

Chapel ordains Paul James



Paul James was ordained and installed as resident minister at The Seven Lakes Chapel in The Pines on Sunday, February 2. Those taking part in the service were (front) Rev. Fran Stark, Associate Minister of Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, JoAn Moses, President of the Chapel's Board of Directors and (back) Dr. David Helms, Minister at First Baptist Church of Southern Pines, Rev. Paul James, and Rev. Dudley Crawford, Retired Minister of West End Presbyterian Church. [See "Chapel," p.2]

Fines planned for Foxtail Lane

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Time is up for Foxtail Lane developer Ron Jackson.

Last April, Foxfire Village

notified Jackson by certified letter that he had six months to deal with three unfinished foundations on Foxtail Lane that he abandoned ten years ago. The October deadline has long since passed, with no apparent effort by Jackson

to clean up the unsightly and hazardous construction site.

During the Foxfire Village Council's Thursday, January 30 Work Session, members agreed to levy fines on Jackson for the violation of the Zoning Ordinance, which could amount to as much as \$500 per day.

Jackson, in July, offered to give the properties to the Village. But the Council declined that offer, because the properties have been used to secure a debt and two are involved in a bankruptcy.

During the January 30 Work Session, Councilwoman Leslie Frusco noted that one of the lots with an unfinished

(See "Foxtail," p. 27)

Four candidates for SLLA Board

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Four candidates will stand for election to three open seats on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 23.

Nominating Committee Chairman Bob Racine introduced the candidates, which include Paul Chavez, Mary Farley, Sandy Sackmann, and incumbent Director Chuck Leach, during the Friday, January 31 SLLA Open Meeting.

"I would like to thank you and your committee," Pres-

ident Steve Ritter told Racine. It is always tough to find people willing to sit up here and be the focal point."

Chavez, 60, is a Northsider and Moore County native who retired after 20 years in the US Army and then had a second career as a military contractor in the cryptography and computer fields.

Northsider Mary Farley was born in West Germany graduated from the Weisbaden School of Business, and married into the US Air Force, where she was active in a variety of civic and social organizations, as the Air Force took her family from base to

(See "SLLA," p. 29)

Challenges loom for school funding

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



"The state is shifting a large portion of the cost of education back onto local units," Moore County Schools [MCS] Chief Finance Officer Mike Griffin told members of the Board of Education during a Monday, February 3 Work Session.

"That puts pressure on us to reduce costs and to increase our funding request to the County Commissioners.

It is budget season for government agencies large and small in North Carolina, including MCS and the County. Fiscal Year 2014-2015 begins in June. Griffin's presentation set the stage for the School Board's budget deliberations, and that stage was more suited to a dark

and gloomy Macbeth than to a bubbly Merry Wives of Windsor.

No increase expected in state funding

"This is going to be a challenging budget cycle," Superintendent Aaron Spence told the Board. "We don't anticipate any additional state revenues."

In fact, Spence appears to expect cuts in state funding. Governor Pat McCrory has made several public statements indicating he intends to pursue a salary increase for teachers in the coming year, and similar statements have been heard from top legislators.

But Spence said state Budget Director Art Pope has asked all state agencies to prepare FY2015 budgets that cut two percent from allo-

(See "School funding," p. 25)

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Prancing Horse to host volunteer workshops

Prancing Horse is seeking volunteers for the extended program in West End.

Tuesday mornings have been added to the class line up at the Seven Lakes Stables, which already hosts a full program of classes on Wednesday mornings.

Prospective volunteers are also invited to an exciting spring workshop for new and returning volunteers on Monday, February 24 from 9:00 am to Noon.

Linda Hoover, an expert horse trainer in natural horsemanship, will educate

volunteers on better communication with the program horses. This workshop will be at Muddy Creek Farm and is a must for all volunteers who lead and groom horses in the program.

On Wednesday, February 26 from 9:00 am to Noon, Mary Wright, a certified instructor in centered riding, will conduct a class on this riding style. This class will

be at the Seven Lakes Stables and will include riding for those who wish to ride.

All volunteers are encouraged to attend both workshops.

To reserve a space or if you are interested in becoming a Prancing Horse volunteer, call 246-3202 or email prancinghorsecenter@yahoo.com

Outreach Valentine Party

The Annual Chapel in the Pines Outreach Valentine Party will be held on Friday, February 14, at 2 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

The Chapel invites everyone to come, especially those living in the community

that are alone or shut-in. The New Horizons Band in the Pines will provide music for everyone's enjoyment.

For information or if transportation is needed, please call the Chapel office at 673-2156 or Fran Stark at 673-5493.

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@sevenlakestimes.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, Feb 28	Fri, Mar 7
Fri, Mar 14	Fri, Mar 21
Fri, Mar 28	Fri, Apr 4
Fri, Apr 11	Fri, Apr 18
Fri, Apr 25	Fri, May 2
Fri, May 9	Fri, May 16
Thu, May 22*	Fri, May 30
Fri, Jun 6	Fri, Jun 13
Fri, Jun 20	Fri, Jun 27
Thu, Jul 3*	Fri, Jul 11
Fri, Jul 18	Fri, Jul 25
Fri, Aug 1	Fri, Aug 8
Fri, Aug 15	Fri, Aug 22
Thu, Aug 28*	Fri, Sep 5
Fri, Sep 12	Fri, Sep 19
Fri, Sep 26	Fri, Oct 3
Fri, Oct 10	Fri, Oct 17
Fri, Oct 24	Fri, Oct 31
Fri, Nov 7	Fri, Nov 14
Thu, Nov 20*	Fri, Nov 28
Fri, Dec 5	Fri, Dec 12
Thu, Dec 18*	Fri, Dec 26

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

WEUMC Spaghetti Supper

West End United Methodist will host a Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, March 1, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

The West End United Methodist Men will be sponsoring the Spaghetti Supper in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are \$8 each and include salad, spaghetti, dessert, and a drink. Take-out is also available.

Tickets can be purchased from anyone in the United Methodist Men's Group or at the door. All proceeds go to support local Scout Troops.

Chapel

(Continued from front page)

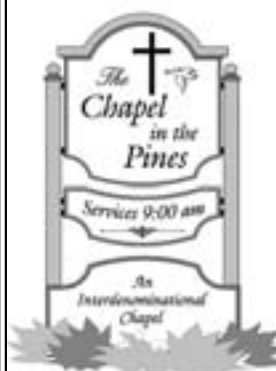
Following the service a reception was held in the Joralemon Fellowship Hall. The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines is an interdenominational church with an outreach program that services Seven Lakes and the surrounding community.

The ordination process, performed by a church body is unique in church history. Most ministers are ordained by the hierarchy and officials

of the denomination to which they belong. This is the method in the Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Lutheran churches.

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Board delays action on new SLLA bylaws

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The Board of Directors will take one more crack at finalizing the rewritten Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Bylaws before taking a final vote to approve the document. Final approval was expected at the Friday, January 31 SLLA Open Meeting, but a single section that expands the Board's decision making powers drew objections from Director Bob Racine.

At issue is Article V, Section 8, which would give the Board the power to make decisions outside of a public meeting — something the Board of Directors are not allowed to do under the current bylaws.

Article V, Section 8 of the new bylaws reads:

Actions taken Without a Meeting. Any action permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting if the action is taken by all Board members entitled to vote on the action. The action shall be taken by written consent describing the action taken, signed before or after such action by all members. A consent under this section has the effect of a meeting vote and may be described as such in any document.

Board asked for revision

During their Monday, January 6 Work Session, the Board had agreed to change the language to allow decision without a meeting in emergencies or when urgent action is required.

SLLA Management had forwarded that request to Attorney Jim Slaughter, a specialist in the law governing homeowners associations that the Board retained to help rewrite the bylaws. Slaughter advised against the change, recommending that the new Article V, Section 8 remain as written.

Director Bob Racine asked SLLA Manager Ray Sohl why Slaughter did not make the change the Board had requested.

"The Board requested that we add the language, that the action taken by the Board [outside of an open meeting] must be for emergencies or for time sensitive matters," Racine said. "This is now omitted from the latest draft in the bylaws. The attorney said not to change the language, [which was] taken from Non-Profit Act. I do not believe we are subject to the Non-Profit Act, as we were created prior to February 1, 1991. If we are not subject to the Non-Profit Act, then why should he prevent us from adding this language?"

"We all remember what happened in the not-too-distant past," Racine added, "when meetings were called and action taken in nonpublic meetings."

As discussion among Board members and the manager continued, it was not clear whether Slaughter's language in Article V, Section 8 was required by the Non-Profit Act.

Sohl noted that, in fact, some provisions of the Act applied to the Association.

"You are subject to the Non-Profit Act," Sohl said,

"approximately one-third applies to associations formed before 1991."

Is it required, or recommended?

Racine asked whether the proposed language was in fact legally required or was simply Slaughter's recommendation.

"Why are we now required?" Racine asked. "All we have to do is have a meeting. According to the language in the proposed bylaws, you can make a decision, agree to it in writing, and it will be the same as if we came and had an Open Meeting. I don't wish that to happen again. I have seen it in the past."

"If we asked to have that [restriction that decisions may be made outside of meetings only in the case of emergencies] put in, unless there is a specific legal reason, I don't believe it should be there," Racine said. "The Board of Directors passed to have that put in."

President Steve Ritter agreed that the language Racine suggested went against the attorney's rec-

ommendation, but added that he did not know what was required under the provisions of the Non-Profit Act.

Despite the attorney's recommendation, Racine held firm.

"But is it illegal?" he asked. "We wanted to put it in. Just because he doesn't want to have it in, unless it is illegal, then it should be put in. According to his language, if we all agree to it in writing, then it is the same as if it came to us in Open Meeting. We asked to have it put in. Unless there is a specific legal decision, then I believe it should be in there."

Ritter agreed: "Unless it is illegal, I think it should have been put in."

Do it once and do it right

The Board discussed whether or not to approve the bylaws with the condition that the controversial section would be investigated and brought to a second vote.

Director Conrad Meyer instead recommended tabling the matter and contacting Slaughter to clarify whether his recommended language in Article 5, Section 8 is required by law. The document would then be taken back to a Work Session in order to allow time for community review and input.

"We are going to vote on it once, and be done — and hopefully we won't have to bring it up again," Meyer said.

The matter was tabled for review at the Monday, February 10 Work Session.

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Seven Lakes West looking for a Treasurer

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Seven Lakes West Treasurer Don Friert has resigned from the Board of directors.

Friert, who served nearly three years as Treasurer previously, agreed last Fall to step in temporarily to fill a position vacated when Dale Erickson resigned.

During the regular Tuesday, February 4 Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board Meeting, Director Ed Cockman thanked Friert for his service: "I would like extend a special thanks to Don for stepping in during a critical time and we appreciate that a lot. He certainly will be missed."

"Don is truly an exception role model for our community," President Jack Stevens agreed. "This is the second time he has stepped in during a crucial time when needed. Don has served a number of years on the Board, and he has never been elected. He is a dedicated and special member of this community."

Any landowner interested in filling the position of Treasurer should contact either Cockman or the Community Manager Jeannette Mendence. There are two years left in the term of office for the seat that Friert temporarily filled.

Board Elections

The terms of office of Directors Jack Stevens, Ed Cockman, and Nancy Workman terms expire at the Annual Meeting in March and all will be retiring from the Board. The Board will be reduced in size from nine directors to seven at that time, with the duties of the Events Director and Security Director taken over by the CAS staff.

That leaves only one seat to be filled during the Annual Meeting Elections, and the Nominating Committee has placed Mandy Goodman's name on the ballot to fill that slot. The deadline for addi-

tional candidates to step forward has now passed.

"Currently, Mandy Goodman is the only person to step forward and put her name in to run for this coming year," Cockman reported.

Advertising Events

All announcements on the SLWLA website must be related to the Westside community, Secretary Brian Benjamin reported during the Board meeting.

"We have had an ongoing discussion about what does and doesn't get advertised on our website," he said.

"Our policy is to not to lend our opinion and keep it simple by limiting advertising to events and activities that are taking place within the borders of our community or events that are sponsored by community clubs and organizations."

That is what we strive to do," Benjamin added. "I am sure things have slipped through from time to time."

Maximum Length of Boats changed

The Lakes and Dam Committee has recommended another change in the maximum length of boats allowed on Lake Auman.

"After community input and further study, the Lakes Committee would like the board to approve a further amendment," Director Bruce Keyser said, making a motion that "the maximum allowable length of all sailboats and pontoon boats is 24.0 length overall. The maximum allowable length all other powerboats is 23.0 feet."

Keyser explained the recommendation: "Power boats that are 24 foot have deeper wells, cabins, and are more of an ocean type boat. Pontoons and sail boats don't put out a lot of wake. However the power boats put out a sustainably higher wake."

The board voted unanimously to approve the change the motion.

Change in Tailgating Policy

"Tailgating," in Westside parlance, when members allow nonmembers access to the community by driving bumper to bumper through the gate, rather than following proper procedures for admitting visitors.

"A couple of people in the neighborhood are allowing tailgating at the back gate," Cockman reported during the February 4 meeting.

"In the future, these folks should be aware if they are caught on camera and we can truly identify the car by license plate as a member of this community, then they will have their barcode turned

off immediately."

Previously, a letter of warning was sent for the first tailgating offense. In the future, upon identification, the barcode of offenders will be turned off immediately.

Timbering near the front gate

Mendence reported that trees that have been cut recently near the front gate were not removed by the Association. The trees are on private property and are being cleared by a SLWLA member, she explained.

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Council hunts for options on Reynview Vista

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Reynview Vista Road is a sandy lane with a Foxfire Village water line running down the middle. In order to protect water valves, the Village placed concrete slabs at two locations in the middle of the roadway.

During the Foxfire Village Council's Tuesday, January 14 regular meeting, residents expressed concern that the slabs were a traffic hazard and were leading to the deterioration of the road.

By the time of the January 30 Work Session, several Council members had driven down the road to better assess the situation.

"It is not as dangerous as I thought," Durham said. "But, clearly, there is an edge to it; and, if you ran over it with your car, it could create a problem."

"Originally, those two concrete platforms were not there," Erickson said. "[Former water superintendent, Dick] Christman came to me after lines were installed and said 'We are going to have a problem driving over this.' So, what I recommended —

and I worked with someone to get — was concrete platforms around those, so even if they drive over them, it won't do something to the water line itself."

Durham pointed out, "Most of our water lines run down along our easements [that is, alongside the paved portion of the road]. But this went right down the middle of the road."

One of the possible complications of having the Village address the problem created by the slabs is that Reynview Vista Road is a private road, not a Village street. But Councilwoman Frusco suggested a way around that problem.

"We have easements from every property owner on one side of the road," Frusco said. "There are properties we couldn't get an easement from on the other side of the road. We have recorded easements from all those. From that standpoint, if there is an issue that could affect our water lines, we can expend money to take care of our easements. That area is not a private road, it is an easement that was granted to the Village."

"I agree with Leslie," McCue said. "We have to fix it, if

there is the possibility of damaging our water line."

The Council agreed to research possible solutions to the problem presented by the concrete slabs and discuss those with property owners along the road before any work is done.

Ordinance enforcement

Code enforcement — and the creation of specific ordinances that target perceived problems in the Village — have been much on the mind of the Foxfire Village Council in recent months.

During the January 30 Work Session, the question turned to ordinance enforcement.

"What is the ordinance compliance protocol?" Councilman Durham asked. "How are we going to handle when we see some clear violation of an ordinance, and how are we going to move forward and hold people accountable? I see them all over, and don't know what to do."

"We have worked really hard about updating our ordinances," he continued. "A lot of the work that we have done has focused on that. We need to take another step forward. How are we going to enforce them?"

After several minutes of discussion, the Council agreed that enforcement would be best handled by

the Village's Police Department. Friendly verbal reminders of ordinances or notices of violations would be made by police officers, who would then document and report those contacts to the Village Clerk, who would followed up with a letter.

"The documentation would go to [Village Clerk] Lisa [Kivett], so that there is written documentation that there was contact," Frusco suggested. "The next step or procedure should be an official letter from the Village. I think we need to start doing this. There is nobody better than our public safety personnel."

(See "Reynview," p. 28)



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Parks & Rec chief Ransom wins statewide recognition

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Two awards were at the top of a short agenda for the Tuesday, February 4 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

Long-time Moore County Parks and Recreation Director Billy Ransom was given the Meritorious Service Award by the NC Recreation and Park Association — a non-profit organization “dedicated to the advancement of the park, recreation and leisure profession.”

Moore County Human Resources Director Denise Brook told the Commissioners that the award recognized Ransom’s pivotal role in completing Hillcrest Park, the building of that park’s field house, and the hosting of the 2011 Dixie Youth World Series. She credited Ransom with “turning the County’s Parks and Rec program around.”

“Billy Ransom is an amazing person,” Commissioner’s Chairman Larry Caddell said, noting that serving as chairman of the County’s Parks and Recreation Committee was his own first foray into civic life.

“He has one of the toughest jobs,” Caddell said, “because he is dealing with people’s

children. And sometimes adults don’t behave very well when their children are involved. It’s a very delicate egg he has been balancing for thirty years.”

“He will borrow your equipment to get something done — and then ask if you can deliver it,” Caddell said. “He does not mind at all asking you for a donation.”

As a result, “the Hillcrest Park field house, everything in it was donated. I think we have a \$400,000 field house, and we maybe have \$100,000 in it. The Home Builders donated the labor, McDonald Brothers donated a lot of the

supplies.”

“I appreciate everything you have given from the bottom of my heart,” Caddell said.

Later this year, Hillcrest Park will be the site of the Dixie Youth Girls’ Fastpitch Softball State Championships, and next year will host the Girls’ World Series.

Ransom expressed his appreciation for the recognition, but told the Commissioners that his staff deserves much of the credit — as do volunteers from across the County who pitch in to help host the World Series events.

(See “Commissioners,” p. 24)

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Dine in for Veterans

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 966, Moore County, will be hosting a “Dine In” fundraiser at the Longhorn Steakhouse, 194 Brucewood Rd., Southern Pines, in the Kohl’s Shopping Plaza, on Tuesday, February 18, from 11 am until 10 pm.

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LONG OR SHORT TERM RENTALS!

Board debates school closure, sets priorities

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The proposal to close Elise Middle School as part of a \$100 million plan to upgrade and replace Moore County school facilities met with some resistance from members of the Moore County Board of Education during a Monday, February 3 Work Session.

"I know that Elise is showing high growth [in student achievement] and Robbins Elementary is having a rough time," Board member Ed Dennison said. "I would not want to do anything that might decrease student achievement."

Referring to citizens who participated in recent public input sessions on school facilities needs, Dennison added, "Folks in the area split fifty-fifty on whether to combine the schools. And we had more folks in that area participating that visit the schools daily, and more longterm residents."

The Robbins Town Board of Commissioners has passed a resolution asking that Elise not be closed. Among their concerns: the prospect of a large empty school building sitting unused in the middle

of town.

Dennison apparently shares that concern.

"If we close Elise we are going to have another Academy Heights," he said, referring to a closed elementary school that sits vacant because the state constitution prevents the School Board from donating it to the Town of Taylortown.

Board member Charles Lambert pointed out that Elise has already received upgrades that are being recommended for other schools — and investment that will be lost if the school is closed.

"The additional renovations presented to us — air tight windows, air conditioning — that had been done at Elise a few years ago," Lambert said. "Elise is up to be closed, and Carthage isn't. Some folks could say why not close Carthage and take it out to New Century."

Board member Bruce Cunningham, who indicated he

has scheduled a visit to Elise to inspect the property first-hand, noted that the annual personnel savings anticipated from closing Elise amount to \$85,000, while the cost of upgrading Robbins Elementary to take on Elise's 6th-8th graders is expected to be \$7 million to \$9 million.

"It will take a long time to amortize that cost at \$85,000 a year," Cunningham said. "So what is the driving force behind closing Elise?"

Investing new money in new buildings

"I think the board has to adopt a philosophical perspective on where you invest money," Superintendent Aaron Spence replied. "Are you going to put new money in old facilities or in new facilities? The task force wrestled with that question."

"The staff comes at that with a perspective of efficiency. You don't put new dollars

in old facilities."

"Neither of the schools is at capacity," Spence continued, referring to Robbins Elementary and Elise Middle, "and one school could handle the capacity of both. Do you want to run two separate schools just for the sake of running two separate schools?"

"What would it cost to bring Elise up to standards," Board Member Ben Cameron asked. Estimates presented to the Facilities Task Force indicated the answer to that question is \$3 million to \$5 million, versus \$5 million to \$6 million to expand Robbins Elementary to absorb Elise's student population.

"If you want to keep two schools open just for the sake of keeping two schools open, as a Board, then that can

be done," Spence said. "But then that is an emotional decision, not a fiscal decision."

Noting her personal connections to Academy Heights, Board Chair Kathy Farren said: "I was the one Board Member most invested in Academy Heights. I had the most vested interest. I had to take myself out of it, emotionally, and make the what, fiscally, made the most sense."

Cunningham pointed out that some schools function as "community hubs." Academy Heights did not serve that function in Taylortown; Elise may serve that function in Robbins.

"The closing of Elise, like the closing of Academy Heights, has been discussed (See "School Facilities," p. 26)

West End Republican Precinct Meeting

There will be a meeting for all Republican party members for the West End District at the home of AnnBeth Simmons, Precinct chair on Wednesday, February 12 at 6 pm.

All interested party members should plan to attend this important event. During the meeting, members will be polled to determine the top three issues that they feel are facing the country at this time.

Please RSVP to 910-638-5346. Directions will be provided upon calling.

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Lina and Randy Brooks found love in mid-air

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

Love was in the air for Lina and Randy Brooks. Both native Southerners — Lina from Appomattox, VA, and Randy from Bisoce — and both flight attendants, they met while working on the same flight.

"We met on Easter in 1990, and I knew right away," Lina said.

"I thought she was cute," Randy said.

Lina's love for flying began early.

"I was in love with flying by the time I was six years old," Lina said. My daddy flew little airplanes. I would do anything to get on a plane. All I ever wanted to do was fly."

Flying and twirling would become second nature. When Lina was in grade school she saw a baton on sale for a dollar. Her daddy had other plans, shook his head, and bought her an expensive clarinet. She hated the clarinet. She eventually convinced her dad that being a majorette also had merit.

Her talent for twirling fire took her to the Miss Virginia pageant in 1968. She placed

third runner up, representing Appomattox.

"My daddy wanted me to get through school. All he wanted me to do was get through college, and I did," Lina said who earned a degree in dramatic arts. "I went with an airline a week after."

Randy had left home to earn his degree in political science and history.

"After graduating college, I had worked for a big yacht company in sales," he said. "I didn't like it. I came back home in 1981 and was working as a manager at Lowes Food."

Randy was more than ready to fly the coop and leave home; all he needed was a little encouragement.

"I had a pilot buddy who said I needed to get out of the small town," Randy said. "He helped me get on flying with Piedmont in 1983. I flew with him some."

Stewards were far rarer than stewardesses in those days, and still far more women than men fill that role on commercial airliners.

"Only 10 percent of flight attendants are men," Randy

(Continued on page 9)



Lina Brooks at 18 — in a 19th century reproduction hoop skirt

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Randy & Lina Brooks enjoy Revolutionary War-era reenactment, which has led to film work for Randy

(Continued from page 8)

explained. "There were 25,000 people that applied for my job. Only 300 got the job. I just went to interview and was myself. Out of 100,000 that start out, I bet one percent gets on. It's hard to get on."

Flying for a living

Neither Lina nor Randy ever wanted to be up front flying the plane. They received extensive training as attendants and had it down to a science. They are the perfect hosts — good natured, gracious — and immediately put their guests at ease. Randy worked in first class, which included preparing inflight meals. Timing was everything for flight attendants.

All meals had to be heated in a small convection oven. "The entrees would be partially cooked by chefs, so when I got it I didn't have to de-feather it," Randy joked. "I finished cooking and plating it, and would made it look nice. You better know your timing. Turbulence can throw a monkey wrench,

because you can't serve until it stops. Before you start, you are already behind."

Randy and Lina were both widowed when they met. It was a working courtship that would span the continent from Mexico to Canada. In 1997, they tied the knot.

"We had gone from working for Piedmont to USAir," Lina said. "USAir had a deal that

you could buddy bid with another employee. We literally flew every trip together for sixteen years."

"We flew five flights a day — sometimes fourteen to eighteen hours a day," Randy said. "We did it a total of sixty years combined. They would pay us by the number of hours we spent in the air.

(See "Brooks," p. 20)



Lina & Randy Brooks with the cockpit crew on their last flight as flight attendants

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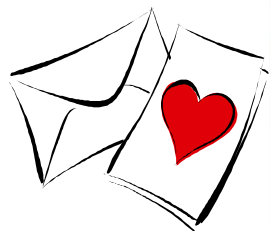
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Hunters on the wing — a chilly day in the

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

A damp, overcast Carolina morning with the wind chill at seven degrees can ruffle most feathers. Frozen berry vines, saw briars, and privet hedge provide barbed and painful cover from the wind. It's good walking on the sandy road, but that's not where the game is.

The rabbits hunker low in the thicket, the quail stay warm in the clumps of native long stem grasses, and the squirrels nestle in exposed nests high in hardwood trees.

One thing is for sure: they are laying low on this cold day. It is up to the hunters to beat the bushes, shake the limbs, yank the grapevines, and flush the prey.

The hunters are not your usual breed. They carry no ammo, no guns, or bows. Armed with trained Red-Tailed and Harris Hawks, the hunters rely on the determination of their trained raptors.

Anne Steinert is a rehabber for raptors. She pats herself down and says, "I have my lure, my whistle, and a place to put my squirrel. I'm ready."

When asked, "Why the interest in falconry?" April Rice says, straight-faced, "Because I suck at golf and had to get out and find something else to do." Rice volunteers at the Carolina Raptor Center.

Steinert's Red Tail hawk is a young, beautiful, intimidating bird with long strong talons and a vice-like beak. Steinert handles her raptor with respect, admiration, and a healthy amount of fear. She swings her arm up and the hawk perched on her forearm spreads his wings and takes flight.

There is a clear crisp ring from the tiny brass bells fastened to its foot as it flies to a large hardwood limb. It looks down at the lot of us humans with large sticks beating the brush. From a hawk's vantage point we must look rather silly.

One thing is for sure, there are more calories expended in staying warm and flushing

the game, than consumed in a squirrel dinner.

The hawk appears distract-

ed due to the lack of prey. A trill of the whistle brings it

(Continued on page 11)



Anne Steinert and her Red-Tailed Hawk, Kiki



With the windchill at seven degrees Cindy Bernhardt needs two hats to keep warm

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field with Red-Tailed & Harris Hawks

(Continued from page 10)

back to Steinert's forearm for a treat, and it is retired to a warm cage.

A pair of Harris hawks and Bella — the English Springer Spaniel — are freed. All three work as a team. Well, that

is the hope. Bella is two years old and still a little unpredictable. The cold air has invigorated her and she races off part sprint, part spring. She is a beauty in motion.

The Harris hawks are older and wiser. They work with one another and, with unmerciful efficiency, dismantle a squirrel's nest. The squirrel takes flight. Camouflaged perfectly amidst the dormant vines and tree bark, the squirrel races for a hollow in the fork of the tree. The tip of his white tail shivers in sight.

The hawks stake out different locations and glare down patiently. Bella waits below, just in case the squirrel decides to drop into the leaf litter.

The hawks work the harassed squirrel from high in the limbs to the ground and back up again. The squirrel tightrope-walks a grapevine at jet speed. Just a moment's rest on a pine trunk to catch its breath and

it can leap to the safety amidst a clump of dead leaves.

But the moment's rest was a moment too long. The hawk spirals into the squirrel. There is a midair struggle, on the

way to the ground.

Bella cannot contain her excitement to sniff the squirrel. But better to keep one's distance; the hawks are not willing to share.

The day warms to a balmy

thirty degrees. Hunters shed their down vests and heavy chaps. Hawks are changed out.

In the brush, an unsuspecting rabbit hears the strange tinkling of bells.



Bella waits expectantly for the hawks to make a kill



**Front: Bob Pendergrass & DB; Jeff Marcus & Texanna; Richard Shores, Zoe & Bella
Back: April Rice & Cazzadora; Anne Steinert & Kikki; Cindy Bernhardt**



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Boles appointed to Governor's Crime Commission



Moore County Clerk of Courts Susan Hicks swears in State Representative Jamie Boles as a member of the Governor's Crime Commission

Representative Jamie Boles was appointed as a member of the Governor's Crime Commission by Speaker of the House Thom Tillis during the 2013 session. With great honor and appreciation our very own Moore County Clerk of Courts, Susan Hicks accompanied to perform the swearing in ceremony on December 12, 2013.

The Governor's Crime Commission serves as the chief advisory body to the Governor and the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety on crime and justice issues.

The Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) has 44 members, including heads of statewide criminal justice and human service agencies, representatives from the courts, law enforcement, local government, the General Assembly, and private citizens.

The GCC sets program priorities, reviews applications and makes recommendations

to the Governor for the state's criminal justice and juvenile justice federal block grants. Federal block grants are awarded each year to government, education and social service agencies to start new and innovative programs.

Representative Boles represents Moore County, District 52 in the North Carolina House of Representatives in his third term; where he serves as Deputy Majority Whip and Co-Chairs the Appropriations of Justice and Public Safety.

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast this Saturday

Seven Lakes Kiwanis will hold their 31st Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 8 from 7 am to 11 am, at West End Elementary School.

Breakfast will include pancakes, sausages, orange juice, coffee and tea. Take-outs will be available. There will also be an opportunity to win a 42" flat screen TV.

Tickets for the breakfast are only \$8 and are available

from any Kiwanis member or at the WEE school office, Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, Quality Care Pharmacy, Sandhills Winery, Lakeside Barber Shop or at the door.

Money raised by the Kiwanis Club will be donated to West End Elementary School and West End Boy Scout Troop 98, as well as other children's charities in Moore County.



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This is an eight-week program held on Mondays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The program includes an initial individual assessment, group therapy, classroom materials, follow-up assessment and a one-day workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 5. Space is limited.

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Mandy Martin, ANP

To learn what these numbers mean, gather with other women from around the area at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 5:30 pm in the Clara McLean House in Pinehurst. Attendees will find out what puts them at risk for stroke, heart disease and diabetes and what they can do to help prevent these diseases. In addition, the panelists will discuss how a woman's risk for heart disease and osteoporosis increase after menopause.

"Knowing your numbers is very important to your health," says Mandy Martin, ANP, FirstHealth Family Medicine in Seven Lakes. "For example, as your cholesterol rises, your risk of coronary heart disease rises as well. The more risk factors you have – for example, hypertension or diabetes – can increase your risk. It is important to understand the difference and to know the 'good and bad' cholesterol as too much of one type or not enough of another can place

you at higher risk for heart attack or stroke."

The "Know Your Numbers" program is one of five monthly educational sessions designed just for women and featuring a panel-style discussion with

a moderator. The series is sponsored by the Moore Regional Hospital Auxiliary.

In honor of National Women's Heart Month, attendees are encouraged to "Go Red" by wearing red to the

event.

Upcoming sessions include: "Spring Cleaning": Thursday, March 13

"Back in the Game": Tuesday, April 8

The series is free and open

to the public. Each session will be held at the Clara McLean House, 20 FirstVillage Drive, Pinehurst.

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In memory of . . .

Robert W. (Bob) Bennett, 88, died January 24, at his home in Seven Lakes surrounded by his wife and children.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 15 at 10 am, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

Mr. Bennett was born in Ilion, NY son to Roy and Audrey Bennett.

A veteran of WWII, he served three years in the Navy before entering and graduating from Clarkson College with a Mechanical Engineering Degree.

He and his wife Joan are former residents of Corning, NY. He worked as a Professional Engineer for Corning Glass Works where he received many patents. Mr. Bennett was Project Manager for two new color TV plants, one in Warsaw, Poland and one in Seoul, Korea.

In retirement, he worked as a bookkeeper for his son Jeff's boat business Seven Lakes Marine. He was a 25 year member of the Sandhills Jazz Band at Sandhills Community College, an accomplished musician and a member of countless Dixieland and Jazz Big Bands throughout his life.

Survivors include his wife, Joan H Bennett; Jeff and Cindy Bennett; Steve and Linda Bennett; Susan and Jack Wheeler; Bill and Lark Bennett; Barbara and Peter Droelle; fourteen grandchil-

dren and seven great grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 2125 Seven Lakes South, Seven Lakes, NC 27376 or Sandhills Community College Music Department, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

Jane C. Sundheim, 97, of Lynchburg, VA (formerly of Seven Lakes) died Tuesday, October 22, at her residence. She was the wife of the late Peter Joseph Sundheim II.

A memorial service to celebrate Mrs. Sundheim's life will be held on Saturday, February 15 at 2 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

Survivors include her children, Peter Sundheim and his wife Barbara; Thomas Sundheim and his wife Jenny; Beverly Donofrio and her husband John; seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Judith Reif Kenzel, died Wednesday, January 22, after a short illness at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital with her family by her side.

Mrs. Kenzel, was born in Rhinelander, WI, and lived in New England and Michigan before moving to the Sandhills in February 1977.

She and her husband, Jay

bought and ran The Fairway on US 1 in Southern Pines until retiring to Seven Lakes in December 2004. Mrs. Kenzel also was a successful real estate Broker.

Mrs. Kenzel is survived by her husband, Jay Allen Kenzel of 58 years; four children, Jean Ann, Jo Ann, Jeffrey Allen (Jeannine), Jerry Allen (Faye); grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Memorial donations be made to the Moore Humane Society in Mrs. Kenzel's name at www.moorehumane.org

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Marvin Guy Hamilton, 64, of Seven Lakes died Monday, January 20 at his home.

He was born in Montgomery County, son to the late Ollie Hamilton and Narva Sexton Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton was a member of Beulah Hill Baptist Church in West End. He worked for 25 years at IAC in Troy.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers and five sisters.

Survivors include his wife of 15 years, Mary Hayes Hamilton of Seven Lakes; three daughters: Renee Smith and husband Kevin of Star;

Tonya Wall of Seven Lakes; and Cassie Tapia and husband Frankie of Candor; two stepsons: Steven Hayes and wife Laurie of Cary and Matthew Hayes and wife Pam of Circleville, OH; his sister, Linda Byrd and husband Steve of Mt. Gilead; and his grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Thursday, January 23, at Beulah Hill Baptist Church in West End. Burial followed at the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Beulah Hill Baptist Church, 7400 Beulah Hill Church Rd., West End, NC 27376.

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Practicing veterinary medicine at the Iditarod

The English Speaking Union will host Elizabeth Lyerly, DVM who will present "The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race" at its 7 pm, dinner meeting on Wednesday, February 12. Dr. Lyerly will share her experiences as a rookie veterinarian in the 2012 race.

Mushers and their teams played important but little remembered roles in World War II in Alaska, particularly in hauling freight and helping

the famous Eskimo Scouts patrol the vast winter wilderness of western Alaska. During the 1960's, however, advent of the "iron dog" (snowmobile) resulted in mass abandonment of dog teams across the state and loss of much mushing lore. To save the sled dog culture and Alaskan huskies, and to preserve the historical Iditarod Trail freight route between Seward and Nome, a race

was born in 1973 covering 1,100 miles. The winner of the first race took almost three weeks to reach Nome!

The Iditarod takes great pride in its role of providing excellence in dog care, not only during the race, but through an extensive program of pre-race veterinary screening. The result of these efforts is a level of health care that an overwhelming majority of the human population will never experience.

Requirements for participation include a minimum of five years of clinical practice experience in small animal medicine and surgery, fluency in English, and sufficient health to withstand working in arctic conditions.

Dr. Lyerly joined the Iditarod veterinary staff as a volunteer. Veterinarians from around the world also participated.

The Sandhills branch of the E-SU supports a mission that promotes a scholarship for local educators, a high school level Shakespeare Competition (February 8th), and the Middle School Debate on March 11.

Monthly dinner meetings

are held at the Country Club of North Carolina, and membership is open to the public.

For more information about

E-SU programs and membership, contact Hope Price at (910)-692-7727 or Hopewp@aol.com.

Follow the Leader Oil Painting Class

The Sandhills Horticultural Society invites you to demonstrate your creativity. If you ever thought you might like to try painting in oil, but lacked confidence or felt you did not have the skills, then this step-by-step beginner oil painting class is the one for you.

Local artist Joan Williams will lead you through each step in the painting process. The result will be a completed painting to take home.

The painting class will be held at the Sandhills Com-

munity College Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center from 10 am to 3:30 pm on Monday, February 10.

All materials will be supplied.

Bring your lunch - a drink and dessert provided - and expect to have an exciting experience.

Cost for the class is \$60 for Horticultural Society members and \$65 for non-members.

Space is limited to 15. Reserve your place by calling Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882.

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Seven Lakes Republican Precinct Meeting

There will be a meeting for all Republican party members for the Seven Lakes District at the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire and Rescue building on Wednesday, February 19 at 7 pm.

County GOP Chairman John Rowerdink will be the featured speaker.

All interested party members should plan to attend this important event.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **Learn Spanish** – 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Adults and children who are interested in learning to speak Spanish are invited to the Carthage Library today and February 21. Staff member Dora Lopez will be teaching practical Spanish words and phrases. Information, 947-5335. All classes free.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*, starring: Mathew McConaughey, Jared Leto, and Jennifer Garner. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast** – 7 am to 11 am, at West End Elementary School. Tickets for breakfast only \$8.
- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 am to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Pinehurst Chocolate Festival** – 10 am to 4 pm, Celebrate chocolate and charity at the second Pinehurst Chocolate Festival, Pinehurst United Methodist Church, 4111 Airport Road. Admission is free and open to the public. www.pinehurstchocolatefestival.com or call 910 215-04559.
- **Sunrise Theater Live from the MET!** – Dvorak's *Rusalka*, 12:55 pm, Renée Fleming returns to one of her signature roles, singing the enchanting "Song to the Moon" in Dvorak's soulful fairy-tale opera. Tickets \$25. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Heart of Carolina Jazz Orchestra** – 7 pm reception, concert at 8 pm. Cecile McLorin Salvant at the Temple Theatre. Seating \$25. Tickets available online at templeshows.com or through the Temple Box Office at 919-774-4155.
- **Turkey Shoot** – 7 pm, (weather permitting). 12 Gauge Shot Guns only. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs.

910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9

am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room. • **Follow the Leader Oil Painting**

Class – 10 am - 3:30 pm, Beginner oil painting class. Local artist Joan Williams will lead. Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. Materials supplied. Bring your lunch, drink and dessert provided. Cost \$60 Horticultural Society members, \$65 non-members. Reserve space. Tricia Mabe 910-695-3882.

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

- **"Sand In My Shoes: Take a Child Outside"** – 7 pm, An interactive fun filled evening with Environmental Educators Jessica Ball and Ellen Marcus. Sandhills Area Land Trust.

What's When Calendar



- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr. 673-3838.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.
- **EXPLORERS! A New Ministry for Children at West End United Methodist Church** – 5 pm, Explorers children meet Sunday nights for school age kids, Grades K-5.
- **WEUMC Youth Group** – 6 to 7:30 pm, West End United Methodist Church Youth Group invites all youth to join them as they meet each Sunday in the Youth Room at the church. Open

Southern Pines Civic Center, 105 S. Ashe Street, Southern Pines. Questions: 910-695-4323, www.sandhillslandtrust.org \$5 Donation appreciated.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- **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.

- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7 pm, meeting, at Foxfire Village Hall.

- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- **Lincoln's Birthday**
- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd.

Biscoe, 974-3051.

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

- **Living Your Fullest with Dementia & Memory Loss** – 2 to 3 pm, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive. Weekly gathering for individuals who are in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Facilitators: Rev. Fran Stark and Amy Natt, M.S. Fran Stark 910-673-5493.

- **Republican Precinct Meeting** – 6 pm, meeting for all Republican party members for the West End District at the home of AnnBeth Simmons. Interested party members should attend this event. RSVP 910-638-5346. Directions provided.

- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. Children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

- **English Speaking Union** – 7 pm, will host Elizabeth Lysterly, DVM who will present "The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race" at their dinner meeting. Held at Country Club of North Carolina. For information about E-SU

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- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Forgiveness Bible Study** – 7 pm, Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will begin a Bible Study Class on Forgiveness. West End United Methodist Church, 673-1371.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, 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 Garden Club** – 2 pm, will host guest speaker Helen Delitsouris, of Theo's Taverna Restaurant to discuss "Healthy, Delicious, and Magical Uses Of Olive Oil." Held at The Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive. Join the club for the talk.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949.

www.sandhillswinery.com

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Dallas Buyers Club*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- **Valentine's Day**
- **Outreach Valentine Party** – at 2 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. The Chapel invites everyone to come, especially those living in the community that are alone or shut-in. New Horizons Band in the Pines will provide music. Information or transportation, call Chapel office 673-2156 or Fran Stark at 673-5493.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Moonstruck*. Tickets: \$6 Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- **UM Men's Breakfast** – 8 am, the Men at West End United Methodist Church will meet and enjoy Breakfast and a time of fellowship. The men discuss projects to assist both the church and the community. Any man of the church or community is welcome.
- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 am to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Lego Build Saturdays Return** – 11 am to 1 pm. Kids come ready to build!

Library's collection of Legos and K'nex will be provided. Moore County Library, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage.

- **Valentine's Day Dinner Dance at Seven Lakes Country Club** – Come one, come all. Singles and couples alike. "Fantabulous" Valentine's Day Dinner Dance! Cocktails at 5:30 pm, Buffet dinner at 6:30. Evening of dancing and music. Call Tufts Grill at 673-1100 for details. Non-members always welcome.
- **Turkey Shoot** – held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting). 12 Gauge Shot Guns only. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 and 7:30 pm, *Inside Llewyn Davis*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street,

Southern Pines 692-3611.

- **EXPLORERS! Ministry for Children at West End United Methodist Church** – 5 pm, Explorers children meet Sunday nights for school age kids, Grades K-5.
- **WEUMC Youth Group** – 6 to 7:30 pm, West End United Methodist Church Youth Group invites all youth to join them as they meet each Sunday in the Youth Room at the church. Open to Youth 6th – 12th grades.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – show 7:45 pm, doors open at 7 pm. Music guest: *Mollie O'Brien and Rich Moore, & Matt Munisteri*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- **President's Day**
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Inside Llewyn Davis*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- **Dine in for Veterans** – 11

am until 10 pm, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 966, Moore County, will be hosting a "Dine In" fundraiser at the Longhorn Steakhouse, 194 Brucewood Rd., Southern Pines. 10% of food purchases will be donated to VVA Chapter 966. The Veterans look forward to seeing you there.

- **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.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – 11 am, Jan Leitschuh, co-founder of the Sandhills Farm-to-Table Cooperative will speak. Held at Table on the Green, Midland Country Club. Cost: \$12 for lunch and the program. Everyone welcome, reservations required, 910-944-9611.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

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Volunteers needed at Moore Regional Hospital

Volunteers at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital drive shuttles, help with mailings, serve as welcoming "ambassadors" to Reid Heart Center, and act as liaisons between operating room staffs and the anxiously awaiting families of patients.

They take pictures of newborns, deliver flowers, accompany patients to medical procedures and operate gift shop cash registers. By supporting patient and visitor services, they supplement the activities of the hospital's paid staff by performing duties that don't require professional training.

Several hundred of these caring individuals assist Moore Regional employees in more ways than are easily counted – many times providing the skills and professionalism acquired during their own careers while saving the organization hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

Because of its location in the heart of Sandhills retirement communities, Moore Regional is especially blessed with the know-how and sheer numbers of its volunteers. At the same time, many serv-

ice areas continue to have considerable volunteer needs that are growing with the addition of new services.

"There is a common misconception that Moore Regional has so many volunteers that we don't need more," says Cindy Strother, administrative director of Guest Services, "but we may have as many as 40 service areas with opportunities at any given time."

Current critical volunteer needs include the following:

Courtesy Shuttle Van drivers to transport passengers to and from the hospital's visitor parking lot. Evening and weekend shifts are needed.

Nursery photo volunteer substitutes needed to take photos of newborns. A great fit for those who love babies and enjoy digital photography.

Gift shop associates to assist with sales that benefit projects supported by the Moore Regional Hospital Auxiliary. Various days and shifts are available.

Clerical openings to assist with filing, copying, data entry and office organization in various departments.

Patient Registration volunteers to help meet and greet patients as they arrive to register for services. Tuesday and Thursday shifts are available.

In addition to Strother, Moore Regional's Volunteer Services staff includes volunteer manager Jean Clark and office coordinator Jessica Simpson who guide prospective volunteers through a thorough but painless volunteer process.

Once the office gets an application, a meeting is arranged with the applicant to discuss service area preferences and volunteer options. While different service areas have their own skill set preferences and requirements, there are no overall general prerequisites for volunteering other than a minimum age of 18.

(Moore Regional has a summer program that is especially designed for teens.)

The volunteer interview is followed by a background check and orientation that includes a TB skin test followed by on-the-job training. In addition, all volunteers are required to follow

FirstHealth's policy on annual flu vaccinations.

For more information on

volunteering at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, call (910) 715-1266.

Magical uses of olive oil at 7 Lakes Garden Club

The Seven Lakes Garden Club will host guest speaker Helen Delitsouris, of Theo's Taverna Restaurant to discuss "Healthy, Delicious, and Magical uses of olive oil." She will have samples to taste.

The meeting will be Thurs-

day, February 13 at 2 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.

Join the club for the talk, a door prize, and free raffle. Bring your enthusiasm, questions, and neighbors. Novice to experts are all welcome.

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Due to the generosity of many private donors, Sandhills Community College will be able to award more than \$450,000 in merit and need-based scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year that begins in August.

The priority early consideration deadline is Friday, February 28. Students who have all information submitted correctly by this date will be among the first considered for all scholarships.

Current high school students are encouraged to apply if they plan to attend Sandhills Community College after high school graduation in June.

By applying only once, applicants are considered for all scholarships. Scholarships do vary as to the requirements and amounts.

To apply for scholarships, prospective SCC students will be required to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2014-15 academic year and apply to the college. They will receive an identification number to use on the scholarship application.

All application information can be found on the college's website by clicking the "Apply Online" icon at the top of the home page at (www.sandhills.edu). If additional assistance is needed, please call the Financial Aid Office at 910-695-3743.

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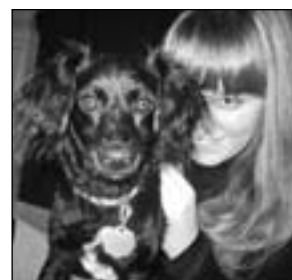
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FEBRUARY ACTION

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Back on the Market

Brooks

(Continued from page 9)

As long as the plane was sitting at the gate, we didn't make a dime. We would have to fly ten hours a day to get five hours pay, make an hour, lose an hour."

Lina enjoyed layovers in Biscoe.

"His mom was a great cook," she explained. So Lina bought a home in Seven Lakes to be closer. After they were married, Randy moved in.

Reliving history

Randy and Lina also shared a love for history. Lina, having grown up in Appomattox, had her fill of 19th century history.

"I was choked with the Civil War," she said. "I grew up in Appomattox, and we celebrated its one hundredth anniversary my senior year," Lina said.

The Brooks both found the Revolutionary period more interesting. After visiting the annual battle re-enactment at the House in the Horseshoe, they found a new common interest.

"I spent a lot of time around Williamsburg," Randy said. "We got our clothes built, and we started playing. We liked Revolutionary reenacting because of the period, the clothes, the players, and the philosophy. Everyone was united against the British. Also, there is more to do as a woman in the Revolutionary War. They could do stuff that women couldn't do in Civil War."

Reenacting became a part-time job for Randy. He has reenacted in several historical movies, including *The Patriot*. They would work their flight schedule so that Randy could be on set for extended periods of time.

Soon Randy and Lina found themselves exploring the North Carolina countryside. While in Sanford one day, they fell in love with a shop called "The Silver Rainbow" in the historic downtown Shops of Steel Street building.

The owners, who were retiring, encouraged them to buy the business.

"I didn't know a thing about

retail," Lina said.

"It grew, and we acquired another booth, and then another," she explained. "When we retired from the airline, we had wanted to find a job working together. Nobody would hire us together. They didn't want couples to work together. They had already assumed we couldn't."

What they didn't understand is that Randy and Lina complement one another.

"We always were a team while flying," Randy said. "We probably have been apart only five days since we met. All our neighbors kid us, because we enjoy doing the same things and are always together. We just think exactly alike."

Not only do they think alike, garden, cook, work, and reenact together. And they finish each other's sentences.

If Randy had his wish, he would reenact seven days a week.

"If I had my choice it would be pink pillows and fluffy beds," Lina said.

Randy understands the art

of compromise. Reenactors during the day — and home to bed at night.

Valentine's Day at home

They are spending Valentine's Day together working at their shop. Even though they can fly anywhere in the world for free, a nice perk for retired flight attendants, they prefer their back yard

in Seven Lakes.

"We never go out anywhere," Randy said. "I will make her a nice meal with chocolate cake. I can't buy her a card — we have 70,000 cards in the shop."

"We are not that romantic about that kind of stuff," Lina said. "He does for me all the time."

(See "Brooks," p. 21)



Randy & Lina Brooks in their shop, The Silver Rainbow, in Sanford



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Genetic Testing for Diet, Nutrition and Exercise

The FirstHealth Diabetes and Nutrition Education Center is offering a genetic code test that focuses on nutritional codes related to diet, nutrition and exercise.

"The test is offered as a service as part of our diabetes and nutrition education department," says registered dietitian Melissa Herman of the FirstHealth Diabetes and Nutrition Education Center.

The test provides information on an individual's response to exercise and diet. For example, is one type of exercise more beneficial to the individual than another? Or, are certain eating behaviors healthier for an individual?

"Patients may also find that they have 'snacking behaviors,' hunger genes or even

'eating disinhibition' genes – meaning they are likely to graze on certain foods or be more susceptible to hunger or eat even when full," Herman says.

The test begins with an initial meeting with one of the FirstHealth educators, followed by a simple saliva test. After the results are ready, the educators provide additional counseling and support to patients.

In the end, patients are provided with recommended diets along with guidelines on serving sizes, food limitations and meal plan ideas. Patients are also provided with exercise plans.

When shared during a consultation with a physician or dietitian, the information from the genetics test can

be used to produce meaningful lifestyle changes.

Three FirstHealth employees have participated in the testing process as part of an Employee Wellness Challenge. Since receiving the results of the test, all three have been successful with weight-loss and changing their lifestyles.

The FirstHealth Diabetes and Nutrition Education Center is currently the only registered diabetes center in the Sandhills region offering this service.

For more information on the Genetics Test for Diet, Nutrition and Exercise offered through the FirstHealth Diabetes and Nutrition Education Center, call (800) 364-0499 or visit www.firsthealth.org/diabetes

Wednesday with Friends at Artist's League

The Artists League of the Sandhills will be hosting the show "Wednesdays with Friends" from February 17 through March 21.

The Opening Reception will be held on Friday, February 21 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Exchange Street Gallery of Fine Art, Aberdeen.

The group of oil painters includes Deirdre LaCasse, Julie Martin, Mary Ann Halsted, Bonnie Hanly, and Pat Anderson. They have been painting together for

over two years and are excited to share their work with the community.

The Exchange Street Gallery of Fine Art, is located in historic downtown Aberdeen, 129 Exchange Street in the old Aberdeen Rockfish Railroad storage terminal.

Visit www.artistleague.org Gallery hours – Monday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. Contact the League at 910-944-3979 (10-4 M-F) or artistleague@windstream.org

Brooks

(Continued from page 20)

They give a tour, in the snow, of their beautiful terraced backyard with patios for different seasons, paths, steps, gardens, and a brick pizza oven. Lina comes up

with the ideas; and, together, they built it. They are already planning for the spring.

Home improvements without a cross word and homemade chocolate cake. What could be more romantic?



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"I love being a part of this community," she says, "and I look forward to working with the families here on their health and wellness."



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SEVEN LAKES

Sadie, lost and then found

In my profession, I seek to speak at least a smidgen of the Good News of the Gospel every Sunday morning.

In this column writing, which at one time actually was my profession, I seek to write at least a smidgen of the good news of the Seven Lakes community whenever the spirit moves me.

The spirit has moved me. I bring you good news of great joy about the way the people of this community look out for one another. And even for Sadie, a miniature poodle, who weighs about a dozen pounds. This community has your back, Sadie.

Let me explain.

Sadie is a little dog. I think she yaps a little too much, and God bless Sadie, she still has not quite mastered the art of letting you know every single time when she needs to go outside and “conduct her business.”

I like to think well of Sadie when I can, so I am going to believe that Sadie won't let you know this important piece of information because she simply doesn't want to

intrude or bother you. Very considerate canine, Sadie is.

Sadie actually was my Mom's dog. My Mom idolized her. The feeling was mutual. And when my Mom died last

business, to look around while basically standing in the same place, and then come right back to the door and yap for you to let her in. You could absolutely count on this behavior.

For Sadie to wander more than 20 feet from the front door was just not going to happen.

But on this day, Sadie was let out, and the person doing the letting out got a little distracted, and Sadie didn't come right back, and it was twenty or thirty minutes later when the person remembered, “Whoa, where is Sadie?”

We will never know why Sadie ventured from her normal behavior, but I am pretty sure something caused it. I later saw a stray dog that I may have piqued Sadie's interest.

When Sadie's absence was noted, we swung into action. We looked up and down Lon-

gleaf, we went door to door in the neighborhood, we walked through the woods — all very quickly, and all very panicky. It was very cold, and every thought going through our mind of what had happened to Sadie was not a pleasant one. And dusk was approaching.

After twenty to thirty minutes of looking, I was deciding, “This is not good.” Sadie is one smart dog, and hardly a wanderer. So, I told our daughter to make a “lost dog” sign for Sadie, and I would get up to the West Side mailhouse and figure out where to put the sign.

Once inside the mailhouse, I saw a sign from afar of a dog, and as I approached, I figured out, well, this is where I will place it. But lo and behold, the sign I saw was actually a picture of Sadie, smiling happily! And it was not a dog lost sign, but dog

found.

A Good Samaritan had seen Sadie walking alongside Longleaf, picked her up, taken her home, and then immediately put up a found dog sign at the mailhouse, less than an hour after finding her. We quickly retrieved her and brought her back home. The entire episode played out in ninety minutes or less.

They say dogs are man's best friends. I could not agree more. But sometimes, people are dog's best friends, too. Sometimes we reciprocate the remarkably unconditional love they bestow on us.

Life is good. People are good. Believe it.

Larry Lyon is pastor of West End Presbyterian Church and is joyful when people reveal the goodness they surely all possess.



From the Lyon's Den

Larry Lyon

May, Sadie remained in my Mom's house, which is right next door to our house on Longleaf Drive in Seven Lakes West. The Kennedys have a compound on Cape Cod; we have a compound on Longleaf Drive.

After Mom died, our daughter and her young family moved into my Mom's house, and Sadie welcomed them. They live together now.

One recent and very frigid day, we lost Sadie. Suddenly, she was gone.

Sadie's habit was to be let out, to wander out into the front yard, to conduct her

What's wrong with this picture?

Dear Editor:

On January 28, the Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes Country Club sent a memo to the members. It stated; “The Board of Directors would like to inform you that we are in negotiations with Brown Management to determine our future relationship with them.”

Why would the Board even consider negotiating with Brown Management when they have not delivered all they said they would in the original contract?

To add salt to the wound, the original contract called for a \$5,000 per month management fee, but they ended up charging more than double that amount. To the

amazement of the membership, the Board paid it.

Under Brown Management and the present board, membership growth has been almost nil, and numerous club members and several members of the board have resigned.

Most of the members that have resigned were members who built Seven Lakes Country Club to be a golf facility second to none in the Sandhills. Volunteerism has become almost non-existent.

Why has this Board not observed all of these misfortunes?

What is wrong with this picture?

*Thomas M. Zaleski
Seven Lakes South*

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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Life & football – a little toughness required

I love football! I think it is the best spectator sport that has ever been. At least it used to be. It seems that the powers that be are trying to take a collision sport and make it more like dodge ball than tackle football.

Growing up as a Steelers fan, my childhood memories are images of Jack Lambert with no teeth, saliva foaming from his mouth; Mean Joe Green towering over opponents with his intimidating size; the Steel Curtain, Mel Blount, with his clean-shaven, bald head and menacing presence; Mike Webster's arms. You know, when football was football!

My all time favorite player was Terry Bradshaw, because he was tough. He could take a hit and get up and give it back to players. I remember watching him play with no front teeth. Perhaps that is why he was my favorite player. (I didn't have my front teeth at the time.) He was

just a football player who happened to play the position of quarterback. He wasn't put in a bubble or coddled by his coach.

It seems to me that this phenomenon of making football softer hasn't just happened in football, but it is happening in our society as well.

You are not allowed to disagree with anyone today because they might be a different color than you, or they may be a different sex or have a different religious belief. Current social issues are like the quarterbacks in football, they are put in a bubble and no one is allowed to touch them. It is like walking on eggshells when you have a disagreement.

Not being allowed to dis-

agree with someone is sort of like a linebacker getting flagged for hitting the quarterback too hard, even if it was legal. If you disagree, you will be penalized.



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

It seems to me that football was better when they just played the game without worrying about tackling someone too hard. It was better when everyone just played as hard as they could against the team with different color uniforms, and the best team won.

I also think that the human experience is better when we can disagree with someone without being called a racist, sexist, bigot, liberal, conservative, or homophobe. We cease to have open dialogue when we fear that if we disagree with someone we will be labeled with a derogatory term. We grow in this life by

hearing out ideas that are opposed to our view.

Recently, Richard Sherman was called a thug for his explosion in his post-game interview with Erin Andrews. Personally, I enjoyed the intensity of the interview.

They caught him in the middle of an emotionally charged moment and he was honest and real. I didn't like or agree with everything that he said, but I also didn't think that was who he is as a person. The camera caught a young man expressing his emotions in the heat of the moment. If you have ever played competitive sports you understand the kind of raw emotion that happens in the game.

Sherman has faced all kinds of scrutiny over his

comments including being called a thug. To defend himself for his comments he claimed that people who use the term thug only use that word in place of a racial slur. The whole incident was brushed under the rug not to be talked about again for fear that someone might be labeled a racist.

Society is better when we exchange ideas without the threat of name-calling.

Let's stop trying to be so politically correct and get back to exchanging ideas. That is how we grow as a society.

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

Medicare policy is bad medicine

Dear Editor:

The Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has a proposed a rule to restrict access to antidepressant and antipsychotic medications in the Medicare Part D program. The proposed rule would restrict the availability of antidepressant medications in 2015 and restrict the availability of antipsychotic medications in 2016.

Historically, Medicare Part D plans have been required to include on their preferred drug lists all or substantially all psychiatric medications in recognition that personal choice and clinical judgment are critically important in decisions about these medications. To tie the hands of experienced physicians, psychiatrists, and therapists is unconscionable at a time when we need to improve services for those with a mental illness.

As one who sees daily the positive effects of these medications on the lives of those afflicted with major depression who now see "the light of day" or that had previously experienced constant delusions and hallucinations, it is beyond comprehension that such a proposal would be under consideration.

Once again, those experiencing psychiatric issues and their families are at risk and are asking for community support. I am asking those in the community to contact our federal legislators and let them know that they should oppose implementation of this proposed rule.

Comments must be received by CMS by March 4, 2014. Predicating access to psychiatric medication on price alone is a travesty.

*Marianne Kernan, Chairman
Linden Lodge Foundation
Member, NAMI-Moore County*

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 6)

Budget Presentation Award

The second award of the evening went to the County's budget team for the quality of its budget presentation.

Representing the NC Government Finance Officers Association, Emily Lucas praised the quality of the county's budget book, noting that the document must fulfill several criteria in order to win the award.

Preparing the budget "is a tough job," Commissioner Randy Saunders said. "But the staff makes it really easy because they are so well prepared."

"The results to the taxpayer are obvious," Commissioner Nick Picerno added. "If you know where every penny is being spent, then you discover that you can do it with the resources you have, instead of having to go back to the taxpayers, which is something we don't like to do."

County Manager Wayne Vest, who was previously the County's Tax Administrator, noted that last year was "the first year I had the opportunity to work in detail on the budget, and I appreciate the support I have had in that process."

Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday, February 4 Regular Meeting, the Board of Commissioners:

- Called a public hearing on Tuesday, February 18 on

the Unified Development Ordinance, which combines the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. The rewrite of the document has been in process since 2009; the Planning Board recently reviewed and approved the document.

- Called a public hearing on Tuesday, February 18 on a conditional use permit for a sand mine on NC Highway 211 opposite West Pine Middle and Elementary Schools.

- Agreed to retain the County's current auditing firm, Martin Starnes & Associates, for five additional years at a total cost of \$285,000. Commissioner Picerno, noting that the firm's bid was one of the highest, asked Chief Finance Officer Carrie Neal for an explanation. Neal said the firms submitting lower bids were relatively inexperienced in either County finances or North Carolina law.

- After meeting in closed session to discuss the matter with County Attorney Misty Leland, the Board voted to approve a permanent utility easement agreement between the County, the Moore County Airport, and Caropine Ventures, LLC, which owns the Carolina Golf development adjacent to the airport. Making the motion to approve the easement, Commissioner Picerno said, "Even though the Board disagrees with some of the language in the agreement about airport control of property, in order to help the developer, we will

sign the document.

- Revised a section of the Moore County Ordinances that deals with posting signs prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns on recreational facilities owned or operated by the County. Previously, the County's ordinance forbade the carrying of handguns in County-operated "parks." The new language refers instead to "recreational facilities," that is, playgrounds, athletic fields, swimming pools, and athletic facilities. The change was necessitated by a change in state gun laws.

- Tabled action on contracts to install new windows in the magistrates' area of the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center, as well as electronics for various entry doors, at the Manager's request.

- Appointed Betty Goodrich to the Board of Health; Jerry Daeke and Donna Livingston to the Board of Equalization and review; and Barbara Allred to the Sandhills Regional Library System Board of Trustees.

- Approved an interlocal agreement with the Village of Pinehurst that will allow either entity to call on the other to handle building inspections in case of staff shortages or a backlog of applications.

- Heard from Manager Vest that the County's Department of Social Services has cleared all backlogged applications for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The state's computerized system for handling those applications has been beset by problems since its inception, to

the degree that the US Department of Agriculture is threatening to withhold payments to the state.

- Heard from Vest that he and Public Works Director Randy Gould were scheduled to meet with officials from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources on February 5 to discuss the County's application for a zero-interest loan to support the Harnett County water project.

- Heard from the Manager that the MegaPark Board suggested a joint meeting of Moore and Montgomery County Commissioners and Managers to determine what measures are needed to jump start the project.

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School funding

(Continued from front page)

cations already authorized by the General Assembly, in order to find money for employee raises.

In other words, the state may pay for raises with cuts elsewhere, which means no net increase in funding for Moore County Schools.

And state funding accounts for sixty percent of MCS revenues.

"We are currently operating into the fund balance," Spence said. "So how do you offset reduced funding from the state? With local revenue increases, or you cut costs. We have cut a lot of costs over the past five years."

Spence said MCS had eliminated 130 positions in that period.

"Some people say 'Just eliminate the administration and things will be fine.' But that is a very small percentage of our overall cost," Spence said.

"I do feel like we are very lean," he added. Given the size of this district, the central office is very lean."

Griffin said MCS operates at eighty-five percent of the state average in its central office — in other words, fifteen percent less than the average district in the state.

"I don't want our employees to hear this and panic," Spence added. "We have had conversations with our principals. I don't want to trigger any panic alarms."

"Our budget is intended to meet a purpose — to continue to increase student achievement."

"I said when I began here that it was my intention that we move the needle," Spence said. "We are moving the needle on literacy instruction, among other things. It is not my intention to bring a budget to this Board that will move the needle in the other direction."

"We appreciate, I think, you kicking this budget season off," Board Chair Kathy Farren said. "It is very hard to swallow that we are getting less and less. And hard to explain to people. The truth comes down to how much we spend per pupil. It is def-

initely less than it was several years ago."

Shifting costs to the local level

Griffin's presentation aimed to quantify just how much less per pupil the state is investing in Moore County. As a point of reference, he chose Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the last year of funding before the Great Recession.

State education funding is keyed to student population, and that is where Griffin's story started. The total number of MCS students was 12,190 in FY2009; this year it is 12,828, an increase of 638 students.

Overall state funding for the district has dropped from \$67.9 million to \$64.6 million, Griffin said.

Put the numbers together, and the state was providing \$5,587 per student in FY2009 and is providing \$5,033 this year — a cut of approximately ten percent over five years.

The state, which largely controls the district's key costs for personnel by setting teacher and principal salaries and benefits, has mandated increases in those expenditures.

Salaries and wages cost MCS \$70.1 million in FY2009; personnel cuts would have dropped that to \$67.1 million in FY2013, but the state increased salaries by 1.2 percent, while cutting allocations in other areas.

Meanwhile, state-controlled spending for benefits has increased. Between FY2009 and FY2013, state health plan costs increased 14.7 percent, and state retirement plan cost increased by 74.8 percent.

By Griffin's reckoning, state spending per pupil for Moore County is \$6.8 million less than it would be if it had held at FY2009 levels. And the state has added \$5.6 million in new costs. The result is an overall impact of more than \$12 million.

Building, and spending, the fund balance

When FY2009 began, MCS had \$4.2 million in fund balance — its savings account. The recession brought a temporary increase in federal funding, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the "stimulus") and through the Edujobs program.

Recognizing that the increased federal funding would be short-lived, the district banked much of that money, building its fund balance to a high of \$12.4 million in FY2012. As the new federal funding in fact disappeared and state cuts in per pupil funding took effect, MCS began to spend its fund balance — and spend it more quickly than expected.

The fund declined to \$9.7 million in FY2012 and is expected to drop to \$5.7 million this year, according to data Griffin shared with the Board.

Despite the negative impact of the recession on overall Moore County revenues, local

funding for MCS has remained relatively stable, at approximately \$32 million per year.

"There comes a point where the costs being shifted from the state to the local unit — we can no longer absorb that," Griffin said.

Moore County #81 in spending per student

Griffin provided state rankings that illustrate the contrast between steady local funding for schools compared to declining state funding.

Moore County ranks eleventh in the state in per capita income and twenty-fifth in local tax base per

(See "Funding," p. 27)

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School facilities

(Continued from page 7)

for years," Board Member Laura Lang said.

As the Board's discussion moved on to other facilities and other issues, the question of closing Elise remained somewhat unresolved, which may explain why it — and the expansion of Robbins Elementary it will make necessary — ranked very close to dead last in the list of priorities on which the Board eventually agreed.

Setting priorities

The Board's February 3 debate about the closure of Elise — and about how best to invest the money taxpayers provide for school construction — took place in the context of a meeting that aimed to set priorities for a Master Facilities Plan.

That plan aims to set MCS' facilities agenda for the next ten years — and to convince voters to approve roughly \$100 million in new borrowing for school construction and rehabilitation, give or take a few million dollars.

The Board of Education and MCS staff are working their way methodically through a process to decide which schools to close, which to repair and expand, and what kind of new schools to build.

The 21st Century Facilities task force assembled by Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence presented its recommendations to the Board on Thursday, January 22.

At an estimated total cost of \$107 million to \$128 million, they recommended:

- Building a new 800-student concept high school that would provide early college credits, technical training, or both, at a cost of \$10 million - \$14 million
- Renovations to increase the capacity of Pinecrest High School, which is already above capacity, to 2000 students, at a cost of \$14 million - \$17 million.
- Renovations at Union Pines High School, also currently over capacity, to increase capacity to 1250 students, at a cost of \$10 million to

\$12 million

- Renovations, including upgrading the cafeteria and adding a new wellness center/athletic multi-purpose room at North Moore High School at a cost of \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million
- Building a middle school in the Pinecrest attendance zone [Area III] that could initially serve 500 students, but built with a core — administrative offices, cafeteria, gym, etc. — capable of serving 850, to allow for future expansion. Estimated cost is \$16 million to \$18 million.
- Building three new K-5 elementary schools, two in Area III and another in the Union Pines attendance zone [Area I], all with a capacity of 650 students. Each school is expected to cost \$5 million to \$17 million.
- In Area III, close Aberdeen Primary, Aberdeen Elementary, and Southern Pines

Primary.

- Upgrade West Pine Middle School to serve 650 students, at a cost of \$2.6 million to \$3.5 million.
- Close Elise Middle School in Robbins and convert Robbins Elementary School to serve students in Kindergarten through eighth grade by adding a gym, science labs, and additional classrooms), at a cost of \$7 million to \$9 million.

In addition, the task force identified \$22 million to \$28 million in additional renovations or building replacements needed at a number of other schools, including Pinehurst Elementary and West End Elementary.

Board lays out priorities

Those recommendations survived largely intact after being worked over by the Board of Education in its February 3 Work Session.

The goal of the Work Session was to assign priorities

to the new construction and upgrades, providing MCS staff direction so that a formal Master Facilities Plan can be assembled. That document will tell voters what they can expect to get for their tax dollars if they vote to approve new school borrowing in November.

After considerable discussion, the Board reached the following priorities:

1. Renovations to all three high schools, expanding capacity at Pinecrest and Union Pines, and completing upgrades at North Moore.
2. Build the new concept high school.
3. Build a new Area 1 [Union Pines] elementary school.
4. Major renovations and building replacement at Pinehurst Elementary School. This item moved up the priority list from its place among the option items on the task force's list.

5. Build two new Area 3 [Pinecrest] elementary schools

6. Build a new Area 3 middle school with a 450 student capacity and an 850 student core.

7. Expand Robbins Elementary and close Elise.

8. Expand West Pine Elementary.

Updated expense projections based on that priority list were not immediately available, but it appeared the total would range from \$112 million to \$133.5 million.

MCS staff will work that priority list into a more formal Master Facilities Plan that can be presented to the Board for approval at its Monday, February 10 regular meeting.

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Foxtail

(Continued from front page)

foundation has been sold.

"The person or entities took over the one foundation in the very back, which is the deepest one," Frusco said. "[Village Attorney] Michael Brough is in contact with

the new owners of this property to try and resolve this issue."

Frusco recommends dedicated debt fund

The Village has been paying off its debt for the \$1.9 million Woodland Circle Extension project using revenue from assessments levied on property owners along the street. Those assessments end in 2015, and the Circle's largest landowner surrendered his property to the Village rather than pay the \$1.4 million he was assessed.

With the end of the assessment revenue stream in sight, Finance Office Frusco recommended during the January 30 Work Session that the Council establish a ded-

icated fund for debt service

"After a great deal of research and discussion with the State Treasurer's Office," Frusco said, "what I am proposing is we establish a debt service fund."

"With that fund, we start a plan to put away money that is restricted for debt service. My proposal will be \$100,000 of the current year's budget and another \$100,000 of next year's."

The plan would allow the Village to cover three additional years of payments on the Woodland Circle loan after the assessments stop in 2015.

Plans for Woodland Circle Assessments went awry

In 2009, the Village of Fox-

fire Council approved paving a 7,500 foot extension from Eagle Drive to Woodland Circle and also provided fourteen property owners access to the Village Water System. Landowners on Woodland Circle would be assessed for the \$1.9 million expense over a five year period.

Landowners along the newly-paved street were assessed using an equal rate per acre methodology — a formula that placed the majority of the burden — \$1.4 million — on one landowner, John McKean.

McKean unsuccessfully attempted to persuade the Council to allocate costs using a different methodology. When that attempt failed, the Council was informed

that McKean would not pay his share of the assessments. In lieu of payment, the Council agreed to accept the 160 acres along Woodland Circle in the place of a cash payment.

During the January 30 Work Session, Councilman Steve Durham asked, "When the decision was made to build Woodland Circle, how was it projected that we would pay for that project?"

Both Mayor George Erickson and Councilwoman Leslie Frusco answered, "Through assessments." Erickson and Frusco had firsthand knowledge as they were both Council members in 2009.

Durham continued: "It was just the McKean thing that (See "Foxtail," p. 28)

Funding

(Continued from page 25)

student. The County is thirtieth in local spending per student.

But, out of 115 local school districts, Moore County ranks ninety-eighth in state spending per student, eighty-first in total spending per student, and is number 100 in central office spending per student.

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SPACIOUS 4BD+BONUS, FENCED YARD – \$325,000

106 SCARLET OAK DR • 7LN



3BD, 2.5BA + BONUS – \$164,000

576 JUNIPER LAKE ROAD



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3/2 WITH WORKSHOP, 6+ ACRES – \$410,000

132 PINECONE CT • 7LN



3 BD + 3 BA • \$195,000

62 S SHAMROCK • FOXFIRE



UNDER CONTRACT!

3/2 ON .8 ACRE – \$175,000

133 SUNSET WAY • 7LN



3/2 WITH WORKSHOP! – \$115,000

175 BAKER CIR



UNDER CONTRACT!

3/2, CAROLINA ROOM, POOL – \$275,000

115 BAKER • 7LW



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SPACIOUS WATERFRONT! – \$549,900

106 SIMMONS • 7LW



4BD+BONUS, CLOSE TO MARINA – \$329,900

101 HAMPTON CT • 7LS



3 BD + 2.5 BA BRICK – \$210,000

124 SHAW DRIVE • 7LW



PRICE REDUCED!

CLOSE TO MARINA! – \$239,900

7 LAKES OFFICE & WAREHOUSE



3600 SF + 2400 SF + .8 AC FENCED LOT – \$325,000

Foxtail

(Continued from page 27)

has thrown this kind of upside down?”

“We had three meetings with the McKean,” Erickson recalled, “and at no time during those discussions, because we knew he had the majority fronting, did he say ‘I am not going to pay my assessments.’”

Land for sale . . . or solar farming

If the Village could sell the 160 acres it obtained from McKean, it could pay off the Woodland Circle debt more quickly.

In an attempt to better market the acreage, the Village sent out three letters to developers. One letter proposed that the land would be suitable for an assisted living facility, while the others suggested various schemes for equestrian or residential development.

The Council is also researching whether or not the land is suitable for a

solar farm. During the January 30 Work Session, Erickson noted that he had received information the same day from Innovative Solar Systems.

Plenty of sun to go around

Moore County resident and landowner David Wilson, who resides in the Village’s Extra-territorial Zoning Jurisdiction [ETJ], has requested that the Council consider rezoning his acreage so that he would be permitted to lease forty of his three hundred acres for a commercial solar farm. The Planning and Zoning Board has since been researching the issue.

“Mr. Wilson came in and gave us a presentation on his property,” Councilman Mick McCue said.

“It, quite frankly, looks pretty good,” McCue continued. “These panels are only about forty inches high. There would be a chain length fence around it. It would hook up into the [electric] line on Hoff-

man Road. It is a level three electric line and is sufficient for him to do it. It does not make noise.”

“[Planning & Zoning Board] Chair Mary Gilroy has been in touch and talked about the possibility of solar farms and whether we could use all of the Woodland Circle property for this kind of thing,” McCue continued. “The question is: how far we are from that property to the [three phase electric] line?”

“Some of those technicalities, I don’t think we know

yet,” Frusco said. “Obviously, the first action we have to think about is that the current zoning is not adequate.”

Frusco posed other questions for the Council to ponder: “Do we want solar farms, and what districts do we want that in? Whether you want it as special or conditional use permit?”

Durham also encouraged the Council to also think long term.

“I am open to this and want to consider it,” he said. “But we have to make sure what

we decide today won’t come back to haunt us in twenty years.”

The Council decided that their questions should be directed to the Planning and Zoning Board for research — and from there to the Village attorney.

“Everybody shoot to me their specific concerns for P&Z to address in detail as they are working through this use,” McCue said.

Reynview

(Continued from page 5)

Thinking about water


Foxfire’s water system is running smoothly and meeting demand, but Councilman Durham reminded his fellow Council members during the January 30 Work Session that the long term plan for the system remains unclear.

“It was in our Long Range Plan to keep water front and center,” Durham said. “We read more and more about fracking in Moore County, that it will become a reality in a couple of years, and we can’t put this off forever. At some point, we will need to make a decision. The best time to do that is when things are going well. We need to have this conversation and talk about how we are going to continue to manage our

water system. We need to think about and go back and revisit some of our options.”

The Council spent considerable energy last year exploring a possible merger of the Foxfire Village system with Moore County’s water system.

Erickson reassured the Council, “The way we went through that whole discussion [with the County] is that the same funding source comes around on an annual basis. I also know they have not completed negotiations with Harnett County.” The County is in the process of securing a state loan to finance upgrades and extensions to the water system in order to support piping in additional water from Harnett County.



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—MARU
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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

base. Professionally, she worked as a sales rep for food companies and has sold Avon for the past seven years, after moving to Seven Lakes in 2005.

Leach, a resident of Seven Lakes South and currently serving as the SLLA Board's Maintenance Director, built a home in Seven Lakes in 1998 and moved to the community in 2005. He began his career in education in the Missouri and, after moving to New Jersey, worked his way through the ranks to retire as Director of Curriculum for the Sparta, NJ, Public Schools.

Sandy Sackman also enjoyed a career in education, beginning in Findlay, OH, and retiring as a teacher at Pinecrest High School, where she also coached the men's and women's golf teams. She moved to Seven Lakes North in 1985.

Are Small Increment Increases Affordable?

The Board voted unanimously, during the January 31 Work Session, to ask the membership to approve a \$25 dues increase at the Annual Meeting.

Treasurer Conrad Meyer made a motion to recommend the dues increase and to adopt the Fiscal Year 2015 operating budget as presented.

"I guess, to kick this thing off, I would like to make a motion to adopt the draft of the operating budget that is in the package," Meyer said. "It includes a recommendation to ask the community for a \$25 dues increase for all lots."

"When we went through the process of asking for a \$100 dues increase this last year, we got a lot of feedback — 'Boy, that \$100 dues increase is painful' — and I don't dispute that at all. What we heard was: 'Wouldn't it be easier to ask for increases in smaller bite size chunks, instead of bigger requests less frequently?' We are asking the community if they agree with that logic or would they rather have less fre-

quent, larger increases. That's what this is all about."

If the increase is approved at the Annual Meeting, SLLA homeowners dues would increase to \$1,025.

Packets for the Annual Meeting will be mailed out in February.

Dock & boat slip repairs approved

The Maintenance Committee is finding it difficult to prioritize which of the SLLA's docks and boat slips need to be addressed first.

"The Maintenance Committee was asked to prioritize docks," Director Chuck Leach said. "They all were in such deplorable condition, that prioritizing was difficult-to-impossible to do."

With problems ranging from splintered and rotten wood to exposed nails and compromised supports, Leach recommended that all docks and slips be repaired.

Leach credited Manager Ray Sohl's initiative in assessing the support structures under the docks. "We have a unique manager who will get in and swim underneath the structures and the docks."

Bids were solicited for the dock repairs and a local company's bid accepted. Work will be completed this year and is guaranteed for twenty-five years. To reduce the expense, SLLA maintenance staff will be responsible for deconstruction work.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the repairs, which include:

- Upgrade of the eighteen boat slips at \$36,512
- Big J swim dock and poles at \$4,850
- Replacing the existing Sequoia swim dock at \$6,620
- Repairs to the Launch ramps at \$5,460

Local Contractors Available

For contract work over \$5,000, SLLA management is required to obtain three bids.

During the Open Meeting, Director Bob Darr asked: "What is the process of obtaining bids? I have had

a couple of calls this week from local contractors that have said, 'You got stuff on here that I would have liked to bid on.'"

Sohl encouraged contractors that would like to be considered for any future jobs to submit their qualifications, so that they can be approved and added to the SLLA's list of qualified contractors.

"We use existing sources, word of mouth, and CAS Management's list of contractors," Sohl explained. "Any contractors that are interested, we will add them to contract list. We would like to develop that list."

New Frontiers

The Board voted unanimously during the January 31 Work Session to approve a Submarine Operating and Safety Protocol that will be required for all submarines used in the lakes. The SLLA is thought to be the only homeowners association in the nation that has need for such protocol.

"We are history in the making," President Steve Ritter said. "No other HOA in country has had to deal with a submarine protocol."

The submarine in question is one being built by NC State Engineering student David Widman. Widman's father, Mark Widman, has encouraged anyone who would like

to see the submarine to stop by the Widman home on Lake Sequoia.

Stephan moves from Judicial to ARB

Donna Stephan has stepped down from the Judicial Committee. Alternate Eric Ritchie will be made a full member. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Stephan to fill an empty seat on the Architectural Review Board.

Stable Manager Resigns

Though no details were provided during the January 31 meeting, it was announced that Stables Manager Kate Pennington has resigned.

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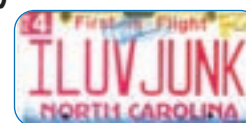
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Seven Lakes Times
February 7, 2014

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SEVEN LAKES WEST WATERFRONT – Lot #3293 Vanore Rd. Flat level lot. Great view, close to gate, bulkhead, off-site septic already installed. \$350,000. Call 910-690-3664. tfn

FOR SALE: 3 ACRES – on Highway 211 between Seven Lakes and Eagle Springs, lots of road frontage \$36,000. Call Blake Real Estate, Tommy Blake Broker, 910-220-2090.

FOR SALE REAL ESTATE/LAND/LOTS

SEVEN LAKES WEST – lot #3179 Owens Circle, cove lot, suitable for walk-out. \$150,000. 910-690-3664. tfn

SEVEN LAKES WEST MEMBERSHIP LOT FOR SALE – Lot# 6154. Enjoy access to all the great amenities in the community, including Lake Auman. \$7,999. 910-466-9001.

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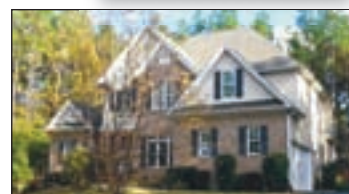
Seven Lakes West \$155,000
Charming ranch home in private setting
3 BR / 2 BA
105 Fox Run Court



Seven Lakes West \$289,900
Wonderful 2-story home on cul-de-sac
4 BR / 3 BA
108 Rector Drive



Seven Lakes West \$440,000
Custom home on wooded cul-de-sac
4 BR / 3 BA
109 Timber Ridge Court



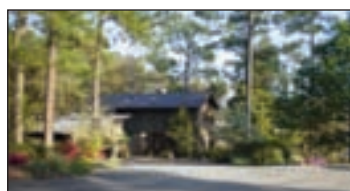
Seven Lakes West \$278,900
Great home w/open floor plan
4 BR / 2.5 BA
116 James Drive



Seven Lakes North \$168,000
Charming cottage on two lots
3 BR / 2 BA
255 Firetree Lane



Seven Lakes North \$165,000
Charming ranch with split floor plan
3 BR / 2 BA
117 Pinecone Court



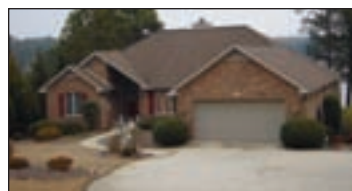
Seven Lakes West \$339,000
Private lakefront retreat on Lake Auman
4 BR / 3 BA
105 Tucker Court



Seven Lakes West \$475,000
Stunning custom waterfront home
3 BR / 2.5 BA
459 Longleaf Drive



Seven Lakes South \$196,000
Sun-filled home on well-landscaped lot!
3 BR / 2.5 BA
106 Somerset Lane



Seven Lakes West \$698,000
Gorgeous lakefront custom home
5 BR / 3.5 BA
129 Shaw Drive



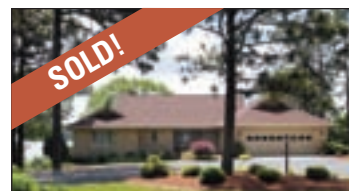
McLendon Hills \$565,000
French country farmhouse on 3 acres
4 BR / 3.5 BA
600 Broken Ridge Trail



Seven Lakes West \$259,000
Immaculate, cozy golf front cottage
3 BR / 2 BA
214 Longleaf Drive



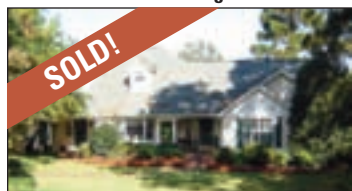
Seven Lakes North \$299,900
Totally renovated on Longleaf Lake
3 BR / 2 BA
104 Rolling Hill Court



Seven Lakes West \$649,000
Gorgeous lakefront on Lake Auman
3 BR / 3-Full & 2-Half BA
168 Simmons Drive



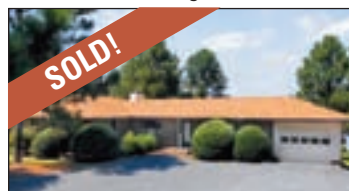
Seven Lakes North \$325,000
Gorgeous lakefront on Lake Sequoia
3 BR / 2 BA
181 Firetree Lane



Seven Lakes West \$619,000
Lakefront cottage w/custom upgrades
3 BR / 3.5 BA
103 Featherston Point



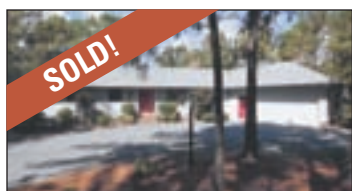
Seven Lakes West \$298,000
One-story w/sweeping golf views
3 BR / 2 BA
296 Longleaf Drive



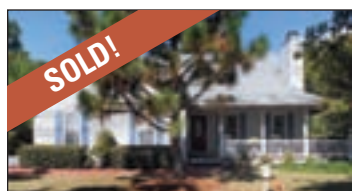
Seven Lakes North \$249,000
Single level waterfront w/great privacy!
3 BR / 2 BA
126 Cardinal Lane



Seven Lakes North \$175,000
Picture perfect w/beautiful updates
3 BR / 2 BA
129 Shagbark Court



Seven Lakes North \$215,000
Waterfront ranch on 2 large lots!
2 BR / 2 Full & 2 Half BA
260 Firetree Lane



Seven Lakes North \$175,000
Adorable ranch w/split floor plan
3 BR / 2 BA
106 Pineneedle Drive



Seven Lakes West \$599,000
Stunning All Brick Water Front
3 BR / 4.5 BA
135 Andrews Drive



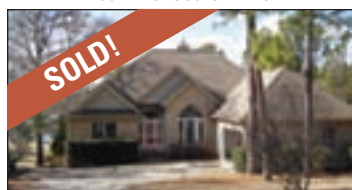
Seven Lakes West \$495,000
Lovely Lake Auman waterfront home
3 BR / 2.5 BA
163 Morris Drive



Seven Lakes West \$292,500
Cottage home on large corner lot
3 BR / 2.5 BA
347 Longleaf Drive



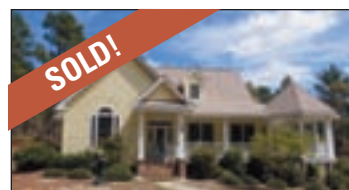
Seven Lakes North \$239,900
Gorgeous custom home by Harris & Son
3 BR / 2 BA
104 Scarlet Oak Drive



Seven Lakes North \$215,000
Pristine lake front cottage
3 BR / 2.5 BA
114 Sunset Way



Seven Lakes North \$375,000
Beautiful home on Lake Sequoia
3 BR / 3 BA
163 E Shenandoah Road



Seven Lakes West \$315,000
Great home with open floor plan
3 BR / 3.5 BA
128 Owens Circle

Thinking of Building?

Fabulous Building Lots

Available in the
Seven Lakes Area!

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