


Are you ready for some pancakes?



The chefs of the Seven Lakes Kiwanis are ready to serve some up, with their 30th Annual Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, February 9 at West End Elementary. This year's breakfast aims to equip WEE with ten new iPads. See page 10 for details.

Schools moving ahead with classroom technology

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor

 Moore County Schools [MCS] is moving forward with its goal of putting a computer

in the hands of every student, Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence told the Moore County Board of Education during their Monday, January 6 regular meeting. And MCS is making that investment in

technology "in a way that is within our current budget and is fiscally sound."

Spence said MCS's "1:1 Initiative" has already placed a laptop in the hands of every Pinckney Academy student, and will, by months' end, give every student at Carthage Elementary an iPad tablet computer.

Looking further ahead, Spence said federal Race to the Top grant money will be used to purchase new laptop computers for all teachers, who will be trained to use instructional software and other tools. Spence noted that curriculum, assessments, and student management systems are all

(See "Schools," p. 15)

Rules for closed meetings changed

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors has better defined its procedures for closed meetings, while significantly expanding the range of business that may be discussed behind closed doors. The Board voted, during the Wednesday, December 19 Open Meeting, to amend Bylaw 6.9.2 - Special Closed Business Meetings.

The previous wording in Bylaw 6.9.2 narrowly defined the rationale for closed-door meetings, borrowing language from the North Carolina Open Meetings Law, which applies

to town councils and county boards, but not to landowners associations.

The new language, proposed by Community Manager Ray Sohl, is much broader, allowing closed sessions for "personnel matters; consult with legal counsel; discuss and consider contracts; pending or probable litigation" and matters involving an individual's breach of the rules and regulations.

At the same time, the new language defines more precisely the manner in which closed-door meetings can be called and the record-keeping associated with calling such a meeting. It restricts conversation behind closed doors

(See "Closed," p. 21)

Commissioners map out to-do list for 2013

by Stacy Naughton
 Times Reporter



A seemingly endless, — though often enlightening — series of Powerpoint presentations: that's been the standard format for the annual planning retreat of the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

But this year's retreat, held on Thursday and Friday, January 3 and 4, took a different tack, engaging the Commissioners in group discussion, supported by County staff, on a wide range of key issues affecting the County, including increasing the water supply, meeting the needs of Moore County Schools, and fostering economic development.

Water Options

Water is a perennial Commissioners retreat topic, and the idea of using a reservoir in Robbins as a key element in increasing Moore County Public Utility's supply of water has been a preferred option in the past few years' discussions.

But times have changed. Robbins may not be completely off the table when it comes to immediate water options for Moore County, but it is not one that is being recommended by the County's Public Works Director, Randy Gould.

Gould's top recommendations are drilling more wells and piping in additional water from Harnett County. After years of considering a long and growing list of options,

(See "Retreat," p. 26)

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Laker arrested on drug charges

Dana Rosario Fierro, 32, of 143 Overlook Drive, was arrested by Moore County Sheriff's officers on Monday, January 7, on charges of attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud.

A press release from the Sheriff's office alleges that Fierro attempted to obtain Oxycodone, a Schedule II controlled substance by altering a prescription.

She was charged with felony attempt to obtain controlled substance by fraud, and felony attempt to traffic in opiates by possession.

Fierro received a \$10,000 unsecured bond and was released.



Dana Rosario Fierro

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, 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.

Annual Community Social and Mixer

The Women of Seven Lakes will host their annual Community Social and Mixer on Sunday, January 27, from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Seven Lake North Clubhouse. Tickets are limited to 110 purchasers, at only \$5 per person.

Hot and cold appetizers will be provided with cups, ice, and water furnished. BYOB. To purchase tickets call: Southside – Polly at 673-2260; Northside – Lee at 673-2521; or Westside – Tina at 400-5356.

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The Chapel in the Pines ministers to surviving spouses and children of dozens of Seven Lakes residents each year. They have found that the greatest gift of love that one can leave survivors are carefully prepared documents and written arrangements that give detailed directions for those left behind.

On Thursday, January 17, at 4 pm, the Chapel will hold a seminar on the subject: "Preparing Loved Ones for Your Death."

This seminar will be led by Manila "Bud" Shaver assisted by the ministers, Don Welch and Fran Stark.

Participants will be guided step by step in making these preparations.

This seminar will be open to the entire community. All materials will be furnished by the Chapel. There is no charge and prior registration is not required. The seminar will last 60 to 90 minutes.

Nothing can take away the grief that comes from the death of a loved one, but adequate preparations can relieve a spouse, child or sibling from many distracting details.

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Westside Board debates boat slip fees

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



will affect Westsiders renting a Johnson Point boat slip

The Westside Board took a little of the sting out of dues and fee increases that

next year, after a lengthy hour-and-a-half discussion during their Tuesday, January 8 Work Session.

The Directors unanimously voted to set boat slip fees at \$750 per year for FY 2013-2014. The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] currently charges \$700 for slips, and the Finance Committee had recommended an increase to \$800.

However, that change cuts \$2,750 in revenue from the budget, and that money will have to come from somewhere. Although some Board members suggested it come from the Community Recreation and Events budget, that appears unlikely.

Treasurer Don Freiert who presented the initial budget draft on December 11, told *The Times* that the money will most likely come from the reserve fund.

"I don't think it's fair now, because people are complaining about boat slips and the prices on that . . . to now say: Okay, I am now going to take it out of Events," said Freiert, "You want to lower the fee [on boat slips], then take the hit."

A decision will be needed quickly, because the deadline to have a finished budget is January 17.

Director Jim Pierman suggested that adding \$1.50 per lot to the proposed dues increase would cover the shortfall in projected boat slip revenue, Freiert said the time for such suggestions was in December when the budget was proposed — not a week before it is due.

The push to decrease the boat slip fee was headed by Directors Pierman, Dan Blue, and Jane Sessler. With increases planned in all other fees, Blue said it was like a

"triple taxation" for individuals with a boat.

"I personally think — and this is my opinion — that the fees were raised a little too high," said President Mick Herdrich. "It hasn't been raised in four years, so I don't have a problem with an increase, but I do think \$100 is way too much, when they are getting dinged twice for the storage lot and marina slip."

Board candidate Dale Erickson said, during member comments, that there are "consequences" to owning a boat — and one of those is a fee to have it in the community.

However, former SLWLA

President Ron Shepard said the proposed increase only targets a select few people.

The Budget's Goal: Increasing Reserve Funds

A key objective of Freiert and the Finance Committee in crafting the budget was to increase the contribution to the Association's reserve funds, which have been depleted as a result of several recent major projects.

"Remember, when we had this budget discussion we came to the table to try and solve a problem," Freiert said. "We addressed . . . the decline in the reserve — that is real. That's what we were

(See "Westside," p. 11)

Marc Chagall is Topic at Chapel Lunch Bunch

All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch for luncheon at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Joralemon Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, January 23 at noon. There is no cost to attend. To make reservations for lunch and if transportation is needed please call Fran Stark 673-5493.

Following lunch Vivian Jacobson, author and lecturer will give a talk on the The Biblical Windows of the St. Stephan Church in Mainz, Germany.

The windows were designed by Chagall for the apse of the church in 1973 as a sign of love, peace, hope and reconciliation for France and Germany, and for Christians and Jews. Use of projected images illustrates each section of the windows. The lecture contains a detailed analysis of the artwork as it coincides with Chagall's passion for the Bible.

Jacobson will have her book *Sharing Chagall: A Memoir* available for purchase.

Anyone who would like to hear the lecture is invited to join the the group following lunch at 12:30 pm.

This project is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide non-profit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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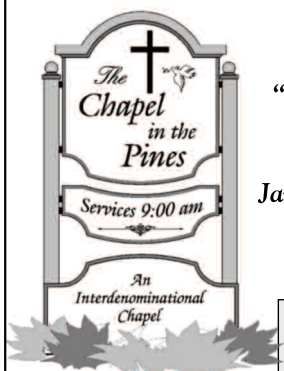
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Foxfire wants to re-establish Village CERT

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter



Councilman Mick McCue wants to resurrect Foxfire Village's Civilian Emergency Report Team [CERT].

The Village had a CERT program in the past, but for some reason it faded away, McCue said during the Village Council's Tuesday, January 8 meeting.

After attending a seminar at Sandhills Community College dealing with hazards and safety concerns, McCue said he would like the Village to be more prepared to respond to emergencies.

"We can help ourselves in terms of having people prepared," he said.

In the past, the Village's CERT program was funded by Moore County, Village Clerk Lisa Kivett explained. Neither McCue nor Kivett were certain whether County funding is still available.

Foxfire does participate in the Moore County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which would allow the Village to access Federal funds in the event of a disaster.

Anyone interested in joining the CERT program in the Village should watch the community website for more information.

Road Repairs

Councilman Vic Koos gave an update on road patching and paving, noting that his goal is to stop the cracking of the pavement which may be caused by shifting in the lower layer of pavement that is just beneath the top layer.

"With budgetary concerns, we will not be able to pave as much as we can patch," said Koos.

Mayor George Erikson said it seems to be common practice to patch before paving a road -- which is the process the NC Department of Transportation appears to use on Hoffman Road.

Koos said he is still in the process of obtaining bids and will come before the Council with a proposal for the project

in the future. But he added that he does anticipate road repairs to be complete before the end of the fiscal year.

Finances

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco gave the Council an update on the Village's current financial standings as of December 31, 2012.

Currently, the Village has in the unrestricted general fund \$991,000 with a total balance of \$1.1 million.

The restricted funds include: Powell Bill for \$26,000, Stonehill Pines for \$20,000, Capital Reserve for \$100,000, and assigned for future debt service \$35,000.

The water fund balance sits at \$273,000. In the BB&T Escrow account -- which is restricted for a new well -- there is \$135,000.

There is an additional loan payment to make in this budget year for \$188,000 for the Woodland Circle project. Of this, \$173,000 will come from the general fund and \$15,000 will come from the water fund, Frusco explained.

In December, the Village received its second half of this year's Powell Bill funds,

in the amount of \$20,000. All of budgeted revenues -- "plus a little more" -- has been received, Frusco said.

As of January 8, the Village has collected 93.5 percent of real estate taxes. The tax due date was January 6, and residents who have yet to pay their tax bill will be issued a past due notice.

A list of properties that have not paid taxes will be available at the February meeting.

Other Business

Other business discussed during the Council's Tuesday, January 8 meeting included:

- Village Clerk Kivett has expanded the Village's library to include children's books. She has personally donated seventy-five books to the library. Books can be checked out three at a time for a two week period.
- The Council discussed the prospect of annexing Grande Pines, so that the subdivision's roads would be maintained by the Village. Initially, the subdivision was going to be a gated community, Kivett

told *The Times*. However, now they would like to be included in the Village's street maintenance system. The subdivision was annexed into the Village four years ago. Information on Grande Pines' request will be placed on the Village's website.

- A letter requesting that something be done about four sets of duplex foundations that have sat in their current unbuilt condition since 2006 has yet to receive a response, said Mayor Erickson. The next step would be to send a

court order to the builder. The Council will further discuss what actions to take at their work session on January 31. The builder has until January 15 to respond to the letter.

- The Council will hold a public hearing on February 12 to discuss dissolving the Village's current Planning and Zoning Board and reducing the number of members from 9 to 5. The Council will then appoint the five members to the new board. This will include two representatives from

(See "Foxfire," p. 14)

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County spent \$2M less than budget in 2012

by Stacy Naughton
Times Reporter

Moore County spent \$2 million less last year than the Board of Commissioners budgeted. That was the top line good news from an audit of the County's finances conducted by Martin Starnes and Associates, presented to the Commissioners during their Thursday, January 3 regular meeting.

If the surplus money isn't used to pay off debt, Chairman Nick Picerno told *The Times*, it should be returned to the taxpayers. "It's their money," he added.

The County expected to spend \$85 million in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 but ended up spending a little less than \$83 million.

The bulk of County funding comes from property taxes, which provided \$54.8 million in FY 2012. Sales taxes contribute another \$12.8 million, and restricted intergovernmental funding accounted for \$11.3 million.

The largest chunk of the County's expense budget goes to Moore County Schools, a total of \$30.2 million in FY 2012. Public Safety accounted for another \$10.8 million in spending, and the Department of Human Services consumed \$17.6 million.

Picerno congratulated the Finance Department, employees and department heads. "We continue to do what we set out to do," he said Picerno, "spend money and spend it wisely."

The County also received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.

Water main transferred to Harnett County

Convening as the East Moore Water District [EMWD] Board, the Commissioners approved the transfer of a 5,100-foot, six inch water main along McPherson Road and Hilmon Grove Road to Harnett County. The water line was constructed by the EMWD but is actually located in Harnett County. It is currently not used by either county.

The transfer, requested by Public Works Director Randy Gould, will include the valves, fire hydrant assemblies, fittings, and appurtenances associated with the length of the water main.

The EMWD would purchase water from Harnett County through this line to improve fire flows in this growing area of the County. Currently, there are no customers attached to the line. Any future customers — and the revenues they generate — will fall to Harnett County.

By transferring this line — which produces no revenue for the District or the County — to Harnett County, the EMWD will no longer be responsible for the maintenance of the line.

New Policy on extensions of County Water System

Also at Gould's request, the Commissioners approved a new Water and Wastewater Extension Policy Manual, that sets requirements for citizens and developers of residential, commercial and industrial properties who want to connect to the County's water and/or sewer system in areas served by Moore County Public Utilities or the East Moore Water District.

In accordance with that new policy, the Board authorized the Public Works department to re-submit an application to the NC Rural Economic Development Center for the Edgewood Terrace and Stanley Road Project, which would bring county water to a small West End community in which residents are experiencing difficulties with their wells.

The County plans to extend a water line to the area at a total cost of \$85,000. The

grant, if approved, would cover fifty percent of the cost.

Public Hearings Scheduled

The Commissioners approved, during their January 3 meeting, two Planning Department public hearings to be held on Tuesday, January 15.

The first hearing will consider a text amendment to Articles 13 and 24 of the Moore County Zoning Ordinance. The amendments aim to more precisely define the uses allowed in each zoning district, in response to a recent court case in Union County.

The second hearing is to consider text amendments to Article 11, which deals with watershed overlay districts. The amendments will allow developers to average the density of development across parcels that are not contiguous for purposes of meeting watershed protection requirements.

Other Business

Other business conducted by the Commissioner's during their Thursday, January 3 meeting included:

- The Board authorized a transfer of \$27,200 from the General Fund to the Narrow Banding Project, reimbursing the project for E-911 funds that were used to purchase unrelated items, including semi-automatic rifles for the Sheriff's Office, at a cost of \$18,500; a time-keeping system for \$5,800, and computer equipment for \$2,800.
- The Commissioners authorized the Community Development Department to apply for grants that will reimburse items such as rent, utilities, training, and employee salaries.
- The Board tabled consideration of an agreement between Moore County and Keep Moore County Beautiful.

(See "Commissioners," p. 21)



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Vote on Times reporter causes confusion

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board found itself in an embarrassing situation over the routine ratification of a prior electronic vote, during the Wednesday, December 19 Open Meeting.

The objective was to permit a non-member *Seven Lakes Times* reporter to attend Open Meetings and Board Work Sessions. But Board members were caught off guard when George Temple — last year's SLLA Citizen of the Year — and his wife Deb got up to leave the Open Meeting, noting that they were renters and not Association members, and apparently not welcome at the meeting.

That set Board members scrambling, trying to figure out how to quickly authorize attendance by the Temples, as well. Another member then asked "When did this become a problem?" noting that members of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association, and other non-members had attended — and even addressed the Board — in previous SLLA Open Meetings.

Ultimately, the Temples kept their seats, as the Board decided to ratify its electronic action on *The Times* reporter and deal in a subsequent meeting with a policy affecting meeting attendance by renters and other non-members. Directors Steve Ritter and Chuck Leach opposed the motion.

[Editors note — A reporter from *The Seven Lakes Times* has attended every SLLA Open Meeting for the past twenty-seven years. Most of those reporters have been non-residents. Until now, no SLLA Director or Manager has questioned the presence of *The Times* reporter, or suggested that an invitation might be necessary.]

No nominees by deadline

The SLLA Bylaws require the Nominating Committee — headed this year by Direc-

tor Ritter — to present a slate of nominees to the board "at its last meeting in December."

During the Board's Wednesday, December 19 meeting — the last scheduled meeting of the month, Ritter told his fellow Directors: "So far, we are actively courting one candidate who said they might be interested in running for the Board." He added that the Committee had identified three or four residents who might be interested in

serving on committees — but not on the Board.

The SLLA Board is already short one member due to the resignation of Communications Director David Buckingham. The terms of office of four other Directors — President Bob Darr, Vice President Don Fentzlaff, Treasurer Conrad Meyer, and Secretary Bob Racine — all expire at the Annual Meeting in March. None of the four has publicly expressed any interest in running for a sec-

ond term.

That leaves only Ritter and Chuck Leach to manage the Association's affairs next year.

After December 31, the only way for names to be placed on the ballot — including the names of any sitting Directors who decide to stand for election to a second term — is through petition. According to the SLLA Bylaws; "any member in good standing with the Association may be nominated by a petition signed by at least fifty (50)

members in good standing and presented to the Board at its last meeting in January." That meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, January 30.

Landscaping Contract remains with Davenport

In a decision that met with some resistance, the Board approved in a four-to-one vote a \$133,200 annual service agreement with Davenport Landscaping, the current (See "SLLA," p. 13)

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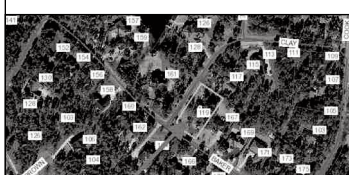
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163 MORRIS • LK AUMAN WATERFRONT



3 BD+ BONUS, EASTERN EXPOSURE! – \$525,000

119 CLAY CIRCLE • 7LW



WATERVIEW LOT • \$58,000

116 JAMES DR • 7LW



4 BD + MANY UPGRADES! • \$296,000

129 HARRELL RD • 7LW



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108 CARDINAL DRIVE • 7LN



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School Board asks legislators for support

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Every incoming kindergartner in Moore County deserves a level playing field in education. That was the message delivered by members of the Moore County School Board and MCS Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence during a Thursday, January 3 breakfast with legislators, including NC Senator Jerry Tillman, NC Representative Allen McNeill, NC Representative Jamie Boles, and Rebecca Briles, representing the office of US Representative Renee Ellmers.

The key to leveling that playing field is early intervention — particularly for at-risk children. Exposure to literacy and pre-kindergarten [Pre-K] programs for children at risk will prepare children for success, Spence told the legislators.

But necessary resources come with a price tag, and School Board members took the opportunity to request continued support in the upcoming legislative session. "We very much appreciate the support you do give us," Spence said. "We know that these are difficult times and everyone has to do more with less."

The state has recently recognized the critical importance of making sure students are reading on grade level by the third grade, passing the "Excellent Schools Act" during the last legislative session. The challenge will be funding that initiative, Senator Tillman admitted: "The program will need an additional \$30-\$40 million to hire necessary personnel, reduce class sizes, and get the right interventions."

Higher Graduation Rate Saves State Money

But those interventions may be cheap, compared to what dropouts cost the state and federal government over the duration of their lives.

Board Chair Ed Dennison cited a study completed by the Alliance for Excellent Education that found that last year's high school dropouts will cost North Carolina an estimated \$4.4 billion in lost income, taxes, and productivity over the students' lifetimes.

"It is much harder for a dropout to find a good paying job today than it was thirty years ago," Dennison noted.

MCS can back up its request for financial support with an exceptional record. The county has one of the highest graduation rates — at 83.4 percent — and lowest

drop out rates — 1.4 percent — in the state.

Still, there is room for improvement, Spence said, and that improvement begins with closing the opportunity and achievement gaps.

The Superintendent presented an example of two children growing up in very different households. Despite economic differences, if both children are exposed to text and reading as toddlers in the home and are then enrolled in a Pre-K program, they enter kindergarten on equal footing.

"If we focus on them down

here, they will keep learning faster and faster," said Spence. "All students need to be reading on grade level by the third grade. If they are not, then they cannot keep going."

Limited Pre-K Facilities

The Board presented three goals aimed at increasing the graduation rate: promote literacy, close the opportunity and achievement gaps, and increase readiness skills — for example, understanding how to recognize shapes and letters, how to use a pencil, and how to hold a book.

Exposure to literacy and increasing readiness skills are necessary before the child begins kindergarten. Currently, North Carolina's Pre-K program is administered by the Department of Health & Human Services. Tillman agreed with several board members that "Pre-K does not need to be in Health & Human Services; it needs to be in the Education [department]."

The demand for Pre-K space in Moore County is well beyond the number of students that can be accom-

(See "Legislative," p. 18)

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In memory of . . .

Marian Carlotta Green, 88, died Monday, December 31, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Mrs. Green was born in Zanesville, Ohio. She graduated from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio with a degree in Accounting. She started her teaching career in Westerville Ohio School System, and taught at the elementary level for 25 years after which she and her husband retired to North Carolina.

She was a active at both Brookside Country Club in Columbus, Ohio and Beacon Ridge Country Club in Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Green was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Marianne Johnson; her husband, Ned Green; and her granddaughter, Morgan Perdue.

Survivors include daughter, Michelle Peele of Southern Pines; son, Tom Green of Columbus, Ohio; daughter, Lynda McDermott of Tampa, Florida; brother, Robert Johnson of Delaware, Ohio; her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A memorial Service was held at Quail Haven Chapel, 155 Blake Blvd., Pinehurst Friday, January 4.

Memorial donations be made to Liberty Homecare and Hospice, 300 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines, NC 28387.

Louise Vance Schneidmuller, 92, formerly of Seven Lakes, died at the Judson Park Retirement Community,

in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, on December 26.

Funeral services for were held December 29, at the Brown-Forward Funeral Home in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Her remains will be interred in the Memory Garden at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. No local services will be held.

Mrs. Schneidmuller loved Seven Lakes, but relocated to Shaker Heights, Ohio in 2005 due to health to be close to family. She and her late husband considered their years in Seven Lakes to have been the happiest in their lives. They had many wonderful friends, and enjoyed all the amenities the community had to offer.

She was preceded in death by her husband George W. Schneidmuller; sister, Frances Rexroth; brother, Maurice J. Gole, II; and her parents, Vance Farley Gole and Maurice J. Gole.

Survivors include her children, Gale V. Flament of Shaker Heights, OH; John G. Schneidmuller of Locust Valley, NY; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made in Louise Vance Schneidmuller's name to the Judson Park Foundation, 2181 Ambleside Drive, Cleveland Heights, OH, 44106.

Brown-Forward Funeral Home of Shaker Heights, Ohio assisted the family.

Larry Carson Furr, 54 of West End died Wednesday December 19, at his home.

Mr. Furr was born in Pine-

hurst, son of the late Samuel Lee Furr and Gurlie Faye (Williams) Helton.

Funeral services were held Saturday December 22, at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Southern Pines with the Rev. Gregg Newton officiating. Burial followed at the West End Cemetery.

Mr. Furr was preceded in death by his son Jeremy Reid Furr and two brothers, Richard and Gregory Furr.

He is survived by his wife of thirty five years, Judy Furr; daughter, April Lynn Furr King of West End; brother, Anthony Furr of West End; sisters, Donna Kay Reese of Southern Pines and Gayla Elizabeth Soto of Jackson Springs; and four grandchildren.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Tracy Tabor Mitchell, 46, of Grapevine, Texas, died unexpectedly on December 19 while vacationing near New Zealand.

She was a Learning Delivery Leader and Senior Manager with Deloitte's Talent Development Services. She was a graduate of the University of North Carolina, and a passionate traveler.

Ms. Mitchell was preceded in death by her father, William Ray Tabor.

Survivors include her sisters, Kristen Leigh Tabor of Morrisville; Kellie Elizabeth Tabor-Hann of Middletown, RI; Kimberly Lane Tabor Kreitlow of Apex; Tracy's mother, Robin Shahan Tabor of Seven

Lakes South; her stepchildren and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made in Tracy's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Development Office, 262 Danny

Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Family and friends will celebrate her life at later date in January, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.



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First Casualty Canned Food Drive tops 9,000

Ann Wooten Kunce, President of First Casualty Insurance Group (FCIG) is pleased to announce FCIG has successfully wrapped up their second Matching Canned Food Drive.

With the generous support of Moore County businesses and residents, FCIG was able

to collect 2,553 cans. FCIG matched each can (and then some) for a total of 9,245 cans donated.

The food was donated to the following groups: The Sandhills Branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (6,754 cans), Backpack Pals (587 cans),

Animal Advocates of Moore County (615 cans), Moore Humane Society (907 cans) and Sandhills Animal Rescue League (382 cans).

FCIG would like to thank the businesses, schools and child care facilities for supporting the food drive by serving as a drop-off location for

donations: Aberdeen Elementary, Aberdeen Primary, Aberdeen Supply Company, Animal Health Center, Coldstone Creamery, Country Kids Day Care, Gold's Gym, The Lunchbox that Rocks, Moe's Southwest Grill, PetSmart, Pinecrest High School, Sandhills Feed Supply Company, Seven Lakes Winery, Star 102.5, Small Animal Emergency Services, Sonlight Child Care, Southern Middle School, Union Pines High School, Watch My Wag, West

Pine Elementary and Whispering Pines Animal Hospital.

"All of us at FCIG very much appreciate the support of local businesses, schools and individuals in Moore County who supported this food drive. At FCIG, we believe giving back to the communities we serve is very important and we are honored to be able to help our less fortunate friends and neighbors this holiday season," said FCIG President Ann Wooten Kunce.



FCIG donated 907 cans to Moore Humane Society. FCIG's Jordan Medlin, Gary Kuntz, and Kerry Ross made the delivery.



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Organizations say 'Thanks' to 7 Lakes Kiwanis

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club was given a huge "Thank You" for their work for children and the needy at the recent meeting. A quintet of leaders of five organizations surprised the membership with accolades for

the group's contributions and work over the years.

Leanne McClendon, Principal of West End Elementary School, acknowledged the special gifts of computers and related programs along with recognition of the "Ter-

rific Kids," airplane and auto kit building endeavors, and year-end awards for scholarship achievement.

Nurse Phylliss Magneson represented the "Kids-in-Crisis" organization which she helped start seven years ago. The group provides for dental, hearing, and eye treatment for under-privileged children. "While schools and their nurses generally can oversee proper health care for most kids, many poor youngsters seem to fall through the cracks on needs in these areas," she said. Even with pro bono work from doctors and dentists, things like eye glasses, and other equipment require outlays of cash. "Contributions from organizations like Seven Lakes Kiwanis are so necessary and so appreciated," she said.

Alice Shaughnessy, speaking for "The Empty Stocking

Fund," reminded everyone that the SL Chapel serves forty needy families for the holidays. This year there were 240 individuals who were allocated approximately \$40 each for gifts. This totals \$9600 for the Fund's budget. "God Bless the Kiwanis Club for their continuing donations," said Shaughnessy.

Linda Hubbard, Chairwoman of the Backpack Pals Program, began the program in 2005. "Without the availability of school lunch programs over the weekends, I was concerned that many unfortunate children in Moore County weren't getting enough to eat."

"The program provides pre-packed snacks in backpacks to take home. Backpack Pals started with one school serving 24 students, now they are working with 24 schools helping 1083 students," she

reported.

Christy Allen, Principal of Elise Middle School in Robbins, personally wanted to thank the Seven Lakes Kiwanians, who have functioned as the pick-up and delivery service to her school for the Backpack Pals program. She said "You have been taking care of our needs for more than a year, and I wanted you to know that all of us at Elise School are very grateful for your service."

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

30th Annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast

The 30th Annual Seven Lakes Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 9 at the West End Elementary School cafeteria at 7:00 am until 11:00 am.

They will be serving pancakes, sausages, syrup, orange juice, coffee and tea. They will also have a raffle for a 42 inch flat screen TV during the breakfast.

Breakfast tickets are only \$8 each and are available from any Kiwanis member, and the Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, Sandhills Winery, Quality Care Pharmacy, and Lakeside Barbershop.

All net proceeds will benefit charities in the Moore

County area with a special emphasis, for this event to help West End Elementary School improve their student technology development. This year they hope to supply WEE with ten iPads for classroom use.

Last year, the Seven Lakes Kiwanis served close to 700 folks who enjoyed a delicious breakfast and they are hoping more people will join them this year. Charitable donations from those unable to attend will be gratefully accepted.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis also helps various local charities such as Kids in Crises, Backpack Pals and others.

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Westside Board

(Continued from page 3)

addressing. We were trying to replenish it."

"Our decisions around the fee structure, yes, were driven by the idea to raise money — no question about it," explained Freiert. "But our decision around that came down to: are these [fees] fair compared to alternatives in the market place?"

"We are dealing with some scarce resources in the community," said Legal Director Jack Stevens, who added that said it is important "to get to an acceptable level of reserves."

Stevens cited recent dam repairs that cost \$300,000 and that had not been budgeted for this year as an example of the importance of maintaining adequate reserves. "I would raise the fee on the scarce resources, and I would also raise the dues," said Stevens.

Freiert Defends Recreation Budget

The Board also discussed the Recreation budget at length during Tuesday's meeting, and a conversation about how the Recreation budget is managed quickly became heated.

"It is not going up year to year," said Freiert, explaining how the budget was set for the Recreation Committee "It is flat. It didn't go down, but it didn't go up . . . We did not increase the Recreation and Events budget on a net

impact to this Association in the new budget — no matter what anybody says"

He noted that the net cost to the Association in next year's budget for Events is \$9,000, and rebuffed arguments that the budget should be cut to pay for lower boat slip fees.

Though the budget generated plenty of comments from Board members during Tuesday's meeting, Freiert said relatively little feedback had been received from Association members.

The membership will vote on the proposed budget at the annual meeting in March. A budget approved by the Board can be rejected by the membership, but only if more than half of all members vote against it.

Lake and Dam

How best to utilize the top of Lake Auman Dam has been up for debate since the Board closed Longleaf Drive over the dam several years ago. The Board created the Lake Auman Dam Development [LADD] Committee to investigate options.

Relying on the advice of Dam Engineer Dr. Dan Marks, the LADD Committee reported that the best thing to do is leave the dam alone. Marks said he was "totally reluctant" to have anything done to the dam that had to be pile driven or that caused any type of excavation.

The Committee has sug-

gested sealing a portion of the dam with environmentally safe coating to make it smoother for small wheeled strollers or bikes. To make the area more aesthetically pleasing, the Committee suggested removing the guardrails and replacing them with barrier cables. Dr. Marks was also in favor of removing the guardrails.

LADD also recommended installing four metal benches with shade canopies along the dam, but did not make any recommendation for addressing the lack of parking on either end of the dam, saying that "was not in the venue for this [LADD] committee to solve."

Lake and Dam Director Bruce Keyser is soliciting bids for removal of the guardrails and every other post and will present a proposal on the project to the Board sometime in February or March.

Board approves changes to boat rules

The Board approved in a seven-to-one vote, with Secretary Jane Sessler dissenting, change to Section 7 of the Rules and Regulations

recommended by the Lake and Dam Committee.

The approval was made with two amendments. The first would exempt boats that are not used on Lake Auman and are not stored on Association property from registration requirements and fees. However, such boats would have to be registered with the gate guards.

For example, a whitewater kayak stored in the owner's garage and never used on the lake would not need a SLWLA boat sticker.

Infrastructure Director Jim Pierman suggested the change, arguing that that it was not right to charge residents for boats that are not being used on the Lake or stored at the storage yard.

"This is going to be some-

what of an issue," said Safety and Security Director Ed Cockman, Who envisioned difficulty maintaining records of which boats should and shouldn't be in the community.

Sessler agreed, saying the exemption will cause a problem for Lake Patrol, when determining if boats have been registered or not.

But President Herdrich said, if the process doesn't work, then the process can always be changed next year.

The second amendment was to 7.4.1, deleting a requirement that those fishing in the lake must have a Lake Auman Boat Permit.

Communications

Secretary Sessler reported
(See "Westside," p. 12)



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Westside Board

(Continued from page 11)

that CAS is exploring how best to revoke website access for former Association members who have moved away from the community. CAS staff is investigating using expired bar codes as a means of determining if someone is still living in the community.

The Board unanimously approved the digitization of the Seven Lakes West handbook. Paper copies will continue to be available at the CAS office and upon request, but Sessler stressed that the paper copies are not always up to date. The community website is the best resource for up-to-date information, she said.

"This is going to be a major cost savings," Sessler said, who added that the project could be completed as early as the end of January.

Infrastructure

The community fire hydrant project is one step closer to completion, reported Infrastructure Director Jim Pierman, citing recent approvals of water main upgrades that will allow the placement of the additional fire hydrants that are needed.

"We are really getting close to finishing off this fire hydrant deal," he said.

Pierman also gave an update on road repairs which took place before the holidays.

There are two additional places that will need road repairs at Golf South and Longleaf which will need repaving and on Blackstone Court which will need curbing.

Other business

Other business conducted during the SLWLA Board's Tuesday, January 8 meeting included:

- Tuesday was the last morning work session for the Board. Starting in February the Board will begin meeting on once per month, on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the West Side Park Community Center.
- A motion made by President Herdrich to decrease the number of Directors from 9 to 7 was unanimously approved by the Board. Because the reduction would involve a change in the bylaws, a second vote will be required after public input. Herdrich said, if approved, the change would likely take effect prior to the 2014 Annual Meeting. The Board asked the Nominating Committee to begin planning for the transition.
- Treasurer Don Friert reported \$152,000 in cash disbursements for December 2012. After expenses including \$63,500 to Bill

Reaves for work at the mailhouse, \$6,600 to Mark Enterprise for the final dam inspections, and \$2,700 for work done to the WSPCC's dance floor and sound system, the regular expenses were \$78,000.

- To keep pace with the demands of the mailhouse project, Friert announced, a \$95,000 Harris Bank CD was sold at the end of December.
- Safety and Security Director Ed Cockman said Westsiders who are allowing tailgaters to enter the community through the back gate will be mailed a warning letter, with the next step being a trip before the Judicial Panel.
- Cockman said his committee is still investigating how best to make the gates at Lake Auman Dam compliant with the County fire code for access by first responders.
- Board nominees will introduce themselves to the

membership during the Board's Tuesday, January 22 meeting, Sessler reported.

- The Board approved the appointment of Amy Avery as an alternate to the Judicial Panel, as requested by Legal Director Jack Stevens.
- Community Manager Jeanette Mendence said mulch has been placed at the West Side Park playground and broken equipment is in the process of being repaired. Christmas decoration removal is scheduled to take place on Friday, January 11 and

Saturday, January 12.

- An iPod docking system has been added to the Community Center sound system, reported Mendence, who said there are also two microphones that are available for rent.
- The Board approved a request by ARC Director Dan Blue to change rule 3.03, which requires builders to submit smaller blue prints for easier reference on any project done in the community.
- Events Director Rosemary Weber was absent from Tuesday's meeting.

Correction

In our December 21 story on the proposed Westside budget, *The Times* incorrectly identified as anticipated expenditures certain amounts that were in fact allocations to reserves for specific purposes, including \$350,000 for road improvements, \$115,000 for capital projects, \$10,000 for Lake Auman, \$25,000 to the Long Range Planning Bank, and \$20,000 to the Long Range Planning Master Reserve. We regret the error.



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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 6)
contractor.

Not only did Davenport provide the lowest of five bids on the project, but Manager Sohl noted that the previous contract with Davenport totaled \$146,000, plus an additional \$12,000 for extra services, like the installation of flowers in the Spring and Fall. The new contract represents savings of nearly \$25,000.

Despite the savings, however, Director Racine asked why no one on the Board had made a comparison of the cost of outsourcing the landscaping function to hiring personnel to handle the job in-house.

"When we ran for board, this was a very vital issue," Racine said. "There has been no discussion of the alternative."

But Treasurer Conrad Meyer said it was too late in the process to be asking for such a complicated analysis.

"We will take months to get through all of that," Meyer said, "and, by then, the current contract will have expired and we would have to extend that month-by-month."

"The platform we ran on was to review the Davenport contract," President Darr said. "Now we have gotten the reduction, using an opportunity within the Davenport contract. We are pleased with what Davenport is giving us. If we decide that

we want to look at reinstituting maintenance, then we can do that. But we need to get this nailed down. I am not unhappy with Davenport, with what we are getting out of this service."

The new contract with Davenport may be terminated by either side with 60 days notice without penalty.

Boat trailer fee approved

On a motion from Lakes & Dams Director Don Fentzlauff, the Board approved a \$10 annual fee for stickers for boat trailers stored on SLLA Property.

Director Leach argued forcefully that the staff time alone involved in administering the program would cost more than \$10. Plus, he argued, maintenance crews must move all the trailers in the Sequoia Point parking lot at least twice a year in order to mow and spray herbicide in the area.

"A trailer registration fee of \$40 would be appropriate and is still \$30 less than on the West Side," Leach said. He added that he was concerned that Lakes & Dam committee members may have a conflict of interest in setting the rate, since most of them have boat trailers.

"If you charge a large number, then people are going to move them [boat trailers] to their yards," Treasurer Meyer responded.

"I thought the original idea was to identify and register

trailers," Racine said, "because we had a problem with abandoned trailers."

"That is the reason that we will be doing it yearly," Fentzlauff replied, "so that we know who owns the darned things."

The motion passed 4-1, with Leach opposed and Racine abstaining.

Jet Boats permitted on SLLA Lakes

The Board approved a revision to SLLA Rules and Regulations 8.4.3.1 that has the effect of making jet boats legal on SLLA lakes. Jet Skis and Ski Doo's continue to be prohibited, but boats over sixteen feet in length that use the same type of impeller-driven propulsion system will be allowed.

Other Business

In other business during the December 19 SLLA Open Meeting:

- The Board ratified an electronic vote to approve three

free-leases for privately-owned horses that will be boarded at the stables and available for use in stables programs.

- Directors approved writing off a number of past-due accounts as uncollectable, because the properties have been foreclosed.
- The Board tabled a motion

to award an \$11,280 contract for replacement of the roof on the Landowners Office to Seven lakes Contracting, which has already been hired to replace the North Clubhouse roof. But no other bids were solicited on the Landowners Office roof replacement, and

(See "SLLA," p. 14)

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SCC to observe ML King Day

The Rev. Dr. Harry S. Wright will speak at Sandhills Community College for a Martin Luther King, Jr. observance on Friday, January 18 at 11 am in Owens Auditorium. The public is invited to attend this free event.

A Bennettsville, SC native

and resident, Wright is the former pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, and pastor emeritus of the historic Cornerstone Baptist Church of Brooklyn, NY. He is also a former Dean and President of Bishop College, a historically black institution in Dal-

las, TX.

Wright graduated from Morehouse College. He achieved a Bachelor of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, a Master of Sacred Theology Degree from Southern Methodist University and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Southern Methodist University.

A gifted preacher and thinker, Wright has served as ecclesiastical sage and mentor to many young ministers and clergy. He has often been referred to as the greatest revivalist for African American congregations around the country. The United Negro College Fund bestowed its highest honor, the Frederick D. Patterson Award, upon Dr. Wright in 1995.

Foxfire

(Continued from page 4)

the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction [ETJ] and three Village residents.

- During the public comment period, Les Murray asked

the Council to review the set back rules in the community covenants. The Council will look at their set back covenants at their work session scheduled for January 31.

- Durham will send a letter to the state in support of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

SLLA

(Continued from page 13)

Director Racine successfully argued that the Board's own policies require that any contract in excess of \$5,000 must be competitively bid.

- Directors approved the striping on newly paved areas of SLLA roadways at a cost not to exceed \$13,285. An additional \$1,686 was approved for seal-coating the Southside entranceway.
- The Board approved an expenditure of \$11,286 for repairs to the South gatehouse and to the pole barn in the maintenance area.
- The addition of new lighting in the North Clubhouse was approved at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

Moore certified in Yoga for Golfers

Gloria Moore recently completed her teacher training certification course for

Katherine Roberts' Yoga for Golfers. She is the first and only yoga teacher in Moore County who is certified to teach this yoga method. Her previous training includes Yoga for Cancer at Duke Integrative Medicine, Chrysalis Yoga and Yoga Fit.

Moore has been teaching yoga at West Side Park Community Center since 2008.

Classes are offered at West Side Park Community Center on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 am for a fee. For more information contact Gloria Moore at 638-4314.



Gloria Moore



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Schools

(Continued from front page)

accessed online, so teachers must have the technology available to access those resources.

Elise Middle School, Westmoore Elementary, and High Falls Elementary are targeted for the next implementation of the 1:1 Initiative to put computers in the hands of students.

That will start by identifying "trail blazing" teachers in each school who will receive carts of laptop computers for use with their students. As funding becomes available, whether through additional grants or savings in other areas, MCS will lease laptops for all of the students in those three schools.

Existing computer equipment replaced by the new machines will be repurposed in other classrooms or at other schools.

Spence said that the goal is to ensure that each school has enough computers to allow students to complete online testing in one grade level or core content area at the same time.

Legislative Agenda Approved

Board members approved during Monday's meeting a "legislative agenda" that encourages the NC General Assembly to increase funding for the public schools, while resisting proposals to divert funding to private, virtual charter, religious, or home schools that aren't subject to the same requirements and assessments as public schools.

The Board met on Thursday, January 3, with state legislators who represent Moore County, sharing with them many of the elements of the legislative agenda approved in Monday's meeting. [See story on page 7.]

A key funding request was for Pre-Kindergarten programs, which the Board and Superintendent argue is the bedrock of efforts to make sure all children start Kindergarten ready to learn and end third grade reading at grade level.

Other elements of the leg-

islative agenda include:

- Altering the state's A-F letter grade system of evaluating school performance so that it takes into account progress made by individual students, and not simply aggregate scores on proficiency tests.
- Giving local school boards control over their school calendar, so that, for example, MCS can coordinate its calendar with that of Sandhills Community College and offer SCC-based educational opportunities to high school students.
- Providing additional funding to support the spread of computer technology in the classroom.

Breakfast and lunch fees to rise

School Board members unanimously approved a proposal, presented by Chief

Finance Officer Mike Griffin, to increase the fees for school breakfast and lunch.

Elementary school meals will rise from \$1.75 to \$2.00, and meals served at middle and high schools will increase from \$2.00 to \$2.25. Griffin said the Board could expect another recommended increase in two years.

He explained that the increases were not needed to cover the cost of providing the meals; MCS's child nutrition department actually generates profits, which are plowed back into the schools. However, federal regulations require the change, because the current meal pricing is below the federal reimbursement rate.

"We are doing it because the federal government says we have to do it," Board Member Charles Lane commented.

Other Business

In other business during the Board of Education's Monday, January 7 meeting:

- West Pine Elementary School student Nina Baker wowed the Board and audience with an *a cappella* rendition of the Shaker hymn "Tis a gift to be simple" as the evening's inspirational moment. Chloe Baker, also a WPES student, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Continuing their tradition of honoring staff, students, and volunteers with monthly Growing to Greatness Awards, the Board recognized teacher Karen Smith of North Moore High School, support staff member Sylvia Morrison from Pinecrest High School,

Pinckney Academy student Jada Cole, and Pinehurst Elementary school volunteer Michelle Jackson.

- The Board recognized Alan Cox, a Career and Technology Education teacher at Union Pines High School, who was named one of the top 20 automotive educators in the nation by a trade magazine devoted to automotive training.
- Superintendent Spence and Board members praised Moore County Schools Police Chief Sammy McNeill both as a leader of his thirteen-officer department and as a coach and mentor to students.
- Board members unanimously approved a consent agenda that included stu-

(See "Schools," p. 18)

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- **Sunflix at the Sunrise Theater** – 7:30 pm, *Anna Karenina*, Tickets \$7 plus a \$1 suggested donation. A bold, theatrical new vision of the epic story of love, adapted from Leo Tolstoy's timeless novel by Academy Award winner Tom Stoppard. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

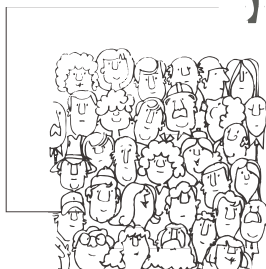
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise Theater** – 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm, *Anna Karenina*, 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. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or cash. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.
- **Carolina Pines Ballroom Chapter 6091 January Dance** – “Baby It's Cold Outside” 105 McReynolds St. Carthage. Dance begins at 7 pm, with food & snacks then from 7:30-8 free complimentary dance lesson and then open dancing from 8-10. \$7 members, \$10 guests.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise Theater** – 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm, *Anna Karenina*, Tickets \$7 plus a \$1 suggested donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest tonight is *Molasses Creek*. Buy tickets on line, cash at



the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Area Land Trust 2013 Winter Lecture Series** – 7 pm, “Flowering Jewels of the Sandhills” Bruce Sorrie, author of *A Field Guide to Wildflowers of the Sandhills Region*, Inventory Botanist, North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. Southern Pines Civic Center, 105 S. Ashe Street, Southern Pines. Questions: 910-695-4323 sandhillslandtrust.org \$5 Donation suggested
- **Sandhills Photography Club meeting** – 7 pm, at the Hannah Center Theater, at The O'Neal School campus, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines. Hunter Rudd will present “Where Will Photography Go Next?” Technology has changed rapidly. Guests welcome. sandhillsphotoclub.org
- **Monday Night Services at WEUMC** – 7 pm. Do you have to work on Sundays? Travel on the weekends? Come as you are to West

End United Methodist Church, 4015 Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise Theater** – 7:30 pm, *Anna Karenina*, Tickets \$7 plus a \$1 suggested donation. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

- **How to Navigate Through the Legal, Financial, and Longterm Healthcare Maze** – 10 am to 11:30 am, Mark Hollingsworth and Brianna Dillon, financial Advisors from Raymond James, will present how to measure the costs of longterm insurance. Jennifer Garner, elder law attorney, will help to simplify the legal documents necessary to carry out your medical care decisions. Mike Ianucilli, with Home-Choice Network, will explain the different types and lev-
- els of longterm care. Free seminar. Senior Enrichment Center from. Bring questions. 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – 11:30 am, meeting, Members only issues discussion and planning meeting. Table on the Green, Midland Country Club. Reservations are required. Call Charlotte Gallagher, 910-944-9611.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Central Park NC presents Last Call at the Oasis at the Sunrise Theater** – 6:30 pm, presenting the compelling documentary at the

Sunrise Theater. Following the film *Save our Sandhills* will speak on their work and Taylor Williams of the Cooperative Extension will speak on local water policy. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

- **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. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead this session in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

- **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 devo-



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tion and a meal at \$5.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Join Civil War enthusiast, Dr. Matt Farina** – at the Senior Enrichment Center, from 2 - 3:30 pm, for a fascinating talk about the story of Gettysburg's famous unknown soldier. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, Pinehurst.
- **Preparing Loved Ones For Your Death** – 4 pm, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines seminar on the subject, "Preparing Loved Ones for Your Death." Seminar will be led by Manila "Bud" Shaver assisted by the ministers, Don Welch and Fran Stark. Participants will be guided step by step in making death preparations. No charge and prior registration required. Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes Drive.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

- **MLK Observance Speaker at SCC** – Rev. Dr. Harry S. Wright will speak at Sandhills Community College for a Martin Luther King, Jr. observance at 11 am in Owens Auditorium. Public is invited to attend this free event. Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

- **Pruning Workshop** – 10 am, Free workshop at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens,

Ball Visitors Center. Moore County Extension Agent Taylor Williams will conduct a workshop and demonstration on how to correctly prune and shape for maximum yield and life. Contact Tricia Mabe, 695-3882 for reservations.

- **Little Roy Lewis and Lizzy Long** – 7 pm, in concert at the James H. Garner Center, 210 Burnette Street, Troy. Sponsored by the West Montgomery Lions Club. \$20 reserved/\$15 at the door. 704-985-6987.
- **Turkey Shoot** - Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs. Win prizes. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest tonight is *Jack Williams, and Jeff Mosier*. Buy tickets on line, cash at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

- **Monday Night Services at WEUMC** – 7 pm. Do you have to work on Sundays? Travel on the weekends? Come as you are to West End United Methodist Church, 4015 Highway 73, West End. For more information, contact the Church Office at 673-1371.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

- **Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Lunch Bunch** – 12 pm, Single seniors are invited to attend the luncheon at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Joralemon Fellowship Hall. No cost to attend. Make reservations for lunch and if transportation is needed call Fran Stark 673-5493. Vivian Jacobson, author

and lecturer. Jacobson will lecture on the The Biblical Windows of the St. Stephan Church in Mainz, Germany.

- **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. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead this session. Meet in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.
- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – 7:30 pm, "From Soldier to Survivor: One Man's Life Changing Event" is the topic of Green Beret MSG Mark Vomund's talk.

His story is one of courage, tenacity, perseverance. Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst. Free open to the public. Call 910-245-3132.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors. Fellowship, devotion and a meal \$5.
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 11:30 am to 4 pm, sponsored by FirstHealth Fitness Center, 170 Memorial Drive, Pinehurst. Make appointment online at www.redcross-blood.org Sponsor code 188. Please consider giving blood, for those in need. The life you save may be a friend.

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Legislative breakfast

(Continued from page 7)

modated under with current funding levels. Board Member Kathy Farren reported that only half of the children who are eligible are able to participate. "At one school alone, they had 80 children on their waiting list for Pre-K," she said. "There were 80 children who did not get the opportunity to close those gaps."

"Pre-K classrooms have to be built completely different

from regular classrooms," said Board Member Laura Lang. "They have to be converted and retrofitted for the child's size. Improvements would require additional funds."

Senator Tillman, who chairs the General Assembly's Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, dismissed the request for additional funding to retrofit preschools, stating that it is "not our [the

state's] department." In North Carolina, counties have traditionally been responsible for the physical plant — building schools and other facilities. However, the state does provide some funds for budgeted capital expenditures, and it is up to the school board to decide how to spend it.

But, the Senator did recognize that current funding for Pre-K staffing and resources is insufficient. "We ought to put \$30 to 40 million more into what we already

have," he said. "We really need to start emphasis on early intervention. The kind thing is to start them early, so they are not stigmatized."

Funding needed for both textbooks and technology

Reading from a four-page Legislative Agenda the Board provided to the legislators, Spence said "Our teachers and students must have access to the most up-to-date teaching and learning technologies, as well as the professional development and

support to ensure these are used to the greatest effect for classroom learning and student achievement."

Moving computer technology into the hands of teachers and students is a major emphasis for MCS. The district is using federal Race to the Top funds to purchase laptops for every teacher; and, later this month, every student at Carthage Elementary will be given an iPad.

However, paying for that computer technology has

(See "Legislative," p. 19)

Schools

(Continued from page 15)

- dependent fee schedules and school facilities use schedules for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Sydney Borden, a sophomore at Pinecrest High School, objected to the current exam schedule, which she said places first period students at a disadvantage.
- Associate Superintendent Dr. Eric Porter provided a program highlight on MCS extracurricular activities, stressing the leadership and team-building opportunities offered by athletics

and other clubs and activities.

- The Board unanimously approved, on second reading, revisions to policies in six areas, including graduation requirements and the code of ethics.
- Summer Board meetings were scheduled for July 15 and August 12.
- The Board approved a contract with the USGA for use of school parking lots and other facilities during the 2014 US Opens, subject to MCS attorney approval.

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<p>NEW LISTING!</p> <p>106 PINENEEDLE 3 bedroom 2 bath with large Carolina Room & fenced yard in SL North. \$178,500</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT!</p> <p>103 SHEROFF Like new (2005) 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Split Plan Close to Johnson Point. \$239,000</p>	<p>SOLD!</p> <p>177 MORRIS DRIVE 3BD, 3.5 all brick, lake front home. Perfect for evening outdoor living. \$540,000</p>
<p>630 McLENDON HILLS DR. LOT #103 Premium .93 acre lake front lot in the equestrian community of McLendon Hills. \$335,000</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT!</p> <p>114 OWENS CIRCLE Immaculate and recently-updated 3BR, 2 BA Split Plan. \$225,000</p>	<p>UNDER CONTRACT!</p> <p>103 STANDISH POINT Outstanding like new one acre Lake Auman Waterfront. Call Tom - \$749,000</p>

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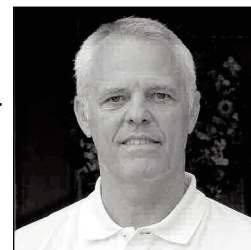
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Legislative breakfast

(Continued from page 18)

meant a drastic reduction in funding for textbooks and other resources. During the five Kitchen Table Talks held by the schools and attended by parents last year, one of the biggest concerns was students not having the proper resources.

Board member Lange drew on her personal experience as the parent of an MCS student, "I have a hard time helping my child, because they do not bring resources home, and I have to get on the computer and try to get help," she said. "It's extremely difficult. There are families that do not have a computer as a resource in the home."

The lack of textbooks and other resources is creating its own achievement gap, Lange added.

Tillman was less willing to promise that there would be additional funding for educational resources. "We are a little bit removed from the fray," he said. "The real scene is what I think can and can't be done. There's a lot of pie in the sky and people who think they should all get a piece."

Spence said MCS needs funding to be able to afford materials for the new state-mandated curriculum: "The Common Core."

"The concern we have right now is the new curriculum and the access we have to

appropriate materials for our teachers," he said. "We are reallocating some of our resources to accommodate it, and we have ordered those materials. However, we would appreciate continued support for instructional materials. It's a whole new curriculum, and none of what we have is aligned to it."

Partnering with Sandhills

School Board Chairman Dennison pointed out that there are 9,000 jobs of a technical nature statewide waiting on employees with community college technical certificate. Noting that not all students are college bound, he said those who decide against a four year degree have Sandhills Community College as a resource where they can earn a technical certification in two years and be employable.

But MCS needs to be able to align its calendar with the Sandhills Community College calendar in order to allow high school students the flexibility of taking classes at both locations during the school year.

Spence asked the legislators for flexibility with the school calendar. "To align our semesters with the community college semesters, it would make it easier for our students to take college courses," he said. "Right now, they take their exams before the winter

break, and we take ours after the winter break. It is hard to align the pacing for those semesters and difficult to get the grading done in coordination with the community colleges' grading system."

Specific start and end dates for the school year were defined by the General Assembly several years ago. "It was a bad decision," Tillman said, "and it ought to be a school board decision."

Changing Misperceptions

Representative Boles complimented Tillman as Chairman of the Education Committee and said that Moore County would be very well represented.

Representative McNeill said he found the meeting helpful and will be attending a training session on education next week in Pinehurst.

"I see two things happening today," said McNeill. "One is education, and the other is finance. I want to learn more about education. I'll never be the expert you are, and I understand that. So, I will be depending on you and other people."

Boles also asked for patience in the upcoming year. "I will tell you that you need to be patient," he said. "One half of the legislature this year will be new. The remaining half will have been there for more than five years. There will be a very large learning curve."

Boles expressed his concern with the perception that many graduating high school students are not college ready and need to take remedial courses.

"You guys need positive public relations," said Boles, also suggesting the School Board should work hand in hand with the Moore County Chamber of Commerce.

Spence countered that perception with data: in 2012 the US had the highest graduation rate in history — of 84 percent.

"There is a public perception that our education system is broken," he said, "but that is not reality. In 1940, there was a twenty-five per-

(See "Legislative," p. 20)

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Legislative breakfast

(Continued from page 19)

cent graduation rate. We would ask you to be partners with us in that advocacy to say it has never been better than it is today. To say it's not working is misleading."

"It could be better, and it needs to be better," he added, "but to say, it's just not working, is a bad idea from a public policy standpoint."

A Positive Outlook

Referencing Boles' comments, Board Member Enola Lineberger noted that the educational well being of the students is the school board's primary responsibility. She asked the elected officials present to make the board aware of any specific issues regarding graduates who are not college ready, adding that she hoped the elected officials at the state level would present a positive assessment of Moore County Schools.

"We will be patient with our new legislature," she said. "But we will also continue

to be fierce advocates for our students."

"Things are exciting and very calm in Moore County," Board Member Bruce Cunningham said. "We have a good relationship with our county commissioners and citizens. We realize that we are all in this together, and we know that we are not the only thing on your plate."

Board Member Charles Lambert thanked the representatives for coming and

took advantage in his closing remarks to bring the attention back to children: "I know you have plenty of problems to work on, but I want to mention children with disabilities. A lot of monies have been cut from their services and there are so many things wrong with that."

Board Member Kathy Faren was congratulated on being elected to the NC School Board Association Board of Directors. "I go to a new mem-

ber luncheon next Wednesday," she said. "I'm really excited, and it's a great honor." She expressed her gratitude to the representatives attending the breakfast

and requested their continued support: "I want to thank you for coming. At the state level you can now say: In my district, this is what is happening."

Top Holiday Decorators

The homes of Bob and Edie Reinhardt (Northside), Dianne and Damon Boston (Southside), and Steve and Claire Czupryna (Westside) were chosen as Holiday winners in this year's Christmas decoration contest. Each couple received a \$65 gift certificate for the efforts.

This is the 18th year of

this event which is sponsored by the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club, by encouraging Seven Lakers to spruce up their homes and lakefront property in the Holiday spirit.

In spite of the cold weather many beautiful displays were observed by the judges. Congratulations to all.



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Closed meetings

(Continued from front page)

to the specific matters for which the meeting was called, and requires that any action taken behind closed doors be voted on in a subsequent open meeting.

Times Editor Greg Hankins, speaking as an Association member during the public comment period of the December 19 meeting, told the Board that he "could drive a truck" through the broad language of the new Bylaw, noting that personnel matters, legal matters, the consideration of contracts, and dealing with rules infractions amount to eighty or ninety percent of the business of the Board. He warned the Board that subsequent Directors might not share their own commitment to openness and transparency.

"I realize the current bylaw as written is way too tight," George Temple said, "but 'personnel matters' is way too broad." He encouraged the Board to take another look at the language before approving the revised bylaw.

Noting that the current bylaws already require that the Board vote before entering a closed session, Temple said "I have never seen closed meetings announced and voted on in an open meeting. So it scares me what will

happen down the road on this. I think this is too broad."

"I acknowledge that it is broader than your existing bylaws," Sohl said. Noting that the existing rules for closed sessions were "totally unique," Sohl said the revisions were "very standard language. They are transparent in that you can reconvene in open session and talk about what was discussed in closed session."

"You are very limited here in terms of what personnel issues you can discuss," Sohl said. "You can't discuss firing someone. That's a huge limitation on the Board. These are such a limitation that I think they inhibit the Board from being effective in dealing with personnel issues — and especially contracts."

President Bob Darr said the restrictions imposed by the existing bylaws make him feel "like I'm breaking the law by talking on the phone" when he consults informally with other Directors about pending matters.

"There is a need for the board to get together and discuss, relative to some issues that aren't covered under our own rules and regulations," Darr said. "So, what we have been doing instead is doing them over email and the phone. And

that's not the way to do it."

"This seems to give us a way to do these things, and then be very open about it after the fact, he added."

Treasurer Conrad Meyer said "I have wrestled with this, and there are parts of me that somewhat like the way that we are doing it now, but I also recognize that it is more difficult for us to get our jobs done."

Director Bob Racine suggested taking more time to work on the language of the bylaw amendment, asking whether time was of the essence. But Director Chuck Leach argued that the Board did in fact need to convene soon behind closed doors on a number of urgent matters

that would not be covered under the existing bylaws.

Leach called the question and the Board vote 5-to-1 in favor of the revised language, with Racine opposed.

Work Session Bylaw Changed

In a related vote, the Direc-

tors approved a change to Bylaw 6.9.1, giving the Board the power to schedule Work Sessions by majority vote. Previously, the Bylaw had required that Work Sessions be held at least ten days prior to the last Wednesday of the month.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 5)

- County employees were recognized for their five, ten, and fifteen years of service as presented by Human Resources Director Denise Brook.

Appointments

The Board made the following appointments:

- Commissioner Craig

Kennedy will be the voting delegate to the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

- Mary Louise Herre to the Nursing and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee for one year.
- Linda McCaskill as an ETJ member to the Village of Whispering Pines for an additional three years.

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Is God punishing us?

Question: Do you think the violence we are seeing in our country is a result of our taking God out of our schools and that God is using these events to punish us so that our country will return to God?

Response: Your question is based on a number of assumptions that must be addressed before we can deal with the question itself.

First: I do not believe that the removal of sectarian Christian prayers from the classroom or the courthouse takes God out of the lives of our children or out of our civic deliberations. Instead, it recognizes that our gov-

ernment at every level, national or local, does not recognize any single religion as the official religion of our nation or county, and that forcing citizens or children to address God by a specific name or religious expression violates the First Amendment that allows all of us to choose how we believe or whether or not we believe at all.

Second: Every person has the right and privilege to pray privately in any place, including the classroom, athletic contests, or public meetings. God is present in all that we do and in every place we go, whether or not we recognize God or pray any prayer.

Third: I do not believe in a God that condones violence, and I certainly do not believe that God ordained that a crazed or evil gunman should kill twenty first grade children and their teachers — or gun down children in the streets of Detroit and Chicago or a theatre in Colorado — in order to

punish a nation that honors religious diversity.

I do believe that we have created a culture of violence in this nation. We have embraced violence as entertainment — violent games, violent sports and, violent movies. We listen to hateful talk shows; we read hateful websites; we write hateful

letters to the editor. Our language is filled with violent, degrading words. Our politicians in both parties resort to name-calling and polarization rather than working

It is self-evident that our diagnosis, treatment, support and healing of the mentally ill and victims of brain diseases must have top priority in the health care budgets of our country and state.

Even if we do all these things, we have not touched the root cause of violence: *Fear!*

An undercurrent of fear runs through our nation and community. We are not just afraid of criminals and terrorists, but many are afraid that our nation is changing into some kind of socialist or communist state and that all of us are going to need weapons to protect us from those who want to take them away. This fear is often fanned by political and religious leaders.

Fear easily turns into anger and anger turns into violence. Perhaps we should hear again the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt: "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

Or we should recognize that the Bible contains the following words and repeats them 365 times: "Do not be afraid!" Love casts out fear, and abolishes revenge, jealousy, and violence.

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

Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch



'Bless You, Boys!'

Dear Editor:

I was coming home and had my turn signal on to cross the on-coming lane into my driveway. Two bicyclists were in the opposite lane — so I stopped. They had the right of way.

They also stopped. They motioned for me to turn in front of them. I motioned "no" — they had the right of way.

I had met two very careful bike riders. They had met a very careful car driver.

Well — can you believe it?

The two bicycle riders got down off their bikes. So, I knew they were staying right there for me to go ahead.

I also knew they were staying right there for me. So, I turned left in front of them and into my driveway, then waved them a "Thank You."

Wouldn't it be nice if all "Bicycle Boys" were this careful and not trust everyone?

Thank you, boys, for being careful.

*Naomi Morris
Seven Lakes South*

Thanks for donations

Dear Editor:

Recently, I sent emails to neighborhood people listed on my email contact list asking for a donation to the North Moore Family Resource Center to help provide Christmas to 400 elementary school children in the Robbins area.

Marsae Stone has relayed to me that the email re-

sponse, along with other funds received, helped succeed in meeting the goal of providing 400 outfits of clothing and toys for the children.

I would like to say "Thanks to All of You" for giving the children a wonderful Christmas.

*Tom Snead
Seven Lakes West*

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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Letters to the
Editor

Your letters welcome!

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached. We prefer letters that are concise and to the point; please make your case in 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters.

We prefer to receive letters via email at mail@sevenlaketimestimes.net. but we also accept letters delivered by fax or the US Postal Service, or left in our drop box at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, across from First Bank.

Virgin Birth is central to Christian belief

The virgin birth is foundational to my belief as a Christian. I believe that it is one of the most important doctrines of the Christian Faith and it is necessary to my faith as a Christian.

Why is the virgin birth critical to our belief as Christians?

If Jesus were not born of a virgin, he would have been born in sin. Not because sex would have been involved, but because sin comes through the man. Hebrews tells us that the bed is not defiled among those who are married. Sex within marriage is God's design for reproduction and is not sinful.

Romans 5:12 says: "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all

men, because all sinned." When Adam sinned in the garden, it caused sin to be passed to all men, not Eve's sin. Eve was deceived but Adam sinned with full knowledge. Everyone who was born with an earthly father and mother has been born into sin. Adam's sin condemned

chapter of John, that Jesus was the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world.

God knew that man could not gain access to Him unless He intervened. He did intervene by sending His Son to pay the penalty for sin. In Romans 5:15 Paul said "For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus

Christ, overflow to many!" More than three hundred Old Testament scriptures point to the birth of Christ. Some of them were written more than 700 years before He was born, and yet they were detailed and accurate: that he would be born in Bethlehem, to a virgin, that the world would reject him, that He would be crucified.

Just one of those three hundred prophecies coming

true would be astounding, but all of them happening just as was written is miraculous. It was God's divine plan that Jesus would come into the world in the miraculous way that He did.

Salvation is available to me because God's Son was born of a virgin to live a sinless life in order to become the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World.



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

the entire human race.

Our nation's own New England Primer taught elementary children for years: "In Adam's fall, we sinned all." Sin is transferred through the father.

The virgin birth was necessary, because, if Jesus had an earthly father, he would be no different than you or I. He would have been a sinner incapable of taking away the sin of the world.

There have been many good men who have lived, but only one who was innocent of all sin. Even John the Baptist said that he was not worthy to loose the shoe of the one who would come after him. He said later, in the first

Christ, overflow to many!" We were condemned by Adam's sin, but we can be made righteous because of God's Gift, His son Jesus Christ.

The virgin birth was predicted in the Old Testament. Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Even the term Immanuel means "God with us." Jesus was God in human flesh. It was not something that was later made up or concocted by the disciples or tradition. It was something that the world was looking for.

Thank you from Marine Corps League

Dear Editor:

The Marine Corps League would like to "Thank" the residents of Seven Lakes for their generous support of the Toys for Tots program.

Everyone helped make a needy child's Christmas a little brighter.

Thank you once again,

Joe Gavala
Seven Lakes West

Sandhills Photo Club Partners with The O'Neal School

Sandhills Photography Club will meet on Monday, January 14, at 7 pm at the Hannah Center Theater, at The O'Neal School campus, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines.

The club is pleased to be working in conjunction with The O'Neal School bringing the art of photography to their students and the community in general.

Hunter Rudd will present "Where Will Photography Go Next?" Technology has changed rapidly in the past five years. His goal is to bring everyone up to speed on current and upcoming technology.

Rudd is a Moore County native living in Southern Pines. He developed a passion for photography while cataloging his worldwide travels with the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). Guests are welcome to the meetings.

For more information visit www.sandhillphoto-club.org

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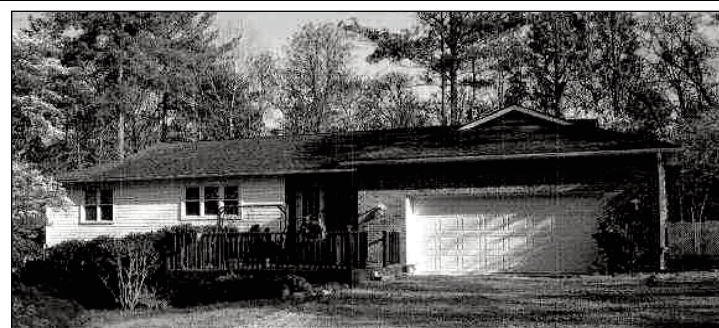
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Seven Lakes is a premier community with

This is the first in a series of articles on the future of Seven Lakes by Westsider Fred Young, President Emeritus of Elon University and Chair of VIF International Education. He and his wife, Phyllis, built their first house in Seven Lakes North in 1978 and moved to Seven Lakes West in 2006. Contact him at youngf@mindspring.com.

A Premier Community

Those of us who live in the greater Seven Lakes community are in a fortunate situation. We have it within our grasp to build a premier residential community at little or no increased cost to most residents.

Assets

The community has many of the assets necessary to accomplish this goal:

Beauty, space, and tranquility. The pine trees, needles, grass, sand, sky, and temperate climate provide a wonderful environment.

Lakes. The spring-fed lakes are clean, clear, and stable; probably our greatest asset; superior to most of our competitors.

Amenities. We have a variety of quality amenities and generally superior facilities: boating, fishing, swimming, tennis, golf, playgrounds, equestrian, and clubhouses.

Location. Our location is excellent and will be improved

by new four-lane NC Highway 211.

Housing options. There are starter homes, condos, retirement homes, luxury lakeside, and golf course homes.

Population. Greater Seven Lakes has a population approaching 5,000, which is large enough for a vibrant small town.

Established and stable landowner associations. With little money and limited authority, the associations are doing a good job, particularly with maintaining our priority investment — the lakes.

Recent Improvements. The North Side paving, West Side entrance, addition to

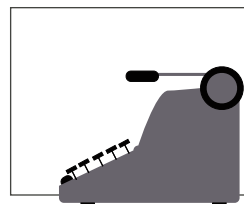
Chapel in the Pines, dam improvements, awards received by Seven Lakes Golf Course, Sandhills Pediatrics, Sandhills Winery, and new Westside mailhouse are evidence of progress and community strength.

Community unity. What happens in the business district, West End, and in all the developments is important to our quality of life and property values. We are all in this together. One realtor

I know will no longer send *The Seven Lakes Times* to real estate prospects because articles about the constant squabbling

Your Turn

Fred Young
Seven Lakes West



over gate passes and small amounts of money have a negative impact on clients.

Amenities. To improve our lifestyle and compete with newer developments, additional amenities are needed such as walking-biking trails, restaurants, boutique shopping, and coffee shops.

Roads. Sixty miles of roads need to be repaved within

(Continued on page 25)



The 'entrance' to Seven Lakes, driving from the population center in Pinehurst and Southern Pines on NC Highway 211.

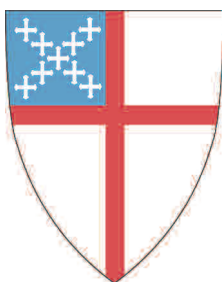
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great assets. But it has important liabilities

(Continued from page 24)

the foreseeable future. The recent North Side repaving cost about \$100,000 per mile. The community has an account payable of approximately \$6,000,000, which will absorb a major portion of future revenues.

Country clubs. The clubs do not have sufficient members or adequate revenues to offer a full program of traditional country club activities or to maintain high quality, regular dining services.

Absence of community services. No police department, no zoning, no building codes, no drainage, no official beautification program, no garbage pickup, no sign ordinance, no planning, nobody

promoting and marketing Seven Lakes. There is no one to apply for, secure, or manage the various grants that

percent during 2012 for the Pinehurst-Southern Pines Multiple Listing Service, while sales were essentially flat for

"I rarely take prospects to Seven Lakes anymore. By the time I drive them through West End, which looks like a war zone, tour the unappealing Business District, and ride over the patched roads, I could not sell the Taj Mahal."

— A Pinehurst-Based Realtor®

many of our neighboring communities use to rebuild and revitalize community areas.

Real estate. Real estate sales increased twenty-three

Seven Lakes. There are approximately on hundred houses for sale in Seven Lakes. Sales are slow, and most of those houses that do sell are priced below the tax value. Large numbers of residents who need to move to care facilities or to be near family members or for job changes cannot sell and do not have the freedom to move when they need to do so.

Real estate values and sales are important even for those who have no plans or desire to sell or move. The value of property and the pace of sales is a validation for the community — an indication that we live in a desirable place that is attractive to others. New residents bring additional resources, new ideas, and make Seven Lakes a more vibrant community.

A recent study indicated that the Pinehurst/Moore

County area is the most popular retirement destination outside Florida, but the nature of these new residents is changing significantly. More retirees are under 60; more new residents are under 50. To strengthen real estate sales, Seven Lakes must develop features that appeal to residents who are younger than the historic pattern.

A severe image problem. The entrance to our community is not attractive, not competitive. Our front door, our community foyer, does not represent us well.

The casual visitor who is

exploring possible housing options in the area cannot get through the gates, often does not bother or have time for a Realtor® appointment, and leaves with the impression that our community consists of West End and the business district. Many sales prospects never see our greatest assets: the lakes, the housing, the amenities, the golf courses.

The next article in this series will focus on "Two Fatal Flaws and How They can be Corrected."



Stormwater drainage is a persistent, unresolved problem in the Seven Lakes Business Village.

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Retreat

(Continued from front page)

it appears the list is being whittled down.

"With enough time, the best options float to the top," Chairman Nick Picerno told *The Times*. "Harnett County is starting look better and better."

The price tag is definitely better. The Robbins option involves a new intake on the Deep River — a move that would require significant environmental studies and agency approvals. As a result, the cost of bringing 3.0 million gallons per day [MGD] from Robbins to Southern Moore County could cost \$27 million over a thirty year period.

The cost of bringing more water from Harnett County and drilling new wells is a fraction of that. Adding three new wells would contribute an additional 500,000 gallons per day, at a cost of \$1.2 million. Piping in an additional 2 MGD from Harnett County would cost \$13.6 million over a thirty year period.

However, County Commissioner Craig Kennedy, a Robbins native, told *The Times*: "Robbins is not off the table."

Kennedy said pursuing the Robbins option for more water will encourage economic growth in the County — especially in North Moore.

Picerno said that, fortunately, the County currently has an adequate supply of water, which allows the Commissioners time to study all

the options in front of them.

No matter which option the Commissioners choose, it appears that water rates will go up to pay for the new infrastructure needed. Gould predicted that the average customer would see a \$4.58 increase in their utility bill per month. Currently, the average utility bill is \$53.51.

Schools and school funding

Technology and the need to update school buildings is at the forefront of Moore County Schools' [MCS] needs. Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence told the Commissioners that many MCS buildings are at least forty-five years old.

The Commissioners and the Moore County Board of Education appear to be in agreement that there is a need for more investment in putting computer technology in the classroom.

Chairman Picerno said a tour of Mooresville schools late last year convinced him that MCS needs to follow Mooresville's lead and incorporate more technology.

According to Dr. Spence, Mooresville went from a struggling school district to third in the state in test scores, grades, and achievement. While this didn't happen overnight, Spence said, the key to their success was implementing technology in the classrooms.

But there were trade-offs. Picerno noted that Mooresville

was able to add technology by reducing the number of teachers in a classroom and increasing class sizes.

The Commissioners and School Board plan to travel to Raleigh to lobby members of the House and Senate for support to implement the Mooresville approach in Moore County.

The goal will be to persuade legislators to allow Moore County to spend funds from the NC Education Lottery on building MCS's technology infrastructure. By law, education lottery funds can be used for teachers' salaries in grades K-3, school construction, need-based college scholarships and financial aid, and academic prekindergarten for at-risk four-year-olds. But they can't be used to buy computer technology. Moore County hopes to win an exception to the law.

"The role of technology is huge," said Commissioner Randy Saunders. "It's an upfront cost, but it's a benefit you reap at the end."

Currently, MCS is trying to bring more technology into the classroom within its existing budget and through the use of grant funds. This year, teachers in Carthage were

given laptops, Dr. Spence explained, and they are learning to use them as part of their professional development curriculum. Students at Carthage Elementary School will be given iPads later this month.

As with the Mooresville project, it could take up to five years to see the payoff from investments in classroom technology.

"We can't continue to do education the way we are without results. It's insanity," said Picerno, "We don't need new money. We are just going to use the same money in a more efficient way."

Looking to the budgetary future, Commissioner Larry Caddell asked that Dr. Spence and MCS do more with less.

"We are asking our staff to do more with less," said Caddell. "And we are asking you to do the same thing."

Dr. Spence assured the Commissioners that the last few years have "been as challenging for the schools as it has for the County and everyone else."

Spence said teachers have not had a raise in five years, and classroom sizes have increased.

In order to give the Board of Commissioners a larger window into the challenges and opportunities facing Moore County Schools, one Commissioner will attend every meeting of the Board of Education.

"It's good for all of us to go to the School Board meetings," said Saunders, "since we are going to approve their budget — and it is such a big part of our budget."

Sandhills Community College

Taking up the theme of investments in the future of education in Moore County, Sandhills Community College President Dr. John Dempsey asked the Commissioners to help fund the building of a health sciences center in the near future.

Although enrollment has "stabilized," Dempsey said SCC needs the ability to better prepare students to compete for jobs in the burgeoning healthcare industry. SCC's capital projects fund currently totals \$400,000.

Dempsey said the college does not accept federal grants. "One way to get the Federal Government off your

(See "Retreat," p. 27)

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Retreat

(Continued from page 26)

back is to get your hand out of their pocket," said Dempsey.

That means the college will turn to the County and to its citizens to help pay for a new building. Currently, out of 6,000 colleges nationwide, SCC ranks number one in fundraising.

And, like Moore County Schools, Dempsey said, SCC must work to stay up to date with technology, since it is changing all the time.

Emergency Services Update

The Emergency Services Department is awaiting the results of a comprehensive study that is designed to help them to operate more efficiently.

Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips told the Commissioners that he anticipates preliminary data from the study in March.

A possible increase to the Advanced Life Support [ALS] tax will also be addressed in the study.

The ALS tax has been cut in recent years; however, Phillips predicts it may have to increase in the future in order to cover costs.

State Representative Jamie Boles reminded the Commissioners that "the citizens did vote in the ALS tax," and added that the levy keeps getting cut.

"I'm not going to watch a pile of money grow without a plan," replied Chairman Picerno, who asked for a comprehensive Emergency Services plan to be presented to the Board.

"A comprehensive plan is key," said Commissioner Saunders, adding, "We need to share responsibility."

However, a possible increase in the ALS tax may not be the biggest challenge facing Emergency Services. Currently, many County fire departments and rescue squads are having trouble attracting enough volunteers.

"It's a rare person who is willing to do that [volunteer]," said Commissioner Larry Caddell. "That volunteer department is going to be so eroded, and someone is going

to have to pick up the slack."

Hiring a County Manager

The Commissioners discussed at length the process they will use to identify and

hire a new County Manager. Former Manager Cary McSwain retired in November, and the first Interim Manager named by the Board died in a traffic accident shortly after

beginning work.

The Board then appointed Tax Administrator Wayne Vest to serve as Interim County Manager.

At the forefront of qualifi-

cations for a new County Manager is an understanding of the businesslike approach that the Commissioners have when it comes to running

(See "Retreat," p. 28)



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Retreat

(Continued from page 27)
the County.

Throughout the retreat the Commissioners said the need for a CEO mindset is a must for the for the next Manager.

"We want someone with our way of thinking," said Caddell, "not the old way of thinking."

Amplifying the concept, Commissioner Saunders said: "Our most successful businesses in the country treat everything like a business. If we can get away with less dollars and do a tremendous job — I am all for that."

The Commissioners are considering assembling a committee to review applications as they come in for the County Manager vacancy. The Board plans to sketch out a more concrete hiring process at a later date.

Other Issues

Other issues discussed during the Board of Commissioners 2013 Annual Retreat included:

- The scheduled date for property revaluations is 2015, reported Tax Director Wayne Vest. The goal is to continue to maintain a "revenue neutral" tax rate, he added.
- Although a County space allocation study has been completed, the Commis-

sioners have yet to decide how to implement the findings of the study. Currently, the study calls for \$40 million in upgrades. Of that, \$25 million is allocated for a new courthouse. The Commissioners will review and discuss the study in a Work Session prior to their next regular meeting, on Tuesday, January 15.

- The Moore County Airport has completed or is nearing completion on updates required by the Federal Aviation Administration, including tree removal and extending the runway.
- Unemployment remains at 8.3 percent in the County, with over 3,000 people looking for work, reported the Employment Security Commission.
- Finance Director Carrie Neal gave the Board a financial update. "It was a great year for the County and we have been strong financially. We pulled it off as a County and we pulled it off in a big way," said Neal. Finances are currently on target she added.
- The Convention and Visitors Bureau said tourism remains in a "roller coaster" state.
- Partners in Progress gave an update on businesses entering the County and anticipated future growth.

- Information Technology Director Darlene Yudell gave an update on the County's technology needs and plans for the future. The Board will meet with Yudell in a work session in March to further discuss the costs and benefits of implementing various technologies.
- The County may begin charging for yard waste disposal. Currently the service is free, but it may begin to cost \$15 per ton.
- A presentation was given by Francis Bisbee from the North Carolina Department of Transportation about the input given from Moore County citizens regarding the extension of US Highway 1. The major concern of Moore County was to protect the agricultural community, said Bisbee.
- Land Use Plan Steering Committee Chairman Robert Hayter praised his committee for the work they are doing in updating the County's Land Use Plan. "It shows leadership of the entire County," said Hayter, adding that the plan should be complete in March.
- The Pet Responsibility Committee gave an update on Moore County's Animal Shelter.
- One of the new responsi-

bilities of the Moore County Clerk to the Board Laura Williams is to increase communication between the Commissioners and Moore County citizens. The Board has asked Williams to distribute a newsletter every month and place it on the

County's website.

- The Commissioners have made changes to the various committees they will serve on during the next term. The revised list will be voted on at the Board's next meeting.

Last Call at the Oasis at Sunrise Theater

Central Park NC will present the compelling documentary *Last Call at the Oasis* at the Sunrise Theater, Southern Pines on Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 pm.

Following the film Save Our Sandhills will speak on their work and Taylor Williams of the Cooperative Extension will also speak on local water policy.

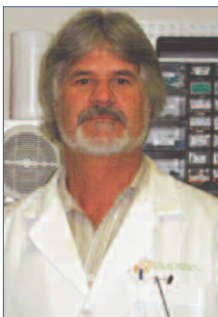
Last Call at the Oasis presents a powerful argument for why the global water crisis will be the central issue facing our world this century.

Featuring activist Erin Brockovich and noted experts like Peter Gleick,

Alex Prud'homme, Jay Famiglietti and Robert Glennon, the film illuminates the vital role water plays in everyone's life, exposing the defects in the current system and depicting communities already struggling with its ill-effects.

This event represents the coming together of five leading community organizations in this area that support the protection of our environment and water: Central Park NC, Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT), Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative, Sustainable Sandhills and Save Our Sandhills.

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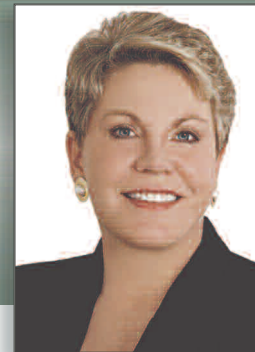
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