

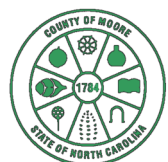
Vietnam Vets



New officers elected by Vietnam Veterans of Moore County, Chapter 966 include: Front row: Bill Carl, Director, Dan Conrad, Vice President, Bill McNeill, Secretary, Back row: Mike Shapiro, Treasurer, Jack Bergquist, Director, and Chuck Spelman, President. Meetings are generally the first Monday of the month from 7 to 8 pm at the West Side Community Center, Seven Lakes. For more information contact Chuck Spelman, President, at 910-673-2798

County budget approved

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



et during their Tuesday, June

Moore County's Board of Commissioners approved a \$128 million FY 2014 budget during their Tuesday, June

4 meeting that differed only slightly from the budget proposed by County Manager Wayne Vest on May 7.

The budget, as approved, holds all county tax rates, including the ad valorem property tax, the advanced life support levy, and the

taxes of each fire district, at current levels — a key goal for the Commissioners. it does, however, include an increase in water and sewer rates. The base rate for a typical residential 3/4-inch meter will rise from \$6.10 to \$7.50 per month.

The budget supports the addition of seven new paramedic positions within the County EMS department, and funds a new Fire and EMS substation north of Carthage that will enhance service in northeast Moore.

It provides no cost of living or merit increases for County employees, but does cover a \$700-\$900 per employee increase in the cost of benefits.

Commissioners' Chairman
(See "Budget," p. 26)

Bob Darr back on SLLA Board

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Former Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] President Bob Darr has been appointed to complete the unexpired term of Steve Hudson, who resigned from the Board shortly after being elected at the Annual Meeting in March.

Current President Steve Ritter announced Darr's appointment during the Board's Monday, June 10 Work Session. Ritter said the Board had interviewed Darr and one other candidate and decided to appoint Darr to the position. The appointment will be ratified by a vote at the June 26 Open Meeting.

Darr took his seat at the Board table for the Work Session. He will take over responsibility for recreation from Director Bob Racine.

Board favors horse shows & jumping lessons

Horse shows and jumping lessons will be added to the offerings at the Seven Lakes Stables, if the support SLLA Directors evidenced during their June 10 Work Session carries over to the June 26 Open Meeting.

Director Bob Racine presented the Board with the recommendation of the Recreation Committee that jumping lessons be added to the stables curriculum and that

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

Council okays budget

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



regular meeting on Tuesday, June 11.

The budget includes a two percent cost of living increase for full time employees.

One time expenses in the FY2013 budget that will not carry over into the new budget year are the removal of the old tennis courts and the purchase of the new police vehicle, resulting in an eight percent decrease in the Public Safety budget and a three percent decrease in the Pool & Park budget.

The budget does not include a tax increase.

Job Well Done

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco thanked Sharon Sanchez, Foxfire Village's Deputy Finance Officer and Tax Collector, for her hard work during the budget process. Frusco reminded the Council that there would be little time for a break, since audits of FY2013 would begin in the next couple of weeks.

Both Mayor George Erickson and Councilman Mick McCue extended their thanks to Frusco and Sanchez.

McCue seconded the motion to adopt the motion and said, "I have to thank Leslie and Sharon for their work. They do a tremendous job for us all year long, making sure we are in financial order. To do what they do with this budget is an amazing job."

(See "Foxfire," p. 18)

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Westsider found dead in Lake Auman

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Seven Lakes West resident Jim Ballew died from as yet undetermined causes on Sunday, June 2, and was found floating face up in Lake Auman, supported by his life jacket, shortly after 4:00 pm.

Moore County 911 dispatch logs indicate that paramedics summoned to the scene administered CPR after Ballew was pulled from the water, and eventually pronounced him dead, after those attempts to revive him

were unsuccessful.

Westsider Paul Kirst told *The Times* that he and his four-year-old granddaughter were out in their kayak preparing to join a late afternoon group paddle when Kirst noticed a couple of kayaks floating free in the lake some distance away. When they reached the kayaks, Kirst said he saw what appeared to be a man

floating on his back on the other side of the kayaks.

"Then I realized that he wasn't moving," Kirst said. After a touch yielded no response, Kirst concluded that the man was dead and had likely been dead for ten minutes or more. With no way to administer CPR in a kayak, no rope, and no cell-phone in the boat, Kirst and his granddaughter made for

shore, where they flagged down the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association lake security guard, who called 9-1-1.

That call brought Moore County EMS, West End Fire and Rescue, and Seven Lakes EMS to the scene. They were eventually joined by representatives of Moore County Public Safety, the Moore County Sheriff's Office, and

the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

Ballew's body was transported to the State Medical Examiners office in Chapel Hill. Sheriff Neal Godfrey told *The Times* on Tuesday that an autopsy had been completed, but that it could take several weeks for the results to be available.

See page 10 for Ballew's obituary.

No Wake Zones imposed on SLLA lakes

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The entirety of Lake Sequoia and Lake Echo have been designated No Wake Zones until further notice in order to prevent damage to docks and bulkheads during the extraordinary high water levels caused by recent rains.

President Steven Ritter raised the issue during the Seven Lakes Landowners Association's Monday, June 6 Work Session, noting that the community had experienced more than six inches

of rainfall in 43 hours.

Over the weekend, the wakes created by ski boats on Lake Sequoia was swamping docks and undermining bulkheads, Ritter said.

The Board assigned the Lake & Dam Committee the task of developing a rule to handle such situations, but, concerned about the potential for immediate damage to lakefront property, assigned Community Manager Ray Sohl the authority to take immediate action to designate the lakes No Wake Zones.

Director Bill Hirsch compared the situation to temporarily closing a flooded street.

Signs announcing the tem-

porary measures were posted at the Echo and Sequoia boat ramps and an email notification was sent to Association members later in the day.

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 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, mailed to P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376, or faxed to 888-806-2572.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
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
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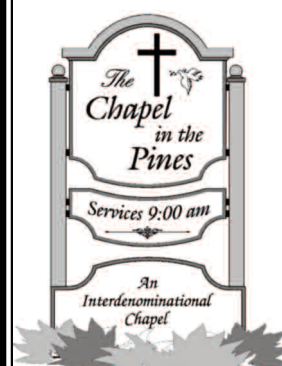
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Mealing removed from Memorial Committee

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Westsider Carolyn Mealing was removed from the Veteran's Memorial Advisory Committee by a 5-0 vote of the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, June 4 regular meeting. Mealing, who currently serves

as President of the League of Women Voters of Moore County, has been a strong advocate for creating a Veteran's Park on 3.5 acres of County property that lies adjacent to the Memorial in Carthage.

The Commissioners created the Advisory Committee to quell a controversy that

erupted after they discussed a possible sale of a portion of the property to the Bojangles' fast food chain in three closed session meetings. Legal advice sought by this and other newspapers indicates that the purchase offer from Bojangles' should have been presented and discussed in open session.

The move to replace Mealing with 83-year-old Vernon Garner was not included on the published agenda of the Commissioners' June 4 meeting, but was instead added after the meeting had begun, as an additional agenda item.

Co-Chair requested change

Clerk Laura Williams told the Board that she had received a request from Advisory Committee Co-Chair Raymond Doby that Garner replace Mealing. Commissioner Larry Caddell made the motion to remove Mealing, who asked to address the Board prior to their vote.

After reading a passage from Robert's Rules of Order that underlined the importance of having a diversity of views represented on committees, Mealing asked why she was being replaced.

Commissioner Jimmy Melton, who co-chairs the Advisory Committee with Doby, said that Doby had

complained that Mealing and other members of the committee were holding meetings to which he was not invited. Melton noted that Doby was the Chairman and one of the founders of the committee that originally conceived of and organized the Moore County Veteran's Memorial.

When Mealing asked if Melton had not himself been involved in side meetings and conversations with other Advisory Committee members, County Attorney Misty Leland terminated the conversation, saying: "We are not being cross-examined, Ms. Mealing."

Melton noted that Doby had requested a replacement for another member of the Advisory Committee, Robert Cook. But Mealing replied that Cook had resigned.

While the Commissioners regularly replace committee members who have resigned, or whose terms have expired,

(See "Mealing," p. 15)

Picerno: No action on Memorial until facilities planning is done

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Citizens and veterans should expect no action any time soon from the Board of Commissioners on what to do with 3.5 acres of grassy county property that lies between the Moore County Veterans Memorial and Hard-ee's restaurant in Carthage.

In a conversation on Monday, June 10, Commissioners Chairman Nick Picerno told *The Times* that, with the FY2014 budget complete, the Board will now begin to work on the challenging task of analyzing and planning the future of County facilities.

"That will take months, if not a half year to a year," Picerno said. "We have to go through everything, figure out our needs for space, and understand what existing assets we have to meet those needs."

The Commissioners will have to wade through a recently completed space needs study, along with a similar study conducted several years ago, as well as the completed plans for a new County Administration Building the Board commissioned and then shelved.

The most recent study indicates an urgent need for a new judicial center, and projects the cost to be roughly \$25 million. And that leaves open the question of what to do with the current courthouse.

"We've never really dug into this," Picerno said. We've had other people study it for us, but we, as a Board, have

never taken it apart and analyzed it."

In keeping with the "task force" approach to major issues that Picerno implemented in this term as Chairman, two Commissioners, Picerno and Caddell, will spearhead the work on planning for the county's future space needs.

Until that work is done, and a plan is in place, the 3.5-acre parcel in front of the Veteran's Memorial will

remain just as it is, Picerno told *The Times*.

"The cart is so far ahead of the horse on this one that the cart hasn't even been built yet," Picerno said.

"I won't be cornered into making a bad decision based on an emotional issue. The conversation with the veterans will happen before any question regarding that property [the 3.5 acres adjacent to the Memorial] is put on the agenda."

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SLLA Board revises Guest Card policy

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The purpose of guest cards for amenities other than the pool and stables was discussed at great length at the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Wednesday, May 29 Open Meeting. Director Bob Racine questioned the usefulness of guest card and suggested eliminating them completely.

"We just paid another \$100 increase in dues," Racine said. "Let's make some of these amenities free. They can use lakes, tennis courts, etc. for free and not have to pay anything."

Racine's also reasoned that the cards are difficult to enforce.

"My grandson comes down and I hand him a card," he said. "They don't know if he is the same person or not. What are you going to do, make an eight year old show an ID?"

Alien Invasion

Racine's comments were met with instant opposition from several residents attending the meeting.

"Several years ago, we had a group of people on the big lake [Sequoia]," one resident recalled. "They didn't have guest cards, and they had to leave. They did not belong in here — about twenty people or more on our beach. They walked in."

Racine pointed out that

most residents enjoying the lake and swimming do not bring their membership cards.

"You cite one instance," he challenged. "Why use a hammer when you can use a thumbtack? We have one problem a year and we make everyone else suffer for it."

But resident George Temple corrected Racine's memory of the problem at Sequoia Point. "That wasn't once a year," he said. "It was an ongoing problem, weekend after weekend. Sequoia was becoming like a public beach, because we had no means of controlling who was there."

"I don't care if the guests cards are free," Temple said, "I think we still need them."

Racine agreed that the guest card could create the perception that usage of the amenities is being monitored.

Director Bill Hirsh agreed: "The card makes it readably apparent and easier to enforce."

"There would be fifty to seventy-five kids on Sequoia point," one resident recalled. "You couldn't go down there at night. You don't see it now. But we did then."

Technologically Equipped Teenage Infiltration

Another resident cut teenagers no slack: "I raised two teenage boys. Now these teenagers have cell phones. If they get wind of this every teenager will know about it."

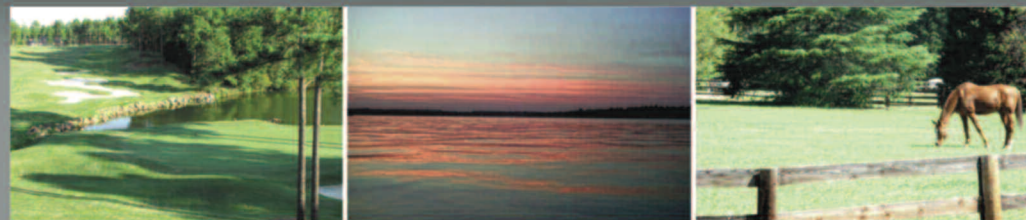
"A person can call up to the gate and say that they

are so-and-so's parents, and then the kid gets in. Once they get in, we can't get them

out. Once this is in the wind, the teenagers will know that you don't even need cards

any more."

"In the 1990s, we would (See "Guest cards," p. 14)



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SLLA lake management gets professional touch

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The lakes that gave Seven Lakes its name will now be professionally managed for six months of the year.

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors voted during the Wednesday, May 29 Open Meeting to hire Foster Lake and Pond Management to monitor the lakes through the warmer six months of the year, when problems with vegetative and bacterial growth are more likely to occur.

After bids were reviewed and interviews conducted by SLLA Manager Ray Sohl and members of the Lakes and Dams Committee, Foster Lakes was recommended to the Board at a cost of \$13,500.

"This is very critical," Sohl told the Directors. "It will help us establish benchmarks for long term planning and the make up of our lakes."

"We have to really understand our lakes before we can manage them," Sohl said. "They will provide the necessary information so we can understand this important asset," Sohl said.

"The bids have been reviewed by the Lakes and Dams Committee. It will

include Lake Windermere testing as well."

Weather complicates herbicide applications

"We received a great deal of criticism for the way we were administering chemicals," Director Chuck Leach said, referring to the application of the herbicide Diquat in coves to control unwanted aquatic vegetation. "I think it is good to go to a professional company."

Sohl agreed that variable weather this Spring had complicated the timing of Diquat applications.

"Its effectiveness is greatly diminished by weather conditions — wind and clouds," Sohl said. "We try to make it a good day to apply them, like today. The weather might have been a factor in the past. We did all the lakes today, except Timber."

Residents were notified in advance that the application schedule could fluctuate due to weather.

"All residents know what the dates are," Ritter said. "They had to cancel a few times and wait until they got the right weather conditions."

SLLA Maintenance Takes over Lake Pumping

In other lake-related business, the Board voted unanimously to move responsibility

for implementing the lake pumping policy from the Lakes and Dams Committee to the the SLLA maintenance staff, who will take over duties including maintaining the lake levels, testing, and keeping a weekly pumping log.

Director Rich Faraci introduced the new Lake Pumping Policy, which includes pumping water as needed from:

- Big J to Little J
- Longleaf to Little J
- Windemere to Little J
- Longleaf to Big J
- Echo to Ramapo
- Echo to Timber
- Sequoia to Dogwood

Residents had previously raised concerns about the quality of water in Lake Windermere, which is essentially a golf course irrigation pond and subject to fertilizer runoff from the greens and fairways.

"We will pump from Windermere into Little Juniper when the Seven Lakes Country Club will allow," Director Faraci said. "We have done quality testing on Lake Windermere, and it is up to standards, just like the other lakes."

How Clean is Windermere?

"The [Windermere] water, from the data I reviewed, is it very clean. All of it is," Faraci said. "There are some subtle differences from Lake Windermere versus Big J. The Country Club is going to use the water. We are not likely to get any water at this point or time."

"We are hiring a lake management company to give us some advice how to manage our lakes," Director Conrad Meyers said. "They will be the people to ask, as they are more knowledgeable. They can advise us on whether to use Big J rather than Windermere. We can get some expert feedback, rather than from us who do this as hobby."

Seven Lakes Manager Ray Sohl agreed, "The lake management service proposal includes in it monthly water monitoring."

"We have two sources," Meyer said. "There is a debate in the community which water is the best. Foster should be able to provide some guidance what is the best source."

"We will do what we can," Faraci said. "We will definitely bring it [information from Foster's testing] back and use that standard."

Public skepticism

After Faraci read the pumping policy, several residents offered input and questioned the logic in pumping against

(See "Lakes," p. 18)

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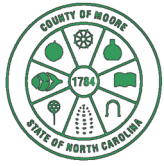
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Panel ponders solar & signs

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Harnessing free energy by using residential solar collectors has been reined in

by the Moore County Planning Board. The board requested during its May meeting that County Planner Jeremy Sparrow provide recommendations regarding installation of solar collectors on residences.

In 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation that forbids local governments from prohibiting the placement of solar collectors on a residential property. Local governing entities are allowed set standards for screening and the placement of solar panels.

Sparrow worked to strike a balance between aesthetics and practicality in crafting text amendments to the Moore County Zoning Ordinance regulating residential solar.

Under those amendments, solar collectors are a permitted use in all of the County's residential zoning districts. All solar collectors must comply with North Carolina Building Code and National Electric Code with North Carolina amendments.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to support the recommended amendments and also approved a second motion that restricts the placement of collectors.

No matter where the sun shines on a given property, all ground mounted panels must meet building setbacks for an accessory structure, be located in the side or rear yard, and must be located as close to the ground as practicable — and in no case higher than the principal structure.

Roof mounted panels shall not extend beyond the perimeter of the roof on which the system is mounted or constructed. The total height of the solar panels shall not project above the ridge line of the roof on which they are mounted. The ridge line is

defined as the highest point of the roof.

Sign with Purpose

Moore County Planner Jeremy Rust presented the Planning Board with recommendations for guidelines and zoning in a work session on the sign ordinance.

Directional off-premise signs are often reserved for rural locations. Recently West End Presbyterian requested permission to erect a directional sign on NC Highway 211 that would also advertise events. The sign would be in close proximity to the rural church, located a block on NC Hwy 211 on Knox Lane — unlike, for example, a directional sign located in Pinebluff for a church in Robbins.

"West End Presbyterian came to us seeking consideration for a way to say, out on 211, this is the way to church," explained Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter.

"And that is usually all the sign is, directional in its purpose. Even in town, schools, churches, and hospitals are allowed to have directional way-finding signs. If you are going to a funeral and you

have never been there before, the directional signs help you get where you are going."

There are instances where other non-religious organizations and businesses might like to erect directional signs. Hayter discussed the importance of an ordinance that is broad in scope.

"I worry about sampling out," he said. "We need to make it as open, within reason, to other applicants; schools, hospital, and health care clinics."

Rust noted that the NC Department of Transportation has provided options for directional signs.

"Currently, schools, hospitals, and even government buildings are allowed to have directional signs through the DOT," Rust said. "There is an option out there for those signs to be erected legally."

Referring to an item in his meeting packet Board Member Les Murray referenced off premise signs.

"In Seven Lakes, you can't find anything," he said. "If you do not have a sign out front, no one would be able to find it. There was an incident recently where the new owner of an existing restaura-

(See "Planning," p. 15)



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7 Lakes West. Call Larry	7 Lakes West. Call Phil
104 Somerset Lot 2443 \$15,000	120 Ziegler \$124,900
7 Lakes South. Call Norma	Morganwood 5 ac. Fencing & Barn Call Tom

LONG OR SHORT TERM RENTALS!

Students take center stage at Board meeting

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Students had the last word at the Monday, June 10 meeting of the Moore County School Board, where children were both seen and heard.

Waiting patiently for their turn, well down on the night's agenda, the Pinecrest Student Environmental Association remained enthusiastic and eager to discuss the controlled burn they recently conducted at Pinecrest High School. Board Member Bruce Cunningham took an active role in the club's "Longleaf Restoration Project."

"I would like to bring the board up to date on the project," Cunningham said, sharing a slide show of the burn. "We are very fortunate to have had Bill Lewis, Forestry Ranger, to tell the students what was going on," Cunningham said. "Students were taught how to use a drip torch. In the vernacular, it is called 'dropping fire'."

"It was exciting — spectacular — to say the least. We burned about two acres on the other side of the pond at Pinecrest," Cunningham introduced several of the students who worked the burn. They assured they Board that the burn was well very controlled — and that they were very well supervised. The students concluded they had actually increased the safety of the area, because the controlled burn removed the build up of flammable pine straw.

Club Advisor Joseph Vrnak thanked Cunningham. "It was a great opportunity, as hands-on as it gets for students," he said. Setting up for the burn; doing the burning; and witnessing, firsthand, environmental impacts. I hope that we can continue the Longleaf Pine Restoration.

Room for Improvement

In other business during the June 10 School Board meeting, the Superintendent's Student Advisory Councils presented their findings for

the school year.

"One of the goals of our Growing to Greatness plan was to develop communication between students," Superintendent Aaron Spence said. "I have had the opportunity to work with an amazing group of young leaders."

The three student groups spoke on specific topics, including: expanding digital technology, access to more calculators and lab equipment, fewer lectures and note taking, student autonomy in choosing presentation options, and improving school atmosphere.

Perhaps the most compelling presentation was delivered by the West Moore Middle School Nutrition Advisory Council.

The students' concerns ranged from questionable sanitation to not enough food for everyone.

"There's a saying 'We are what we eat,'" the team

reported, prefacing a wide range of suggestions for improvement, including:

- More organic and naturally grown food.
- Better adherence to the food pyramid in meal planning.
- Ensuring that there is enough food for all students. "We want to make sure there is an abundance of food and everyone has something to eat."

The council concluded: "The preparation of food should be less premade and reheated. It should be more homemade and less greasy. We just want it to taste good and be good for us."

Unfair Testing

During the public comment period, Sydney Borden, a rising Pinecrest junior, commented on the newly implemented Measures of Student Learning (MSL) Testing mandated by the state.

ple who studied all day and did not feel prepared for the test," Borden said. "You cram for four hours without knowing the general make up of test."

Preparing for the Future

Of the 796 students graduating from Moore County high schools this year, 256 received scholarships totaling \$8 million, reported Dr. Eric Porter, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education.

"There is a common link," Porter said. "All students make the time in their schedule to apply for scholarships. It is a time-consuming and complex activity."

"Well done job, Class of 2013," Porter said.

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Vigil & Sleep-In supports those with mental illnesses

The Linden Lodge Foundation is hosting a Candlelight Vigil on Friday, June 14, 7:30-8:30 pm, on the Moore County Courthouse grounds.

This Vigil is being held to promote awareness and to rally support for all those with a mental illness residing in Moore County and the surrounding areas.

Immediately following the Candlelight Vigil will be a "sleep in" on the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church at 110 S. Ray Street,

Carthage to illustrate to the public how those with a mental illness and in need of appropriate housing and services currently live.

Bring your sleeping bag and cardboard box for shelter as the group will rally to gain support for these individuals and to share the "experience" that so many regularly face.

A light breakfast will be served at Linden Lodge in Aberdeen as the finale. For information, visit www.lindenlodgenc.org or call Marianne at (910) 528-6820.

D&D Coffee Plus opening



Jason Dunning & Amanda Jones [Photo courtesy of Michele Lasher]

D&D Coffee Plus is opening officially in Seven Lakes Village across from First Bank — on Monday, June 16. Barista Amanda Jones offers a full range of specialty coffee drinks, serving Cactus Creek Coffees and pastries from Kraz Elegant Cakes of Pinehurst.

Seven Lakers Jason & Jerry Dunning, Cape Cod transplants, own the business.

D&D Coffee Plus is open seven days a week, from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Celebrating America Concert

West End United Methodist Church invites the community to join the church for a rousing Happy Birthday, American program on Sunday, June 30 at 5 pm. The program will include guest musicians and sing-along tunes. A time of fellowship and food will follow the concert.



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Young teachers find it hard to make ends meet

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Recent college graduates expect that their training and diploma will, at the least, provide them the opportunity to work for a living wage. Some young teachers in Moore County Schools [MCS] are finding that is not necessarily the case.

When Thomas Blickley relocated from Pennsylvania to teach science at West Pine Middle School, he was not prepared for Moore County's high cost of living. After budgeting for student loan repayment, rent, utilities, food, and gasoline, he realized he would be living from paycheck to paycheck.

Blickley, the youngest of four, grew up with a strong work ethic in the coal mining region of Pennsylvania.

"I have had a job since I was fourteen," Blickley told *The Times*. That good work ethic is a prerequisite for a teacher who works an average of ten or more hours a day. His explanation for the long hours: "I love teaching."

After graduating from college, Blickley worked as an on-line teacher for a charter school.

"It worked for high level kids who were really motivated about their education," he said. "In theory, the concept was good, but eighty percent were inner city kids,

and they were poorly motivated. It wasn't the greatest set up. I was often more of a social worker than a teacher, tracking down students by phone."

"The online teachers were being made accountable, and the administration was asking, 'Why isn't this kid doing his work?' When I was offered a job here, it was like a god-send. I had a month to move, find a place to live, and start to work."

The numbers don't add up

A modest one bedroom apartment with basic amenities in Aberdeen has a starting price of just under \$600. Blickley weighed the cost of commuting from Aberdeen to West Pine against the cost of rent closer to the school. He ended up selecting a nearby apartment complex, paying \$800 per month for a modest one bedroom apartment. Rent and student loans added up to well over half of his take-home pay.

Most indices rank the cost of living in Moore County about average with the national as a whole. But, a dozen years ago, North Carolina ranked 21st among the states for teacher pay. The state's current rank is 46.

Young teachers have no substantial raises until they have been on the job for five years.

When asked, if being a teacher meant taking a vow

of poverty, Blickley laughed.

"I totally agree. We can't teach if we can't afford to live. I am not becoming a Benedictine Monk. If I can't afford to eat, or I have to work a second job to make ends meet, I have no choice. I have to move."

Not the only one

West Pine Middle is losing four of its young hard-working teachers as the 2013 school year closes.

"It's kind of scary, in my opinion," Blickley said. On my hall (West Pine's eighth grade hall) four of us are gone this year, because we just can't afford it."

The economic future is not bright for teachers.

"They gave us a cost of living increase raise this year," Blickley explained. "Then, in January, the [increase in] payroll tax kicked in, and we actually ended up with a five percent decrease from our original pay. Some of the teachers are only teaching until they can get their second career up and running, because the finances are not there. Most teachers are paying students loans, and they don't make enough to maintain their expenses."

Moore County is a nice

place to work and live, Blickley told *The Times*.

"The school and the teachers I work with are absolutely great," he said. "The area is gorgeous. I love the area. If I wasn't worried about losing money every month then I would stay. But the cost of living is too high."

The ultimate responsibility for fixing the problem lies

with elected officials at the state and local level, Blickley said.

"Our representatives with the state and even at the local level are not wanting for anything," he said. "But they have thrown merit pay for teachers out the door. I just feel like they are not on top of things here in North

(See "Blickley," p. 18)

Sophisticated Ladies to perform

The Sophisticated Ladies will be performing at the North Carolina Senior America Pageant on Saturday, June 15 at Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, at 7 pm. Tickets for the Pageant are available at the door for \$8. For more information on the Pageant contact Bev Wetherbie at 910-603-5514.

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In memory of . . .

James Lewis Ballew, age 74, of Seven Lakes West, formerly of Peoria, IL, died Sunday, June 2.

Mr. Ballew was born in Monmouth, IL, the son of the late Lewis H. and Dorothy Root Ballew. He grew up on a farm in Monmouth and graduated from Bradley University, Peoria, IL with a Civil Engineering degree.

The majority of his career was with one company as it changed names from WABCO, to American Standard, Dresser, to Komatsu America. He rose up through the ranks to senior management.

Mr. Ballew was an active volunteer of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association, serving on the Architectural Review Committee, Nominating Committee, and many other volunteer positions.

He was also a former tutor at Sandhills Community College, House for Habitat, and served on the Board for Restoration of Historic Springdale Cemetery in Peoria, IL.

There will be no service, but a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of thirty-one years and mother of his children, Rita P. (Shorr) Ballew.

Survivors include his wife of eighteen years, Peggy Mullen Ballew; brother, Robert Ballew of Galesburg, IL; daughter Leigh A. Helsel of Blacklick, OH; and son Michael J. Ballew of Baden, PA; two grandchildren; three stepsons: Gregory P. Kraft; Mark P. Kraft and Eric J. Kraft; and also seven step-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made in the memory of James Lewis Ballew to the Alzheimer's Association, PO Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090 or to the Bryan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center online designate Bryan at www.gifts.duke.edu

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Scotty Ray Reynolds, 57, died Friday, May 31, at his home in West End.

Mr. Reynolds was born in Moore County, son to the late Roy and Ester Talbert Reynolds. He graduated from Union Pines High School and entered the U.S. Army, joining the 82nd Airborne.

After leaving the Army he started working in construction, opening Reynolds Construction and Cleaning.

In addition to his parents,

he was preceded in death by his son, Scotty Reynolds II.

Survivors include his wife of 23 years, Anna Williams Reynolds; son, Jeremy Reynolds; grandchildren, Colt Squier, Ann-Marie Reynolds, Brandin-Lee Reynolds; brothers David Reynolds and Mark Reynolds; and sisters, Vickie McLeod, Belinda Smith, and Ginger Wilson.

Funeral services were held Wednesday June 5, at Middle

Cross Baptist Church in West End. The Rev. David Reynolds and the Rev. Mike Holyfield officiated.

The family requests memorial donations be made to Victory Junction Gang 4500 Adam's Way, Randleman NC 27317 or to a No Kill Animal Shelter of One's Choice.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Mary Baker Harris, 81, of Aberdeen, died Friday, May 31, at the Baaseiah Family Care Home in Biscoe.

Mrs. Harris was born in Bethune, SC, daughter to the late Cyrel Chandler Baker and Ruth Daniels Baker. She grew up living in Pinebluff and graduated as the valedictorian of the 1950 class of Aberdeen High School. She was a lifelong member

(Continued on page 11)

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The Seven Lakes Times, a community newspaper serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, McLendon Hills, and West End, is seeking a part-time reporter to cover local government meetings and write feature stories.

Relevant educational background and experience are required. *The Times* needs someone who writes clearly and concisely and has a passion for accuracy. Excellent computer skills are a must.

The Times commitment averages six to twelve hours per week, but is determined by local government meeting schedules — and thus is not particularly flexible. Morning, afternoon, and night meetings are common.

Interested?

Please email cover letter, resumé, and any other relevant material to mail@sevenlakestimes.net

In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 10)

of the Ives Memorial Baptist Church and served in many capacities there through the years.

After many years of service, Mrs. Harris retired from the accounting department of Sandhills Community College.

She is survived by her daughter, Gayle Baecht, of West End; sister, Carol B. Matthews of Aberdeen; her brothers, Edward R. Baker of Seven Lakes, and Bob Baker, of Port St. Lucie, FL; sister-in-law, Anita T. Baker, of Lillington; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 3, at Boles Funeral Home chapel in Southern Pines. The Rev. Archie Stevens officiated. Burial followed at Bethesda Cemetery.

Memorial donations be made in memory of Mary Harris to an animal charity of the donor's choice.

Keckeissen, Arthur J. Jr., 92, of Louisville, KY, formerly of Sarasota, FL and Seven Lakes, died May 21, in the presence of his children, Arthur S. Keckeissen of Sarasota, FL and Judy Morrison Behanan (Russell) of Louisville.

Mr. Keckeissen was born in East Orange, NJ son to Arthur and Marion Allington Keckeissen. He served in World War II as a medic with the 76th division in France and Germany and was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery. Upon returning home, he married Jane Violet Gronlund in 1946 in Cushing, WI.

After graduating from Upsala College, East Orange, NJ in 1949 with a degree in Accounting, he began his lifelong career with Tung-Sol Electric/ Wagner Electric in Newark, NJ. In his last position as Director of International Markets, he travelled the world, making many life long friends of different nationalities.

Mr. Keckeissen and wife, Jane retired to Seven Lakes in 1987 where they enjoyed

traveling, golf, gardening, community involvement and their many friends. They were dedicated volunteers for many years for Meals-on-Wheels in Moore County.

He was preceded in death by his wife Jane.

He donated his body to the University of Louisville Medical School so others might benefit.

A memorial service celebrating Mr. Keckeissen's life will be held at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Moore County Dept. of Aging, Home Delivered Meals Program, PO Box 487, Carthage, NC 28327 or Alzheimer's Association of Greater Louisville, 6100 Dutchman's Lane, Louisville, KY 40205.

Elisabeth M. Kollman, 96 of Kalamazoo Michigan, formerly of Seven Lakes, died Monday, November 12, 2012.

Mrs. Kollman was born in Brooklyn, New York, the daughter of Norman and Katherine (Anson) Maul.

She married Robert C. Kollman 1937. They moved to Rockville Centre, NY where they raised their family, a son, Richard, and daughter, Elizabeth.

Mrs. Kollman worked with McGraw-Hill Publishing as secretary to the V.P. of Circulation.

They retired in 1978, in the Sandhills of North Carolina area during the early years of the development of Seven Lakes. She quickly became involved in the Women's Auxiliary, the Seven Lakes Boosters and as a regular contributor to The Beacon, earning her Green Jacket in 1983, emblematic of being selected as a member of the Seven Lakes President's Club.

She also became involved

with the Moore County Historical Association and volunteered her time and energies arranging luncheons at Shaw House in Southern Pines.

In 1996, Mrs. Kollman moved to Friendship Village Retirement Community in Kalamazoo, MI, to live near her daughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Robert; and her son, Richard T. Kollman.

Survivors include her daughter, Elizabeth K. Dapson of Kalamazoo, MI; seven grandchildren; several great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2013, at 11:00 am, at the Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes, with placement in the Memory Wall adjacent to the Chapel immediately following the service.

Seven Lakes Chapel wants your Rummage!

The Chapel in the Pines is holding its 30th annual rummage sale on Saturday, October 19, at the Old Gym in West End. If you have items you would like to donate please call Wil and Nancy Ayres at 673-1288 to arrange for a pickup.

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SLLA President Ritter is Kiwanis speaker

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Steve Ritter, newly elected President of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, addressed the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club recently, providing a summary of Association recent activities.

The road repaving project will continue on an extended basis.

"We have a total of 21.5 miles of roads," Ritter said. "So far we've invested about \$500,000. At a cost of \$125,000 per mile, we plan to do a portion of the project every three to four years."

While the Lakes & Dams Committee has done an excellent job thus far, the Board has determined that a technically-qualified consultant should be contracted to evaluate and establish ongoing programs of care for these

facilities.

Meetings between the Seven Lakes Landowners and the Seven Lakes Country Club have developed an agreement to modify the Covenants to ensure that the golf course will be a golfing property regardless of any unforeseen catastrophic economic developments.

"The Country Club is a tremendous asset for all of the property-owners within the community," Steve said. "We know they will be pleased to learn of this assurance."

The stables' facilities have been upgraded, including replacement of some beams. They have added many new programs over the Summer.

Additionally, the stables have formed an alliance with the "Prancing Horse" program. This organization has a riding program for excep-

tional-children which has brought genuine positive results into their lives.

"The arrangement is a wonderful thing for Prancing Horse, and adds greatly to Seven Lakes' public relations image, as well," said Ritter.

Routine maintenance in 2013 includes a laundry list

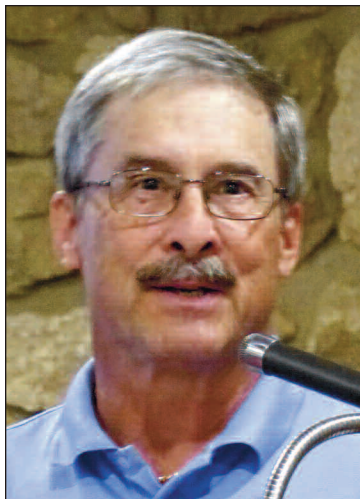
of significant improvements:

- Repair and upgrading of decking and coping at the pool.
- Refurbishing of the clubhouse, including new roofing.
- Lake Sequoia has new docks, a thirty-year bulkhead, and improved parking.
- Upgrade of Big Juniper's

dam.

- New valve installation at Echo Lake.
- General rework of many fenced areas.

Ritter closed his comments with an appeal for more people to get involved with the welfare of the community by volunteering for work on one of the committees.



SLLA President Steve Ritter

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Lakes

(Continued from page 5)
gravity.

One resident argued: "How many times has this been necessary in the last forty years? It hasn't and it won't. It's useless."

Resident and former Director Don Fentzlaff of the Lakes and Dam Committee explained that pumping against gravity was included only as a backup and a cautionary measure.

Relinquishing Responsibility

The Lakes and Dams Committee has carried the huge

responsibility of managing the lakes for a number of years.

"I would like to make a comment here on how appreciative I am of our Lakes and Dams Committee and for all the work and effort they have put in," President Steve Ritter said.

"With the pumping policy approved, it will take a little bit of the responsibility from our volunteers. Adding a management service to augment the Lakes and Dams Committee will also provide direction."

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Lake Auman Sports Club feeds the fish

by Don Smith

Lake Auman Sports Club



The Lake Auman Sports Club [LASC] is taking extra steps this year to improve the quality of Lake Auman and the health of its fish population.

In addition to the annual Christmas tree habitat project, which this year created twenty-five locations under docks around the lake as cover for small fish, and the stocking of over 10,000 brook and 20,000 minnows, the LASC initiated an enhanced fish feeding program.

The program consists of providing select lakefront owners with a supply of free fish food, creating seven dedicated fish feeding stations around the lake, installing and testing the effectiveness of a floating fish food feeder, and upgrading the quality of the fish food.

An initial starter supply of free fish food was delivered to each of the lakefront landowners whose docks had Christmas trees placed this year. The free fish food "starter kits" were delivered

to the landowners by Dave Lamon and Don Smith shortly after the tree project and fish stocking were completed. It came with a note of appreciation from the Sports Club to the landowners for their participation in these two programs.

Seven dedicated fish feeding stations were selected around the lake and will provide high volumes of fish food on a daily basis. An LASC member has been assigned to each station and will ensure these feeding stations deliver the desired quantity of fish food each day.

Lastly, beginning in early May, there is a new way for Lake Auman fish to get food. It is a floating fish feeder that was purchased thanks to a significant donation from a LASC supporter. The feeder was assembled and placed in the lake near the Johnson Point fishing pier by LASC members Dave Lamon, Charlie Flinchum and Don Smith.

The floating fish feeder should help attract more fish

to the fishing pier area and give young fisherman more action when fishing from the pier. The feeder has a lightweight aluminum body with stainless steel hardware and is designed to outlast other feeders on the market.

It holds up to 100 pounds of fish food and features a solar panel and 12 volt rechargeable battery which powers the programmable timer and feeding mechanism to deliver the food at the same times every day.

The food being used for all these fish feeding initiatives is a premium high protein fish food, an upgrade from the food used in prior years, and was one of the recommendations identified in the professional lake study of Lake Auman conducted last year.

Larry D'Amico shopped around for a good price for this more expensive fish food and coordinated the purchase of two pallets of it. With his truck and trailer, he then picked it up in Aberdeen and

brought it to Seven Lakes West to be used.

The Lake Auman Sports Club's mission statement is to "Enhance the value of Lake Auman to the residents by providing programs that improve fishing, promote

more enjoyment from fishing and by sponsoring other sports programs based on the surveyed interests of the community."

All of the above actions go a long way toward meeting that mission.



Lake Auman Sports Club members Dave Lamon, Charlie Flinchum and Don Smith get a fish feeder ready for the lake.

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Guest cards

(Continued from page 4)

have twenty or thirty kids at the basketball court. Most of them were from Eagle Springs — all over the place — because they could get in. If you don't card, then this will open up a whole new can of worms."

Guest Card Limit

After much discussion, the Board concluded that guest cards had merit, but questioned what to charge. SLLA Manager Ray Sohl said his staff has fielded numerous complaints from residents upset that their homeowners dues do not cover use of the amenities by their guests.

Sohl suggested building good will in the community by waiving the guest card fee.

Director Hirsch agreed with Sohl: "The amenities are our lakes and beaches. The residents live here and are paying property assessments. To add a guest fee on top of that doesn't seem appropriate."

Exaggerating Hirsch's point, Temple said: "Then put me down for fifty cards. Then I will go up to Eagle Springs and sell them."

President Steve Ritter asked what would be a realistic number of guest cards per resident. To prevent abuse, several members suggested issuing four free cards. After the fourth, the resident would be charged \$7.50 for each additional card.

Hirsch pointed out that, during family get-togethers, the number of guests would most likely exceed four. He added that he would soon be hosting a large number of guests.

Ritter pointed out that, if Hirsch accompanied his guests to the beach, then he could vouch for them personally.

Ritter then steered the board towards action, producing a unanimous vote that the first four cards will be issued at no charge to each household in good standing. The cards will not be restricted to use by a specific individual, but may be used by any guest of the

household. In addition, the resident does not have to accompany guests who are using guest cards. The new policy does not apply to the pool and stable, which have separate fee structures for guest use.

Dock Extension Denied

The SLLA Board, during the May 29 Open Meeting, denied a request to extend a dock beyond the twenty-foot maximum specified in the Rules and regulations — the second such denial this year.

Lake Sequoia residents Greg and Kathy Lishawa had requested extending their twenty foot dock an additional ten feet to accommodate a boat lift. Under SLLA guidelines the maximum length of a dock is twenty feet, and boats may be moored at the end of the dock.

Greg Lishawa said, if the Board approved the extension, that he would agree to

forego mooring his boat at the end of the dock, so that the effective length of dock plus boat would remain the same. The Lishawa's existing boat lift requires a two foot minimum depth of water to be operable. Due to sand deposits caused by wave action and fluctuations in lake levels during the summer months, the depth can drop below the required two feet.

Director Bill Hirsh said, "The question was brought before the Architectural Review Board [ARB], and it was unanimous in denying application. We didn't feel it demonstrated enough of a hardship to warrant any variance."

Hirsh added that the ARB did not want to set a precedent that would result in the lengthening of docks all around the lake.

The Lishawas appealed the ARB's decision to the Board, but the Directors agreed with the ARB's decision.

Oversight Not Waived

In an appeal from a non-resident property owner that back dues be waived, the Board agreed that a 2011 clerical error made by Talis, the previous management company, does not absolve the lot owner's responsibility to pay SLLA past dues.

Talis failed to bill the lot owner, even when the lot owner brought it to the attention of staff.

Treasurer Conrad Meyer did, however, make a motion to waive the interest and late fees. The motion passed unanimously.

Misconduct not tolerated

The Board voted unanimously to deny another resident's appeal requesting that the ban of a non-resident

from the community be lifted. President Steve Ritter said: "The original ban was based on behavior the board felt was aggressive — and numerous criminal charges that had been brought against him."

No Demand, No Deposit

Several years ago, there were more residents requesting boat slips than were available at Sequoia Point, resulting in calls from some for the Association to build more slips.

To make sure those placing their names on the waiting list were serious, the Board required a \$50 deposit to be placed on the waiting list.

Director Rich Faraci reported: "Now there isn't a

(See "Guest cards," p. 15)

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Mealing

(Continued from page 3)

it is exceedingly rare for the Board to terminate the appointment of a sitting member of a committee whose term has not expired.

A committee divided

The Advisory Committee, with half its membership recommended by the Commissioners and half by the original Veterans Memorial

Committee, has been consistently divided into two factions: those who advocate the use of the entire 3.5 acres of the grassy area adjacent to the Memorial for a Veteran's Park, and those who propose using a smaller area for that purpose, leaving an acre or two open for sale to commercial interests.

During its last meeting, on March 13, the Advisory Com-

mittee reviewed landscape plans for each of those options, and voted to present both plans to the Board of Commissioners in a work session that would involve both the Commissioners and members of the Advisory Committee, as well as offer opportunity for public comment.

No date has been set for that meeting. On March 13,

Commissioner's Chairman Nick Picerno told the committee that the Commissioners were deeply enmeshed in crafting the FY 2104 budget and would not turn their attention to the Memorial until that task was complete.

At the time, Melton said "I think this committee has done its job," and "I think we have gone as far as we can," suggesting that the panel had no further business to conduct aside from participating in a work session with the Commissioners.

That makes it all the more peculiar that the Board of Commissioners chose to replace Mealing on the committee.

Just before they voted to remove her from the Advisory Committee, Mealing expressed her appreciation for having the opportunity to serve.

That apparently does not indicate, however, that she plans to terminate her advocacy for a 3.5 acre Veteran's Park, instead of a fast food restaurant, adjacent to the Memorial. In a column that appears on page 24 of this edition of *The Times*, Mealing is encouraging citizens to sign a petition, as well as to call or email members of the Board of Commissioners, to express support for a Veteran's Park beside the Memorial.

Guest cards

(Continued from page 14)

demand. There are several empty slips out there. For now we should not require a \$50 deposit. In the future, if there is a problem and we

have more people requesting space than boat slips, then we might have to revisit it."

The boat slip rental fee is \$400 per year. Meyer said: "We can account for it either

way. It's easier not to have to maintain a list of deposits if not necessary."

Sohl explained the new procedure: When a slip comes open, the member at the top of the waiting list will "have thirty days to make the payment in full. If they do not their name will go to bottom of list, and the second person on the list is entitled to that boat slip and has thirty days to pay."

The board voted unanimously to eliminate the \$50 deposit.

Planning

(Continued from page 26)

rant couldn't replace either sign that the past owners were previously using. I think it should be looked at."

"The issue that we, as staff, have been wrestling with is: How much signage do you want?" Rust said. "How big? How many slots, and who gets those slots?"

Murray said that he had even forgotten that he had purchased advertising space on a Seven Lakes Village sign that lists area businesses.

"I have one on there, and I forgot all about it," he said. It doesn't even tell you how to find the business."

Hayter recommended that off premises signs be set ten feet back and that they be directional only and not allow an advertising component. Both Board member Buck Mims and Hayter agreed that the signs should be within a certain distance of the organization referenced on the sign.

Rust will process the Work Session discussion as he fine tunes the sign ordinance for possible Board action at a later date.

iPad training

Planning Director Debra Engsinger provided the board with new iPads, and the rest of the evening was spent with Engsinger teaching the board how to operate them.



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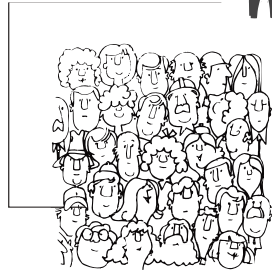
- **Flag Day**
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – Hannah Arendt, 7:30 pm, Barbara Sukowwa. Tickets: \$7. A look at the life of philosopher and political theorist Hannah Arendt, who reported for The New Yorker on the war crimes trial of the Nazi Adolf Eichmann. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY JUNE 15

- **Seven Lakes Baptist Church Youth Golf Tournament** – 8:30 am, Shotgun start, \$75 per player, \$300 per team. Hosted at Seven Lakes Country Club. Proceeds to benefit Seven Lakes Baptist Church youth missions and camp trips. Call to reserve your spot at the club.
- **Marine Picnic Sandhills Area Detachment #1001** – 11:30 am to 2 pm, is hosting a Red, White, and Blue picnic at Reservoir Park, Southern Pines to honor Wounded Warriors and all Marines. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks served to Wounded Warriors, Marines, FMF Navy Corpsmen and their families at no charge. Call 910-295-2218 to say you'll be there or for more information. Every Marine is welcome.
- **Honor Military at SCC** – 1 to 4 pm, Join the Sandhills military personnel and their families for a fun filled day at the Ball Visitors Center at Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, Sandhills Community College. Event is free and in honor our

country. Enjoy K2 Military Trained Dog demonstrations, Falconry demonstrations, a Bird of Prey exhibit, crafts, face painting, balloon animals, live music and refreshments.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – Hannah Arendt, 2:30 & 7:30 pm, Barbara Sukowwa. Tickets: \$7. A look at the life of philosopher and political theorist Hannah Arendt,



What's When Calendar

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MONDAY, JUNE 17

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – Hannah Arendt, 7:30 pm, Barbara Sukowwa. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Reverend Carol Burgess. All are welcome.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

- **Father's Day**
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – Hannah Arendt, 2:30 & 7:30 pm, Barbara Sukowwa. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Weymouth Woods** – 3 pm, "Father's Day Walk" Join the Ranger for a Father's Day celebration walk. Bring bug spray, bottled water, wear comfortable shoes, and be sure to bring Dad. Join us for a program in

our Auditorium to learn more. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167 weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

- **The Rooster's Wife** – doors open at 6 pm, show at 6:45 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Guest tonight is *Red Clay Ramblers*, and *the Cackalacky Sisters* open. Buy tickets online, or at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen,

- **"Who Cares for the Care-giver?"** – 6 pm to 7 pm. Free workshop for family caregivers of seniors held at Sandhills Memory Care, 292 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. Speaker Barbara Stender, Caregiver Specialist. Refreshments. Call 673-2230 or 673-2045 to reserve a seat.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

- **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 leads the session in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Goonies*, 7:30 pm, starring Sean Astin & Corey Feldman. Tickets: \$5 Available at the box office 30 minutes before showing. A group of kids embark on a wild adventure after finding a pirate treasure map. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist

Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$5.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Rufus Barringer Civil War Roundtable** – 7 pm, meeting held at Southern Pines Civic Club, at Ashe and Pennsylvania Aves., behind the tennis courts, Southern Pines. The Roundtable welcomes Dr. Thomas G. Clemens. He will present "Antietam in their own words." Visitors are always welcome. Refreshments served. Information 910-235-0946 or 910-695-9058.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Sapphires*, 7:30 pm, starring Chris O'Dowd. Tickets: \$7. It's 1968, and four young, talented Australian Aboriginal girls learn about love, friendship and war when their all girl group The Sapphires entertain the US troops in Vietnam. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

- **Summer Begins**
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Sapphires*, 7:30 pm, starring Chris O'Dowd. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise The-

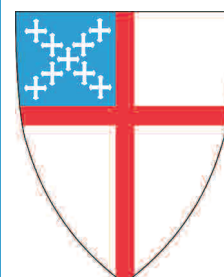
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SATURDAY, JUNE 22

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Sapphires*, 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm, starring Chris O'Dowd. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Seven Lakes Baptist Church VBS Kickoff Event** – 1 to 3 pm, behind the church. Hot dogs, games for kids and parents, and inflatable. Register for VBS to be held June 24 to June 28. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Sapphires*, 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm, starring Chris O'Dowd. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Weymouth Woods** – 3 pm, "Bug Bonanza" Weymouth Woods has an awesome collection of insects, and the ranger is bringing them out today. Come check out hundreds of pinned specimens of butterflies, moths, dragonflies, grasshoppers, and more. Short hike. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167 wey-

mouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

- **The Rooster's Wife** – doors open at 6 pm, show at 6:45 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Guest tonight is *Robin and Linda Williams*. Buy tickets online, or at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)-944-7502.

MONDAY, JUNE 24

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Monday Night Services at WEUMC** – evening Fellowship Meal at 6 pm followed, by Worship Service at 7 pm. If you have to work on Sundays or travel on the weekends or you are not ready for Sunday morning, please join the church on Monday evening. Come as you are. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 Highway 73, West End. Church Office 673-1371.
- **Seven Lakes Baptist Church VBS** – 6:30 to 8:30 pm, held each night through June 28. For ages 3 through 5th grade. Kids Theme for the week: "Go Tell it on the Mountain" Where Jesus Christ is Lord. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – socializing 7 pm, program begins at 7:30 pm. Bruce Sorrie will present "Birding and Botanizing in

Patagonia." Meeting held at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, Southern Pines.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Sapphires*, 7:30 pm, starring Chris O'Dowd. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

- **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. Reverend Carol Burgess. All are welcome.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

- **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 leads the session in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – Classic movie: *Stand By Me*, starring: Wil Wheaton & River Phoenix. 7:30 pm. Tickets \$5 available at the Box Office before the show. After the death of a friend, a writer recounts a boyhood journey to find the body of a missing boy.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

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

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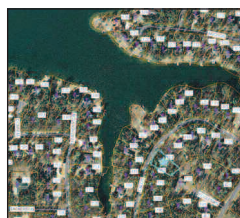
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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

Village Condensed and in Color

A long anticipated tri-fold brochure promoting Foxfire Village is back from the printers.

In good humor McCue showed off the pamphlet saying, "They describe our idyllic life here in Foxfire."

The Long Range Planning Committee's May Meeting did not have enough mem-

bers in attendance for a quorum.

"The ones present discussed the distribution and planning for the pamphlets to local restaurants, in golf packages, at local real estate offices, and the Chamber of Commerce," McCue said. "We will be getting on it in the next couple of weeks. Citizens can come by and grab a handful if they are going on vacation and want to encour-

age family and friends to come here to Foxfire."

Patching and Paving

Councilman Vic Koos reported that scheduled patching of roads has been completed. In the next seven days, paving will begin. The paving included in the current year budget will be completed by July 1.

Moore County Summit

Erickson credited the publisher of the Southern Pines newspaper with his leadership in the Moore County Summit, a group that brings together local officials on an occasional basis to discuss key issues facing the County and its municipalities.

"David Woronoff, the Editor [sic] of The Pilot, helped lead some of the meetings. All we discussed was water through-

out the County. The purpose of the Summit meeting this time was to look at other issues coming up and get some input for next Fall."

Summer Vacations

Councilman Steve Durham was not in attendance at the June 11 meeting. Village Clerk Lisa Kivett will be taking a much-earned vacation June 18-30.

Blickley

(Continued from page 9)

Carolina."

Blickley was taught to save for a rainy day. "I was brought up to have a savings buffer and I don't have that," he explained. Living month-to-month leaves nothing for emergencies. The NC FLEX health care plan for teachers doesn't cover dental or vision. "You are better off paying out of pocket if you need to go to the dentist," Blickley said.

Moving Down South ... way down south

Losing an exceptional science teacher is frustrating. Losing an exceptional science teacher to another country is infuriating.

Blickley is moving to Ecuador to teach at an international private english-speaking school. "It has been a multitude of different reasons that lead me to consider

international schools," he told *The Times*. "The main reason is I just can't maintain a living here."

"I looked at jobs around the country, and they are not hiring, or what they are paying is not feasible. If I go back to Pennsylvania, I would have to start my master's credits."

"No schools want to pay for the masters program," Blickley said. "It's a double-edged sword: you go back to school to earn a masters to increase your pay and you end up another \$20,000 in debt in student loans. Some offer to pay for some classes, but then you have to wait for the reimbursement. I don't know anyone in this profession that doesn't work to better their education."

So what does Ecuador offer that America doesn't?

"What they offer is a housing stipend on top of the reg-

ular salary," Blickley said. "Roughly, what I get paid is similar, but the cost of living there is exponentially lower."

Blickley's health insurance will also be covered. "I will also receive a very nice international plan that will cover me anywhere I want to travel. I won't have to pay out of pocket. My coverage starts in August the month my contract does, and I don't have to pay a dime into it, which is really nice. It covers basic, and I don't even have a co-pay."

When asked if he is nervous teaching in another country he said, "Not much. The School's human resource

representative has thought of everything and has answered all my questions and is also hooking me up with the teachers working there."

In Ecuador, Blickley will not only have the chance to

do something he loves, but will also receive a decent livable wage.

After all isn't that every American's dream?



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Military Appreciation Day at SCC

A fun day of activities for current military personnel and their families will be hosted by the Sandhills Horticultural Society on Saturday, June 15 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

The event will be held at the Ball Visitors Center of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens of Sandhills Community College.

It is all free and gives the Horticultural Society a

chance to honor the men and women who are doing and have done so much for the country.

Attendees will enjoy K2 Military Trained Dog demonstrations, Falconry demon-

strations, a Bird of Prey exhibit, crafts, face painting, balloon animals, live music and refreshments.

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Congratulations to the Class of 2013



**Alexander S.
Brown**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Alexander is the son of Nancy and Alan Brown. His grandparents are June and Walter Brown of Seven Lakes and the late Robert Robinson and Carol Kelley of Ohio. He was a member of NHS, Interact Club, Cross Country team, and an AP Scholar. He will attend NCSU.



**Kori
Godwin**

Grace Christian School
Sanford, NC

Kori Godwin is the daughter of Rodney and Tonya Godwin of Seven Lakes North. She was Captain of the swim team, Yearbook co-editor, President of SGA, and Salutatorian. She will attend Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) at NC State University for Biology/Pre-med.



**Alyssa Ashley
Kristek**

Union Endicott High School
Endicott, NY

Alyssa is the daughter of Michael Kristek and Leslie Rhodes of Endicott, NY. Her grandparents are Shirley and Joseph Kristek of Seven Lakes West.

She will attend Sandhills Community College to pursue a degree in the medical field.



**Marc Florian
Schaefer**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Marc is the son of Sven and Carmen Schaefer of Seven Lakes North

He was a member of National Honor Society, and a Palmer Scholar at Sandhills Community College.

Marc will attend NC State to pursue a degree in Engineering.



Marie Schroder

St. John's School
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Marie is the daughter of Christine and Robert Schroder of San Juan and the granddaughter of Al and Annette Daniels of Seven Lakes West. A member of National Honor Society, Pres. of French Club, Gold Award Recipient of Caribe Girl Scouts. She will attend The College of Wooster, Wooster, OH.



**Karen Louise
Smith**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Karen is the daughter of John and Kelly Wilson of Seven Lakes West, granddaughter of Mike and Louise Thomas of Seven Lakes West and the late John F. Wilson, Jr. and Inez S. Wilson of Raleigh. A member of NHS, Varsity Tennis Team, Lacrosse Team. She will attend NCSU.



**Kara
Zoellner**

Pinecrest High School
Southern Pines, NC

Kara is the daughter of Steve and Patti Zoellner of Seven Lakes West.

She will attend the University of North Carolina Chapel to pursue a degree in Exercise Science.



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Congratulations to the Class of 2013



Jacquelyn Grey Beattie

University of North Carolina-Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

Jacquelyn is the daughter of Chuck & Lynn Beattie of Seven Lakes. A member of the Phi Beta Delta, Honor Society for International Scholars. She graduated with a Master of Architecture degree & a Master of Urban Design with honors in Urban Design.

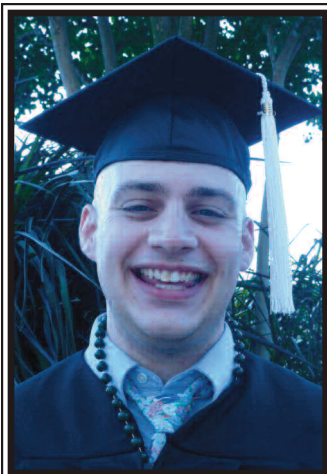


Alexander Ryan Fox

University of North Carolina-Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

Alexander is the son of Ryan and Cheryl Fox of Seven Lakes and grandson of Frances Fox formerly of Seven Lakes.

He graduated with a Bachelor Science in Economics and a minor in American Studies.



Christopher Joseph Greco

Tulane University
New Orleans, LA

Christopher is the son of Karyn and John Greco of McLendon Hills.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication.

Christopher will pursue a career in the field of Communications.



Logan Ross McDonald

North Carolina State
Raleigh, NC

Logan is the son of Carol McDonald of Seven Lakes West and Angus McDonald of West End. He graduated Cum Laude and received his B.A. in Communication with a Media Emphasis. He is employed with the Carolina Hurricanes as a producer for Gale Force Media.



Patricia Marie Pendleton

University of Phoenix
Tempe, AZ

Patricia is the daughter of Pen and Judy Pendleton of Seven Lakes West.

She earned her Masters of Education in early childhood education.

She is certified to teach from birth through fifth grade.



Morgan Zoellner

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC

Morgan is the daughter of Steve and Patti Zoellner of Seven Lakes West. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Morgan will attend grad school to obtain a Masters degree in Occupational Therapy.

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OPINION

Why should I attend church?

Question: I was made to go to church when I was a child. When I went to college, I quit going to church; and I haven't been since. I am forty five years old, married, with two children. My wife joins me in my feelings about church attendance and neither of us want our children to go to Sunday School and be told that all the mythical stories in the Bible are true. We find that we can worship God through nature in the great outdoors, and we don't need some preacher telling us what's right and what's wrong. Why should we change our lives now?

Response: Your story is not unique; I hear it in some form or another almost every week. The majority of people in Seven Lakes do not attend any church, and most of their

children have no religious education.

Your experience as a child must have been very unpleasant, and your college experience must have been an experience of freedom from organized religion that is not unusual for many students after they come out of the restrictive nest of parental demands.

Somewhere along the way, either you or your wife experienced some sense of the sacred. You mention worshipping God through nature, so let's start there. This earth is a beautiful place and the evolutionary story found in nature is indeed a story of God's work in the universe. All of us should have a greater appreciation for the beauty around us, and all of us should be stewards of

the earth, rather than simply consumers of what the earth gives to us.

You may be surprised to learn that the Bible teaches this through the myths, metaphors, and poetry that make up many of its separate books. I learned to appreciate the wonder and mystery of God through nature and through many sacred writings including the Bible. Without the church, none of these experiences would have been available to me.

Where did you and you wife find your moral compass in order to teach your children moral and ethical behavior?

I am not one of those preachers who will tell you what's right and what's wrong. I have enough trouble keeping my own conscience.

I do point people to the

spirituality that you experience, but these churches also provide much more. They provide a community of learning and support, in addition to opportunities to serve others and meet the needs of hurting people.

Perhaps you and your family have not found the right church for you or the right program of religious education for your children in a Sunday school that not only teaches the myths about God but also helps children and adults find the truth that these myths contain. Churches like this do exist right here in your community.

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



Ask the
'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

great truths of the sacred books and especially to Hebrew/Christian scriptures. And I introduce people to Jesus, who teaches us the way and points us to the mystery that is God.

There are many churches that provide this kind of appreciation for the kind of

Removal of Mealing from panel was mean spirited

Dear Editor:

Our mean-spirited Moore County Commissioners arbitrarily removed one of Moore County's most dedicated citizens, Carolyn Mealing, from the Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee.

Mealing worked with other Committee members to research this issue in order to present as much information as possible to the

Advisory Committee for consideration. That is what the Committee was charged to do at its initial meeting, where Commissioner Melton stated that it was "one committee" with all members working together to come up with a solution that will be acceptable to the County and to veterans groups.

The research and information presented was not always

well received by commissioners serving on the advisory committee, however. Could this be the real reason for Mealing's removal from the Committee?

Mealing is one of many strong advocates for veterans who favors establishing the Moore County Veterans Memorial Park on the entire piece of property adjoining the Veterans Memorial. Inter-

estingly, the Moore County Veterans Memorial, Inc. Board of Directors, chaired by Raymond Doby, voted unanimously to approve the concept design for this park, designed by landscape architect Vince Zucchini, prior to its presentation to the Advisory Committee.

How unfortunate that a great project such as a proposed public park that everyone in the county can enjoy, that also respects the memory of our veterans and would be privately funded, is not considered a priority by our

County Commissioners. Could there be other reasons, not apparent, of interests in a commercial disposition of the adjacent property in question?

I am the wife of an almost 90-year-old World War II veteran, and the daughter of a World War I veteran who fought in the trenches of France. Let's keep the veterans in mind and respect the contributions of qualified, dedicated citizens, not dismiss them.

*Dr. Barbara Farr
Whispering Pines*

SEVEN
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Sarah Hankins, Ad Layout

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J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent, William C. Kerchof, Ruth H. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Tucker

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 accept letters delivered by e-mail or the US Postal Service. Or you can drop your letter off at our office at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive.

Remembering a great Dad on Father's Day

As Father's Day approaches, I am so grateful for my dad. My dad, unlike most people's dad, is not my biological father.

My biological father abandoned my mother, brother and me when I was just under a year old. Then, we were forced to move because my Mom couldn't afford the house without his income. We moved to a tiny house on the other side of town and my mom worked several jobs in order to support us.

Around the corner from

where we were living, was a young man who would come to play with my brother and me. I remember him taking us to get ice cream, babysitting us, and just being there for us. Eventually, he married my mom and adopted my brother and me. He always says that he fell in love with us before he fell in love with my mom.

I was five years old when they married, and my two new brothers were born over the next few years. It was after they were born that I

began to realize just how much my dad loved me. I didn't learn it because he let me do whatever I wanted or because he took me for ice cream or just because he was nice to me. I learned it because he disciplined me the same way that he disciplined his biological sons. He held me to the same standards to which he held them. I was treated exactly the same way as they were.

We were expected to be responsible. Dad would say, "After all, we are Hrabosky men!" So he gave us chores to do every day and inspected the job to make sure that we did it right. We were to be respectful. He used to tell the girls I dated that they were not allowed to touch the door

handles on his cars because his sons were taught to honor and respect ladies.

I watched how he treated my mom, as if she were a

queen. He always respected and honored her. I saw how much it meant to her and how she loved him for it. We were taught to have integrity. He would tell us that he might not know every wrongful thing we did, but he would find out most things — and what he didn't know, God would. Integrity is what we do when no one is looking. We were told that we could do anything that we wanted to do in life. My parents start-

ed two successful businesses, and neither one had a college education. My mom ran for public office. They moved across the country when they were in their fifties and started over, because they were not afraid to take risks. They demonstrated to our family that we could do whatever we set our minds to, and we believed them because they did it. There are so many lessons that I learned from my dad, but perhaps the most important lesson that I learned is how to raise men. He would always tell us that his job was not to raise four boys. His job was to raise four men. I am trying to instill the same principles in my own sons and I pray that one day they will remember their dad, like I remember mine.

Chris Hrabosky is pastor at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. You may send him your question or comments at chrabosky@mac.com.



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

Praise for SLLA Board

To the SLLA Board of Directors:

Congratulations on your decision to establish no wake zones on flooded Lake Sequoia and Echo.

It was about time to have something done. The speed boats are going too fast, and I certainly feel sorry for families with small kids by the lake that can not swim or canoe in the lake because they are afraid of those big wakes caused by selfish, reckless drivers.

Last weekend, I nearly lost my dog, who was so happy to fetch her ball in the lake. And I myself was drenched by an unexpected wake. Buoys should be checked and be set at a decent distance from shore.

People living in a cove have no idea of the damage done to people living outside the coves and right in the path of speed boats. They spend plenty of money to redo their bulkhead, re-enforced them, or refill holes caused by the wakes.

I mean it. The dues were raised therefore the job ought to be done to satisfaction, too.

We are a decent community and respect should be the priority, including keeping dogs on leash, the playground clean, etc. — not only by homeowners but by people visiting the premises, as well. And we should especially guard against those who try

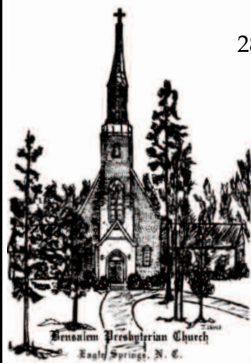
to sneak in.

Serving on the Board is for a purpose to be achieved and not for the glory.

Again from the bottom of my heart, congratulations!

*Liliane D. Partain
Seven Lakes North*

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Will your current homeowner's insurance policy provide you with protection for this incident? Are you sure?

Just like with an automobile, the owner of the golf cart can be held responsible when he or she operates the cart, or entrusts it to someone who negligently operates it on or off the golf course.

Before you take to the streets, give me a call and let's review all your exposures and how we can help you cover these gaps in protecting what you have worked so hard to achieve.

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Help Wanted: Commissioners' decision on

While recently attending a Memorial Day service at the cemetery in West Southern Pines, I was very moved when the speaker gave this definition of a veteran: "A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America for

an amount of up to and including his life. That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it."

I would certainly hope the last sentence is not true for the residents of Moore County; but, at this point, that

question remains unanswered.

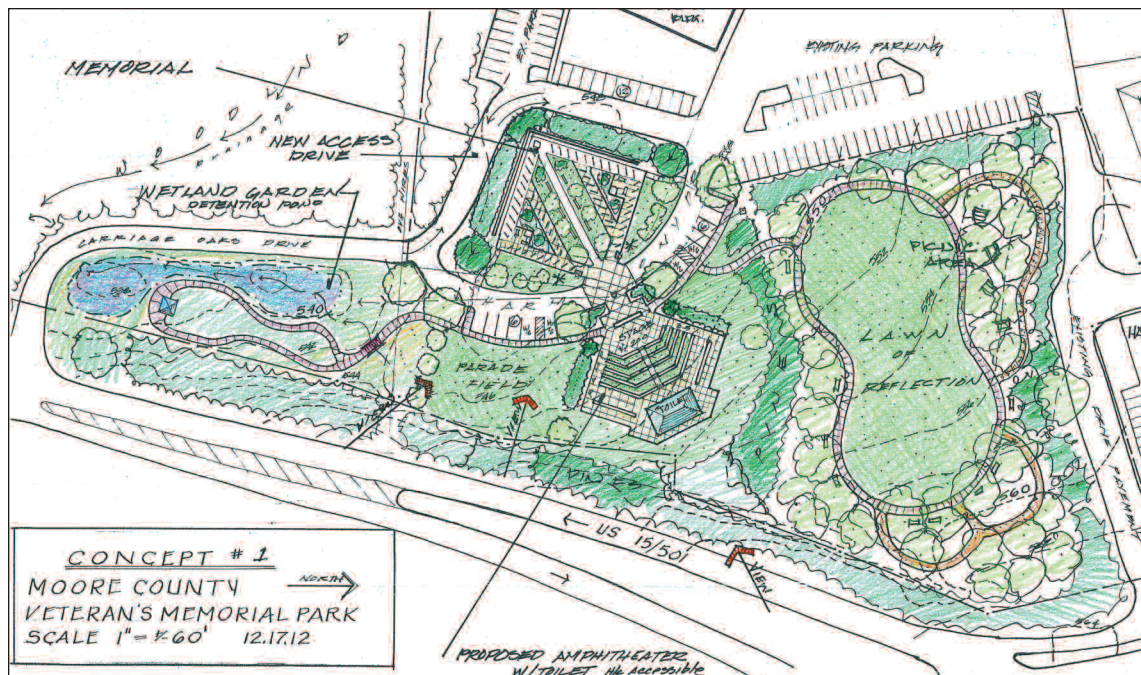
Ask yourself this question: How important are the sacrifices our veterans and their families have made for us — sacrifices that go to the very core of protecting our democratic way of life?

We now have a golden

opportunity to honor our veterans and show them our appreciation by working together for the establishment of the Moore County Veterans Memorial Park as proposed

in "Plan 1," outlined below. In order to do this, however, our voices must be heard. This is not the time for silence — this is the time for action!

(Continued on page 25)



Plan 1 for a Veterans' Park around the Veteran's Memorial, utilizing the entire adjacent 3.5 acre grassy area. Prepared by landscape architect Vince Zucchini.



Plan 2 for a Veteran's Park with a much smaller footprint, developed by the Moore County Planning Department.

Contacting Commissioners

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Veterans' Memorial still pending

(Continued from page 24)

Here are some things you can do to help. To support "Plan 1," please:

- Sign the petition that is being circulated throughout the county respectfully requesting the Board of Commissioners to approve "Plan 1 [You can download a copy on the Seven Lakes Times website.]"
- Write or email the commissioners expressing your support for "Plan 1 [See box on page 24 for contact information.]"
- Write a letter to the Editor. Additionally, there may be an opportunity to show your support by testifying at a workshop where this issue will be discussed and/or at a regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioners' email and mailing addresses are on the Moore County Government web site at www.co.moore.nc.us.

After much discussion by the Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee appointed by the Moore County Board of Commissioners last August, two plans were approved to be sent to the Commissioners for their consideration.

The first plan, "Plan 1" would establish the Moore County Veterans Memorial Park, which would include the current Veterans Memorial site and the adjoining property of approximately 3.9 acres. This park would be for all Moore County citizens to use.

The concept plan for the park preserves the integrity of the original Memorial design and would include safe walking and biking trails, picnic tables; outdoor cooking facilities, open green areas; an amphitheater with seating for 250 persons, rest rooms, storage capability, audio and visual capabilities and could be used for community as well as veterans events.

Joint ownership by the County and Moore County Veterans Memorial, Inc. as proposed by Commissioner Larry Caddell last August, has been discussed. As envisioned, there would be no

cost to the County or to Moore County taxpayers to build the park and no change in the current tax status. Donations have

The second plan, "Plan 2" uses a much smaller footprint of the property adjoining the Veterans Memorial, and

would allow for commercial building both above, where a Bojangles' restaurant had originally been proposed, and it

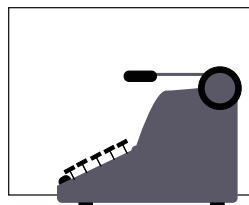
would also allow for sale of the property below the proposed site. Allowing for commercial building both above and below the Veterans Memorial could not help but detract from the memorial's sanctity and purpose, and would also obscure the view of the Memorial from the road.

Although Plan 2 includes some similar amenities to Plan 1, due to its reduced size, the scale of the proposed amenities are of necessity proportionately reduced and would, for example, provide

seating for only 75 people, limited walking trails, and there would be no area for overflow parking.

Additionally, access to handicapped parking would be difficult. Plan 2 would include cooking and storage facilities and rest rooms, but would not preserve the integrity of the original design. Access to the site by heavy equipment that is needed to bring in and place new stone tablets at the memorial would be very difficult. As there was no open discussion about funding or ownership for Plan 2, these remain unknown factors.

Please help! The Moore County Board of Commissioners may be making a decision on these plans in the very near future, so let your voice be heard. We are a nation "of the people, by the people, and for the people," and lest they forget, our elected officials are elected by "we, the people."



Your Turn

Carolyn Mealing
Seven Lakes

been pledged, grants are being sought and fundraising events are planned. The park would be built in stages as funding becomes available.

This plan was unanimously approved by Moore County Veterans Memorial, Inc., the founding organization for the memorial. It would preserve and protect the sanctity and purpose of the Memorial because it would guarantee that no commercial building would be built on the property to detract from that sanctity and purpose.

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Budget

(Continued from front page)

Nick Picerno, at the conclusion of the June 4 meeting, reminded “the citizens that the is the fifth year in a row that we have either maintained or reduced the tax rate.”

“This budget prioritizes education and public safety,” he added. “We didn’t have a lot of increased revenues, but what little we had went to the schools and supported digital learning.”

No more for SCC

Despite pleas for more funding delivered by the top brass of Sandhills Community College [SCC], the budget approved on June 4 provided no new funding for the college.

During a May 21 public hearing on the budget, Board of Trustees Chairman George Little, President John Dempsey, and and Robert Hayter, who chairs the Trustees’ Building and Grounds Committee, all urged the Commissioners to provide the \$200,000 in operational funding and \$500,000 in capital funding the college had requested. Without the additional dollars, the SCC representatives argued, they would be unable to properly maintain the 115,000 square

feet of new buildings added since 2008.

County Manager Wayne Vest’s proposed budget instead provided \$120,000 in capital funding, and came up with those dollars by subtracting them from the county’s contribution to SCC operations.

In the revised budget, approved in a 5-0 vote on June 4, the \$120,000 was restored to the operational side of the ledger, but no capital funding was provided.

Commissioners Chairman Nick Picerno has consistently pointed to SCC’s growing fund balance as the appropriate source for the extra funds the college needs.

Vest noted that Picerno and Commissioner Randy Saunders had met with SCC representatives a number of times since the May 21 public hearing.

401K Cap Revised

Vest’s original budget had proposed capping the total contribution the County makes to employee pension and 401K plans at ten percent for new hires — and to limit the 401K contribution to a match of the employee’s own contributions.

Vest explained that, in con-

sultations with benefits experts, he had learned that the county can create a “tiered” benefits plan, but only if new hires are able to transition to the full benefits enjoyed by veteran employees after three years. In addition, the requirement that employees make a 401K contribution in order to receive a match would have to apply to all employees.

In light of that news, he recommended that the 401K contribution rate for new hires be set at 1.5 percent, with a transition to 3 percent after three years.

Those changes, along with the reduction of one full-time Information Technology position, led to an overall reduction of \$74,084 in the General Fund budget.

Funding for Schools unchanged

Moore County Schools [MCS] had asked the commissioners for the \$25.5 million in operational funding they received in the current year, plus \$750,000 in a new fund dedicated to purchasing laptops and tablet computers for each student.

The Manager’s budget did,

in fact, establish that Digital Technology fund, but pulled \$375,000 out of MCS operational fudging to do so. The other \$375,000 was pulled from County capital reserves.

Though a few citizens had, during the public hearing on the budget urged the Commissioners to fully fund MCS’ request, the budget approved on June 4 remained as original proposed by the Manager.

Crafting the budget “was not an easy task,” said Commissioner Saunders, who served with Picerno on the budget team. “With lots of requests and limited revenue, you learn that you can’t just fulfill every request.”

“With the schools, we have gone as far as we can go, right now,” Saunders said, adding that he was “excited about the digital learning initiative . . . I’m excited to see what they can do with the money, and, more importantly, what the kids can do and the teachers and the staff.”

Saunders said he looked forward to reports throughout the year on progress with the initiative.

Fire Insurance Districts Revised

Public Safety Director Brian Phillips won approval during the June 4 meeting, for a revised map of the County’s Fire Insurance Districts.

A total of 1,180 homes and business are affected, with an expected cumulative savings of \$300,000 in insurance premiums.

Changes in western Moore County included moving McLendon Hills into the Seven Lakes VFD insurance district and a substantial area south of Foxfire from the Pinebluff to the West End insurance district.

Fire Marshal Ken Skipper explained that state law allows the Commissioners to make such moves if another department is within five or six miles of a property and if the move will improve the insurance rating of the property.

Chairman Picerno quickly noted that all that was being changed in the action before the Board was the insurance rating district — not the response area or fire tax districts.

Skipper said the fire depart-

(See “Budget,” p. 27)

Help Wanted! Part-Time Reporter

The Seven Lakes Times, a community newspaper serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, McLendon Hills, and West End, is seeking a part-time reporter to cover local government meetings and write feature stories.

Relevant educational background and experience are required. *The Times* needs someone who writes clearly and concisely and has a passion for accuracy. Excellent computer skills are a must.

The Times commitment averages six to twelve hours per week, but is determined by local government meeting schedules — and thus is not particularly flexible. Morning, afternoon, and night meetings are common.

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Budget

(Continued from page 26)

ments in the County all have mutual aid agreements and regularly assist with fires outside their own district. "We're just affording the district with a better rating to overlap," he explained.

Mindful of a just completed comprehensive study of the County fire and emergency medical services, Picerno said: "I appreciate the work that you did. You know we're not done. We still need to work on tax districts and service districts. I think that is going to be a little tougher issue. But you now have the study to go on, and the ESAC Committee and your committees need to attack that and come back to us as soon as you can."

Ritter urges review of smoking policy

When County Health Director Robert Wittman asked the Commissioners, during the June 4 meeting, to approve a resolution opposing Senate Bill 703, he prompted a recommendation from newly-seated Commissioners Otis Ritter that the County take a closer look at its smoking policy.

The Senate Bill would remove the authority of local governments to regulate smoking on county or town property. The Moore County Board of Health adopted a resolution opposing the bill, and asked the Commissioners to do the same.

The Board in fact voted 5-0 to do so, but Ritter said the current policy that forbids smoking on County property simply shifts the smokers onto neighboring properties.

"I'm not a smoker," Ritter said. "I think it's a bad habit, it's a dirty habit in my opinion. However, I have a little bit of a problem with telling a taxpayer that's paying the bills here, that's paying the salaries here, that they have to go over to one of our neighbor's properties to do their pollution . . . If we take this literally we are saying you can't smoke in your own automobile that you pay taxes on [if it's parked on County (See "Budget," p. 28)]



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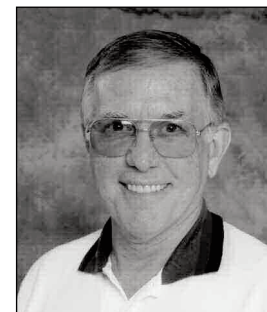
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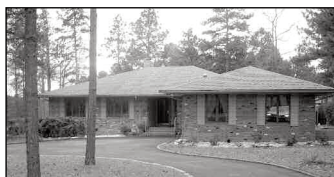
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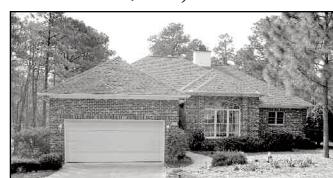
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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

students and SLLA horses be able to compete in offsite horse shows under the supervision of Stables Manager Kate Pennington. Community Manager Ray Sohl added a third proposal — that Pennington be allowed to host horse shows at the Seven Lakes Stables.

President Steve Ritter expressed concern that these new elements could detract from the stables' primary mission to serve as an amenity for residents seeking trail

rides and basic riding lessons.

But other Board members expressed support for the proposals.

Director Chuck Leach drew an analogy to having a child start out by playing T-Ball, and then moving up to Little League, and on into more challenging levels of baseball.

"This is a progression," Leach said. "I see this same progression with this on the horses. I personally think it is a good way to go."

Treasurer Conrad Meyer said he looked at the stables as an asset — an asset that may have been underutilized in the past.

"This proposal brings some ideas we haven't considered in the recent past," he added. "I see a lot of excitement out there, and maybe this would provide an alternative for youth in the community."

"Everything that we can do to raise the visibility of this community from a regional perspective, the better," Director Bill Hirsch said, noting

that the stables are the amenity that is most visible from outside the community.

Picking up on Leach's T-ball analogy, Pennington said, "If we don't start introducing jumps or shows, then I will have to send some students elsewhere . . . I have four kids who are ready, and, if they continue to progress, we could get those kids hooked."

Pennington noted that 62 children have already signed up for Summer riding camps, with 13 more on the waiting list.

Addressing concerns that increasing the number and types of lessons would reduce the availability of trail rides, Pennington said her goal is to divide the barn into a "trail side and a show side. The goal is to have the staff taking out trail rides and me teaching. That's why I want two staff people at all times."

Pennington noted that she has photos and articles that show jumping and show activity at the stables in the past. The former stables director, she said, was a Western rider, and Western saddles don't accommodate jumping, because of the saddle horn.

When the issue of safety was raised, Pennington said, by the time students are allowed to take jumping lessons, they will be quite experienced. She said trail rides are, in fact, the most dangerous activity the stables offers.

Sohl said he had researched whether the Association's insurance coverage would cover offsite horse shows and found that any liability would be covered. The truck and trailer used would be Pennington's, so her personal insurance would be primary and the Association's would be secondary.

(See "SLLA," p. 29)

Budget

(Continued from page 27)

property]."

Other Business

In other business during the June 6 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Repealed all previously approved fee policies for the Health Department, at Wittman's requests. The Board of Health will set fee policies going forward.
- Approved a new fee schedule for the Health Department.
- Called a public hearing for June 18 on proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would allow and regulate industrial scale solar farms in the County.
- Approved a Locally Coor-

minated Human Service Transportation Plan developed by the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization. The plan is a wish list of options for expanding the County's transportation service.

- Approved a resolution urging the General Assembly, as it realigns the state's regional economic development partnerships, to place Moore County in the partnership that includes the Research Triangle area.

- Nominated Picerno to serve as the District 10 Director for the NC Association of County Commissioners.

- Made a number of appointments, including:
 - Kristin Richmond to the Workforce Development

Board.

- Jerrell Seawell and Abby Ganin-Toporek to the Animal Operations Advisory Board
- Commissioner Ritter to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

- Vernon Garner to replace Carolyn Mealing on the Veterans' Memorial Advisory Committee [See story on page 3].

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 28)
ations secondary.

What is not covered is injury to the horses, which, Pennington noted, are not currently insured as they stand in the pasture.

Sohl said the cost of insuring horses appeared to be \$300 per horse, and Pennington recommended the Association consider purchasing that insurance, which would also cover illness.

The Board moved both the proposal for jumping lessons and the proposal to allow Seven Lakes Stables students to participate in horse shows to the June 26 Open Meeting for action.

They also authorized the participation of Pennington's students in a June 22 show at McLendon Hills.

Horse Shows

Pennington told the Board that, when she first saw the pasture and stables at Seven Lakes, she thought it "looked just like a Florida Horse Show grounds."

She said she expected Horse Shows held at the facility could attract 50 to 100 participants in the beginning, and could potentially grow much larger.

Most of the effort of hosting a show is handled by volunteers, Pennington said, and "people clean up after themselves."

Both Director Meyer and resident George Temple said, if horse shows were held at the stables, they would attend as spectators.

The Board agreed to move the proposal to host horse shows to the Open Meeting.

Additional Roving Patrol Coverage

Following up on a suggestion from an earlier Work Session, President Ritter presented a proposal to add 40 additional hours a week to the Budd Group security contract, providing for an additional six-hour roving patrol shift five days a week and adding two hours each evening to coverage at the South Gate.

Ritter said the cost of test-

ing those options over the next three months would be \$6,500 — an amount not included in the current year budget.

But other Board members were skeptical that the South Gate needed to be manned until 9:00 pm instead of 7:00 pm.

"The key issue is the roving patrol," Ritter said, adding that "The problem is mostly on the weekend, when there is no staff on duty. Say a tree falls and blocks a road; we have no one to respond. We need to have some kind of Association response for things that do not rise to the level of calling the Sheriff."

"This is a very large property not to be able to respond during the weekend," Sohl agreed.

The Directors ultimately agreed to limit the test of additional roving patrol hours to six hours on Saturday and Sunday for the next three months at a cost not to exceed \$2400. That option will be voted on at the June 26 Open Meeting.

Other Business

In other business during the Monday, June 10 SLLA Work Session, the Directors:

- Moved to the Open Session a proposal to hire part-time maintenance staff for the three Summer months at a cost not to exceed \$4,700 (exclusive of payroll taxes). Director Chuck Leach said he would like to hire a high school student to handle a variety of minor maintenance projects "that just never seem to get done."

- Agreed to vote in the Open Meeting on a proposal from Superior Tree for tree trimming throughout the community at a cost of \$1,400 per day. There is \$12,000 in the current year's budget for the project.

- Heard from Sohl that he is gathering quotes on security cameras proposed for the swimming pool area and expects to have proposals to the Board by July.

- Agreed that Sohl, Leach, and Director Rich Faraci will collaborate on a letter to the NC Department of Trans-

portation asking that they conduct an engineering study aimed at remedying the collection of storm water on Seven Lakes Drive that ultimately drains into the North side via the exit road at the North Gate.

- Discussed, and ultimately tabled, pending further research, the appropriate fees for group use of the North Clubhouse and Game Room. Sohl's suggestion that the Board certify a list of groups allowed to use the facilities at no charge prompted the Directors to question whether more groups should, in fact, be paying for the privilege.

- Agreed to form a sub-committee of interested Asso-

ciation members to review the draft of the rewritten bylaws, which are expected to be available the week of June 17.

- Moved to the Open Meeting a proposal from the Security Committee that renters

in good standing be allowed to purchase barcodes, but not windshield stickers. Sohl noted that many communities are moving away from windshield stickers in favor of barcodes because the latter offer better access control.

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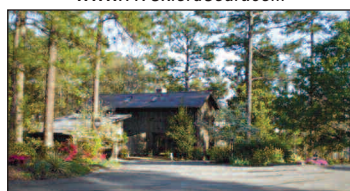
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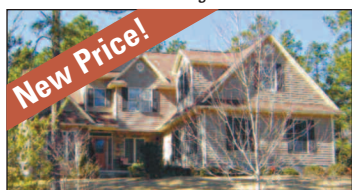
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