

A 'Shop Local' Holiday



Want to 'Shop Local' this Holiday Season? Reporter Ellen Marcus sets out to prove it can be done — in Seven Lakes! Read about her adventure on page 8.

Picerno elected Chairman

By Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Commissioner Jimmy Melton was initially nominated to serve as Chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners; but, in the end it was Commissioner Nick Picerno who was unanimously appointed to the post, during the Board's Monday, December 3 meeting.

Melton declined the nomination, citing "heavy business commitments," and then placed Picerno's name in nomination. This will Picerno's third time in the Chairman's seat.

Commissioner Craig Kennedy was unanimously elected Vice Chairman. Both appointments are for one year.

Picerno thanked former Chairman Larry Caddell and former Vice Chair Melton for



Nick Picerno

their leadership during this past year.

Picerno won his second term representing District II on Election Day, which also saw Randy Saunders elected to fill the District IV post held by Tim Lea for eight years. Both were sworn in during Monday night's meeting. The Oath of Office was administered by Clerk to the Board Laura Williams and

was followed by a reception.

Saunders has served as a member of the Whispering Pines Village Council for the past seven years.

Detention Center needs Roof Replacement

Problems with the installation of standing seam metal roofs on both the new detention center and public safety center will delay final completion of the projects by an additional four months — though Assistant County Manager Ken Larking told *The Times* the repairs will not prevent the County from moving in equipment and furnishings and readying the structures for use.

At the recommendation of Project Manager Rich Smith, during the December 3 meeting, the Commissioners approved a construction contract change order with D.H. Griffin Construction Com-

(See "Detention," p. 36)

Budget, vandalism, & jet boats on SLLA agenda

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



It was a day devoted to housekeeping as members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors

spent their more than four hour Work Session discussing issues that ranged from landscaping to lighting in the North Clubhouse.

The first item on the agenda was a budget update by Community Manager Ray Sohl

on the preparation of the budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

In preparing the draft budget much attention went into researching past annual budgets and expenditures and understanding reoccurring expenses, Sohl explained. The budget should reflect realistic numbers with an added contingency for anything unexpected. To cover inflation the numbers were slightly rounded up.

Treasurer Conrad Meyer asked for input from the Board, and Sohl agreed with Meyer that now would be a good time for input regarding any necessary purchases or expenditures. After input there will be time for review and prioritizing requests.

Directors Bob Racine and Chuck Leach both had suggestions. Racine, who had already priced new tables for the game room, explained the existing ones were splintered and in disrepair. Leach said that Grounds and Maintenance had a long list of things that needed to be done.

After much discussion, Board Member and President Bob Darr concluded, "I am very pleased where we are going and everyone's involvement in the process. I appreciate that very much."

Reining in Vandalism

SLLA Security requested a six month ban of a non-member for using abusive language toward a security

guard. Several years ago, the same person was temporarily banned from common areas after riding his motorcycle across the parks.

Recently-hired Seven Lakes Security Supervisor Roger Schumacher suggested the six-month ban. The board discussed whether or not six months was too harsh, and whether a one month or a three month sentence would be more reasonable. The board agreed that Schumacher was doing his job well and that his request should be supported.

Schumacher, who was hired four months ago, has been aggressive in reducing petty vandalism.

"In time, when Roger has

(See "SLLA," p. 32)

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Kiwanis sponsor holiday decorating contest

The Kiwanis Club of Seven Lakes is sponsoring a competition for the best holiday decorations in Seven Lakes, and both residents and businesses can participate.

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.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, Dec 14	Fri, Dec 21
Fri, Jan 4	Fri, Jan 11
Fri, Jan 18	Fri, Jan 25
Fri, Feb 1	Fri, Feb 8
Fri, Feb 15	Fri, Feb 22
Fri, Mar 1	Fri, Mar 8
Fri, Mar 15	Fri, Mar 22
Thu, Mar 28*	Fri, Apr 5
Fri, Apr 12	Fri, Apr 19
Fri, Apr 26	Fri, May 3
Fri, May 10	Fri, May 17
Thu, May 23*	Fri, May 31
Fri, Jun 7	Fri, Jun 14
Fri, Jun 21	Fri, Jun 28
Fri, Jul 5	Fri, Jul 12
Fri, Jul 19	Fri, Jul 26
Fri, Aug 2	Fri, Aug 9
Fri, Aug 16	Fri, Aug 23
Fri, Aug 30	Fri, Sep 6
Fri, Sep 13	Fri, Sep 20
Fri, Sep 27	Fri, Oct 4
Fri, Oct 11	Fri, Oct 18
Fri, Oct 25	Fri, Nov 1
Fri, Nov 8	Fri, Nov 15
Thu, Nov 21*	Fri, Nov 29
Fri, Dec 6	Fri, Dec 13
Thu, Dec 19*	Fri, Dec 27

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

For residents

The Kiwanis will offer a \$65 prize for the best lawn or lakefront Christmas decoration display within the Seven Lakes North, South and West community.

Three prizes will be awarded: one each for the North, South, and West sides. Kiwanis judges will be surveying all properties on December 14, 15, and 16, and December 21, 22, 23, between 5 pm to 9 pm.

Please make sure that your lights are on at the appropriate times for the judging.

For businesses

In cooperation with the Seven Lakes Business Guild, the Kiwanis will be sponsoring a Christmas Decoration Contest for all the members of the guild.

Every guild member who participates will have a display in front of their business in time for the holidays and

would welcome all Seven Lakes and friends to come out after dark and cruise the business district and see the displays that the Kiwanis club will be judging and awarding cash prizes for what they deem the best.

If you aren't sure which businesses belong to the Guild or just where they are located, visit www.sevenlakesbusinessguild.com and find out.

Merry Christmas from your Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club!

Chapel Lunch Bunch

Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Lunch Bunch

The Chapel invites all single seniors to attend their monthly luncheon at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines in the Joralemon Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 19 at 12 noon. There is no cost, but reservations would be appreci-

ated. Transportation can be provided is needed.

Following the lunch, Don Welch accompanied by Betty Dennis will lead everyone in singing Christmas carols.

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Project Linus Update

Project Linus will not have a workshop meeting on Wednesday, December 19. Have a very Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

The next scheduled Project Linus Workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 9 at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse, 10 am - 2 pm.

There will be new fleece, blankets to inspect and label and flannel available for

blanket making. Pack a lunch and spend the day or drop by for a while to make a blanket or to see what the group is working on.

Tell the gate guard that you are attending Project Linus. Your name will be added to the approved list. Call Pat Weber 673-1457 or you can email weber-consult@nc.rr.com if you have any questions.

See you there!

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7 Lakes sign issue frustrates Commissioners

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



There's a new restaurant in Seven Lakes, but you wouldn't know it from the signage. And that created considerable frustration for the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, November 20 meeting.

Adding an agenda item at the end of the meeting, Commissioner Picerno said he had spoken with a Seven Lakes business owner who was unable to obtain County authorization to replace the vinyl panels on two signs.

The signs in question, it emerged later in the conversation, are the two signs erected by property owner John Garner for the now-closed Mac's Breakfast Anytime restaurant adjacent to Seven Lakes Hardware. Greenbow's Restaurant has now opened in that space, and Garner wants to change the vinyl on the existing signs to reflect that fact.

Planning Director Debra Ensminger explained that both signs are illegal under the County's sign ordinance — and were, in fact, illegal under that ordinance when they were erected in 2002.

One of the signs sits on the roof of the building; the County's sign ordinance prohibits all roof signs. Ensminger told *The Times* that the roof sign was permitted by the County in 2002, but it was supposed to be mounted on the wall of the building, not on the roof. She told the

Commissioners that there are only nine roof-mounted signs within the County's jurisdiction.

Acting County Attorney Robert Maxwell told the Board that most local jurisdictions ban roof-mounted signs because "they can become like a missile in a windstorm."

The second sign is a pole-mounted sign near NC Highway 211. The County permitted that sign in error in 2002, Ensminger told the Commissioners. It sits on a different tract of land than the restaurant and hardware store, and thus is technically an "off-premise advertising sign," which are not allowed in the VB-Village Business zoning district that includes the Seven Lakes Business Village.

Commissioner Picerno asked whether "there is anything we can do to assist this businessman," noting that the new business needs to let the community know it is open for business.

"Could we grant this business owner an opportunity to replace those panels?" Picerno asked. "Is there a way that we could do that legally?"

"Mr. Picerno, I'm sorry, there's not," came the reply from Attorney Maxwell.

Later, Commissioner Lea took another run at the same question. "The mistake was not made by property owner," Lea pointed out. "Given that the error is on the county side, is there any leniency that the county can give?"

"No sir," the attorney

replied.

Lea asked whether the sign was an "existing non-conforming use," which is the technical term for a use of property that was in place before the ordinance that forbids it was created. Such uses are often "grandfathered" — that is, allowed to stand even though they violate the new ordinance.

But the signs in question were erected after the sign ordinance was approved and so are "illegal," rather than an "existing non-conforming use."

Under the current ordinance, Ensminger explained, the roof sign could be moved down and mounted on the wall of the building. Either it or the free-standing sign

(See "Signs," p. 30)



Two signs erected to advertise the now closed Mac's Breakfast Anytime in Seven Lakes are illegal under the County Sign Ordinance, and so can't be changed to feature the name or logo of the new Greenbow's Restaurant.

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Should Foxfire split up Woodland Circle tract?

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



As it continues to struggle with how best to market 165 acres of undeveloped land accepted in lieu of a \$1.4 million assessment for the Woodland Circle Extension project, the Foxfire Village Council heard an innovative proposal from Grande Pines developer Pete Mace that would carve the property into large residential tracts, while protecting 30 acres of wetlands.

Mace had been invited by the Council to present his concept during the Council's Thursday, November 30 Work Session. He recommended carving the property into ten acre and larger homesites, while strategically utilizing wetland areas for privacy and recreation.

"Wetlands provide not only privacy, but reassurance that the neighboring tract of land can not be built up," explained Mace. "They are protected open spaces for walking and hiking."

Referencing the proposed plans on the Council table he noted, "The plans would provide for walking trails. Homeowners would have their 12-acre plot, but also be able to move through the 165 acres."

Mace's proposed plans and marketing strategy aim to encourage new interest and increase the potential value of the lots. Councilman Steve Durham confessed, "We think it is pretty nice property, but do not know how to move it."

"The way to move it is to give it a perceived value and build an entrance," advised Mace. "The plans can be tweaked to show how the trails link up. You could make it really nice back there."

Pineland Preserve Drainage Issues

The conversation then turned to Mace's Pineland Preserve development, and his proposal that the Village take over the streets in that

subdivision. Mayor George Erickson provided a historical perspective regarding drainage issues at two different locations in the area, one on Hoffman Road.

Prior to the roads and cul-de-sacs in the area being paved, it was necessary to address potential runoff from then clay roads onto privately-owned property. The current streets were built using an Erosion Control Plan required by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Recently, the Pinehurst engineering firm of Neal Smith was hired by the developer to address specifically the runoff and channeling of water to two specific drainage areas.

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco expressed concern that, if the Village owns the streets in Pineland Preserve, the Village will also own any drainage problems in the future.

"If the Village does decide to annex those roads, then it becomes our responsibility to deal with any runoff," Frusco said. "That's my concern, before we take them."

Mace assured the council that the initial roadway easements were done in a way that would facilitate moving the streets to Village ownership. "Fortunately, they weren't done like private access easements," he explained. "People did not buy to the center of the road;

rather, they bought to the rights-of-way. Otherwise, that would have been a problem. The easements will be completed before we recommend any action."

Assigning Funds for Debt Repayment

Income from selling the 165-acre parcel is needed to help the Village pay off the debt it undertook in order

(See "Foxfire," p. 34)

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— We Sell All of Moore County —

Clustering development to guide growth

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Moore County will need an additional 12,000 homes in the next twenty years;

where best to put all those new houses is one of the key questions that must be answered by the county's Land Use Plan Steering Committee [LUPSC].

Committee members are charged with updating Moore County's Land Use Plan, adopted in 1999, to anticipate projected population growth through 2030, and how that growth will impact infrastructure needs in the County.

During the LUPSC's Monday, November 26 meeting, County Planner Jeremy Rust said he projects a two percent population growth over the next twenty years, which would add 28,000 new residents and 12,000 new homes to the County. That growth is expected to create a need for expanding the water and sewer infrastructure — and to create pressure on the amount of open space in the County.

The Committee expects that the bulk of the growth will take place in the southern portion of the County. One of the possible goals of the LUPSC is to steer growth into "clusters" around the County rather than letting it happen helter-skelter.

"There's going to be growth in areas we can't control," said LUPSC facilitator Mark Molitor. "But we want to use this plan to encourage growth in specific areas."

Understanding where growth can and can't be controlled is one of the challenges facing the Committee.

Clustering growth will also help to determine where more sewer and water supplies will be needed in the future.

"The thing is: understanding the distribution and capacity," said Rust. "If you can't get anymore into the pipe or out of it then it has to be looked into."

The County Commissioners have been working with Pub-

lic Works Director Randy Gould on projected water needs of the County over the next ten to thirty years. So far, the Commissioners have

yet to choose among the various water options presented to them by Gould.

The LUPSC has asked that a map be available that

depicts the current water and sewer lines throughout the County to help them better determine where to "cluster" growth.

A key step for the Committee is to reach out to individuals and businesses that will be affected by the update.

(See "Land Use," p. 6)

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County's interim manager killed

A single day after he assumed the role of Moore County's Interim County Manager, Jim Westbrook was killed in an automobile accident on Vass Carthage Road.

Westbrook, a veteran local government administrator, was appointed to the post by the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, November 20 meeting.

County Manager Cary McSwain retired on November 30, and Westbrook had taken on a number of assignments for the County in the past, including interim Public Works Director, Human Resources Director, Public Safety Director, and Assistant County Manager.

Westbrook started work on November 26, and died on Tuesday, November 27, when the car he was driving crashed into a tractor-trailer truck entering Vass Carthage Road from a private drive.

Westbrook's career in local government included serving as Town Manager of Cary and City Manager of Asheville. He was 68 years old; a memorial service was held at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines on Friday, November 30.

The Commissioners made no decision about appointing a new interim county manager during their Monday, December 3 meeting.

Land Use

(Continued from page 5)

ed Land Use Plan and invite them to a meeting that would allow for their input. Realtors, home builders, and environmentalists are some of those that will be invited to the meeting. The next LUPSC meeting is scheduled for January.



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'Tim Lea Night' at Commissioners Meeting

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

[A Thanksgiving-inspired early press run prevented this story from making the November 23 edition of *The Times*. It was published online on November 25.]

"It's Tim Lea Night tonight!" That's how one speaker summed up the scene at the Tuesday, November 20 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners. The historic courthouse was packed with family, friends, and well-wishers, on hand to celebrate retiring Commissioner Tim Lea's eight years of service.

State Senator Harris Blake — himself retiring this year — and NC Representative Jamie Boles presented Lea with resolutions acknowledging his service from their respective houses of the NC General Assembly.

Michael Gast and Chuck Spelman, representing veterans groups, praised Lea for continued support, including his advocacy of protection

for the Veteran's Memorial in Carthage. Carolyn Mealing, representing the League of Women Voters, thanked Lea for his service, noting in particular his work to have Board of Commissioners meetings videotaped and streamed live over the internet.

Others who had served with Lea on various county committees testified to his diligence and hard work on those boards.

Commissioner Chairman Larry Caddell, presenting Lea with a plaque honoring his service, said "We've not always agreed — but that's okay," adding that "ninety percent of the votes" taken during the time the two men served together were unanimous.

Echoing Caddell's point, Lea said that he had a wooden plaque on his bedroom vanity inscribed with a sentence that had inspired him throughout his life: "Where all think alike, no one thinks very much."

Thanking the Board and the citizens in attendance,

Lea said, "What I have enjoyed most during my term in office is being able to work with and for the citizens of Moore County."

He pointed to a number of Board accomplishments during his tenure, including:

- enhancing transparency in county government through recording and videotaping of meetings;
 - improving communication with Moore County Schools;
 - improving communication with the County's municipalities;
 - expanding water and sewer infrastructure;
 - establishing the new Senior Enrichment Center;
 - reorganizing the contract negotiation process to make it more fair, open, competitive and cost effective; and
 - chairing the Heart of North Carolina MegaPark project.
- Lea praised the County staff and County Manager Cary McSwain, who he called

"one of the finest county managers I have ever worked with."

McSwain's tenure praised

Both Commissioners and staff praised McSwain's service as County Manager.

"I can't say enough good things about you and the service that you have given to this county," Commissioner Lea said. "I don't know anyone who as put more time into this county."

Larking thanked McSwain on behalf of the staff, who had toasted, roasted, and presented him with a rocking chair during a retirement dinner.

"It has been quite a privilege and opportunity to work with this Board and the fantastic employees of this county," McSwain said.

Other Business

In other business during its Tuesday, November 20 meeting, the Board of Com-

missioners:

- Received the Sandhills Center for Mental Health's quarterly financial report from County Chief Financial Officer Carrie Neal. The Center had third quarter revenues of \$9.4 million, against expenses of \$10.2 million. The Center provides mental health services in eight counties. Moore County is budgeted to contribute \$529,000 to the Center's work during this fiscal year.
- Approved a \$55,000 grant application to help fund the North Moore Family Resource Center, which helps low income families in that area of the county acquire the knowledge, skills, and resources to purchase their own home.
- Authorized the sale of a county-owned pasture aerator that, Cooperative Extension Director Stephen Greer explained, is too large to be pulled by the tractors (See "Commissioners," p. 35)



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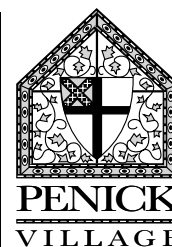


our beautiful Village House community center, which includes just about everything from a small movie theater to a library. Learn about all the living options that we offer, from spacious apartments to unique cottage homes.

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Shopping Local for the Holidays

Nineteenth century holiday customs in Moore County were simple and sweet. After the rush of the harvest, homesteaders slowed their pace.

But Southern winters are balmy compared to the North, and nothing truly hibernates. The short winter days were still full of chores: feeding the chickens, milking the cows and goats, churning the butter, bedding the horses, scrubbing the clothes, chopping the wood, and sweeping the porch. But once the daily have-to's were attended there was time for visiting, present-making, and baking.

Holiday preparations included cutting a native cedar tree, collecting greenery from the woods, digging white clay from the creek beds to paint and freshen up the rock fireplace — and of saving all year to purchase exotic rare ingredients of coconut and citrus to make cakes and ambrosia. The allusive Christmas spirit could not be bought, but was homemade.

In the twenty first century, many of us don't live the country life — nor is our gift giving dependent on the natural resources at hand.

But even the transplanted denizens of gated communities can gather their holiday close to home, by shopping local to support neighborhood businesses — and shopping economically, so that January does not have to be the poorest month of the New Year.

With a list and budget in hand and four hours reserved for Holiday shopping in West End and Seven Lakes, reporter Ellen Marcus set out to gather gifts from local merchants, to see, if, in fact, it can still be done.

The Seven Lakes – West End \$500

By Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

On a crisp sunny day in November I head up NC Highway 211, list in hand and a

\$500 budget firmly fixed in my mind. Past the tall sycamores and the old theatre in West End, just before the stoplight, is the whimsical

Medleyannas! More than a thrift shop, with owner Harriet Wicker's careful thought to color, detail, and repurposing, Medleyanna's is a renewable home-decor museum.

The sunny back courtyard, with metal gliders, sun catchers, enamelware, and bottle trees is the perfect place to sit and ponder your wants versus needs. The old two story house in the back is rhyme with a reason, from 19th century pine hutches and blue enamel kitchen tables to a little girl's dream of crisp pink gingham and vintage toys that never go out of style. Tucked in the hallway is a primitive pine

table just the right height to be my bedside table.

Across the way in the main store there is almost too much to take in. A nine-foot pine table from Samarcand offers the chance to own a piece of local history. A painted hutch proves old can be modern. The prices are fair and reasonable. Medleyanna's is a place where you can furnish and personalize your whole home.

Exiting behind the tire shop and scooting across NC Highway 211 brings us to Pastimes, West End's only mall. With more than fifty booths that add up to more than fifty collectible styles, Pas-

(Continued on page 9)



A hutch and tea set from Pastimes

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December 15 - Holiday Desserts
Desserts are sometimes daunting to prepare, but they can be as much fun to make as they are to eat when you have a creative, delicious recipe. Take a break from your hectic holiday shopping and come enjoy learning a new dessert recipe for your holiday festivities.

December 22 - Christmas Cookies
Nothing brings a bigger smile to the face than a scrumptious Christmas cookie. Let us show you how much fun it can be to create one of the seasons favorite treats.

December 29 - Cocktail Time
Want to impress your family and friends with your creative holiday libations? Our bartenders are as proud of their amazing creations as our Chefs are of theirs. Let's get ready to rock in the New Year with a few new cocktail recipes!

What can I say? Just come visit us this Season.
Come see what we have to offer...
Taste the difference.
**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah,
Happy Kwanzaa, Feliz Navidad etc...**

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Four-Hour Holiday Shopping Jamboree

(Continued from page 8)

times represents more than 200 years of Americana. Owner LouAnn Matthews is matter-of-fact: "We offer a little of this, that, and the other."

What's more, she provides an outlet for consignors to be their own businessmen and businesswomen. Perusing the store can take hours. But it is easy to spot right away two items on my youngest child's wish list: a painted hutch for her American Girl Doll and a tea set. The price for both: \$40. Compared to the online American

Girl hutch, at \$125, Pastimes is clearly the better buy.

A few miles up from the intersection is the Log Cabin Country Store. The tall pines form a natural showroom for the statuary, bird baths, planters, gazing globes, ornamental cabbage, and kale. Walking into the attached produce stand, we're greeted by Bo the rooster and his best friend Smokey the cat. The 100-year-old cabin is a museum for Central North Carolina relics.

The décor is humor, history, and utilitarian art. The old washing machine has been

made into a fountain, the hearths have been given personalities, and a random mannequin's head hangs upside down. But the food is what wins me over: fresh butter, local eggs, milk, vanilla wafers, bananas, potatoes, peppered bacon, dried beans, onions, greens, nuts, honey, and more. How cool would it be plan you Christmas Dinner menu around the farm fresh foods from The Log Cabin Country Store?

Then I spot the find of the day, mini locally-made rum cakes and pecan pound cakes for just \$2 each. The cakes are perfect for teacher's gifts. The assorted bags of candy and nuts are sweet gelt for the eight nights of Hanukah.

The sun is hazy on the horizon and I have to hurry. My next stop is Seven Lakes Hardware, opened in 1978

(Continued on page 10)



Honey & Apples are a Hanukah tradition — and what's better than combining NC Apples with NC Honey from the Cabin?

A Seven Lakes-West End Hanukah-Christmas List

Here's the rundown of how Ellen filled the shopping list for her family's Hanukah & Christmas celebration:

Husband: Fancy Beer, Shotgun Shells and made in NC denim jeans. (\$50)

Wife: Antique Pine Stand & Jewelry Making Lesson (\$65)

13-year-old daughter: barrettes, beaded purse, hat & matching gloves, and antique Chinese Noodle Stand to be used as a night stand with storage. (\$85)

10-year-old daughter: barrettes, beaded purse, hat and matching gloves, doll hutch and tea set that she requested for her American girl doll. (\$85)

Grandparents: wine, Shabbos candle holders, and pottery. (\$60)

Great Grandmother: 4 dickies in assorted colors (\$16)

Aunts and Uncles: Iron Star, The Odd Job Tool (\$45)

New First Cousin and Toddler Sister: baby plates and cup. (\$22)

Friends: Wine Tasting Certificates, Apples, Honey & Nuts (\$50)

Teachers: Rum Cakes & Pecan Pound Cakes (\$20)

Christmas Dinner for four: Pinto Beans, Sautéed Greens, Baked Potato Casserole, Deviled Eggs & Banana Pudding (\$25, all groceries from the Log Cabin)

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Call for Holiday Hours

Ellen Marcus' Seven Lakes – West End \$500

(Continued from page 9)

by John Garner. Rhonda Shields has worked full time at the store since it opened. She tells me of little old lady who would come every Christmas Eve and buy paint for her kitchen. It was her Christmas present to herself to freshly paint her kitchen once a year. She was well into her eighties the last time she came in — and she bought Camilla red.

There is something for everybody, in just about every price range, from a dollar up. There are plenty of practical stocking stuffers, but the coolest thing by far is "The Odd Job," a tool with over 40 different uses for \$15.99. It also sports a screw driver on a coiled spring for those hard to reach places. It should provide hours of entertainment for my brothers. I also pick up a pair of made in North Carolina jeans for my husband at \$30 a

pair.

This shopping is hard work, and we're in need of refreshment, so Sandhills Winery is the next stop. Bob and Leslie Rose have created a "sit down and relax" shop.

With a complimentary taste in hand I chose six fancy beers for my husband for \$10, and a \$15 bottle of organic Cabernet Sauvignon for my ever-health-conscious father-in-law. I also sign up

several of my friends for the \$10/person wine tasting gift certificate for a future lady's night out.

Leslie recommends Baby B Antiques & Collectibles for our next shop. In the crisp

night air the window of Baby B's glows gold. The owner, Claire Barrow, has made good use of the small interior, with center tables creating aisles easy to follow. Vintage items

(Continued on page 11)



Plates and cup for a new nephew from Baby B's Antiques.



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Four-Hour Holiday Shopping Jamboree

(Continued from page 10)

from the 1920s through 1970s — in pristine condition — fill the shelves. It's a combination of your grandmother's, Aunt Bea's, and good witch Samantha's kitchen and home.

We have a new nephew in the family. Sitting pretty are two child's ceramic plates and cup from the 1930s in new condition. At \$20, it is a unique gift for kids that have everything.

Right next door is Karen Simmons Designs. Karen has already gone for the day by the time we arrive, but I have



Bo the Rooster

already spoken with her about signing up for jewelry-making classes. Karen's shop showcases her own creations, and she is also a certified Art Clay Instructor offering classes for the more creative. Not having a chance to paint or draw since I became a Mom, my gift to myself is the Silver Silk Mini Open Bead Bracelet Class, for \$25.

We roll on down Grant Street and around the corner to Phoenix Fashions. I walk through the whole store, cer-

tain there's no chance that they have what I am looking for. I finally ask if they have dickies.

A "dicky" is a turtleneck collar that can be layered under a blouse or a sweater. It is often too hot in Texas for layers; but, for a more polished look, my grandmother and mother will wear a dicky. Turns out, not only does Phoenix Fashion's have dickies, but they make them there as well.

Darrell & Susan Marks manufacture clothing, selling it online as well as in their Seven Lakes Shop — and they have just

opened the Pumpkin Creek Cafe next door. The dickies are \$3.95 each, so I get my Granny four different colors. At 97, she doesn't leave the house much, but that doesn't mean she can't look stylish and keep her neck warm. Phoenix has plenty of great gifts for \$20 and under: earrings for \$10, beaded purses in the shape of animals beginning at \$8.75 (my favorite the pink pig), or a faux-fur scarf for \$20.

With my shopping list closer to being finished we drive

over to Ornaments. The shop reflects the youthful fun spirit of Kristianne Bebout and her daughter Kelsianne. It's a shop for the unique accessory.

In the corner is a brass stand like nothing I have ever seen. It is the perfect gift for my thirteen-year-old daughter, who has a fascination for objects with many compartments. She had requested a work space that would hold all of her carving tools. It turns out the stand is actually a early-century Chinese Noodle Stand, so how cool is that! Cost? \$50.

I find new gloves, head wraps, barrettes, and an owl

(See "Shopping," p. 12)



An owl purse from Ornaments

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Locally-Made Rum & Pecan Pound Cakes from the Cabin

School Board honors retiring Dr. Lorna Clack

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



From chalk boards to smart boards, Dr. Lorna Clack has grown and adapted as an educator with each new generation of Moore County students. Throughout her career, she has taken a progressive view toward the continual evolution of educational strategies and techniques.

"Every day in education is a new day, a new experience," Clack told fellow members of the Moore County Board of Education on Monday night, November 19.

Clack has served as a member of that Board for the past six years but lost her seat in on Election Day to challenger Ben Cameron. "The day after the election," Clack said drily, "I knew just how

Mitt [Romney] felt. As you can see, I have rallied."

It was bittersweet farewell given by her peers, many of whom are life-long friends. Clack, tempering her tears with good humor and in need of refreshment, at one point called out: "Somebody get me a diet Pepsi."

Fellow board member Charles Lambert reminisced about being one of Clack's Sunday school students. "I can't tell you everything I think about you, because I might get emotional," Lambert said. "I appreciate all the help you have given me and the children of Moore County."

Clack began her career as a teacher in Moore County at the tender age of twenty.

"Back then when the earth was still cooling, it was hard to get a job," she joked. "My

first day as a teacher, an old farm truck pulled up and a brother and two sisters got out. They were all in my sixth grade class. I was twenty, and he was fifteen. I thought, 'Paul has slipped through the cracks.' That began my understanding of malpractice in education."

For fifty-four years, Clack has learned as she taught, earning her Ph.D. in education in 1990.

"Lorna practices what she preaches with fidelity," said board member Enola Lineberger. "She is funny, kind, and a pleasure to travel with."

No fieldtrip was too far. After Clack retired in 2001, she flew to Africa with a group of educators, providing necessary supplies for a new school. "I've been fortunate

(See "School Board," p. 31)

Dennison elected School Board Chairman



Four members of the Moore County Board of Education were sworn into office on Monday, December 3. They included returning members Laura Lang and Bruce Cunningham, Newly-elected member Ben Cameron, and returning member Kathy Farren. Clerk of Superior Court Susan Hicks administered the oath of office.

Ed Dennison was elected Chairman of the School Board for the coming year; Enola Lineberger will serve as Vice Chair. Both have served on the board since 2010.

"I feel real comfortable with this board," Dennison said. I think we are all after the same thing and can work together to get it done."

Shopping

(Continued from page 12)

purse for the girls, pretty Portuguese ceramic candle holders for my mother-in-law, and, of course, the Noodle Stand.

It's too late to head to Fire-shadow Pottery — a ceramic art studio in Eagle Springs owned by Mo McKenzie and Sally Larson. So, I head home to check out their website and give them a call. After talking about my price range and my mother's taste, Sally sends me a photo of a lovely ceramic vase for \$35.

My Hanukah and Christmas shopping complete and right on budget, I read off my list to my husband and ask him how much he thinks I spent.

He replies: "\$200."

I tell him the cost was \$525. He pats me on the back and replies, "The most important thing is that you shopped local."

At least we can both agree on that.

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WEE first graders will use iPads in class

One first grade class at West End Elementary will now conduct research and enhance their math, science and literacy skills using iPads, thanks to a grant from the Moore County Public Education Foundation (MCPEF).

West End Elementary teacher Renee Robbins submitted the grant proposal in September; and, on Tuesday, November 27, MCPEF Board Chair Andrew Lyons and Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence personally delivered the five iPads to an excited group of students.

In her proposal, Robbins

wrote, "The iPads will allow the students to work independently and cooperatively in small groups. The free 'apps' available on the iPad will allow students to practice many different skills in reading, writing and math. iPads will also be incorporated as a research tool during hands-on classroom instruction and activities."

Robbins said she will use the iPads to design literacy and math stations that the students will rotate through. The apps on the iPad will help supplement the reading and math concepts the stu-

dents are learning. "I believe the iPads will become a daily tool in our classroom that is used multiple times for many different subjects," she said.

"The Public Education Foundation is absolutely delighted to do this," Lyons said. "Mrs. Robbins came up with this great idea for using iPads with her first graders, and we are just thrilled to be here to present these and see the smiles on their faces."

"The benefits of technology as a tool for increased student achievement are well-documented through all grade levels," said Spence. "I fully

believe the excitement I saw in the first graders' faces today will continue as they use this technology to enhance their learning experience. Thanks to the gen-

erosity of the Public Education Foundation, our teachers have the opportunity to try new and innovative ideas such as this and make learning even more engaging."



The Moore County Public Education Foundation (MCPEF) recently provided funding to provide five iPads for Renee Robbins' first grade class at West End Elementary.

January Birthday Club

Anyone with a birthday in January is invited. Please join the long-standing Seven Lakes January Birthday Club for their annual birthday celebration on Saturday, January 26, 2013, at the Beacon Ridge Dining Room, 11 am to 1 pm.

Call Linda Donnell at 673-8025 for details and to reserve your place at the celebration table.

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	December 15th - Six Geese a-Laying 15% Discount with purchase of 6 Riedel Glasses	
	December 17th - Seven Swans a-Swimming 15% Discount on all Bubbly (champagne) & Moscato	
	December 18th - Eight Maids a-Milking 15% Discount on Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc and Rieslings	
	December 19th - Nine Ladies Dancing - Ladies must Accessorize \$3.00 Wine Bar Specials	
	December 20th - Ten Lords a-Leaping - Reds fit for a King 15% Discount on High End Reds (Red Wines over \$20)	
	December 21st - Eleven Pipers Piping 15% Discounts on all Red Wines	
	December 22nd - Twelve Drummers Drumming 15% Discount on all Cases Purchased	

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Holiday Hours!

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In memory of . . .

Jacqueline Marks, of Fox-fire Village, died November 27, at her residence.

Arrangements are by Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines.

Albert W. Reece, 93, of Seven Lakes, died Friday, November 30.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, he was the son of Albert and Mabel Goldsmith Reece.

Mr. Reece grew up in northeastern Ohio, graduating from Bucyrus High School, Bucyrus, OH and graduated from Washington & Jefferson College, Washington, PA in 1942, where he stood out as the league's star basketball player. He served as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Force.

He married Lucille Caton and settled in Ashtabula, OH, and shined as a community leader and sport person. He worked for the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company as district superintendent, retiring in 1981 after 36 years.

Mr. Reece served his community, church, family and friends and numerous sporting teams with hard work, passion and loyalty. He served on numerous executive boards to singing in the church choir or being a supportive coach.

In 1981, he relocated to Seven Lakes, where he continued his love and support of family, friends, church, community and golf.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Chuck. He is survived by his wife, Alison Soet Mitchell; daughter, Diane Nikula (David), of Seaside, OR; son, David Reece (Carol), of Raleigh; stepdaughter, Mary Mitchell Efantis (John), of Kingsville, OH; stepsons, Tracy P. Mitchell Jr., of Ashtabula, OH; and Craig W. Mitchell, of Raleigh; his grandchildren and great-granddaughters.

A memorial service was held at The Chapel in the

Pines, Sevens Lakes, on Tuesday, December 4.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Mr. Reece to: The Chapel in the Pines, 2125 Seven Lakes South, West End, NC 27376 or charity of one's choice.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Leslie Ann McDannald Malarchick, 58, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, December 1, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

She was born in Morristown, NJ the daughter of Virginia and Clyde McDannald of Pinehurst.

A funeral service will be held Friday, December 7 at 2:00 pm at Sandhills Assembly of God Church, Southern Pines, with Senior Pastor Bryan R. Rainbow officiating. Visitation will be Thursday, December 6 from 3 pm to 7 pm at Boles Funeral Home, Southern Pines.

Mrs. Malarchick obtained her training from the Mount

Ida College School of Design in Newton, MA, and practiced those skills throughout her career and most recently at Belk, Finlay Jewelers and High Point Interiors of Pinehurst. She was active in the Sandhills Assembly of God Church.

In Danbury, CT, she was a board member and served as a trainer, counselor and coordinator of the "Dream Come True Foundation" that grants dreams to terminally, chronically or critically ill children. She was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She was preceded in death by her brother Brian McDannald.

Survivors include her husband Robert E. Malarchick of Seven Lakes; parents Virginia and Clyde McDannald of Pinehurst; brothers, Clyde McDannald, III of South Windsor, CT; and Bruce McDannald of Port Orange, FL; sisters, Bonnie McDannald Jefferis of Haymarket, VA; and Laura McDannald

of Santa Fe, NM.

Interment will be in the Warm Springs Cemetery in Warm Springs, VA.

Memorials may be made

to Sandhills Assembly of God Church, Southern Pines.

Arrangements by Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines.

Help Decorate Blue Farm

Come deck the Malcolm Blue Farm with holly, pine boughs and wreaths. It's an interactive open house where the visitors participate in making the decorations and adorning the native cedar, weaving grapevine wreaths, tying bows of holly and pine and turning pinecones into birdfeeders. Relax inside stringing popcorn by the fire while listening to local musicians.

The Open House will be held Saturday, December 8 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Come for the tours and stay for the day. There will be Brunswick stew, cornbread, an old fashioned candy buffet and hot cider.

Monetary donations to the farm are encouraged.

MBHS founder Martha Swaringen says, "The Blue Farm Open House has been a tradition for thirty-six years. This year we are giving our guests the chance to be active participants in decorating the farm. Guided by the Blue's Family Cookery we have recreated tastes from the past and welcome everybody to sample old Southern recipes of Brunswick stew and home-made sweets."

If you have questions are would like to volunteer please call 910-603-2739.

The Blue Farm is located at 1177 Bethesda Road in Aberdeen.



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Holiday events at the Senior Enrichment Center

The Moore County Senior Enrichment Center has a host of events to help you celebrate the Holidays.

Cookie Swap

What better way to jump-start the holidays than to have an assortment of holiday cookies baked for you.

Join in at the Senior Enrichment Center for an

old fashioned Cookie Swap on Friday, December 7 at 10 am. The event will be hosted by: Pauline Taylor and Terri Prots. Please call to register, 215-0900. Bring 6 dozen cookies and enough tins/containers for you to take 6 dozen cookies home. Use them to entertain that weekend or take as a hostess gift. Better yet, freeze some and enjoy after the holidays!

Remember to bake your cookies 2-3 days in advance: fresh cookies do not travel

well and procrastination won't keep you from the fun. Also, be sure to bring a copy of your recipe.

Holiday Open House

Don't miss the Senior Center Annual Holiday Open House on Friday, December 7 from 1 - 3 pm. Come mingle with staff and friends at the Annual Holiday Open House. Holiday treats and cheer will be served! Call 215-0900 to let the Senior Center you will join them.

Holiday Concert

The New Horizon's Band Holiday Concert will be held at the Senior Enrichment Center on Tuesday, December 11 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

The New Horizon's Band is comprised of musicians age 50+, who have either never played an instrument before or who have not played in years. The band will delight everyone with their holiday sounds. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.

Tap Dance Ensemble

A holiday performance by tap dance ensemble Alive and Clinkin' with musical guest Tom Bennett will be held on Friday, December 14 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the Senior Enrichment Center. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.

All events are at the Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.

Moore Philharmonic Concert Sunday

Celebrate the holiday season by enjoying an afternoon of free holiday music.

The Moore Philharmonic Orchestra will hold its eighth annual winter concert at the Sunrise Theater on Sunday December 9, at 3:30 pm, Sunrise Theater, 250 Northwest Broad Street, Southern Pines. No tickets are required, but tax-deductible donations are always welcome.

Proceeds will support a scholarship fund benefiting Moore County music students and will help cover operating and general expenses for the Orchestra.

For more information, visit the Moore Philharmonic Orchestra website at www.mporchestra.com

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Three join First Casualty Insurance Group

Ann Wooten Kunce, President of FCIG – First Casualty Insurance Group is pleased to announce the addition of three new employees to the firm.

Connie Anderline is joining their staff of professionals as a commercial lines senior account executive. Anderline's insurance career began over 30 years ago in Pennsylvania, nineteen of those years was spent working in Florida. As a licensed agent/broker, she enjoys being able to assist customers with all their insurance needs.

Jordan Medlin has joined

FCIG as Business Development Executive. Medlin comes to FCIG from Sandhills Center based in West End, where he served as Communications Director. As the Business Development Executive, Medlin will be tasked with facilitating the growth of FCIG by cultivating and maintaining mutually beneficial business relationships with current and potential clients.

Kerry Ross has also joined FCIG and is ready to serve the community in property and casualty insurance. Ross was a sales consultant for

Bill Smith Ford for a year before joining FCIG. Prior to automotive sales, he enjoyed 27 years in pharmaceutical sales with Abbott Laboratories. Working with First Casualty Insurance Group will expand his community involvement while concentrating in pay as you go worker's compensation, small business and personal lines.

First Casualty Insurance Group, one of the area's fastest growing insurance firms in the area serving the insurance needs of individuals and businesses in North

Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. Celebrating 28 years in business, FCIG believes in giving back to the community they serve and has a long history of supporting local organizations and pioneering fund raising projects

that benefit the local food bank, non-profit organizations and animal rescue groups.

To learn more about FCIG, please visit www.fcignc.com or 910-692-8303.



Connie Anderline



Jordan Medlin



Kerry Ross

Abby Ganin-Toporek achieves certification

Abby Ganin-Toporek, CPDT-KA, owner and oper-

ator of Sandhills Dog Training, LLC, has recently successfully completed her Certification Examination for the Council Of Professional Dog Trainers Knowledge Assessed.

Ganin-Toporek strives for excellence and will continue her education throughout her career as a Certified Professional Dog Trainer.

She is committed to providing her clients with the most effective techniques and skills that are necessary to attain a well-balanced dog.



Abby Ganin-Toporek, CPDT-KA



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Sophisticated Ladies at Festival of Trees

On November 8, eleven members of the "Sophisticated Ladies" danced at the Festival of Trees at the Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst. They performed four Christmas numbers in red velvet cos-

tumes trimmed with white fur and their precision dance movements delighted the audience.

The Sophisticated Ladies began in 1992 under the direction of Barbara Hamm,

a former Radio City Rockette. They have continued the tradition of dancing at nursing homes, retirement homes and social functions.

The Sophisticated Ladies are a choreographed precision

dance troupe and will interview prospective members 50 years and over, on Mondays or Thursday mornings at 8:30 am at the Village Hall, Pinehurst. Dance experience is helpful, but not

required. For information for an interview call Jo Ann 910-295-8051. Call manager Angie Huber at 910-673-7383 to arrange booking for a performance for a group.

Business Guild celebrates season

The Seven Lakes Business Guild celebrated Christmas with a dinner at Lake House Bar & Grill on Monday, November 26.

The group recapped a very successful year and discussed exciting plans and activities for 2013.

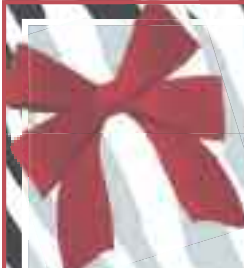
Below, Guild President

Karen Milligan (center) was presented with roses by officers Cheryl Darwell, Secretary, and Danny Bowers, Vice President, in appreciation for her creative energy, hard work and enthusiasm this past year. Not available for photo, Vann Joyce, Treasurer.



Angie VonCanon, Carole Collins, Marilyn Dotto, Betty Yount, Jan Carey, Bev Wetherbie, Lois Owen, Pauline Bruno, Angie Huber, Madeline McGugan and Jo Ann Duncan.





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AARP Tax-Aide seeks local volunteers

Last year, the local AARP Tax-Aide program and local volunteers provided Free Federal and NC Tax Return counseling and preparation for over 2300 Moore County residents by preparing and filing their 2011 Federal and State Tax Returns. These were filed electronically to ensure prompt processing and rapid payment of any refunds.

The AARP Tax-Aide Program is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation services. This year, the program expects to significantly increase the number of customers assisted in Moore County.

To do this, additional volunteers of all ages and back-

grounds are needed to assist with one-on-one counseling and tax return preparation as Tax Preparation Counselors as well as volunteers to serve as Site Facilitators. Tax preparation sites in Moore County will include the Senior Enrichment Center, Southern Pines Public Library and the Habitat for Humanity Resale Facility.

Tax preparation counselors will be comprehensively trained and required to pass a competency test to become IRS Certified as a Tax Counselor. Volunteer training will be conducted in the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center (2.5 miles N of Pinehurst Traffic Circle, at 8040 Hwy 15-501) during January

of 2013. Volunteers who become IRS Certified are asked to make a target commitment of two each, four hour sessions per week during the ten-week filing season from February 1 to April 13, 2013.

To volunteer, or for more information about becoming a local AARP Tax-Aide volunteer, contact the local AARP Tax-Aide Coordinator, Barry Guthrie at (910) 673-1164 or Bill Roberson at (910) 673-1452.

AARP Tax-Aide is administered through the AARP Foundation in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service. The AARP foundation is an AARP affiliated, 501 (c) (3) nonpartisan charitable

organization. You are not required to be a member of AARP to work in this program.

English-Speaking Union's Shakespeare competition

All 9th to 12th grade students in Moore, Cumberland, and Lee counties are invited to enter the 2013 English-Speaking Union Shakespeare Competition. The competition is sponsored locally by the Sandhills/Pinehurst Chapter of the English-Speaking Union of the United States.

Students wishing to enter the competition can receive information from the sponsoring teacher in their school. Teachers, parents, and students who need information about the competition may call (910) 235-0998.

There will be a competition in each high school to determine who will progress to the Chapter Competition. The Chapter Competition will be held at the Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities on Saturday, February 23, 2013.

The winner of the Chapter Competition will be awarded an all-expense paid trip to New York City in April of 2013 to compete with chapter winners from throughout the United States.

The English-Speaking Union of the United States is a nonprofit, nonpolitical,

educational organization whose mission is to celebrate English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunity for students, educators, and members.

Call (910) 692-6261 for additional information about the Sandhills/Pinehurst Chapter of the English-Speaking Union.

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Agee named FirstHealth oncology navigator

Lynn Agee has been named oncology patient navigator for Cancer Services at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. In this new position, she will facilitate, guide and support newly diagnosed cancer patients and their families as they access cancer care services.

The patient navigator position is funded through the hospital and the Cancer CARE Fund of the Moore Regional Hospital Foundation.

Agee has nearly 25 years



Lynn Agee

of experience in various FirstHealth services. She received her BSN and is currently pursuing her MSN, with an emphasis on Community and Public Health Nursing, at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Since a cancer diagnosis can be overwhelming to patients and families, Agee will accompany patients into the treatment process and introduce them to the broad array of services offered by FirstHealth. She will also coordinate and streamline

care, as well as identify local resources and appropriate support needed.

Another feature of Agee's role will involve improved and timelier access to health care services and information.

"The patient navigator's role is vital to assisting patients in the community through this challenging time," says Susan Beaty, administrative director of Moore Regional Hospital's Outpatient Cancer Center. "Lynn is there to be an advocate for the patients and families and to ensure they receive seamless and coor-

dated care during this difficult time."

"We expect our navigator will improve access to the system by helping the referring physicians send cancer patients to the right physician initially and by assisting patients who want to find out if we offer certain services," says Ellen Willard, M.D., medical director of the FirstHealth Outpatient Cancer Center.

For more information on FirstHealth cancer services, call (910) 715-3500 or visit www.nccancercare.org

Weymouth Center to host Young Musicians Festival

The Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities will hold their annual Young Musicians Festival Saturday and Sunday, February 16 and 17, 2013.

Auditions will be held on Saturday and the Finalists' Concert will be held Sunday, February 17 at 3:00 pm. Both events take place in the Great Room at Weymouth Center.

The festival is open to students from Moore County and the surrounding counties of Cumberland, Lee, Montgomery, Richmond, Scotland and Hoke. Students in grades 4-12 currently studying an instrument or voice are eligible to participate.

The festival's purpose is to provide opportunities for young musicians to perform for judges who critique their skills for use in their studies. The Festival judge will be Frank Pittman of Meredith College.

Finalists in Division One, Two, Three, and Four will be invited to perform the

concert Sunday, February 17 in the Great Room.

Festival Chair Sue Aceves will be assisted by members of the music committee.

Weymouth is at 555 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines. For more information about Festival guidelines, call the Weymouth Center at (910) 692-6261.

Sponsored by the Wey-

mouth Music Committee, the festival was envisioned by Rose Ehrhardt, a member of the committee during the early formation of music programming at Weymouth. Inspired by Weymouth owner Katharine Lamont Boyd's love of music, the festival reflects her interest in music and its study for young people.



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Bernard attends Leadership Institute

Michael J. Bernard, of West End, a Modern Woodmen of America Managing Partner, recently attended the Modern Woodmen Lead-



Michael J. Bernard

ership Career Institute, held at Modern Woodmen's home office in Rock Island, IL.

Modern Woodmen's top

managers are invited to attend the event where elite speakers teach attendees to become better leaders, improve results in their regions, and inspire those with whom they work. Speakers included Bob Davies, author, trainer, and coach; Mike White, President and CEO of Virginia Asset Management, LLC; Grey Giovannine, basketball coach at Augustana College; and Alan Williams, author of "Walk-On" and founder of Teammates First. Attendees also had the opportunity to exchange management best practices with more than 100 other leaders.

For more information about Modern Woodmen services, contact Michael J. Bernard, Managing Partner of Modern Woodmen of Seven Lakes at 910-315-

Vietnam Vets, Scout team up

David Miller, Life Scout from Troop 98, Occoneechee Council, West End, and Moore County Vietnam Veterans Chapter 966, led by past President, Mike Pusillo, coordinated efforts to help David with his "flag" project towards earning his Eagle

Scout award.

The project involved cleaning, repairing or replacing worn, soiled, or damaged flags at Pinecrest High School. Volunteers from the Vietnam Veterans Chapter helped Miller with the project in both time and funding the expense

to replace worn or damaged retired flags that will be decommissioned during a proper ceremony.

For information about membership or making a donation, contact: Charles "Chuck" Spelman, President: maj03@earthlink.net



Bill Carl, Mike Shapiro, Life Scout David Miller, Pinecrest High School Asst. Principal Dante Poole, VVA President Chuck Spelman, Jack Bergquist, and Past VVA President Mike Pusillo.

Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club

The Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club (SPBC) is a hunting/training club for pointing breed dogs and their owners.

The club manages a 100 acre tract of Sandhills Land Area Trust property in Jackson Springs.

SPBC meetings (held the first Saturdays of January, March, May, September and November) and many dog training and hunting events are held at the club house and grounds in Jackson Springs.

For information visit sandhillspointingbreed-sclub.org/ or call Jan at 910-215-9313.

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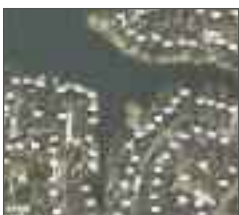
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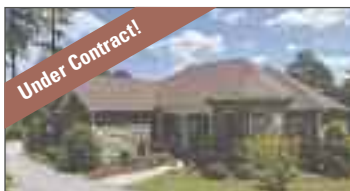
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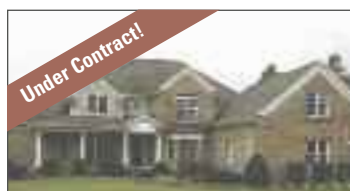
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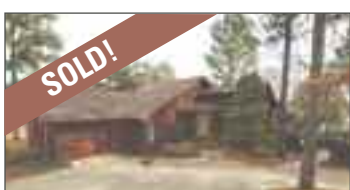
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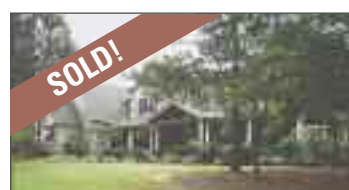
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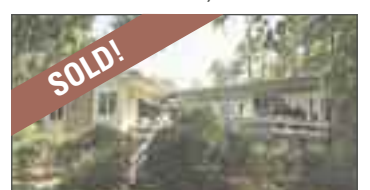
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

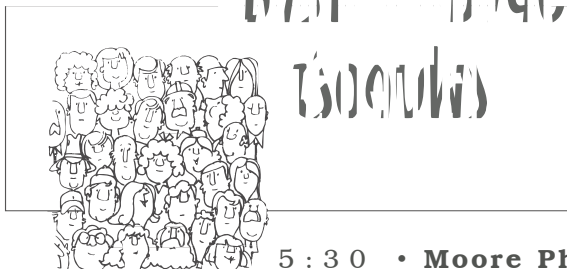
- **Pearl Harbor Day**
- **Cookie Swap at the Senior Enrichment Center** – 10 am, Join in for an old fashioned Cookie Swap. Event will be hosted by Pauline Taylor and Terri Prots. Call to register, 215-0900. Bring 6 dozen cookies and tins/containers for you to take 6 dozen cookies home. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Holiday Open House at the Senior Center** – 1 - 3 pm. Mingle with staff and friends at the Annual Holiday Open House. Holiday treats and cheer. 215-0900 to let the Senior Center know you will join them. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Sessions* 7:30 pm, starring John Hawkes, Helen Hunt and William H. Macy. Drama. Rated R. Tickets \$7 plus a \$1 suggested donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

- **Men's Breakfast** – 8 am. The Men at West End United Methodist Church will meet and enjoy a home-cooked Breakfast and a time of fellowship. A brief devotional and the men will discuss projects to assist both the church and the community. Any man of the church or the community is welcome.
- **Advent Reflections at Village Chapel** – 8:45 am until Noon, a unique opportunity to come for retreat and prayer in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Rev. Dr. Samuel Walker will serve as host and leader. All materials provided, Child Care provided. No cost. Morning will end with prayer and blessing at the Altar. Call the Village Chapel Office (910-295-6003) and let them know you plan attend. Community is invited to attend. The Village Chapel, 10 Azalea Rd., Pinehurst.
- **Metropolitan Opera** – 1

pm, Verdi's Un Ballo In Maschera. In HD at the Sunrise. A New Production. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Seven Lakes Country Club Christmas Party** – Everyone's invited. Festivities begin with Cocktails at



5 : 3 0 pm, followed by a fabulous Buffet at 6:30 pm. Holiday Entertainment starts at 7:30 pm. All inclusive members \$25, non-members \$30 inclusive. Reservations 673-1100. You do not have to be a member to attend.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Sessions* 7:30 pm, Tickets \$7 plus a \$1 suggested donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Turkey Shoot** - Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs held every Saturday night at 7 pm. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal

Rescue League. Come join the fun and support the animals. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

- **Hanukkah**
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Moore Philharmonic Orchestra Winter Concert** – 3:30 pm, an afternoon of free holiday music. Sunrise Theater, 250 Northwest Broad Street, Southern Pines. No ticket required, but donations are always welcome. Proceeds benefit Moore County music students and the Orchestra. www.mporchestra.com
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest tonight *Claire Lynch*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910) 944-7502.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Sessions* 7:30 pm.

Tickets \$7 plus a \$1 suggested donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Messiah** – 7 pm, at Robert E. Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest, High School. Maestro David Michael Wolff will lead the Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra, Chorus and guest soloists in their third annual production of Handel's greatest masterwork. Preferred seating \$40, General Admission \$25, Students \$10. www.shop.carolinaphil.org or (910) 687 4746.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Sessions* 7:30 pm, Tickets \$7 plus a \$1 donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- **Seven Lakes West**

Landowners Association – 9 am, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

- **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.
- **Holiday Concert** – New Horizon's Band Holiday Concert 3 to 4 pm. The band will delight everyone with their holiday sounds. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7 pm, meeting. At Foxfire Village Hall. Open to community and public.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

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in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

- **Welcome Home Bible Study** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Bible Study. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

- **The Village Chapel of Pinehurst** – 10 - 10:30 am, new weekly prayer service with Communion, in the Sanctuary, followed by a Bible study. The Village Chapel located on the Village Green, 10 Azalea Road, Pinehurst.
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

- **Tap Dance Ensemble** – 1:30 to 2:30 pm. A holiday performance by tap dance ensemble by Alive and Clinkin' with musical guest Tom Bernett. Call 215-0900 to reserve. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Beacon Ridge Dinner and Game Night** – Dinner served 5:00 to 6:30 pm,

reservations required. Call Beacon Ridge Country Club at 673-3158. Games: poker, canasta, dominoes, etc. Cost for dinner, dessert, coffee or tea \$15 includes tax and gratuities. You do not need to be a member to attend.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

- **Turkey Shoot** - Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs 7 pm, Prizes. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Mingle & Jingle Holiday Party** – 3 pm to 5 pm. Kids will enjoy a visit with Santa Claus and supervised crafts and games in the Activity Center, while adults and parents enjoy entertainment and a BYOB party next door at the SL North Clubhouse. All are welcome, and volunteers are needed.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest tonight *Matt Munisteri*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910) 944-7502.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary

Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- **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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- **December Lunch Bunch** – 12 noon, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. All single seniors are invited to attend at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines in the Joralemon Fellowship Hall. No cost, but reservations appreciated. Transportation can be provided. Following lunch, Don Welch accompanied by Betty Dennis will lead everyone in singing Christmas carols. Reservation or to arrange for transportation call Fran Stark at 673-5493.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator

Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

- **Welcome Home Bible Study** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Bible Study. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

- **The Village Chapel of Pinehurst** – 10 - 10:30 am, new weekly prayer service with Communion, in the Sanctuary, followed by a Bible study. The Village Chapel located on the Village Green, 10 Azalea Road, Pinehurst.
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal at \$5.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

- **Winter Begins**
- **"Blue Christmas" Worship Service** – 5 pm, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines with communion. Join in for prayers, Scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn and for those who struggle with the holidays. Everyone in the community is welcome. Contact Fran Stark 673-5493.

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Pioneer joins FirstHealth UNC Neurosurgery

A pioneer in the development and use of spine navigation technology has joined FirstHealth of the Carolinas' neurosurgery and spine program, bringing the total of board certified neurosurgeons affiliated with the specialty practice to four.

Charles S. Haworth, M.D., began seeing patients in the Pinehurst office of FirstHealth UNC Neurosurgery in September. He joined a practice that already included Carol M. Wadon, M.D.; Bruce P. Jaufmann, M.D.; and Larry Van Carson, M.D.

FirstHealth UNC Neurosurgery has an office on Cape Center Drive in Fayetteville in addition to the Pinehurst office that is located in the Pinehurst Surgical building at 5 FirstVillage Drive (across Memorial Drive from FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital).

Dr. Haworth, who has per-

formed more than 1,000 navigational spine cases, was involved in the development and introduction of the Stryker Spine Navigation Software program. In a minimally invasive spine navigation procedure, a 3D image is matched with a high-resolution pre-

operative CT to produce a CT-quality image of the operation site with less than 10 percent of the radiation exposure of a standard CT to the patient and none at all to the surgeon.

Because the precision of the surgical approach also results in minimal harm to surrounding muscle and tissue, the procedure is effective in the surgical treatment of spinal stenosis and spinal slippage (spondylolisthesis) and the surgical repair of ruptured discs.

"It's accurate and much easier on the patient," says Dr. Haworth.

A native of High Point, Dr. Haworth earned his medical degree from the Duke University School of Medicine. He completed an internship in neurosurgery at Los Angeles County University of Southern California and a residency, also in neuro-

surgery, at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

He also completed a neurosurgery fellowship at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Haworth served in the U.S. Navy from 1979 to 1993 and practiced neurosurgery at the National Naval Medical Center (now a part of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center) from 1990 to 1993. Before joining FirstHealth, he was associated with Duke Neurosurgical Associates of Lumberton and Southeastern Regional Medical Center.

He is certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery and currently serves as treasurer of the North Carolina Spine Society.

The FirstHealth UNC Neurosurgery team specializes in the treatment of diseases/disorders of the brain, spinal cord and spinal column, and peripheral nerves. The office accepts appointment referrals from physicians/health care providers and can be reached by calling (910) 295-0215 in Pinehurst or (910) 484-9802 in Fayetteville.



Charles S. Haworth, M.D.

FirstHealth offers e-cards

Do you have a friend who has just had a baby? Or a relative who is in the hospital following surgery?

If so, an online service offered by the three FirstHealth of the Carolinas hospitals now allows well-wishers to send a "Thinking of you" or "Congratulations on Your New Addition" message to a loved one or friend.

The new "eCard" service is available through the FirstHealth of the Carolinas website at www.firsthealth.org/ecard. All it involves is choosing a card and then submitting it along with a personalized message. The card is printed and then hand-delivered to the patient's bedside.

Ten different greetings are available:

"Get Well Soon"

"Hope you're feeling up to par"

"Wishing you a speedy recovery"

"You Are in Our Prayers"

"Thinking of You" (two styles featuring either a puppy or a kitten)

"Happy Birthday!"
"Congratulations on Your New Addition"

"It's a Girl!"

"It's a Boy"

There is no charge, but there are certain conditions, which are outlined on the website. In addition, "eCards" are available only to inpatients at Moore Regional Hospital, Montgomery Memorial

Hospital and Richmond Memorial Hospital.

"eCard" requests received by 9:30 am Monday through Friday are delivered the same day. Cards received after 9:30 am or on weekends and holidays are delivered the next business day.

For more information, call (800) 213-3284.

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Historical Society recognizes Fresh Market

Fresh Market Manager and Moore County native John Craven was recently honored with a gift from Moore County Historical Association board member Greg Zywocinski, who presented Craven with a book titled "Images of Moore County" by former MCHA President Richard Schloegl. Fresh Market in Southern

Pines has carried the MCHA's specialty gift soaps, since 2010.

The soaps are among the best-selling fundraisers for the non-profit MCHA, which maintains five house museums dating back to the 1700s and 1800s.

The soaps and books "Images of Moore County"

are written about local history by local board members and historians and are for sale at the Shaw House gift shop year-round, along with note paper, historic photographic reproductions and other gift items.

For information call (910) 692-2051, or visit www.moorehistory.com/



Greg Zywocinski of the Moore County Historical Association and Fresh Market Manager John Craven

Quinn pursues Guard career

U.S Army National Guard, Specialist (E-4), Catherine E Quinn, granddaughter of Elizabeth Campbell Quinn of Seven Lakes received two Master Degrees at Seton Hall University in August 2012. She earned a masters at John C. Whitehead School in Diplomacy and International Relations (MADIR) with a Concentration in Negotiations; Conflict Resolution Strategic Communications (MASC) and Professional Certificates in: Organizational Communications, and Public Relations.

Quinn previously attended Georgian Court University, in Lakewood, New Jersey and earned a BA in Communications, 2009 with a concentration in Public Relations with a Minor in Marketing. She was also an Out-

standing Leadership Award scholarship recipient (2005-2009).

Her current duties included: Unit Supply Specialist (92Y) Use of PBUSE and CIF software and other military programs that deal with issuing, and receiving equipment

and clothing for soldiers. Responsibilities also include taking care of weapons in the armory and vehicles at the motor-pool.

Quinn aspires to pursue U.S. Army Officer Candidate School (OCS) in February 2013.



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Turning the other cheek

I have received several letters and emails both criticizing and supporting the "Ask the Rev" column in the November 9 issue of *The Times*. Some were anonymous and I usually do not respond to unsigned letters, but two of these asked questions that I wish to answer.

Question: I too, was once a public figure and targeted with mean letters like Mr. Cobb's. I feel badly for you, but sorry for him. I've found most people who write these kinds of letters are irrational, jealous, insecure, and find their security in putting other persons down. How do you deal with these situations?

Response: As I state after each column, I welcome questions and comments. Usually, these responses are concerns

about the content of what I've written. Sometimes, I inadvertently push someone's "hot button" and they verbally attack me personally.



Ask the
'Rev'
Rev. Don Welch

I do not take these attacks personally. I seriously try to follow Jesus teaching in the Sermon on the Mount when he said: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'" But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be chil-

dren of your Father in heaven."

I try my best to understand why my adversary feels so strongly about the issue at hand that he must attack me rather than the ideas; and then, in my heart, I forgive.

If I didn't do this, I would be allowing the attacker to transfer his or her hate to me and hate, and revenge are not burdens I wish to bear.

I used to tell my students that they should have the courage to sign their names to their opinions, but then be prepared to answer anyone who disagrees with them.

Question: I read Mr. Cobb's offensive letter. We are members of the same church. Most ministers I know are liberal, and so am I and other members of my church. Am I to assume that Mr. Cobb hates me, my minister, and others because they disagree with him? I love my church, but I cannot embrace Mr. Cobb's idea of Christianity. I find it uncomfortable and distasteful to be around him. Can you help me with this problem?

A faithful reader

Response: I am sympathetic with your discomfort being around distasteful people. No one will force you to mingle socially; but we do not choose the people with whom we worship, and we

must always remember that only God is worthy to judge.

I refer you back to my response to the previous question. The heart of any relationship with God, neighbor or adversary is always forgiveness.

Isn't this what we pray most Sundays when we say: "Forgive us our debts (trespasses) as we forgive our debtors (those who trespass against us)."

If we are unwilling to forgive, how do we expect to be forgiven?

Don Welch, minister at the Chapel in the Pines, welcomes your questions and comments at: dwelch1@nc.rr.com

A real gem, right on Seven Lakes Drive

The Bible tells us that the Lord "brings forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the human heart. . . ." (Psalm 104:15)

Isn't it wonderful that we have a first-class, well-run, well-stocked wine store right here in Seven Lakes to help "gladden the human heart?" And isn't it a shame that

more of us don't use this gem when we think to buy wine?

I'm sure there must be number of reasons why Seven Lakers choose to shop for their wine elsewhere, although I can't for the life of me think of one.

Both Leslie and Bob Rose have worked hard to have a

wide range of prices to cater to every pocketbook, so it can't be because of cost. They are cost competitive with Food Lion, Lowes, Harris Teeter, and where-have-you. And, yes, they discount cases . . . just like the big stores.

Ok, so you have a favorite wine you like from one of the big box stores. Just ask,

and Leslie and Bob will get it for you. They have the same sources available to the Super Markets and they will be price competitive.

And, if you buy wine from a chain super market, who do you ask when you have questions about vintage, quality or what goes with what?

Feel intimidated by wines? There couldn't be a more caring, concerned friend to share their knowledge of wine with you than Leslie and Bob.

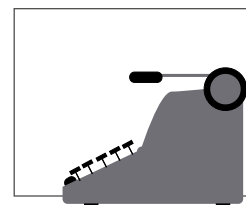
Sandhills Winery is located almost next to Food Lion, so it can't be for convenience. Most of us pass by or near many days a week.

Finally, how many of the big chains provide a farmer's market and participate in things like the Festival of Trees and Weymouth Woods

Christmas Celebration, while providing a fun, comfortable, and learning environment as well as a Wine Bar to meet

Your Turn

*Bud Sales
Seven Lakes West*



friends and neighbors for wine and coffee. You just can't find this much community involvement with the chains.

So, it always comes down to the bottom line, and here is the bottom line of this unsolicited letter:

We have a wonderful resource here in Seven Lakes. It may well be the finest wine store many of us have ever visited. Friends, if we don't use it we could lose it . . . and that would be a real shame.

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Merry Christmas! No offense intended.

I am not sure when Scrooge took over, but there seems to be a war on Christmas. However, recent polls show that a majority of Americans prefer "Merry Christmas" to "Happy Holidays."

Rasmussen polls show that sixty-eight percent of Americans prefer the traditional "Merry Christmas" to other greetings; and seventy percent of shoppers polled said that they prefer to be greeted by "Merry Christmas" in stores rather than the neutral "Happy Holidays."

So, what is the big deal? For a Christian, Christmas is the celebration of the Incarnation, the ultimate and final

disclosure of the eternal God. It is the second person of the Trinity taking human form. It is God becoming man, to provide salvation for



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

purchase gifts for our loved ones. Sadly, we as Christians are Scrooged in the checkout lines each time the clerks refuse to say "Merry Christmas" and recognize the reason we are

buying these gifts in the first place.

It is, after all, that we are celebrating Christ's birth by

all mankind.

We celebrate what we believe to be the greatest gift ever given to the world. We spend billions of dollars to

buying gifts. Why is it so offensive that I celebrate my beliefs?

I thought that in America we have freedom of religion,

and I also thought that we have freedom of speech. I am not offended when my Jewish friends say "Happy Chanukah" to me. It is what they believe. I am happy that we live in a country where we can celebrate how we believe, supposedly without fear of persecution. It is offensive to me when we, by virtue of removing "Merry Christmas," say that Christ and Christmas have no value.

We have become so consumed with not offending someone that we have offended the majority. As Americans, we should not ignore the minority; but if we are going to change our standards every time someone is offended, where does it lead? This morning, I saw a news story that a second grader wrote a poem for his grandfather who was in Vietnam, and officials refused to read it in school because it said "He prayed to God." If we are offended at that, we must be offended at America. We are a nation founded on prayer, started for religious freedom.

Read about our founding fathers and what they did.

What happens if someone is offended at the color of my house? Will I have to move?

I can choose to be offended by anything and everything, or I can choose to recognize that people have different views; and I can try to understand and celebrate the differences. I don't have to agree with you, but we are the great melting pot.

One of the reasons that Jesus came to the earth was to unite all people. Jesus reached out to the woman at the well, a Gentile woman who Jews wouldn't recognize at all. He reached out to the poor, the rich, the good and the bad.

This Christmas, please don't be offended when I say "Merry Christmas!" There is a seventy-eight percent chance that, when I say it, there will be a positive response. I am not saying it to offend you but to share the hope that I have found in Jesus Christ.

Electrifying exhibit held over

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex will continue to display the exhibit, It's Electrifying! through January 6, 2013.

This traveling exhibit from the North Carolina Museum of History highlights how the distribution of electric power changed lives throughout the state in the early twentieth century. As more homes and communities got power, the demand for electric appliances grew, which manufacturers promised would make housewives' chores easier. The exhibit illustrates this by contrasting pre-electric devices such as waffle irons, toasters, coffeepots, clocks, fans and irons with their electric-powered counterparts.

"Today, we have become accustomed to rapidly changing technology and how it affects our lives," noted David Reid, museum administrator. "Imagine less than a century ago, most North Carolinians

lived without electricity." By 1905, electricity was commonplace in most cities, but did not reach some rural communities until the 1940s.

The exhibit also highlights the advantages of electric lighting and the creation of distribution systems that

made the electrification of the state possible.

The museum is extending the exhibition dates due to its availability from the Museum of History.

Admission is free. For more information call 910-486-1330.



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Pro-life: It's not simply a matter of politics

Dear Editor:

After reading the two responses to Rev. Welch's article concerning pro-life or pro-choice, I wanted to submit a somewhat different interpretation of this article.

Being a strong advocate for life, I was very interested in the Reverend's view on the subject. I, at first, was interpreting his view pretty much as the other letters stated, but knowing how Reverend Welch loves children (If you haven't watched him at children's time in the Sunday service, you should.), I then began to look deeper into what he was saying.

I do not believe that he was advocating abortion in any way, but was stating how we

do not live in a utopian world, but in a world where evil is very much alive and well — and that most abortions are sought by those who do not want the child.

These unwanted children often times are born into families who resent the child, therefore they take their resentment out on the child by either brutally abusing them and/or murdering them. This is a sad, sad truth in this issue.

Mr. Cobb spoke of his unborn grandchild being a living person, and I agree with that. But that child will be born into a loving and nurturing family. Unfortunately, not all children are that blessed. In a perfect

world, we all would stand up and take responsibility for our actions; but, in this world today, that is just not the case. And so, the innocent usually are the ones who pay the price. I would also ask Ms. Hauck if she believes that God deliberately puts children into abusive homes. The loving God I know would not.

I do not know the answer to this issue and certainly do not pretend to know. I just know it is a much deeper issue than any political view point.

I still want to always choose life, but I do struggle with that at times.

T. Eileen Myers
Seven Lakes South

NC Symphony Coming

The North Carolina Symphony Brings Fine Music to Moore County. The symphony will be performing at Pinecrest High School's Lee Auditorium, just off Highway 15/501, Southern Pines.

The next concert will be held on Thursday, January 24 at 8 pm. The music will be *Beethoven's Fourth Symphony*.

The orchestra consists of sixty-six professional musicians with extraordinary musical background and training.

Buy tickets: Online; by phone toll free 877-627-6724 or 919-733-2750; in

person at the Arts Council of Moore County, Campbell house, 482 E. Connecticut Avenue, Southern Pines, 910-692-2787; or in person, the night of the concert, at Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School.

Purchase tickets for the whole season, or for one concert. Single ticket \$18 and on up depending on seat location. Students \$10 at the door. Details about pricing are on the website. Most of the concerts are preceded by a talk or an interview with a member of the orchestra. www.ncsymphony.org

Ruth Pauley lecture series

The Ruth Pauley Lecture Series is celebrating its twenty-sixth year with a great line-up of lectures, all free to the public.

"From Soldier to Survivor: One Man's Life Changing Event" is the topic of Green Beret MSG Mark Vomund's January 23, 2013 talk. He will discuss his challenges after being wounded by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Kandahar, Afghanistan. His story is one of courage, tenacity, perseverance.

Dana Beach will offer a view of "Coastal Conservation" in his April 4, 2013 lecture. Beach is the Executive Director of the Coastal Con-

servation League and is author of "Coastal Sprawl: the Impact of Development on Aquatic Ecosystems."

All Ruth Pauley lectures will be in Owens Auditorium on the Sandhills Community College campus in Pinehurst. Programs begin at 7:30 pm. Lectures are free and open to the public.

The Ruth Pauley Lecture Series is sponsored by Sandhills Community College, the Moore County League of Women Voters, the Sandhills Branch of the American Association of University Women, and the Moore County Schools. For additional information call 910-245-3132, work in future exhibits.

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Anger: the enemy of real democracy

The responses we've gotten to a column Reverend Don Welch wrote on Pro-Life versus Pro-Choice, in our November 9 edition, has me thinking about anger — and specifically about anger in the sphere of public debate.

I don't think Rev. Welch was really trying to foster a debate about abortion, which is always an incendiary topic. As Eileen Myers suggests in her letter on page 28, Welch's intent may have been more to, like a good preacher, get us thinking about all our hidebound notions and preconceptions.

He used the language of a well-worn debate to try to get us thinking about issues in a new way and to stretch our understanding of what it might mean to be consistently "pro-life."

What he got back for his trouble was a lot of anger — as well as some thoughtful responses.

But it was the angry ones

that got me thinking.

Anger has a long history as a potent rhetorical device. But I'm not sure it really does much in improve the quality of our public debate.

"Where's the outrage?" is a question posed perennially by pundits on the right and left of the political spectrum, when they want to get their readers, listeners, or viewers riled up about one thing or another.

We have the screamers on Fox News and the screamers on MSNBC all modeling anger as the preferred fuel for political debate. And their brothers and sisters on the radio and the internet are, if that's possible, even angrier.

The politicians themselves work pretty much the same street corner. The other day, you had the Minority Leader blustering at the microphone on the floor of the US Senate — supposedly the "world's greatest deliberative body"

— incensed that the Majority Leader has proposed to seek a change in the filibuster rules, using the very same mechanism that the Minority Leader proposed to use to do the very same thing when he was in the majority.

ior for the folks they govern.

In other words, a lot of this fuming and fussing, temper-tantrums and name-calling is all for show. It's just the way people talk in Washington, DC, on the TV, on the radio, and on the internet.

And, unfortunately, all that venting has begun to convince folks who write letters to their little hometown newspaper

that the only way to make your point effectively is to, as my grandmother would say, "get all het up about it."

In short, folks think they have to get mad to be heard.

And that's just wrong. Anger does utterly nothing to improve the quality of reasoning, thought, or decision making. Chances are, if you're angry, you probably aren't doing a whole lot of

quality thinking at that moment.

Anger does, on the other hand, serve a very useful function for demagogues on both sides of the political debate, who are more interested in motivating their followers to take action than in getting them to think independently, listen to a range of voices, or develop a rational position on some issue.

Anger, in short, is the enemy of real democracy.

So, the next time you find your blood boiling at something some TV commentator has said or newspaper columnist has written, do yourself and your nation a favor.

Count to ten.

Sleep on it.

Cool your jets.

Take a nice long walk.

And then, when your body has finally flushed out all that adrenaline, take a calm, cool look at the issue, and decide how, or whether, you ought to respond.

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



And, back then, of course, the current Majority Leader was mad as hell at the proposed maneuver that he is now embracing.

Either both these people are fools, or else they are faking their anger, using bluster instead of cogent arguments. And, by so doing, they are modeling bad behav-



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Sandhills can guarantee UNC-CH admission

"The C-STEP program is making people's dreams come true," Professor Linda Chandler, coordinator of University Studies and C-STEP coordinator at Sandhills Community College, says with enthusiasm. "With this program, a Sandhills graduate who participated in C-STEP is guaranteed admission to University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. What a fantastic opportunity!"

Starting this fall, Sandhills is now a partner in C-STEP, the Carolina Student Transfer Excellence Program, only available at eight of the fifty-eight community colleges in North Carolina. Through this program, graduates of Sand-

hills who have met rigorous C-STEP requirements are automatically accepted at UNC-Chapel Hill to continue their studies.

C-STEP students must apply and be accepted into the program. The criteria are to be a high-achieving student from a low-to-moderate income level. The student is required to earn an Associate in Arts or an Associate in Science degree from SCC within five semesters, graduate with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, complete three semesters of a foreign language and attend monthly C-STEP meetings.

Because of the excellent education it offers, UNC-

Chapel Hill is such a sought-after school that admission normally can prove to be a challenge. For instance, in fall of 2012, the university was only able to accept 26.6 percent of the students who applied to be incoming first year students and to accept only 38 percent of students wanting to transfer. But students in the C-STEP program have no admission acceptance worries.

"In addition to acceptance, the good news continues because C-STEP participants may qualify for the Carolina Covenant. Students will apply for Financial Aid upon transfer, and if eligible for the Covenant, students are

able to graduate from the university debt free." Chandler says.

Chandler also points out that C-STEP students at UNC-Chapel Hill receive transition and support services while pursuing their bachelor's degree, to ensure academic success and smooth social acclimation.

"We are delighted that Sandhills Community College is now part of the C-STEP program," says Rebecca Egbert, C-STEP program director at UNC-Chapel Hill. "Because Sandhills is near our campus and many of their students show an interest in our university, having C-STEP at Sandhills is a good

fit."

John R. Dempsey, president of Sandhills Community College, agrees. "Earning a bachelor's degree by first getting an associate's degree at Sandhills is a smart financial move," Dr. Dempsey states. "Now, with C-STEP, qualifying students can rest assured that their hard work will lead to admittance to UNC-Chapel Hill."

Because the program is supported with help from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, space is very limited. For more information on the C-STEP program, call Linda Chandler at (910) 695-3961. Or go to www.admissions.unc.edu/CSTEP/.

Signs

(Continued from page 3)

could be added to the existing Seven Lakes Hardware monument sign in front of the business. But those options are not acceptable to Garner, she explained.

The only other option is to amend the Sign Ordinance to make the signs legal, and that amendment would apply throughout the Village Business zoning district and throughout the County.

Ensminger told the Board that they would be reviewing the sign ordinance as part of the Unified Development Ordinance [UDO] beginning in January. Any changes to the ordinance aimed at

addressing Garner's problem would also need to be reviewed by the Planning Board. That panel was slated to take up the Sign Ordinance at its December 6 meeting, but that meeting was cancelled, and the Planning Board and Commissioner are both next scheduled to meet in January.

The Board's lack of options to help solve Garner's problem clearly frustrated Commissioner Picerno.

"I am a little frustrated that we hear over and over and over the mantra that we need to reduce regulation to get people back to work," he said "and it seems like even the simplest things, that make common sense, are so hard to do . . . so that a business owner, trying to employ people, can do those things. That is just something that crawls up the back of my neck."

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School Board

(Continued from page 12)

in education," said Clack. "I grew up a poor 4H girl and lived on farm in North Carolina. Because of education, I have been able to travel all over the world."

Clack's passion for sharing her knowledge extended to her fellow Board Members. "I had the good fortune of sitting beside you my first meeting," former Board of Education Chair Laura Lang told Clack. "You would tap me on my arm to let me know what I could and couldn't say. You've been a terrific teacher and are a wonderful woman."

Summing up Clack's lifetime of service, Dale Frye closed his remarks with, "I can only think of one thing to say: Well done, good and faithful servant."

Yet, Clack's own closing remarks left little doubt that she will continue to be an active educator in retirement. "I will still be around," she warned. "I still know how teach. I know how to get attention when I need it."

Technology Update

Tony Tusso, Moore County Schools' [MCS] Chief Officer for Technology Services, presented an update on outfitting schools with wireless technology and devices. Smart Boards have been introduced in most classrooms over the past several years. The county's middle and high schools received their boards first,

and they are now in most of the elementary schools.

It has been possible to saturate the county's school districts with wireless internet service using federal stimulus dollars provided in the Race to the Top program, setting the stage for future on-line testing and mobile computing. Students can now bring their own wireless devices to school and have service anywhere on campus. Tusso reassured the board that the internet connections filter out inappropriate content.

Three years of research on the "one-laptop-per-child" strategy have produced encouraging results, so MCS will continue to take a phased approach to purchasing laptops and placing them in student hands. Currently, both Carthage Elementary and Pinckney Academy have one laptop per child.

Board Chair Kathy Farren was enthusiastic regarding wireless access on campus. But she questioned whether students knew that they could bring their own devices to school.

"I've talked to students about this, and they have said, 'Really?' We need to get the word out to students and principals so that they will know what they can do," explained Farren.

"There must be a very carefully communicated plan," Superintendent Aaron Spence replied. "In our thinking, we believe it's the right way to

go. But we have more work to do."

The Fiscal Cliff

As "fiscal cliff" and "sequestration" become the latest buzzwords to describe the inability of the US Congress and the White House to reach agreement on managing the country's finances, cuts to the federal budget scheduled for January 1 would result in a two percent cut in MCS paychecks.

Spence offered, and the Board approved, a resolution urging Congress to stop sequestration. The resolution will be sent to the Moore County Board of Commissioners, state representatives, and the National School Board.

Farren stressed: "We need to make sure our future is bright, and we are educating our children as best as we can."

Financial Report

MCS Finance Officer Mike Griffin presented the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Amended Budget Resolution and the Quarterly Report. The original budget was amended from \$5,834,000 to \$6,124,000 to include recently received

grants from Army Youth and all expenditures to date, including the November payroll. Griffin cautioned, "At this point, the budget is as low as you want to go with operating expenses."

New income will be welcomed in 2014 through the United States Golf Association's use of several school facilities during the US Open Golf Tournaments. The State Board of Education approved ending school on June 4, 2014, one week earlier than normal, so that MCS resources could be used in hosting the tournament.

Brett Jones, audit manager of Dixon Hughes Goodman presented the audit of financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. After reviewing and examination of all financial statements, their opinion was that it was presented fairly and the reporting was clean.

Calendar Presented

Tim Lussier, MCS Advisor for Community Relations, presented the approved 2013 and 2014 calendar for both year-round and traditional schools.

After input from staff, parent representatives, and stu-

dent representatives, two different calendars were created. The two options were submitted back to the staff and representatives for a vote.

Merit Pay Pilot Program Wins No Support

Dr. Spence recommended against MCS participation in a pilot study concerning merit pay for teachers. The NC General Assembly in its last session offered to fund merit pay pilot projects in local school districts.

"Currently, there is no research whatsoever associated with merit pay and student achievement," Spence said, explaining his recommendation. "As we think about the efforts that we undertake in the school district, we ought to stay focused on what's good for kids. And I'm not sure that merit pay is," Spence said.

Board members were in agreement with Spence. Lineberger said research shows that teacher moral is directly correlated with student achievement.

Clack spoke from experience, "In the past, when federal funds supported this, it became divisive and caused unrest in the school system."

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

more experience with the community we can give him more leeway as he goes out," President Darr said. "But right now, any actions should come before the board."

Sohl reported that Security had questioned a non-member suspected of committing arson in one of the public restrooms. He reported that no action could be taken due to lack of proof.

Sohl Proposes Changes to Closed Session Bylaw

Community Manager Sohl proposed changing the protocol for closed sessions that is currently laid out in the bylaws, an idea that met with some skepticism from President Darr.

The purpose would be to tighten discussion of personnel issues in closed session, according to Sohl.

Meyer confirmed that it was a routine procedure, "doing things in a more standardized way," said Meyer. "I think the general public understands that there are topics that need to be discussed in closed session such as personnel."

However, the current SLLA bylaws already provide for the discussion of personnel issues in closed session. Bylaw 6.9.2.4 gives the Board authority to meet in Closed Session to "consider the qualifications and conditions of initial employment of an individual employee, or to inves-

tigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual employee."

Sohl's proposed revision simply changes that specific language to the more general phrase "personnel issues."

President Darr was skeptical of changing the closed meeting policy.

"I don't want us to take on the invincibility of doing what we dog-gone well please," warned President Darr. "Not just this board, but the next board."

Landscaping Contract

The Board is closer to selecting a new landscaping company, and current contractor Davenport is apparently not on the list. Bids from three different companies were under review, two local firms and a third headquartered in Fayetteville.

Community Manager Sohl's recommendation of which firm to select met with some resistance the Directors.

"I was leaning that way too," Director Leach said of the company Sohl recommended, "until I got to the various extras. As I looked at these contracts I wasn't very sure of the actual cost of the extras." Leach also questioned how much upkeep would actually be needed in the non-growing seasons.

Sohl then suggested narrowing the bids to two firms and recommended which one of the three should be eliminated. But President Darr

voiced strong support for that firm.

"We already know who this one company is," Darr said. "Almost all the extras were included in the bid. What I know about this company is that they do their job very well. They have two dump trucks, seven lawn mowers, and all the tools necessary to do the job." Darr then gave specific examples of locations that showcased the firm's "excellent work."

Leach supported Darr's point, agreeing to the quality of landscaping the company did, and pointing out the advantage that they were located nearby.

Discussion continued regarding the division of labor between the landscaping contractor and the in-house maintenance crew. Director Racine gave instances where the current landscaping company created more work for the grounds by carelessly blowing leaves on to the beaches.

"Who is responsible for keeping our beaches clean?" he asked. "I have seen the current contractor mowing and blowing leaves into the sand, and then our crew has to clean the beaches."

Sohl said he did not think the scope of worked over-

lapped. Racine agreed that there was no overlap, but rather a chasm, allowing maintenance tasks to fall into the gap and be handled by no one.

"I still want to know how this reacts and interfaces with our maintenance department," Racine insisted. "There has been a chasm between maintenance and landscaping. They have to be brought together."

As the Board debated which maintenance group should do what, the conversation naturally turned to the wisdom of outsourcing landscaping versus handling it in-house. Director Don Fentzlaff suggested a conservative approach of limiting the landscaping contract to the growing season.

Meyer and Leach agreed that the Board needed more information before reaching a decision. Leach suggested that the companies be contacted again and asked to offer quotes for only the growing season.

"Yes, we can do it," Manager Sohl concurred. "I think that's prudent."

Pavement Striping

Taking up another pending decision, the Board turned to a discussion of whether to stripe all SLLA roads or only those freshly-paved this Summer. Resident George Temple brought his calculations to the Board, recommending the latter approach.

"I think we should only do the roads that were just

(See "SLLA," p. 33)



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 32)

paved," Temple said. "I got just under 10,000 feet. That comes to \$8,250, as opposed to \$23,000 [to stripe all the roads]. I think what we do stripe should be done properly, but keep it under \$10,000 only doing the new road."

Meyer agreed that striping roads that are scheduled for repavement in two years did not make any sense. Night time visibility and the color of lines used to stripe the road were also discussed. Leach wondered if white would give more contrast in the dark.

For straight aways, Temple suggested saving the expense of striping, instead reserving it for the dams and curves, "If you can see 300 yards straight, ahead you don't need lines," he said.

Having personally experienced the lack of visibility at night, Leach disagreed, saying: "It's difficult to see at night. I am going to say that all the new roads need to be striped."

Real Estate Signage

Turning to a topic that has been discussed in their last two meetings, the board debated the wisdom of changing the covenants to allow for posting real estate signs. Under North Carolina's Planned Community Act, the approval of two-thirds of all landowners is required to change a covenant. But, as a community that predates the Act, the SLLA requires the approval of all landowners to change a covenant.

The discussion was tabled due to the amount of work and expense involved in changing the existing covenant. Darr said he had been advised a year ago to leave things well enough alone: "You are looking at a hell of a problem to change the covenant and you should really stay away from it. I think that's good advice and it would be an expensive proposition."

ADA Requirements for Public Pools

The Board's inclination to begin charging a fee for guest use of the Northside pool may in fact be derailed by the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA].

A moratorium on portions of the ADA that has been in place will be lifted in 2013, and public pools with greater than 3000 linear feet will be required to install either an additional sloped walk way or stairs.

Sohl contacted CAS attorney Jim Slaughter for guidance, and reported that charging admission to the pool will trigger ADA compliance.

"He says that, in 2013, NC Associations would need to comply with the rules, even if pools were preexisting," Sohl explained. "If you sell membership or host competitions you have to be compliant."

"We have been talking about the proposition of charging to use the pool," Treasurer Meyer noted. "If we charge then we need to meet these requirements.

How we are going to pay for them?"

"So you have to have that balancing act," Meyer said. "You either avoid the ADA compliances or you have the income for charging fees."

Opening the pool up to non-members could also increase other expenses. "When you open up your membership, to non-members, the liability increases," said Darr. "Guests of the members are included. If you are selling a membership to non-members, then that is the distinction."

Relying on the moratorium the Board has, thus far, taken no action on making the pool facility ADA-compliant, Racine explained.

Meyer wondered whether, given the large number of pools statewide that will be impacted by the lifting of the moratorium, there is any chance that it would be extended. "Is there any update?" he asked? "We have to act on it now to have it in place for the next swim season. There are number of pools around the country are also going to have to comply."

Nineteen-Foot Jet Boats

May Be Permitted On Lakes

Lakes & Dams Director Fentzlaff presented rules revisions that would allow jet boats of at least nineteen feet in length on Lake Sequoia, while jet boats less than fifteen feet in length, air boats, hovercraft, and jet skis would still be prohibited on the lakes. That touched off a debate that focused on noise on the lakes.

Resident Dale Newsman expressed his concern regarding potential boat noise, saying that he moved to Seven Lakes for peace and quiet.

Citing the importance of safety over potential noise Fentzlaff said, "It's a matter of what is becoming more of a sensible craft, because these boats do not have propellers. You can't get hurt underneath them because they don't have propellers. Boats that have normal motors in them but no propellers are called jet pumps. All boats will still need to comply with any noise restrictions."

The newer jet boats are actually quieter than boats with conventional drive, Meyer said. "I had a neighbor who had 18 foot Yamaha jet

boat that was much quieter than an outboard."

"As far as the noise goes, the boats will make some sort of racket," said Fentzlaff. "That is what we have security for: to make sure that they are not abusing residents that live along the lake. Our lake authority is out there three days a week; they will issue citations, when necessary, if the boat is being operated in a manner that is not acceptable."

The Board is expected to vote on Fentzlaff's recommendation at the December 19 Open Meeting.

Required Trailer Fee

A proposed \$10 fee for parking trailers in the Sequoia Point lot will be voted on in the December 19 Open Meeting. The fee would cover the administrative cost of registering the trailers. Currently, the Association is dealing with the disposal of several unclaimed boat trailers that were abandoned in the lot.

Director Leach argued that the fee was too low: "Seven Lakes has recently spent a considerable amount of money on gravel, dirt, and

(See "SLLA," p. 35)



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Foxfire Council

(Continued from page 4)

to pave Woodland Circle Extension.

Frusco suggested setting up an assigned account that would allocate receipts from sale of the property specifically for payments on the Woodland Circle Extension project loan.

"In four years, the Village will have to cover an additional \$100,000 in payments each year," she explained. "That money comes from the General Fund. We are just earmarking some of it. If Foxfire increases its revenue then it won't be a problem," said Frusco.

Councilman Steve Durham questioned whether it was to the Council's advantage to setup assigned funds and be more restrictive: "We already have the mindset that we are paying off this debt. We have a general fund and are following proper procedures while paying down this debt. If we become more restrictive, it limits our priorities."

According to Frusco, if necessary, the monies could be unassigned. The separate account would allocate funding for debt.

Mayor George Erickson noted that the priorities of a future Council might differ from the current Council's priorities. "At some time in the future, it might not be the same five people that are sitting around the table now," Erickson said. "If we think the process through and do what is necessary to solve this problem then they inherit it. This is most likely the way to get it done."

Reducing the debt too rap-

idly could put too heavy a burden on the Village, warned Councilman Mick McCue. Councilman Vic Koos and McCue agreed that, presently, reduction in debt was the right choice, but McCue cautioned that unforeseen needs could reprioritize expenditures in the future.

Hesitantly, Durham agreed that he would support whatever the Council decided to do, but said he would prefer not to restrict the funds. "I just prefer a system that gives us more flexibility," he explained. "There may come a time when we do not want to pay more of the debt than we have to."

"Those debt payments are going to come regardless, whether we sell the land or not," Frusco said. "When I look at the General Fund I want to grow that fund as much as I can, while being prudent. Down the road, we can tap that resource. If we have restricted this money for certain uses, then no one will think we have all this money that we are just sitting

on and question why we have all these extra funds. It is reserved for the future."

Whether earmarked or not, the debt reported monthly in the financial report is the only reminder that Durham needs. "In every budget report you report the debt," he said to Frusco. "It's pretty obvious where the money is going."

Rick Rhyne Memorial

The council recently began accepting donations for a memorial recognizing Rick Rhyne, the longtime Foxfire Police Chief who was killed in the line of duty while serving as a Moore County Sheriff's Deputy.

To date, only one third of the expense necessary to produce the two-dimensional brass portrait of Rhyne mounted on a stone marker has been raised. McCue blamed poor advertising: "We only have ten people throughout the village that have donated to that fund."

Winter Delays Road Paving

Cold weather will delay

repaving Village roads, Councilman Vic Koos reported. Currently, the \$58,000 allocated to repaving in this year's budget remains untouched.

In 2008, the estimated cost to repave all of Woodland Circle was \$18,000. If the estimated cost remains under \$35,000, the Council will be able to choose a contractor without soliciting bids on the job.

Village repaving efforts are guided in part by a 2006 survey of the roads conducted by a transportation consulting group affiliated with NC State University.

"Are all decisions about what roads to repave based on this plan?" asked McCue. "Or do we take in consideration the amount of traffic on these roads?"

Priority and necessity would trump the plan, Koos said: "If a road is in dire need of repaving and another is in worse shape, then we would have to make a decision."

Citing potential risks, Koos has been personally removing sand and pine straw from village roads. "Right now, I believe it's a hazard," he explained. "In the rain it could cause a car to slide. On North Shamrock, the sand is real thick, all the way across the road."

Long Range Planning

It will be late winter or early spring before the council receives a report from the Long Range Planning Committee. I received a phone call today, and the group is currently wrapping up their results," reported Durham. "It might be as early as February that they will be ready to present their findings concerning the water infrastructure long range planning initiative."

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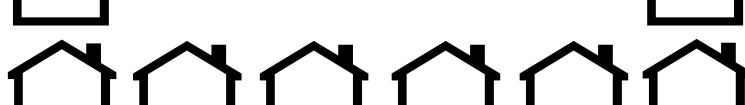
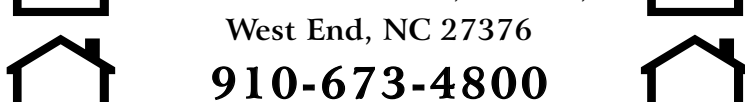
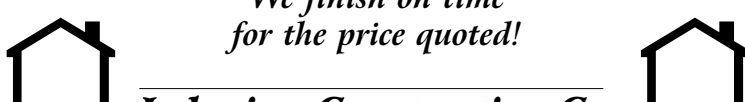
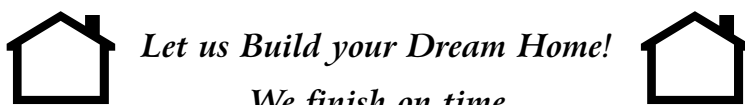
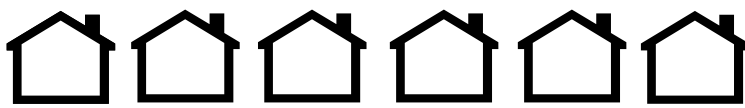
The council agreed to post a sign stating weight limits for the swings in Village Green Park.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 7)

- owned by most of the County's farmers. Proceeds from the sale will be used to acquire more suitably-sized equipment.
- Approved a contract with Integrity Public Finance Consulting who will provide arbitrage tracking and reporting services on the County's \$38,420,000 limited obligation bond sale that was used to fund the construction of the new Public Safety and Detention Center, as well as several public utilities projects.
- Authorized the live-streaming of video of Board of Commissioners meetings over the internet. Information Technology Director Darlene Yudell explained that the same equipment

and service currently in use to record video of Commissioners meetings could be used for streaming, at no additional cost to the County. Commissioner Craig Kennedy voted against the move to live-streaming of meetings.

- Approved \$22,000 in change orders to the new Public Safety Building to install additional security cameras and upgrade some walls for fire safety reasons. The cost of the changes will be absorbed in the \$900,000 contingency fund established as part of the \$27,224,000 construction contract.
- Authorized \$151,000 in change orders to the Addor wastewater treatment plant expansion, paying for the

changes from the contingency built into the \$22,00,000 contract.

- Amended the Moore County Sewer Use Ordinance to bring it into line with new state requirements.
- Gave the County's blessing to an extension of the Town of Pinebluff's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction, based on an agreement between the Town and the neighboring Town of Aberdeen.
- Made the following appointments: Helen Shillaci and Virginia Whiting to the Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Community advisory Committee; John Ganley to the Local Emergency Planning Committee; and Mike Andrews to the Moore County Transportation Advisory Board.

SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 33)

drainage for the lot. There should be a fee to offset this. Boats are a luxury item, and the owners should be able to pay \$3 and change per month, about \$40 per year. Parking trailers on the West Side costs \$75 a year. I think we need to get in the twenty-first century at Seven Lakes and charge a more than a reasonable fee."

Several members, including George Temple, worried that a majority of the boats would then end up in member's yards.

Ultimately, the level of fees for boat and trailer registration may depend on whether the Board is able to win member approval for a dues increase this Spring.

"If raising the dues doesn't pass, then we are going to have to take a look at other fees," said Meyer. "I would like to have \$40; don't get me wrong. It is an absolutely reasonable number. I am also sensitive to the boats landing in yards if we charge too much money. I like the idea of getting them registered to know who they belong to. I am ambivalent to \$10 or \$40. If we do not get a dues increase then we should increase the boat fee."

Contractor to Repair Barn, Gate and Poles Selected

Two contractors submitted proposals to undertake the repair of a gate and poles at the Stables barn; however one declined to complete the bid. After five failed attempts to reach the latter, manager Sohl recommended accepting a bid from Seven Lakes Contractors.

Upgrading Lighting

The final item the SLLA Board discussed was updating all light fixtures with more energy efficient models by 2014. Increasing the candlelight wattage in the North Clubhouse would receive first

priority.

"Conrad has spent considerable time taking lighting measurements day, evening, and night," Director Leach reported. "His study confirms and validates the need for light replacement. The maintenance cost of \$3700 has been unanimously approved by a committee. The board should ask if this is a priority. There are a number of reasons for us to proceed, improving energy efficiency and providing more light will make a significant difference."



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Detention center

(Continued from front page)

pany for the Rick Rhyne Public Safety and Detention Center.

Though Smith explained that the required changes will not add to the cost of the project, they will delay the projected completion date until March 1, 2013 — seven months past the projects' original deadline.

The entire roof of the Detention Center building must be replaced, as well as about one-tenth of the roofing panels on the Public Safety Building. According to a letter from D.H. Griffin to the County, the rework is necessary in order for the roofing manufacturer to agree to provide a full warrantee on the roof.

The original contract for the \$27 million public safety and detention center called for a completion date of August 6, 2012. The contract imposed \$2,500 per day penalties on the contractor for missing that deadline.

When it became clear last Spring that the deadline would not be met, the Commissioners approved a contract revision that extended the completion date to November 4, 2012, while waiving the penalties. County Attorney Misty Leland and an outside attorney, Chuck Kitchen, both advised the Board at the time that pursuing the penalties against the contractor would likely result in an extensive and expensive round of lawsuits and arbitrations.

The same \$2,500 per day penalty was supposed to apply if the new November 4 deadline was missed, but the Commissioners have agreed not to pursue penalties against the contractor if the repairs and associated work is completed to the County's satisfaction.

Larking explained that a certificate of occupancy was issued for the buildings on November 4, because the structures are "substantially complete," and the roof repairs will not prevent the County from using the building.

"No harm was done to the County," through the roof installation problems, Larking said, because the contractor will cover the cost of the repair and replacement, and the County can, in the meantime, ready the buildings for use.

Amplifier Approved for Public Safety Center & Jail

The Board approved a request by Chief Deputy Neil Godfrey to enter into a contract with Wireless Communications, Inc. for the engineering design and installation of a bi-directional amplifier for radio and cellular telephone coverage in the Rick Rhyne Public Safety and Detention Center.

The installation will begin in mid-January, and is expected to be complete by January 31. The \$193,000 cost of the project includes one year of system monitoring

and maintenance. Continued maintenance for the system in subsequent years will cost \$9,200 annually.

Public Works

At the request of Public Works Director Randy Gould, the Commissioners approved a \$16,700 change order to a contract with Sandhills Contractors, Inc. for the Midland Road Water Line Extension that will add sixteen days to the project. The new cost of the project is \$628,000. The Waterline extension is aimed at supporting the expansion of Carolina Eye Associates, while at the same time easing a bottleneck in the County water transmission system.

"This is a big win," said Chairman Picerno, "not only for Carolina Eye but the entire system."

Gould said this project will not only help the bottle neck issue of water but will also increase the amount of water available.

In other Public Works business, the Commissioners awarded McGill Environmental Systems a \$195,000 contract to clean the County's water pollution control plant digester.

The Board also approved a \$4,500 amendment to a contract with Hobbs Upchurch & Associates for

work being done at the County's Water Pollution Control Plant, bringing the total engineering cost of the project to \$2.1 million.

Cooperative Extension

The Board authorized the Moore County Cooperative Extension office to submit a \$10,000 Rural Advancement Foundation International grant to help in the Sandhills Farm-to-Fare Pilot project. This grant will help local farmers bring their products to market. No county match is required.

Other Business

Other Business conducted during the Board's Monday, December 3 meeting included:

- The Commissioners approved a request by Assistant County Manager Ken Larking to be a signatory on County checks that require dual signatures.
- The Board set January 3 and 4 as the dates for their Annual Retreat. Meetings will begin at 8:30am on both days.
- The Commissioners approved a salary increase for the Clerk to the Board Laura Williams. The new salary is \$65,000, within the salary range of \$50,000 to \$72,000 a year specified

for the position.

- The Board authorized staff to negotiate the placement of an AT&T antenna on a County water tank in the Pinehurst area. The Village of Pinehurst will also have to approve the antenna.

Appointments

The Commissioners made the following appointments during their Monday, December 3 meeting:

- Buck Mims to the Moore County Planning Board.
- Lee McKinney, Bruce Robson, and Greg Sasser were reappointed to the RSVP Advisory Council

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