ Chad Sain at 7 pm.

The all-inclusive price for members is \$28 and non-members \$33 inclusive. Reservations for Members may be made in person on July 30, at the club from 10:30 am to 11:30 am and call in reservations taken after 11:30 am. Non-members may call 673-1100 for reservations starting August 6.

You do not have to be a member to attend this event.

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Foxfire continues drive to pay down debt

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



Debt service is a top priority for the Foxfire Village Council; and, during a brief business meeting on Tuesday, July 10, they took another step toward reducing that burden.

Offering unanimous support to Finance Director Leslie Frusco, the Council approved a \$108,700 budget amendment to transfer money from the Foxfire Water Department fund balance to pay down the principal on a loan procured several years ago to improve water lines, conduct a water study, and to install new wells.

"We have spent quite a bit of time discussing our debt structure and issues in the water fund," Frusco explained. "In reviewing the Grande Pines portion of that loan, assessments on properties that were to be assessed have been completed and all money collected."

"So, in an effort to continue debt reduction, we did an analysis and determined we want to send additional principal that will match those assessments," explained Frusco. "At that same time, we looked at the long term maintenance needs of the Village water system and our future debt service, and feel this is the prudent thing to do."

As of June 30, Frusco reported, the Water Fund

stood at \$365,990, which includes \$346,144 in a money market account. In addition, \$135,687 is held in escrow for installation of a new well. The total outstanding water loan balance is \$388,621. In July 2012, the Village made an annual payment \$41,144.

"It is in the best interest of the Village to reduce that debt," said Councilman Steve Durham.

Finance

In related discussion during the Finance report, Frusco noted an annual loan payment of \$26,966 was made in July toward the outstanding loan balance of \$180,000 for the Village Green Park.

The General Fund was reported at \$833,879, which includes \$75,084 set aside in capital reserve and \$20,997 in the Stonehill Pines account.

Debt service on the Woodland Circle loan includes payments due in April 2013 of \$173,000 from the General Fund and \$13,929 from the Water Fund.

Delinquent property taxes, including interest, as of June 30, totaled nearly \$14,000.

"Most of this is tied up in foreclosures and bankruptcies — the kinds of places we can't go after," said Frusco. "But anyplace we have been able to collect money, we have gone after it — and will continue to do so."

New annexation requested

Several property owners in

the Grande Pines subdivision have requested voluntary annexation into Foxfire Village, primarily for the purpose of obtaining city water.

"The water lines are in place, it is just a matter of annexing them in and having them pay the tap-on fee," said Mayor George Erickson.

Three of the four properties are contiguous to Foxfire Village limits and will likely be zoned in the RA-40 district. The fourth property is over ten acres and is anticipated to fall within the equestrian zoning district. Erickson explained that the owner of that property had previously signed a petition of understanding that his parcel would be annexed when the Village undertook its next round of annexations.

"These are voluntary annexations," Erickson noted. "The property owners have asked for this action specifically for the purpose of accessing public water."

A public hearing on the annexation requests will be held during the Tuesday, August 14 meeting of the Foxfire Village Council.

Water

A request by Councilman Durham to reduce the well permit application fee from \$500 to \$100 was unanimously approved.

"The well permit fee is to cover the cost of our inspection, to ensure there is no cross-contamination," said Durham. "I believe \$100 will be enough to cover the Village's costs for administration."

Addressing the obvious question, Councilman Mick McCue asked why the permit fee was set so high originally.

"We did more when we had more authority over private wells," Erickson responded. "Under new changes in state legislation, we are not as involved as we once were."

Streets

The installation of new street signs throughout the Village is complete, reported Councilman John Eltschlager, at a total cost of \$8,582.

"I am real pleased with what they did," he said. "The job is completed, and I don't anticipate any other sign needs."

Crack sealing work was also completed in June, at a final cost of \$16,704, which was lower than expected.

"After a review of the site, pavement patching work was not as extensive as we anticipated, so costs were not as high," he explained, noting that additional crack sealing work was included in the total.

Public Safety

A new police vehicle included in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget has been ordered and should arrive

(See "Foxfire," p. 29)

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SLLA dues haven't kept up with inflation

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The dues paid by Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] members haven't kept pace with inflation, and they don't come close to allowing the SLLA to amass the funding needed for capital maintenance projects laid out in the Reserve Study.

Those were the takeaways from a presentation on the history of SLLA dues that Treasurer Conrad Meyer made to his fellow Directors during their Monday, July 9 work session.

Noting that "we don't have enough money to do everything we need to do" and "we haven't had a dues increase in a while, Meyer said his presentation was "step one on understanding where we are with dues."

Eighty-three percent of SLLA dues revenues come from homeowners, who currently pay \$900 annually, while the \$570 fee paid by single undeveloped lots contribute ten percent of the total. Dues paid on the second or third lot owned by a member, at \$397, make up the remaining seven percent.

Dues Lagging Inflation

Though homeowners saw their dues increase by \$50 in 2009 and another \$50 in 2010, all of that additional revenue is deposited in the restricted reserve for road maintenance and state-mandated dam repairs. The \$800 portion of dues that fund Association operations has not increased since 2005.

Over the past decade, SLLA homeowner's dues have increased from \$750 to \$900, an average annual increase of 1.6 percent. Inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index, was 2.5 percent per year over the same period. Had dues kept pace with inflation, homeowners would be paying \$960 annually.

Because the \$50 increases in 2009 and 2010 were not applied to undeveloped lots, dues for those landowners have increased at an average

annual rate of only 0.9 percent, and have not, in fact, experienced a dollar increase since 2005. Had dues for that category of landowners

in 2011, another \$100 in 2012, and yet another in 2013, in order to allow the Association to accumulate the reserves needed to pay

"We are now behind the eight ball. We will have to be very selective about the projects that we implement and have to be very vigilant with our reserves."

— SLLA Treasurer Conrad Meyer

kept pace with inflation, they would be paying \$665, instead of \$570.

Similarly dues for the second or third lot — multiple lot dues — do not contribute to the restricted reserve for roads and dams and have not increased since 2005. Had dues on those lots kept pace with inflation, they would be paying \$444 instead of \$397.

Reserve Study Recommended Increases

The consulting firm that conducted the Reserve Study for the Association recommended a \$100 dues increase

for the maintenance of its assets: roads, buildings, the pool, etc.

"The purpose of these recommended increases was to fund all the replacement work that needs to be done around here," Meyer said, noting that the recommended increase had not been implemented in either 2011 or 2012.

"We are now behind the eight ball," he said. "We will have to be very selective about the projects that we implement and have to be very vigilant with our reserves."

Both Director Don Fentzlaff and President Bob Darr remarked that the projected

cost of repairs in the Reserve Study appear to be fairly high estimates. Meyer added that the study envisions the replacement of dump trucks and lawn mowers which may not, in fact, be replaced.

Although the estimates may be high, Darr said, "the problem is that we are not in the business of generating any funds to take care of those issues that we need to address. That's a more important issue than whatever great deal we may be able to get when we actually bid the particular item."

Next Steps:

Fine Tune Reserve Study

"Where do we go from here?" Meyer asked.

"We reexamine the projects in the Reserve Study — particularly paving — and put in what we know today, so we understand what the plan is going to look like. I can't fund a plan that I don't have."

"We need to tweak the reserve study. Once that plan shakes out, we can balance that against some scenarios on a dues increase. But we need to do this sooner rather than later."

(See "SLLA Dues," p. 27)

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SLLA Treasurer presents Reserves Policy

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] needs an emergency fund, Treasurer Conrad Meyer told his fellow Directors during the their Monday, July 9 Work Session, as well as a written policy that describes the Association's reserve funds, how they are funded, and how they can be used.

He presented a Reserves Policy drafted by Finance Committee member George Temple, and the Board agreed to take it to the July 25 open meeting for a vote. [Neither the members in attendance or the press were provided with a copy of the proposed policy.]

Meyer explained that the Association currently maintains two reserve funds: a restricted reserve that may be used only for road maintenance and state-mandated repairs to the dams, and an unrestricted reserve which is used for other capital maintenance projects and for emergencies.

"We don't have a credit

card of any significance," Meyer said, "Nor do we have a line of credit set up. There's no reason to do that, at the moment, because we have \$1 million in reserves."

Though the Association has significant reserves now, Meyer continued, the Board has voted to spend more than \$500,000 on road repaving. And the capital maintenance items identified in the Reserve study far exceed the remainder of the reserves.

"In the Finance Committee, the discussion was: Is it appropriate for us to spend all of our reserves down to zero. We ought to keep some amount in reserves for unforeseen things that might happen — to at least buy us time to go out and secure a loan."

In order to address that concern, the proposed Reserves Policy includes the creation of an emergency reserve fund equal to three months of operating expenses, or roughly one-quarter of the annual expense budget. Meyer said that would amount to \$275,000 to \$300,000.

"In essence, we are setting

up a rainy day fund," Meyer said. "I am concerned that, if we continue on capital projects we could readily spend our reserves down to zero, which we don't think is a good idea." He added that having enough cash on hand to cover three months worth of expenses also helps with cash flow management.

A final element of the recommended policy specifies that any interest earned on reserves will be recorded as ordinary operating income. Meyer said that would simplify accounting and will not diminish the reserve funds, because any excess income at the end of the year is rolled over into reserves.

Temple added that, previously, the Association has had no written reserves policy

that could be provided to new Board members, the management company, or the auditor. "We need to have this stuff written down," he said.

Meyer noted that, if the policy causes a problem in the future, the Board has the power to change it. He also said that reserves in the emergency fund could be invested to earn additional interest, "if we know we are setting it aside."

The Board voted unanimously to move the policy to the July 25 open meeting for a vote.

Road Repaving

President Darr announced that the Board had selected Riley Paving of Carthage to handle this year's phase of

the road repaving project. Work was expected to commence on Monday, July 16, he said, with the first two-and-one-half weeks devoted to tree root removal and patching. After that task is finished the repaving of targeted areas is expected to take another two weeks.

Darr said it will be necessary to reroute traffic — including implementing a temporary exit from Cardinal Drive to Seven Lakes Drive — during a portion of the work. Details will be supplied on the SLLA Website, posted in the mailhouses, and emailed to landowners.

The Board has hired George Temple to serve as on-site supervisor for the work, to ensure that contractor meets (See "SLLA Reserves," p. 27)

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Board gets input on Master Plan proposal

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Community input has been mixed on a Long Range Planning proposal to hire an outside consulting firm to manage a Vision and Master Planning Process, Director Don Friert reported during the Tuesday, July 10 Seven Lakes West Landowners Association work session.

The cost of hiring Clarion Associates to lead the community through a planning process is estimated to be \$40,000.

Of the seventeen responses received through email or on the website, Friert said, eight were in favor of the project, while six were opposed, and three took no position.

Those in favor of the Vision Plan say it is needed to move the community forward, but are concerned about obtaining sufficient participation from Association members.

During Tuesday's meeting, Dale Erikson said he is in full support of hiring an outside firm to create a Vision Plan for the community but is "uncomfortable" with the price.

"There is not a company today, there is not a community today that is successful, that does not have a vision," explained Erikson.

Others who supported the project argues that it should be handled internally to save the community some of the estimated \$40,000 cost of using an outside firm.

Westsider Jim Krisner agreed with the need for the Vision and Master Plan, but said the Board should explore having the work done internally rather than contracting with a consultant.

"Let me make my predic-

tions on what will happen," said Krisner. "They [Clarion Associates] will come up with some very lofty goals that

on Thursday, July 19, both at 7:00 pm in the West Side Park Community Center. A first Board vote on the matter

"This community has had decades of self medication, and now it's time to ask the doctor what drugs we should use."

— Westside Legal Director Jack Stevens

you will never be able to achieve, because you simply don't have the budget to do it."

Legal Director Jack Stevens said doing the work internally is not the best solution.

"This community has had decades of self medication, and now it's time to ask the doctor what drugs we should use," said Stevens. "To look at a budget in the future of \$7 million and spend \$40,000 — about one percent of the budget — in my personal opinion . . . I think it's a good deal."

Those opposed to the Vision and Master Plan have largely expressed a concern that the money could better be spent on road maintenance or other needs in the community.

Others have suggested that the plan may never be used — and suggested that Summer is not the time to ask for community feedback, given that many residents travel in the Summer.

"Hopefully, we will get further input and guidance from those attending the upcoming town hall meetings," said Friert.

The Board scheduled two Town Hall meetings on the proposed Vision and Master Planning Process: one on Wednesday, July 11 [See story on front page] and one

Security Cameras and Gate Repairs

Also during Tuesday's Work Session, the SLWLA Board approved a request by Safety and Security Director Jim McCarthy to replace the exit portion of the east gate and install two security cameras at a cost of \$2,800.

Due to the constant failure of the back gate mechanisms, McCarthy said, it makes more sense to replace the gate than repair it.

"We are getting down to the wire, where this is the last time we can do anything or fix anything on it," explained McCarthy.

Community Manager Jeanette Mendence said, in her six weeks working in the community, the gate has had to be repaired every week.

Repairs to the entrance side of the back gate will be factored into next year's budget, McCarthy said.

The Board also approved the installation of two cameras at the exit side of the front gate at a cost of \$1200. Two weeks ago a vehicle crashed into the gate, doing \$25 in damage. McCarthy said the cameras will pay for themselves, since the footage would be able to identify the

(See "Westside," p. 26)

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In memory of . . .

Martha Lee Martin Muse, 86, of West End, died Saturday, July 7 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst. Mrs. Muse was born in Person County, NC daughter of the late Howard Martin and Florence Epps Martin.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 10 at West End First Baptist Church. Burial followed at West End Cemetery.

She was an active member of the West End First Baptist Church, volunteered as a Sunday school teacher, member of the choir, and the Women's Missionary Union.

Mrs. Muse was preceded in death by her sister, Edith Martin; and three brothers, John Martin, Billy Howard Martin, and Norman Martin.

Survivors include her husband of fifty-six years, Robert Muse; daughter, Vickie Thomas of West End; sisters, Jean Talley of Chapel Hill; Juanita Brooks of Richmond, VA; Barbara Talley of Roxboro; brother, Gordon Martin of Mechanicsville, VA; sister-in-law, Mary Saunders of West End; two grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations can be made in memory of Lee Muse to the West End First Baptist Church or the Sandhills Children's Center.

Emmeline Madeline Body, 73, of Seven Lakes West died Wednesday July 4, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Body was born in Brooklyn, NY; she was the daughter of the late Henry John Zinnel and Madeline Richen Zinnel.

A Funeral Mass was held Monday, July 9, at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Pinehurst. The Rev. Gregory Anatuanya officiated.

A Rite of Committal was held at Pinelawn Memorial Park, Southern Pines.

Mrs. Body lived in the Seven Lakes West area for over 20 years. In her community she was a devoted

catholic and member of the local book club and mahjong group. She found joy when traveling with family and friends and shopping for that special gift for them.

She was a compassionate, loving, and beautiful person who cherished the time she spent with family; a woman with the most gentle heart that will be greatly missed.

Mrs. Body was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel D. Body, and two brothers, Raymond Fisher, and Sheldon Zinnel.

Survivors include her daughter, Madeline Robles of Phoenix, AZ; granddaughter, Megan Hopper of Phoenix, AZ; her brother, Charles Zinnel of Bellingham, WA; great aunt, Helen Hiegel of Ft. Meyers, FL; four step-grandchildren, many cousins, nieces and nephews, and her favorite companion, Miss Kitty.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Emmeline Body to The Gift of Hearing Foundation, 95 Old Boston Neck Road, Nar-

ragansett, RI 02882. 1-617-661-HEAR.

Kenneth M. Hugg, 96, of Pinehurst, died Wednesday, June 27, at his home.

A memorial service was held Sunday, July 8, at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Southern Pines. The Rev. Terry Dorsey officiated. The rite of committal was held at Pinelawn Memorial Park, Southern Pines.

Mr. Hugg was born in Burlington, IA, son of Fred L. and Hattie C. (Schmidt) Hugg. He was raised in Estherville, IA, and was awarded a bachelor of science and master's degree from the University of Iowa, where he was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity, the Varsity Club, and the Iowa Alumni Association.

He was married to Eleanor E. Fox. They lived for fifty-seven years in suburban Chicago, relocating to Pinehurst from Barrington, Ill., in April 2002.

Mr. Hugg spent his working career in the labor relations

field for several major U.S. companies, including the last thirty-three years with Bell and Howell, Lincolnwood, Ill.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Eleanor.

Survivors include his two daughters, Janet L. Landis, of Pinehurst, and Carolyn A.

James, of Seven Lakes; son, David R. Hugg, of Wauconda, Ill.; two brothers, Harry and Roger; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1517 Luther Way, Southern Pines, NC 28387.

Time to update your listing in the 7 Lakes EMS Phone Book!

The updating of EMS Telephone Directory has begun. Please email any additions, changes or deletions to emsbook69@gmail.com.

The deadline for changes is October 15.

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Storm-sparked fire destroys Northside home

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Intense storms during the first two weeks of July sparked several structural fires across Moore County including the total loss of a home in Seven Lakes North.

On Thursday, July 5, at approximately 6:00 pm, a bolt of lightning struck a pine tree towering over the Lee family home on Sandspur Lane. The crest of the tree's peak fell down on the roof and "ran the attic through," explained Chief Cal Loy of Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue.

Homeowners Chip and Jayne Lee, nor their adult children were home when the fire occurred; however, Jayne was the first to report the incident when she arrived home from work.

"I pulled up in my driveway and saw smoke coming out of the chimney. I thought, 'Why is there smoke when it is 100 degrees outside?'" Lee said. "I quickly realized it was smoke coming from the roof and then I saw the flames."

Lee said neighbors heard a large boom and a crash as the storm passed by a half-hour prior, recognizing it as a lightning strike, but did not realize the extent of the impact.

"The way our houses sit, they could not see the tree or the fire. When I pulled up it was about thirty minutes later and only in looking at the house straight on did I see the smoke," she said.

Immediately dialing 911, Lee said the emergency response was impressive and swift.

Thirty-three emergency workers including firefighters and EMS personnel from five area fire departments responded including Seven Lakes, West End, Eagle Springs, Eastwood, and Pinehurst.

"It was hot and we couldn't do more than ten or fifteen minutes of work, that is why it took so many responders," explained Chief Loy.

The fire was finally brought under control at approxi-

mately 7:45 pm. Primary damage was to the roof which caused collapsed ceilings throughout the interior spaces.

Lee said she is most thankful that no one was hurt.

"The fire department told us that once a fire is in a roof line, that it is very hard

to stop the spread of it. The adjuster said it more than likely be considered a total loss," she said.

Nearly every neighbor along Sandspur Lane, friends, members of West End Presbyterian Church, and coworkers from FirstHealth where Jayne is employed and West

Pine Middle, where Chip is a well-respected and popular social studies teacher, joined with the family the following day to help them salvage sentimental items from the home.

"We have so many people to thank. This has been one of those things that you don't think will happen to you," she said. "With help we have been able to recover a lot of our pictures and collected things that are not replaceable. It makes it easier to deal with when you still have your things to remember everything by."

"The community has been

so supportive and really rallied around us, more so than I could ever have thought," she said.

A local family friend and Realtor assisted them with finding a rental house in the community and Jayne said they will rebuild.

Donations for the family are being collected by FirstHealth of the Carolinas, contact 910-715-1350; and West Pine Middle School is accepting donations to purchase a Visa gift card, please contact Dr. Candace Turk at 910-673-1464.



A storm-sparked fire destroyed the Lee family home on Sandspur Lane in Seven Lakes North.



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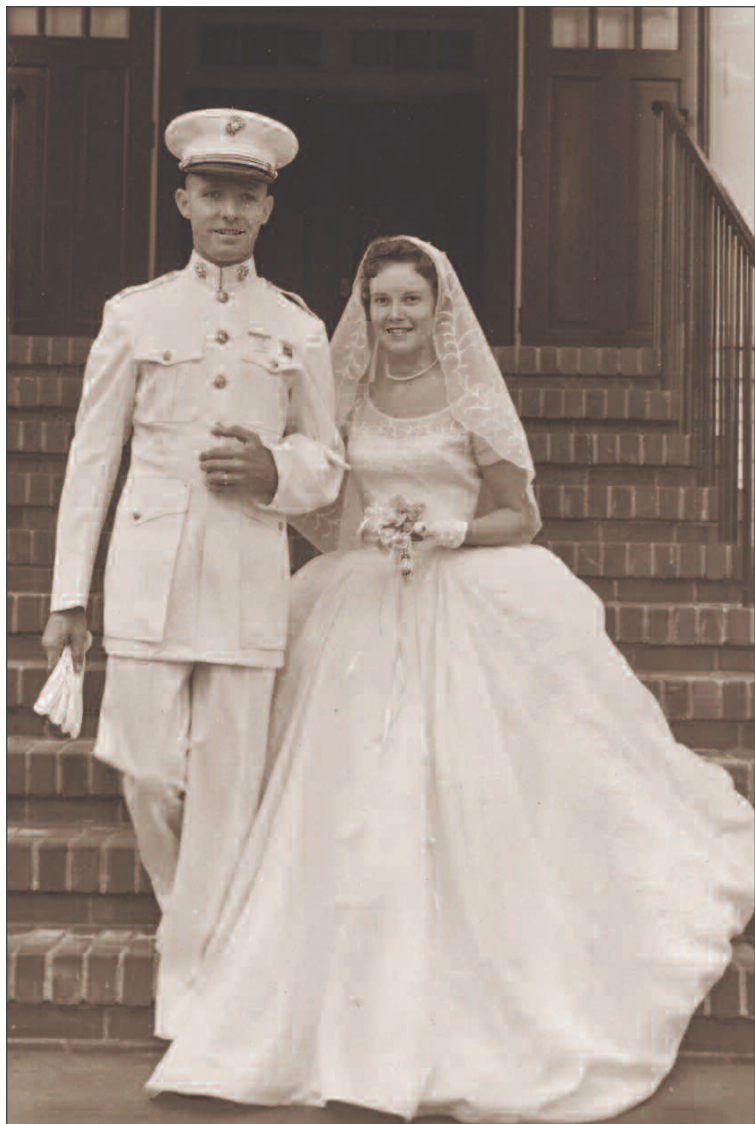
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Gene & Joanne Lentz celebrate their 50th



Gene & Joanne Lentz on their wedding day in 1962

Gene and Joanne Lentz celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 30.

They were married June 30, 1962 in Quantico, VA., where Marine 2nd Lt. Lentz had just completed Basic School.

Gene was employed by E.I. DuPont and AGFA Corporation for most of his career. Joanne was an Registered Nurse.

They have lived in Jacksonville, NC; East Brunswick, NJ; Wilmington, DE; Franklin, TN; and Bedford, TX. They retired to Seven Lakes West in 2001.

They were honored with a

family dinner, planned by their sons, Mark from Maryland and Ken from Texas, in Harrisburg, PA, their birthplace.

Their grandchildren are

Jon, Michael, Emily, Timothy and Connor.

They recently returned from a trip to the Canadian Rockies and Glacier National Park.

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The right way to use calcium supplements

Many of my patients, particularly women, report calcium supplementation to help prevent osteoporosis as recommended by their physician. Common supplements include: Caltrate, Citracal-Plus, Coral Calcium, and others.

In many cases these supplements fall short in helping the bones, and in fact often contribute to other problems. These patients frequently report symptoms of twitchy eyelids, intermittent visual disturbances like migrating visual sparkles or shapes, intermittent cramping in legs, and intermittent constipation.

When I look at the retinal blood vessels during a dilated eye examination I often see an increased light reflex off the arterioles, which represents increased calcification and atherosclerosis.

Excess calcium in the bloodstream deposits in the lining of the arterioles, making the lumen narrower and the vessel more rigid. This leads to poorer peripheral circulation and consequential cramping or twitching of muscles. If the "cramping" is in the retinal vasculature, then

intermittent visual "prodromal" or disturbances will appear. The calcium deposits in the arteries and on the valves of the heart can also increase the risk of heart attack or stroke.

Calcium should not be taken alone!

A study published in May 2012, tracking 24,000 Europeans, showed that those taking calcium-only supplements were about twice as likely to have a heart attack. People who supplement calcium should also take adequate amounts of magnesium and vitamin K2.

A relative magnesium deficiency will cause calcium to build up within cells throughout the body and also be deposited into the blood vessel walls, rather than the bones, thus reducing the energy-producing capabilities of cells and accelerating hardening of the arteries in their heart, brain, and eyes.

A proper calcium-magne-

sium balance is necessary to prevent these things from happening.

The magnesium also helps relax smooth muscle fibers (the opposite

ican's diets are sorely deficient in vitamin K as well.

Foods that contain calcium include dairy products, broccoli, turnip greens, and eggs. Foods that contain magnesium include nuts, legumes, whole grains, dark green vegetables, seafood, chocolate, and cocoa. Foods that contain vitamin K2 include yellow vegetables, and a little bit in chicken and beef.

The ideal supplement for osteoporosis would include calcium, magnesium, D3, and vitamin K. Some formulas also include zinc and other trace minerals that have been shown to be helpful. This formulation would be more effective than plain

calcium supplements at pushing calcium into the bones while simultaneously avoiding the problem of increasing hardening of the arteries and vasospasm.

More frequently than not, when my patients described above added adequate magnesium to their regiment their symptoms went away. But they would still need to add D3 and K to their regiment to maximize calcium absorption and push into the bones.

Dr. Barry Kavanaugh practices at Seven Lakes Eye Care. Contact him with questions or comment at 910-673-3937 or drbarry@sevenlakeseyecare.com.



Seeing Clearly

*Dr. Barry Kavanaugh, OD
FAAO, FCOVD*

of calcium's role to enable contraction) and prevent vasospasm and reduce constipation.

Vitamin K is also necessary to activate factors in the bone to grab and retain calcium. It also functions as a lock in the arteriole wall to keep calcium out. Vitamin D3 is required to be able to absorb calcium from the gut.

The average American consumes only forty percent of the recommended daily allowance of magnesium. The US Dept. of Agriculture admits that fifty-seven percent of the American public suffers from inadequate magnesium intake. Most Amer-

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Enjoy "A Taste of the States" at the Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities on Tuesday, August 14, 6-9 pm.

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Harvey aims to help kids love the outdoors

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

The whine of chainsaws and hammering of nails punctuated an otherwise quiet Summer evening at the West End Scout Lodge, as a dozen volunteers gathered recently for a workshop organized by Russell Harvey.

A candidate for Eagle Scout, Harvey is developing an outdoor classroom and upgrading a nature trail for use by the Sandhills Children's Center. Initiated last November, his service project is expected to be completed in September — just in time for the new school year.

"I love nature, and I wanted

to give the children a space to learn about and appreciate nature," he explained. "They [Sandhills Children's Center] have a noble cause, and I decided that I wanted to help them."

On Thursday, July 12, fellow members and leaders from Boy Scout Troop 98 assisted Harvey with building and staining six handmade redwood benches for the outdoor classroom space, using donated materials from Locust Lumber and Seven Lakes Hardware and logs contributed by the Blasko family of Seven Lakes West. Lowe's Home Improvement is also donating materials for the project.

Once finished, the benches will be installed in a circular arrangement in a cleared area nestled among pine trees, on county property adjacent to the school. The outdoor classroom will be sited along a nature trail that Harvey is also improving, which connects the school to Elizabeth High Rounds Park. His project includes installing identifying markers at the base of different tree species and adding an information kiosk that can be used for educational purposes.

Sandhills Children's Center is a private, non-profit day school that primarily serves Moore County families with special needs children, from birth to five years of age. Established forty years ago, the school's inclusive programs are recognized throughout North Carolina, and beyond, as a model program.

Harvey said he was par-

ticularly drawn to the Sandhills Children's Center program when he began planning for his Eagle Scout Service Project, which represents the culmination of a Boy Scout's leadership journey.

"I am big about the children and youth of today developing a love of the great outdoors," he said

An eleventh grade home-schooled student, Russell is the son of Henry and Jody Harvey of Seven Lakes West.



Eagle Scout candidate Russell Harvey

Candidate to speak at Save Our Sandhills

Ellen Marcus, candidate for the Moore County Board of Commissioners, will be the guest speaker at the Thursday, July 26 meeting of Save Our Sandhills at 7 pm.

The meeting will be held at the Southern Pines Civic Club, at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Ashe Street, Southern Pines.

Her topic is entitled: "Plan

before You Pave."

Save Our Sandhills had Commissioner Nick Picerno address his environmental views at its quarterly April meeting, and has now invited candidate Ellen Marcus to express her environmental views at this quarterly July meeting.

The public is invited and questions are welcomed. Refreshments served.

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Schneiders have a grandkid in Olympic pool

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A much in-demand inspirational speaker when she's not in the pool, twenty-year old Chloe Sutton is headed to London this Summer for her second shot at an Olympic gold medal.

The granddaughter of Ted and Sandy Schneider of Seven Lakes South, Sutton competed in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. She qualified for the 2012 Olympics, after setting a personal best time of just over four minutes in the 400-meter freestyle during qualifying trials held in June.

She is the first US Olympian to qualify in both open water and pool events.

"We will be watching on television, and won't miss a single minute of it," said Sandy. "Swimming is just her life and has been ever since she was seven years old."

A strong competitor, Sutton is a four-time national champion in open water swimming and has won five medals in major international events, including three gold, one silver, and one bronze. In 2006, Sutton won the 10K at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships — and won gold the following year at the Pan American Games. After competing in the 2008 Summer Olympics, she secured first place in the 800-meter freestyle at the 2009 National Championships.

Tragedy occurred in 2010, when Sutton lost her open-water swim teammate, Fran Crippen, who drowned during an international 10K series event held in Dubai. An eleven-time All American from the University of Virginia, the twenty-six year old swimmer was also a six-time U.S. National Champion. His death was devastating to Sutton on a personal level and also raised awareness and questions about safety concerns and lax international regulations over the sport.

"She changed to pool swimming because, frankly, it was safer," said Sandy. "She had always trained for both, but

decided, after the death of her fellow swimmer that open water was not well-regulated in international competitions."

Sutton earned her first medals for pool events in 2010, winning gold in the 400-meter freestyle and silver

at the 800-meter freestyle at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships.

"She's been traveling all around the country these last four years, giving seminars on swimming and offering inspirational speeches," explained Ted. "She talks

about how to do different strokes, but also about what it is like to be on the Olympic team. She really enjoys doing it and it has helped a lot of young swimmers."

However, Sutton's public speaking career is on hold for the next few weeks while she focuses exclusively on

training. The London Summer Olympics will be held July 27 through August 12, and the Women's 400-meter freestyle qualifying heat will be held on July 29, with the 400-meter freestyle finals scheduled for Wednesday, August 8.



Chloe Sutton competing in Dubai in 2010 (Photo courtesy Team USA)

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verse is Philippians 4:19 "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Each night children will learn about true peace, true riches, true power, true love and true hope and each night the church will collect a special offering for the Food Pantry at WEUMC. See you there and bring a friend or two!

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Mandy Martin joins FirstHealth 7 Lakes

Mandy Martin's first brush with health care as a career possibility occurred when she was in high school.

"I was enrolled in the Health Occupation Students of America classes, and that is when I knew that caring for others was the right path for me," she recalls. "As a high school student, I would volunteer at Richmond Memorial Hospital and the local nursing homes. The work gave me a sense of fulfillment and direction."

Martin, who is an adult nurse practitioner, joins Dan Matthews, P.A.-C, at the FirstHealth Family Care Center-Seven Lakes. The two will share responsibilities for patient care, with Martin focusing on patients who are 13 years of age and older.

Matthews, who has never had a full-time colleague at the Seven Lakes clinic, looks forward to the new group practice. His supervising physician is Bo Kopynec, M.D., of the FirstHealth Family Care Center-Ellerbe. Martin is supervised by Kimberly Lingler, M.D., of FirstHealth Richmond Family Medicine.

Both Matthews and Martin are members of the FirstHealth Physician Group, an organization of FirstHealth-employed providers. Dan Barnes, D.O., is Physician Group president.

"We are thrilled to have Mandy join us full time," Matthews says. "She is from the area and is committed to building a successful prac-

tice with an emphasis on women's health and senior care. She and I expect to complement each other in a collaborative family care practice that offers timely and high-quality care to all of our patients."

Martin will come to Seven Lakes from Richmond Family Medicine, where she has been a provider since March 2008. She was previously a full-

time registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at FirstHealth Richmond Memorial Hospital.

After earning her associate degree in nursing from Richmond Community College in 1999, Martin worked full time while pursuing her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, graduating in 2004. She graduated from the Adult and Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro in 2007.

A native and longtime resident of Rockingham, Martin now lives in Seven Lakes with her husband and two sons. Her primary interest outside work involves being a mom, "which keeps me very busy," she says, but she also enjoys a variety of outdoor activities including fishing, boating, running and trips to the beach.

Martin says she looks forward to joining the Seven

Lakes Family Care Center and working in the community in which she lives.

"I look forward to serving in the community and getting acquainted with the Seven Lakes area," she says. "I think it will be a good fit."

Mandy Martin, ANP, is accepting new patients at the FirstHealth Family Care Center-Seven Lakes, 1035-C Seven Lakes Drive, West End. To make an appointment with her, call (910) 673-0045.



Mandy Martin

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

of NC Highways 15-501 and 24/27. Initially developed as a strip shopping center, Carriage Oaks was purchased by Moore County in 2004 and renovated to accommodate administrative space for the Department of Social Services and Planning Department offices. However, commercial businesses have also remained at the site, including a Hardee's restaurant at the far opposite corner from the Veteran's Memorial.

At issue is an offer from Bojangle's — another fast food chain — to purchase a 1.3 acre tract adjacent to the memorial — and whether the Board of County Commissioners negotiated, or at least started to negotiate, a deal with that company behind closed doors.

It was the revelation of those closed door sessions that sparked veteran opposition to the proposed sale. But the Commissioners themselves remain divided about the importance of those private discussions.

Commissioner Tim Lea, who initially revealed that the closed sessions had taken place, cautioned the veterans in attendance at Tuesday's meeting that they must remain vigilant and hold the current and future boards accountable for what is done or not done at the memorial.

Chairman Larry Caddell assured the veterans the Memorial would be protected, but argued that no decision should be made about how to protect it until a major study of the County's space

needs is completed.

"This started over an inquiry [from Bojangle's], and that is all it is," Caddell said. "Until we get the space allocation study back, we don't know what they have in mind to do with that property . . . You don't want to pay for a study and then not see it," he argued, noting that he is also a veteran and, as long as he has a vote, that the memorial would not be moved.

Emphatically stating his position, Commissioner Nick Picerno said he would never do anything that would desecrate the memorial.

"What bothers me is all this has come about from an inquiry of what we might want to do with a piece of property. What we may or may not be interested in doing with the property," Picerno said. "We never made a deal or negotiated to sell the property to Bojangles."

In fact, the unsealed minutes of three closed sessions in which the Commissioners discussed the Bojangles offer, as well as a confidential memo prepared for the Board by County Manager Cary McSwain, reveal that the five Commissioners actively discussed the appropriate price for the 1.3 acres, whether the County might need the land for a future expansion of offices at Carriage Oaks, and whether the Veteran's Memorial might, at some point, need to be moved.

The minutes and memo also reveal that McSwain left the first closed session on the matter believing the Board had suggested responding to Bojangle's initial \$280,000

offer with a \$500,000 counter offer, and that McSwain later brought the Board a \$330,000 counter from Bojangle's. The Board took no action on that counter offer, and moved the matter into open session.

Veterans call for peace

This is not about Bojangle's, veteran Ronnie Comer said during public comment at the Tuesday, July 17 meeting, but rather concerns about where such an establishment would be placed. The Veteran's Memorial and its surrounding grounds are sacred, he told the Board.

"I don't want to be out there thinking about my father and hear from behind me, 'May I take your order?'" he said.

President Chuck Spelman of Moore County Chapter 966 of the Vietnam Veterans of America presented the Board with a resolution he that would prevent future commercial development in the area around the memorial.

Spelman presented a ten-minute video featuring historic, war photographs of U.S. servicemen interspersed with pictures of modern and appropriately-sited public

memorials — including the scenic facility at Carthage.

"This presentation is about what the memorial means to veterans," he said. "We are asking that you preserve the memorial's serenity and peaceful setting."

The video concluded with the crowd of veterans rising to sing along with Lee Greenwood's patriotic anthem, "Proud to be an American." They were immediately joined on their feet by the Commissioners, county staff, and other audience members.

Others recognized during public comment included Raymond Doby, who organized the drive to create the Moore County memorial, and Johnny Mims, a World War II veteran and survivor of the Bataan Death March.

But Bob Hunt, who said he was speaking on behalf of veteran family members unable to attend the meeting, suggested that Spelman's resolution was well-intentioned but flawed.

"The proposal does not address a large structure blocking the view of the memorial," he said, also noting the proposal lacked consideration of any potential needs for additional markers,

parking, a staging area for events, or restroom facilities.

Hunt also suggested the proposal should include land set aside to protect a cleared viewing area between the memorial and highway, and a picnic and shelter area for use by visitors.

Assurances but no action

The feel-good unity prompted by Spelman's patriotic video and the communal singing of Lee Greenwood's song was short-lived.

Chairman Larry Caddell moved to table any action on the Memorial until the space allocation study was returned, and Commissioner Lea quickly called that nothing more than an excuse.

"This is not a land use study question or issue," Lea said. "What you see is politicians sidestepping the issue. We are using the excuse of a land use study when we, as a Board, have the option to protect that memorial tonight! And we have the authority to also protect what is built next to it."

He argued that discussion in closed session had included a written offer from Bojangles, and the Board could

(See "Commissioners," p. 15)

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 14)

have simply called themselves into open session and approved the sale in May.

"All we had to do was walk out here and vote, and it would have been sold, without us waiting on a land use study," Lea argued.

His terse rebuttal agitated the veterans present, though Caddell settled the room by reiterating his desire to protect the memorial.

A motion to table action was approved on a 3-2 split vote, with Lea and Picerno opposed.

Moore County Schools Facilities Plan Phase 1-B

A favorable bidding environment and sound construction management were key elements in saving \$11 million during implementation of Phase 1 of the Moore County Schools Facilities Plan, reported Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence.

Now nearly complete, Phase 1 projects — paid for with voter-approved bond funds — included a \$54 million budget to build two new schools; complete renovation and additions at four more schools; add several new high school classrooms; improve athletic facilities at all county high schools and middle schools; and implement water and sewer projects. In addition, smart boards and other IT infrastructure were purchased, an elementary school auditorium was renovated, and a new HVAC system was installed, paid for through an additional \$800,000 in cost savings due to sales tax partnership with Moore County.

As requested and approved unanimously by the Board of County Commissioners, the \$11 Million in savings from Phase 1 — plus an additional \$100,000 culled from lottery proceeds, to be used as a contingency fund — will allow for several new capital projects.

Specifically, Phase 1-B includes modernization and construction of auxiliary gyms at each of the three county high schools at a total estimated budget of \$11,082,494.

Drexel property proceeds donated to Senior Center

In 1999, Moore County purchased two acres of land from David Drexel, with the seller donating an additional two acres, for the purpose of building a Senior Enrichment Center; however, the property was never developed. Instead the center was established in a renovated commercial building.

A formal request to reserve any proceeds from the sale of the original property to the Senior Center was tabled during the June 19 Commissioners meeting, to allow time to gather information.

Commissioner Nick Picerno said he had studied the proposal, and approved of it, but recommended a slight change in wording. Picerno suggested that any proceeds from the sale would be "donated to" in favor of a broader proposal that those same monies would be used "to further the purpose of" the center. He argued that the change would place more accountability on elected officials.

"I am trying to make sure, when the money is spent, that there is someone on the hook with their name on the ballot," he explained.

County Attorney Misty Leland responded that, since the facility is owned by Moore County, it does not have a separate legal power — thus, the proposed wording would have no impact either way.

Commissioner Lea also

rejected the change, arguing it would put the funding back in the political arena unnecessarily.

"It should be left the way it is," Lea said. "Money that goes to the Senior Enrichment Center is intended for administration by the center . . . If they had the money now, they are renovating downstairs to make it more functional. There is also an issue with parking."

In response to Lea's question, Terri Prots, the Moore County Director of Aging, said any decision-making about spending would be included in their annual budget request, which comes before the County Commissioners for approval.

Picerno agreed; and, with unanimous Board support, any proceeds from the sale of the Drexel property will be donated to the center.

Bond Refunding

The County Commissioners unanimously approved a request to issue general obligation refunding bonds toward the county's 2003 Public Improvement Bond, which is set to mature from 2014-2017, and to redeem from any other available county funds the Public Improvement bonds anticipated to mature between 2018-2021.

As presented, the general obligation refunding request will reduce interest on \$1.9 Million in outstanding loans

(See "Commissioners," p. 16)

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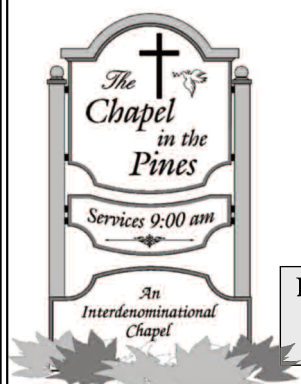


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Commissioners

(Continued from page 15)

to 1.44%, resulting in a combined estimated savings of \$775,000.

During discussion, the Commissioners considered and ultimately dismissed a slightly higher interest bid that allowed for greater flexibility in prepayment; however, the opportunity to save an additional \$5,000 proved more attractive.

"I would like to see the Board accumulate cash through conservative spending," Picerno said. "There is not a lot of savings with this debt to pay it off . . . I would rather pay off other bonds — school, public safety — that have higher interest rates."

Tax Settlement reports

Moore County continues to maintain an exemplary 99% tax collection rate, reported Wayne Vest.

At a total property valuation of more than \$16.5 billion, which includes real property, personal property, and motor vehicles, only \$564,974 remains uncollected from the 2011 tax year.

"99% is an absolutely awesome collection percentage," said County Manager Cary McSwain, expressing strong appreciation for dedication of Vest and his staff.

In particular, retiring Deputy Tax Administrator, Esther Cummings, was singled out for her leadership and professionalism.

Vest also reported that \$381,404 remained in delinquent taxes from the prior year, adding that the Moore County Tax Department would continue to diligently working to resolve those accounts.

A new billing and collection system is in place, he said, with 2012-2013 tax bills anticipated to be mailed in late July.

Information Technology

The Commissioners amended a 2009 information technology contract to replace the business object module with the Tyler Reporting Service module. Described as a shift in development and sup-

port from the original contract, the change will involve no additional cost to the County, IT Director Darlene Yudell said.

Commissioner Caddell raised concern about the use of a proprietary program, but Yudell responded the module was likely a temporary solution and said it would serve as a layer over existing database tools.

"It will provide assistance with reports and ensure our reports will run properly even as the system and database change," she explained. "I think we will be at a point in the next two years where we will be able to drop this module."

The Board also approved an information technology request of \$159,000 to purchase server hardware infrastructure related to the Virtual Computing project.

"We are ready to proceed with this purchase," Yudell said. The server order is very time sensitive and a critical part of the project," she explained, noting the overall virtualization project timeline includes equipment ordering, delivery, installation and configuration work.

"We anticipate ordering in July, we would see a rollout in January," she added.

Commissioner Picerno requested that the information technology fund balance be used for the server purchase, rather than pulling money from capital reserves.

Commissioner Lea complimented Yudell and her team: "You are doing an excellent job with very minimal resources."

Other business

In other business on Tuesday, July 17, the Board of Commissioners:

- Heard from Commissioner Craig Kennedy that West Moore Fire Department reduced their fire rating from 9 to 7 after successfully completed a comprehensive audit and inspection process.
- Approved a \$3,000 change order to Terry's Plumbing for sanitary sewer improvements at ATEX Technolo-

gies project, as requested by Public Works Director Randy Gould.

- Approved a request by County Attorney Misty Leland for temporary legal services not to exceed \$46,231 during Leland's upcoming absence.
- Revised a resolution increasing the request to \$75,000 for the Camp East-er Road / Crystal Dam

Repair project.

Appointments

The following appointments were approved:

- Peter Koch as an alternate ETJ member of the Aberdeen Planning Board
- Andi Korte and Linda Pearson both reappointed to serve on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
- Joan Oswald to the Nursing

and Adult Care Home Advisory Committee

- Dr. John Stacy to fill the unexpired term of Diane Williams on the Sandhills Regional Library Board of Trustees
- Commissioners Larry Caddell and Nick Picerno to serve as Voting Delegate and alternate for the NCACC Annual Conference.

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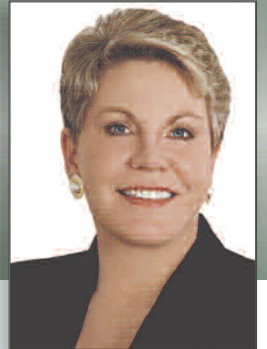


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- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30, \$10 (all inclusive). Spaghetti w/meat sauce, salad, rolls & dessert. Food, games & socializing, 673-1100.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World* – 7:30 pm. Tickets \$7. As an asteroid nears Earth, a man finds himself alone after his wife leaves in a panic. He decides to take a road trip to reunite with his high school sweetheart. Accompanying him is a neighbor who inadvertently puts a wrench in his plan. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, JULY 21

- **Turtle Tracking** – 8 am, Join Dr. John Roe from UNC Pembroke for an off-trail turtle-tracking adventure. Learn about his research studying the movement of box turtles in response to prescribed burning in the Sandhills. You'll get to see the equipment used to monitor them, and see what a day in the life is like for the North Carolina state reptile. Be prepared with long pants, closed-toed shoes, bug spray, and water for this 1.5 hour program. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.
- **Farmers Market at Sandhills Winery** – 9 am - 12 pm, local produce and handcrafts. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

SUNDAY, JULY 22

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World* – 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm. Tickets \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Weird and Wild** – 3 pm, Have you ever heard of a zombie virus that takes

over a caterpillar's body and turns it into goo? How about an insect that lays eggs and then continuously cleans them to prevent them from being destroyed by a fungus? Come to this program and discover some of nature's strangest secrets. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.

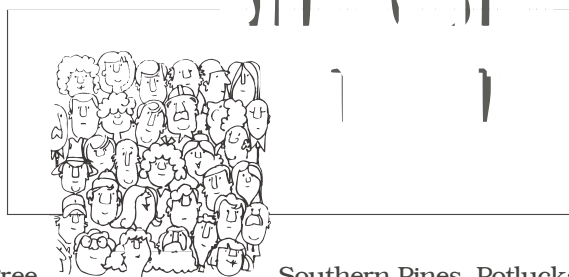
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. *Music guests Ryan Cavanaugh and No Man's Land*. Buy your tickets online. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, JULY 23

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Seven Lakes Business Guild** – meeting 5:30 pm, at Sandhills Winery. Greg Hankins, publisher of the *Seven Lakes Times* will present part two on advertising. His topic: "How to advertise." Call Cheryl Dar-

well at 910-673-7245 and let her know you will be attending.

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meeting at 7pm, Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd.,



Southern Pines. Potluck:

The society will gather this month to share food and natural history favorites. Bring a dish or snack to contribute while everyone looks through a collection of nature photography taken by members throughout the past year. Visitors are welcome. Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit www.sandhillssnature.org

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World* – 7:30 pm. Tickets \$7. As an asteroid nears Earth, a man finds himself alone after his wife leaves in a panic. He decides to take a road trip to reunite with his high school sweetheart. Accompanying him is a neighbor who inadvertently puts a wrench in his plan. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, JULY 24

- **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. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

- **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, West End United Methodist Church. Bible Study designed for the reverts; who went to the church when they were young and strayed away or were not active in the church, then came back later to know God and seek the purpose of life. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead this session. Meet in

the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Caddyshack* (1980) at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$5. The smash success *Caddyshack* became a prototype for countless other wacky T&A-tinged teen comedies of the early 1980s. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, JULY 26

- **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.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

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- **Save Our Sandhills** – meeting, 7 pm, hosting Ellen Marcus, candidate for the Moore County Board of Commissioners. Held at the Southern Pines Civic Club, at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Ashe Street, Southern Pines. Her topic is entitled: "Plan before You Pave." Public is invited, questions are welcomed. Refreshments served.

FRIDAY, JULY 27

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30 pm. \$10 (all inclusive). Pepper Steak, mashed potatoes w/gravy, veggie dessert. Food, games & socializing. Call 673-1100.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

- **Farmers Market at Sandhills Winery** – 9 am - 12 pm, local produce and handcrafts. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

SUNDAY, JULY 29

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Tarheels and Turpentine** – 3 pm, In 1880 North Carolina was producing one third of the world's supply of turpentine. Join the ranger for a closer look at the history of this industry, the products produced from pine resin and the origin of our state's nickname, the Tarheel State. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.
- **West End United Methodist Vacation Bible School** – 6 pm – 8:15 pm each night. (VBS will go through Thursday, August 2). Vacation Bible School is for children age 3 years through 5th grade. Enjoy Bible Stories, Music, Crafts, Drama, Snacks and Recreation as the group learns about Sonrise Nation Park. Each night children will learn about true peace, true riches, true power, true love and true hope and each night the church will collect a special offering for the Food Pantry at

WEUMC. See you there and bring a friend!

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

MONDAY, JULY 30

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Moore County Land Use Plan Steering Committee** – 6 pm, Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.

TUESDAY, JULY 31

- **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. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

- **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, West End United Methodist Church. Bible Study designed for the reverts; who went to the church when they were young and strayed away or were not active in the church, then came back later to know God and seek the purpose of life. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead this session. Meet in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

- **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 devo-

tion and a meal for \$5.

- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **57th Annual Robbins Farmers Day** – 6:30 pm – 9 pm, Festival Begins with a Run/Walk 5K Race. Race starts at 7 pm. This will be a night of great music showcasing Bluegrass and Gospel night. The group Solid Foundation will be at the Railroad Stage. *Free entertainment.* robbinsfarmersday.com

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

- **Casual Friday at SLCC** – 5-9 pm, Buffet 5-6:30 pm. \$10 (all inclusive). Chicken & Spinach alfredo pasta, salad & dessert. Food, games & socializing. Call 673-1100.
- **57th Annual Robbins Farmers Day** – 6 pm – midnight. At the Railroad Stage, the evening begins with the bluegrass group Blue Horizon from Candor; 9 pm to midnight McKenzies Mill from Nashville, TN. On Middleton Street Stage, 7:30 pm - 10:15 pm, join the Quick Silver Cloggers and the Southern Express Cloggers. The Fidelity Bank

Stage will host the Ingrams from 8 pm to midnight and on the Post Office Stage at 8 pm, Eastwood Hawk will be playing. 10:15 pm there will be Fireworks for everyone to enjoy. *Free entertainment.* robbinsfarmersday.com

- **Johnson Point Concert Series** – 7 pm, "Fog Blue Band" will bring their smooth sounds to Johnson's Point on. These "four old guys" lay down the blues and R&B like no other. Free, please bring your own chairs, blankets, snacks and drinks. (*Event for SL West Side Residents*)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

- **57th Annual Robbins Farmers Day** – Carnival rides and Midway opens at 9 am to midnight. 11 am, The Farmers Day Parade with the traditional wagons and Wagon Master. A Parade of Tractors, Mule Coon Jump, Equipment Demos, and more. Music throughout the day: William Willard & The Van Haggard Band, The Sand Band, Tony Barnes, His Choice, Almost Perfect, Johnny and the Cadillacs, Down East Boys. *Free entertainment.* robbinsfarmersday.com for times for entertainment.

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Too many tomatoes!

The Times' resident gardening expert, Jim Caudill, has been dealing with some health issues lately, so he's not been very much present in these pages this gardening season.

While I can't lay claim to Jim's level of expertise, I do, in fact grow a bit of "veg," as the Brits, like to say. And, like most backyard gardeners, I inevitably, about this time in the Summer, face the quandry of what to do with too many tomatoes, after pawning them off on friends, relatives, and random passers-by.

I used to can them, using a sure-fire method gleaned years ago from the pages of *Organic Gardening*. But, we almost never used those canned tomatoes. Actually, I don't like canned tomatoes.

My brother Tom and I did manage to use quite a quantity of one of the by-products — canned tomato juice — whenever we journeyed to the infield of Charlotte Motor Speedway to camp out and enjoy a NASCAR race. That tomato juice was the key ingredient of a morning-after-too-many-gin-and-tonics remedy that involved fresh lime juice, black pepper, salt, Tabasco, horseradish — and beer.

But we don't go the races anymore since Dale died and the whole NASCAR thing was taken over by drivers who know more about Facebook than they do about white lightning.

So, now I can't use the canned tomatoes or the canned juice, and even the laying hens are protesting that they'll croak if they see one more tomato, and every one knows a hen croaking is a sign of death.

Or maybe that's "a hen crowing." When a hen croaks it's generally already feet skyward in the chicken tractor.

My elder daughter wrote a song that prominently fea-

tures this whole hen crowing thing, but people and chickens both wind up croaked in that tale, and it really is

a tune more suited to the lengthening shadows of an Autumn evening than the middle of a dissertation about too many tomatoes.

About those excess tomatoes . . .

I found a solution last Summer, talking with a nice nurse who happened to be taking my blood pressure during my annual physical.

Casting a wary eye at the somewhat tomato-juice stained and potentially about-to-disintegrate brown paper

bag I brought with me to the appointment, and perhaps tipped off by the fragrance of somewhat over-ripe German Johnsons, she said:

"We take Medicare, you know."

After I explained that the scarcity of hair on the top of my head and the attractive gray hue of my whiskers were owing to gravitas rather than advanced age, she replied:

"We take Blue Cross Blue Shield, you know."

Which led me to begin to

explain the problem with too many tomatoes that I have recounted here. But before I got to the part about Dale and the chickens, she said:

"Freeze 'em,"

And I said; "What?"

And she said "Freeze 'em."

"Wash 'em, dry 'em, put 'em in one of those vacuum sealer bags — whole — seal 'em, and toss 'em in the freezer."

And I did.

Big ones, little ones, red

(See "Tomatoes," p. 21)

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**Jules Michelle
Ballenger**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Jules is the daughter of Michael and Lynn Ballenger of Seven Lakes North. She is the granddaughter of Doris Ballenger of Holden Beach and Billie Brown of Southern Pines. She is employed by Pinehurst Resorts.

Jules will continue her education in January 2013.



**Drew Madison
Fillis**

Ottawa Hills High School
Toledo, Ohio

Drew is the daughter of Andy and Diane Larson Fillis of Toledo, OH, and the granddaughter of Ben and Betty Larson of Seven Lakes. Drew was an honor student, ranked #1 in Girl's 18s, Northwest OH (USTA), and received a tennis scholarship to attend Bowling Green University.



**Kathryn Marie
Ballenger**

Appalachian State University
Boone, NC

Kathryn is the daughter of Michael & Lynn Ballenger of Seven Lakes North, the granddaughter of Doris Ballenger of Holden Beach & Billie Brown of Southern Pines. She graduated magna cum laude with a BS degree in Communications disorders, and will pursue a Masters degree.

Tomatoes

(Continued from page 20)

ones, yellow ones, cherries, beefsteaks. I got out the vacuum sealer and sealed about four cups of whole tomatoes — skin still on — in each bag. And then I put them in the freezer.

This was pretty much the best idea I ever had in my entire life, even if I did not actually think of it myself.

Last Winter, we had fresh tomato sauce on pasta, fresh tomato jambalaya with andouille, fresh tomato vegetable soup, and fresh tomato minestrone (which is pretty much an Italian word for "vegetable soup").

And it was way, way, better than soup made with canned tomatoes. No comparison, Honest.

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Crock pot curry, perhaps?

There has been a mini-British invasion on my block with the arrival of our former neighbor, Georgia.

A most lovely English rose, she is spending a few weeks avoiding the London Olympics hoopla while enjoying a well-deserved vacation on this side of the pond, which is a very good thing for me.

You see, I am seriously in need of some world-class curry coaching. Specifically, hot Madras curry powder.

Her mother gave it to me before they left and — that's been quite awhile ago — ever since it has collected dust on my spice shelf. Actually, she left me a multitude of

culinary curiosities such as hot Hungarian paprika, garam masala, lemon grass, and a gourmet pantry's worth of make-your-own curry ingredients.

Sally knew I like it spicy, and that I love ethnic food. What she ignored was my complete and utter lack of knowledge of how to cook these things. Well, unless you count spaghetti as a true Italian delicacy and the perennially popular but oh-so-mild taco night at the Douglass house

as proper Mexican food.

Mama likes it hot, but my roommates have less adventurous tastes.

Now, I've been known to



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

make a mean chicken bog. I think the crock pot is one of man's greatest inventions and, over the years, I have become fairly adept with garlic and keep solid relations with both basil and rosemary.

But I lack a decent curry recipe. Heck, forget decent. I don't even have a lousy curry recipe.

With Georgia on my mind, I figure this is my best shot at curing my curry fever. Unfortunately, tracking down a teenager — no matter her country of origin — can be a tricky matter, especially before noon.

Forced to look elsewhere, I resort to my happy place: my laptop.

Quickly I settle on a promising hit. "Six secrets to perfect chicken curry" reads the headline. Perfect, I think, and settle in to soak up the wisdom of this website.

Secret #1 — It's not all about

the curry powder.

What? That can't be right. Curry powder is good. Curry powder is what I have: a whole bottle of hot Madras curry powder, to be precise.

My search does not improve as I discover Secret #3 — Add Tabasco and Worcester.

Tabasco sauce? I must have read that wrong, I want curry not Cajun.

Refusing to accept defeat so readily, I perk up on Secret #6 — Keep it simmering.

Finally something I know how to do! Simmer, stew, steep and stir. Watch out, Georgia, there's going to be a hot pot on my stove tonight.

Morality and politics

Question: I am becoming more and more cynical about politics. I have begun to believe that all politicians, in both parties, from the local to the national level, are immoral, unethical, and liars. Shouldn't our local and national leaders be held to a higher moral standard than the populace?

Response: I am hesitant to answer your question because I do not want to be seen as using my office as a

minister to try to influence the election of any particular person or party.

When we talk about morality, to what kind of behavior are we referring? Are we talking about lying, cheating, and sexual indiscretions? Or do we mean neglecting the poor, the sick, the children, the elderly, and other vulnerable members of our society? Are personal sins of commission more grievous than sins of omission?

We tend to judge sexual offenders more harshly than we do liars — and liars more harshly than those who misuse political power for personal financial gain. There are several Biblical examples of the misuse of power, and the one that stands out in my mind is the great king David. Was David's great sin the sin of lust that led to adultery? Or was it the sin of murder which he caused by ordering his general to put Bathsheba's husband on the front line and then withdraw support for him?

I am reading now the four volume biography of Lyndon Johnson by Robert Caro. Does the good that President Johnson did in passing a Civil Rights Bill and Medicare outweigh the immoral and unethical misuse of power he employed to get him into the highest political offices

in the land?

Did Richard Nixon's brilliant foreign policy that resulted in the opening of China outweigh his lying cover-up

perform, not on their personal behavior. Should we not then choose our political leaders on their ability to administer our government, make our laws, and protect all the citizens of our nation, rather than push the personal agendas of their constituents and lobbyists?

Why do we tolerate mediocrity in government? Why don't very qualified men and women run for office? They do not want their personal lives opened for scrutiny and the indiscriminate judgment of the public.

Let God judge what is a sin; we have too many sticks in our eyes to see clearly the sins of others.

Perhaps the first rule of politics should be the same as the first rule of medicine: "Thou shalt do no harm."

Don Welch, the minister of the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines welcomes your questions and comments at: dwelch1@nc.rr.com. His sermons can be heard at: sevenlakeschapelinthe.pines.com



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

of Watergate? Does Thomas Jefferson's affair with his slave, Sally Henning, detract from his authorship of the Declaration of Independence and the Louisiana Purchase? Before making quick judgments, we should ponder these questions.

Didn't the Apostle Paul say that "there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God?"

If we do not elect sinners to office, whom can we elect? We choose our doctors, our plumbers, on their ability to

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Watching the dance on the back nine

It is interesting to me how many people will guard what they say or how they live when they find out that I am a pastor.

To be honest, I often chuckle a little bit about this, especially when I meet new people on the golf course. Let me just say, when you play a four-hour round of golf with someone, you find out a lot about that person.

Usually the question of profession doesn't come up until

the back nine, after everyone has missed a few shots and let a few choice words fly or displayed other reactions probably best left on the golf course.

When the "career question" does arise, I usually hesitate to tell people that I am a Baptist pastor because, so often, "the dance" begins.

You may not have had the privilege of watching "the dance," but I assure you, it is rather amusing to observe.

I promise that I am in no way judging them for their actions or their dance steps. Most often, they quickly tell me how they volunteer at their church or in the community.

S o m e - times, they apologize for their profanity. There have even been times that people have subsequently made monetary contributions to the church. (Maybe I should play more golf!)

Many people will completely change their countenance and not say another word, even though I am the same person that they played with on the front nine.

Perhaps, they think that I am going to tell God what they did and call down a curse on them, but let me assure you that I have neither

that desire nor the authority. I am just as faulted and fragile as anyone with whom I



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

will ever play golf.

I am not better than anyone or more righteous or in better standing with God because of my job or title.

In fact, Christ despised titles and labels. The whole reason Jesus came to earth was to save sinners, of whom Paul said "I am chief."

I feel the same way. I am not righteous because of anything I have done, or because of my education or job title. I was declared righteous because Jesus paid for my sins on the cross and I

accepted that gift. Nothing else.

So, if you should ever play golf with me and find out I am a Baptist pastor, I hope that you will not feel obligated to change who you are. I enjoy meeting flawed people because they are much easier for me to relate to. I have never met a perfect person and to be honest, I wouldn't know how to act.

My job is not to legislate righteousness, but to help flawed people, like myself, find peace with God, which can only be found through Jesus Christ.

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

Vacation Bible School at Chapel in the Pines

New this year . . . The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines will host a community Vacation Bible School, August 6-10 from 5:30-7:30 pm.

All school age children through fifth grade are invited to attend. The Seven Lakes Chapel will have a kid friendly dinner each night, then play exciting games, create awesome

crafts, and sing and dance. Most importantly, the children will learn how all things are possible with God's help (Mark 10:27).

Parents are welcome to drop their children off and go enjoy some free time, or they may stay and join in the fun. No pre-registration required. Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

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beautiful Village House community center, which includes just about everything from a small movie theater to a library. Learn about all of the living options we offer, from spacious apartments to unique cottage homes. You'll also have the chance to meet some residents, and tour one of our new apartments. To RSVP, call Julie Tampa today at (910) 692-0386.



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Another take on losing your faith at college

Dear Editor:

This past Sunday, I was presented with a copy of *The Seven Lakes Times* by several in the congregation to whom I am their pastor.

The article was "Lose your faith at college?"

Having been a Christian for more than thirty years, and having a deep interest in history, archeology and science, I have found that these three disciplines confirm the truths found in the Scriptures.

Evolution is a theory which

has only been around since 1859, when a man named Charles Darwin published his theory in a book called "On the Origin of Species." Since then, it has been given the pre-emptive status as a valid scientific fact when the evidence is very weak at best and mostly unfounded.

While I do not want to start a debate about creationism and evolution, I do want to address a specific comment in the article that stated that the stories in Genesis, Exodus, Judges, and the life and

teachings of Jesus should not be taught as historical and scientific facts.

If the life and teachings of Jesus are not historical and scientific facts, then the apostles lied to us, the Gospels are false, Paul is the biggest fake of them all, and we are all going to hell because there is nothing in Scripture to address the fact that God is angry with us.

Even further, if the Scripture isn't true, then how are we sure that God even exists or is even real?

Furthermore, what is the point of me standing up in front of my congregation every week, proclaiming the Gospel message, teaching the Biblical doctrines and telling those who hear me, that God is real, He does love us and He has sent His only, unique begotten Son, Jesus, who is the Messiah who was prophesied to come in the Old Testament Scripture and was proven to be that Savior we so desperately need by miracles, signs and wonders? Science has proven the

validity of the Scripture. See "Answers in Genesis" for further support of this. And archeology has also proven the truths of these stories, both in the Old Testament and New Testament. See the NIV Archeology Study Bible for further simple answers.

A person only loses their faith when they go to college if they are not grounded in the Biblical truths found in God's Holy Word.

Chuck Black, Pastor
Church of the Open Door

Backyard Bocce benefits Sandhills Children

Seven Lakes resident, Tim Copper, will be co-chairing the Backyard Bocce Bash

with Rob McVay on Saturday, August 18 at 8:30 am. A benefit for Sandhills Chil-

dren's Center,

At just \$25 per player, teams consist of four men and/or women who enjoy the outdoors and can throw a two pound, two ounce ball. This is the fifth year of the Backyard Bocce Bash, which has grown from twelve teams in 2008 to forty teams in 2011.

The Junior League of Moore County will be grilling up

some great hotdogs and selling them during the tournament, as well as providing some afternoon entertainment. Spectators are welcome.

Even if you have never played, you can become a champion in one tournament. Learn the game at the Friday, August 17, 6:00 pm, Pairings Party hosted by Weichert, Realtors® - Larose & Com-

pany at Sandhills Children's Center. It's easy! You can gain bragging rights as the Backyard Bocce Bash Champions in the backyard of the Fair Barn and keep the trophy until next year!

Organize a team, think of a clever team name and register at 910-692-3323 or online at www.BackyardBocce.org



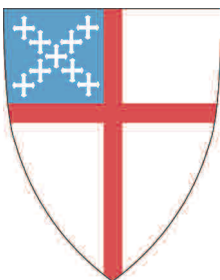
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Explore Children's Treasure Trail at SCC

by Skip Ragland
Seven Lakes West

It's fun! It's free! It's for Children and it's educational! If you're looking for a great outing for your kids this summer, don't miss out on the Nature's Treasure Trail Adventure at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens on Saturday, August 25.

Children will visit a Plant Education Station where they will be exposed to edible, ornamental, and aromatic texture plants to touch and smell.

They will see an exhibit of

wildlife rescue and rehab.

What's more fun than playing with worms? The children will get to learn all about starting a worm farm and caring for them.

There will be a planting station set up for children to learn how to plant. The kids will also receive their own plant to take home.

Solar pictures will be featured and children can create them using solar paper and sunshine.

The kids can have their pictures taken with the pea pod and in other areas of the Bea O'Rand Children's

Garden. Photos will be emailed to all who want one.

All this and much more! Bring the kids and have a wonderful time.

The Children's Treasure Trail Event lasts from 9:00 am until noon on Saturday, August 25 at the Children's Garden of the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens located at 3395 Airport Road in Pinehurst.

To make a reservation, call Tricia Mabe, Sandhills Community College, at (910) 695-3882.



The Children's Garden at Sandhills Community College

Pee Dee Electric warns of bill-paying scam

Pee Dee Electric is urging members to be aware of a utility bill-paying scam affecting customers in North Carolina and nationwide. The scam falsely claims households are eligible for utility bill credits through a new federal program. No such program exists.

According to the Better Business Bureau, scammers contact consumers door-to-door and through phone calls, fliers, social media and text messages and ask for

social security and bank routing numbers. Often, President Obama's name is mentioned. In return, consumers are given a phony bank routing number that will supposedly pay their utility bills. In reality, there is no money, and customers believe they have paid their bills when in fact they have not. Additionally, consumers put themselves at risk for identity theft when they give out personal information.

Members are reminded that

Pee Dee Electric does not contact members to obtain personal identifiable information and to beware of any-

one requesting this information. When in doubt of the identity of someone claiming to represent Pee Dee Electric

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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 6)

license plate of a vehicle damaging the gate.

The footage may also help address the repeated tailgating that is taking place at the front gate.

McCarthy said he is starting to utilize the "E-Blasts" to inform the community of ongoing security issues.

"To give the community some sense that we are not living in a perfect world in here," said McCarthy, "We do have things that go on, and we need to stop it before it gets worse."

Despite the Board's approval of four new security cameras, Westsider Erikson said, "I am not a believer in cameras . . . I have yet to hear any incident where we have used the cameras to actually do something with the data."

McCarthy withdrew a motion to install a thirty-five foot pole along with four security cameras at Johnson Point. The cost of the project would be as much as \$5,600. McCarthy said he would like to explore the possibility of using the existing radio tower for the cameras, before moving forward.

Treasurer's Report

Cash disbursements for the month of June were \$419,000, including a transfer of \$250,000 from checking to a money market account, reported Treasurer Don Freiert.

Normal operating expenses for the month totaled \$169,900. Non-recurring expenses included: \$15,000 to Kanoy Architecture for the mailhouse project, \$17,800 to Marks Enterprises for work at the pond dams on Longleaf, \$10,000 to Cagle Landscaping for work on the storage building, \$6,600 to Quality Fence for the storage yard gate, and \$25,600 for the CAS management fee.

Another CD will be called on July 27 from BNC National Bank for \$100,000, reported Freiert, who has authorized Merrill Lynch to reinvest the funds into another CD.

Manager's Report

Due to wear and tear, ten street signs have been painted and will be reinstalled, reported Community Manager Mendence. CAS will continue checking to see if other signs need repairs.

The gazebo at Johnson Point has been sprayed for spiders and a felled tree has been cut and removed from Callis Circle.

New shelves have been installed in the Community Center library, and the new gate at the boat storage area is working out really well, said Mendence. The area around the radio tower is currently being cleaned up.

Other Business

Other business conducted during the Board's Tuesday, July 10 meeting included:

- The Board is working on a process that will allow the community bulletin board at the front entrance to be updated during the weekend. This past weekend, no notice of Westsider Emmeline Madeline Body's memorial service could be posted on the sign, because no one had access to the letters for the bulletin board. Although two SLWLA Board members, Secretary Jane Sessler and President Mick Herdrich, tried to post the information, they were unsuccessful. Body's daughter Madeline Robles addressed the Board during Tuesday's

meeting, asking that they take action so that it would never happen to another family in the future. Former Safety and Security Director John Hoffmann said CAS needs to have someone available 24/7 to deal with such issues as these. "Until that happens . . . this will continue to occur," he said.

- Directors approved the second reading of changes to the ARC standard on antennas and satellite dishes, as requested by ARC Director Dan Blue. The third and final reading will take place at the Board's Tuesday, July 24 meeting.
- The September First Friday concert at Johnson Point will be held on September 7 at 7:00 pm featuring Loaded Dice and will benefit the Moore County Special Olympics. On Saturday, September 15, the Events Committee will host Margarita Night from 7:00 pm

to 9:00 pm at the Community Center. Appetizers and Margaritas will be served. There will also be a limbo contest, ugliest shirt contest and the band Paris will perform. The event will benefit Blaise McNair. Ticket information for the event will be announced at a later date. A Hand Gun Safety Class will be held on August 14 at 6:30pm at the WSPCC.

- The Amenities Committee is in the process of gathering estimates for the painting of the library and downstairs meeting room of the Community Center. The committee is also exploring purchasing a refrigerator for the downstairs meeting room. The elimination of the charge for nanny passes at the pool has been met with positive response said Mendence.

• Jim Pierman and Rosemary Weber were absent.

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SLLA Reserves

(Continued from page 5)

the specifications laid out by S&ME, the engineering firm that planned the repairs.

Enforcing boating rules

Both Darr and Fentzlaff brought to the meeting alternative version of a rules amendment that would make clear not only that landowners boats must bear SLLA stickers, but that unstickered boats belonging to guests must not be put on SLLA lakes. [Neither draft was shared with the press or members in attendance.]

Darr advocated requiring guest boats to be parked near the gatehouse, with some exceptions.

But the discussion quickly turned to a general expression of frustration that rules — and lake rules in particular — are not being enforced. Darr said the current Budd Group lake patrol officer has no instructions on how to

deal with violators.

Darr advocated a system in which violators would be stopped, and handed a citation with the fine clearly marked on it. But Racine cautioned that North Carolina law will permit fines only after a case has been reviewed by the Judicial Committee.

Every member of the Board expressed frustration at the lack of enforcement, and Darr ultimately referred the matter to the Security and Judicial Committees — although Security Director Steve Ritter was absent.

Returning to the proposed rules revision that started the conversation, the Board agreed that Fentzlaff would make some modification to his draft and submit it for approval during the open meeting.

Davenport Contract

Director Racine said he had reviewed the contract with Davenport Landscaping and felt the Board would be able to terminate that contract after December 31, though some penalties may be involved. He noted that

CAS, Inc., the company that will be taking over management of the Association on September 1, has in-house counsel who should be able to help the Board interpret the contract language.

"So we could quote other landscaping companies at the end of the year," Director Meyer said. "That doesn't mean we will make a change, but we could look at it."

Other business

In other business during the Board's Monday, July 9 work session:

- Darr said he hoped a pool pump motor that had burned out could be repaired and back in operation by Friday, July 13.
- Director Dave Buckingham said the new website had been up three weeks and had attracted 2,351 visits and 8,749 page views. However, only 63 members have logged in and created a profile. He encouraged members to set up a login name, because "there is going to be a lot of information that you will be able to get by logging in."

SLLA Dues

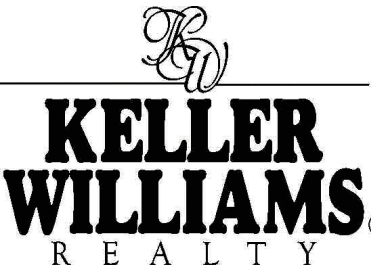


(Continued from page 4)

"It bothers me if we voted a \$100 per lot increase for roads, that we restricted that to homes and did not include vacant lots," Director Bob Racine said. "I think one of the first steps we should do is plug that loophole, so that folks who have lots not built on should be paying their fair share of capital improvements."

"I think you are right on target," Meyer replied, "and I think that is likely to be the conclusion as we go down that path."

President Darr asked Meyer to make his presentation at the July 25 open meeting.

"This dues increase thing needs to be talked about on a continual basis," Darr said, "because it seems to me we are going to be putting before the community a dues increase — and I think the more information the community gets as we go along the better off the community is going to be. They can vote with more knowledge."


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Town hall

(Continued from front page)

Freiert emphasized the changing demographics of the West Side — along with aging infrastructure — as two factors that support the creation of a community Vision and Master Plan.

"Seven Lakes was established with a vision," said Freiert. "Today we lack that clarity."

Having a plan in place, he said, will give Board members a guideline in making decisions.

Kirst: Plan could keep Board focused

Westsider (and former SLWLA Treasurer) Kathy Kirst agreed with Freiert, saying Board members change every year — and so do the projects they champion.

"If we don't have a plan, we are at the mercy of a Board every single year," said Kirst. "We need your opinion, and we need everybody else's opinion, because that is what we need for a master plan . . . and if the Board doesn't agree with it — tough."

Freiert said much of the feedback received so far expressed concern with the cost of the project; many have asked that the Vision and Master Planning process be handled in-house.

He explained that, over the next fifteen years, the community will spend \$7 million on capital items — that is, to build and maintain community infrastructure. The \$40,000 cost of hiring a con-

sultant to facilitate a planning process will cost each voting lot \$23.50, he noted.

"The [Long Range Planning] committee thinks that it's a wise investment to make sure we are going in the right direction," said Freiert.

In-house attempts to gather community input have not always been successful, he added. A community survey sent out last year to 1,900 members garnered responses from only 200.

"We did not have a broad-based response with that survey," said Freiert, arguing that Clarion Associates will work to obtain higher levels of input from the community.

For example, Clarion's process will create a steering committee made up of twelve to fifteen individuals from various community organizations.

A Vision and Master Plan will allow the Board to ensure that annual budgeting priorities are in sync with the long range planning goals of the community, Freiert said.

Currently, projects are budgeted annually, and some money is set aside in a reserve fund. But a Master Plan will allow projects to be budgeted in advance.

"We have got to get those tied together much stronger in order to manage the finances of this organization," said Freiert.

"Remember: we are the developer. We are the community."

Pros & Cons from Members

Westsider Fred Young agreed with the need for a Vision Plan.

"I am impressed with what you have done," said Young. "And think it should have been done long ago." Young explained that, with two new housing developments planned for areas west of Pinehurst on NC Highway 211, Seven Lakes West will have to set itself apart.

But Young urged the Board to extend the planning process beyond the gates of Seven Lakes West.

"We have to make the investments," said Young. "It is imperative that we work together as a greater Seven Lakes community . . . We must work together or we will fail together."

Young's comments were met with applause by those in attendance, but not everyone in the audience thought the Vision and Master Plan was a good idea.

Bruce Macdonald said he would need to see a cost-benefit ratio before agreeing to spend \$40,000.

"What we need on the Board is a garden club mentality that says you have to make this place pretty, otherwise nobody's going to want to invest any money and build in here," said Macdonald. "Not only that — if you

have that kind of mentality, you will make it attractive to the people who already live in here, by saying you are actually supporting maintaining our property values."

Freiert agreed that making things look nice in the community is necessary, but emphasized that some less-aesthetically-oriented projects have to be done — like replacing culverts before spending money on repaving the roads.

"Bruce has the right idea as far as the beauty of the community is concerned," said Westsider George Jenner.

Former SLWLA Board member Ron Sickenberger said, "I think you are on the right track in trying to go slowly on this, but I think you have to be very careful."

Sickenberger said utilizing the Long Range Planning Committee to create a Vision and Master Plan would be the best approach to avoid "an excessive kind of con-

sultant fee."

Freiert said that fact that Seven Lakes West is comprised of thirteen different subdivisions, each with its own by-laws, covenants, ARC guidelines, and rules tends to "be a problem" for Seven Lakes West.

One of the objectives of Clarion Associates will be to study this collection of documents and streamline it as best they can, he said.

The Long Range Planning Committee will hold a second Town Hall meeting for community feedback on Thursday, July 19 at 7:00 pm in the West Side Park Community Center.

The Board is expected to hold its first vote on the proposal during the Tuesday, July 24 work session, with a final vote possible on Tuesday, August 14. Members may also comment on the proposal during those meetings, as well as through email and the SLWLA website.



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SLLA manager

(Continued from front page)

"The cost differential was not the deciding factor," he said. "As we got into it, we felt that CAS' approach and systems — particularly when it comes to financial management — was more in line with what we need."

Darr said he had spoken with several communities managed by CAS, though Seven Lakes West was not among those he contacted.

Another advantage offered by the company, Darr said during the work session, is that "they are here, right here in Pinehurst," enhancing "our ability to access them, their

systems, and their personnel."

As a local company, CAS is familiar with local contractors, he said, which the Board felt would be an advantage as the community addresses the many needs identified in the Reserve Study. Darr told *The Times* that he felt using a local company for the landscaping contract, rather than Apex-based Davenport Landscaping, would have saved the Association money.

"We hope this transition goes well," he said, "and, under the ethical guidelines in the industry, the compa-

nies are pledged to cooperate with each other."

"Overall, we felt that the CAS program fit us better," Darr said. "We're excited about it."

Darr told *The Times* that CAS will identify three qualified candidates for SLLA Community Manager, and the Board will make the final selection. A similar process will be used for the assistant manager.

The office currently includes a manager; assistant manager; and three part-timers, who represent about one-and-one-half fulltime equivalents, Darr said. He indicated that there were no immediate plans to increase

or decrease that complement.

Two other management companies that provided proposals indicated that they would impose a fee for transitioning financial and membership data to their systems, he said. CAS does not.

Darr said it should be possible to transfer the financial and membership information from Talis to CAS electronically. But, even if data must be rekeyed, no separate fee is attached to the transition.

Foxfire

(Continued from page 3)

soon, reported Councilman McCue.

On Saturday, August 11, Foxfire Village will host a Memorial Fishing Tournament in honor of the late Rick Rhyne. Co-sponsored by the Foxfire Police Department, alongside the Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills, Kiwanis Club of the Sandhills, and the Parks and Recreation Departments of Aberdeen and Southern Pines, the day's activities will begin at the Village Green Park with a tribute to Deputy Rhyne.

The fishing tournament is open to any and all children, and other activities include the NC Wildlife Sensory Safari Trailer & Mobile Aquarium, featuring live fish native to this area; a local fire truck and the Foxfire Police Humvee vehicle; and a smoke trailer to demonstrate fire safety.

Come out and enjoy a pic-

nic lunch. Talbert Catering will be on-site with food available for purchase. The fishing tournament and other events are free for children ages three to sixteen years, with bait for fishing — and children's lunch is provided.

You may pre-register for the tournament — and be eligible to win a \$50 Savings Bond — by calling the Boys & Girls Club at 910-692-0777. Deadline for pre-registration is July 30.

Mayor Erickson also announced that the new Moore County Public Safety Building will be named in honor of Rhyne.

Long Range Planning

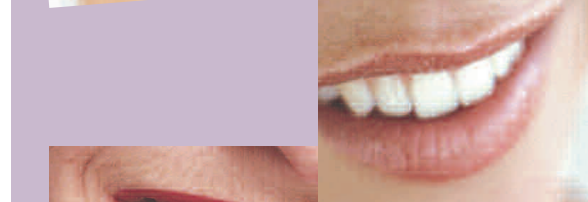
Detailed plans related to future water needs are a primary point of discussion for the Long Range Planning Committee, reported McCue.

He anticipated having a rudimentary plan available for discussion by the Council within the next few months.

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Thank you from the cats and dogs we rescue, our volunteers, and the board of directors of Sandhills Animal Rescue League.

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