

Elise School escapes closure

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Public input and a field trip to Elise Middle School in Robbins

apparently convinced half the members of the Moore County Board of Education that closing the school and enlarging Robbins Elementary to serve grades K-8 did not have a place in Moore County Schools' Master Facilities Plan.

On a four-to-four tie vote, a motion by Board Member

Laura Lang to merge the two schools failed, with Bruce Cunningham, Ed Dennison, Dale Frye, and Charles Lambert voting to keep Elise open.

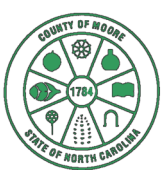
"One of the things I keep coming back to," Cunningham said, "is that two of our Growing to Greatness pathways are culture and community."

Remarking that he had recently read a book called "Elise High School in Upper Moore County," which traces the history of the school since its founding in 1904, Cun-

(See "Schools," p. 28)

County's new UDO approved

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



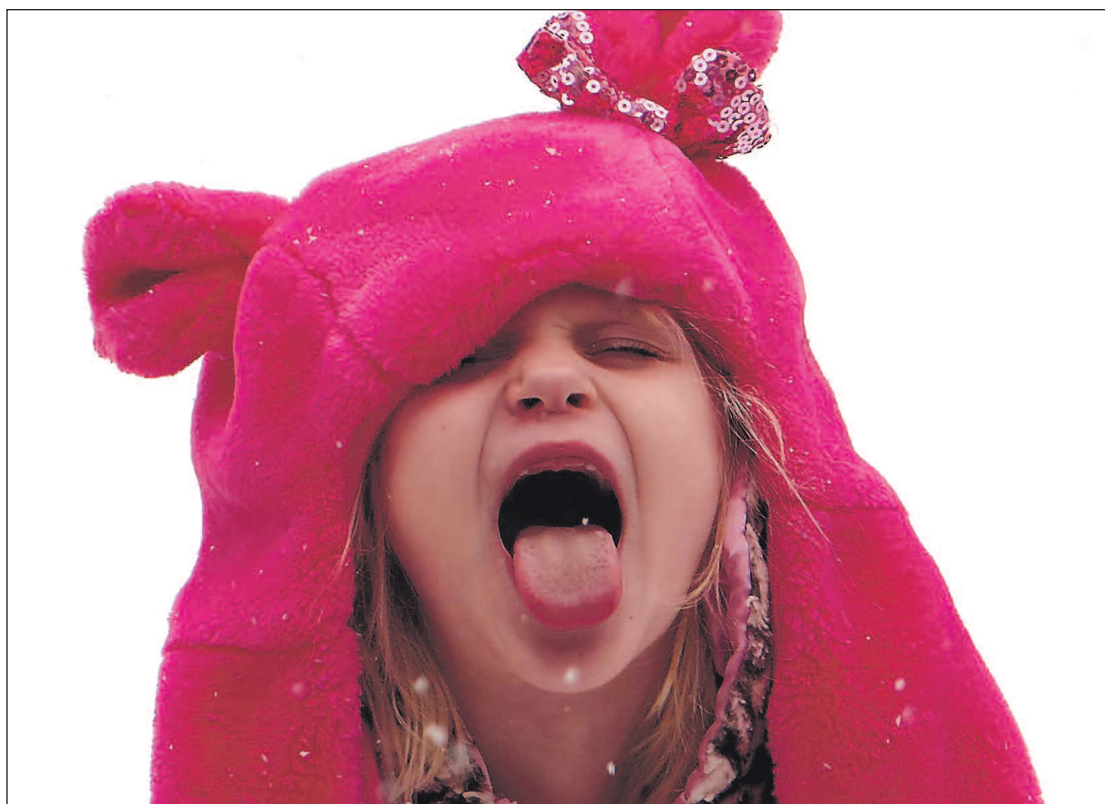
With more than one hundred citizens in attendance, Moore County's Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a new Unified Development Ordinance [UDO] during their regular Tuesday, February 18 meeting.

The unusually large crowd was comprised largely of landowners who had received letters from the County Planning Office advising them that their property or an adjacent property would be rezoned as part of the ordinance adoption.

But those rezonings were more about labels than about any actual change in uses permitted on the land, Plan-

(See "Commissioners," p. 18)

Snow Day!



Little Laker Hailey Mullinex makes the most of the rare heavy snow that blanketed Moore County last week. Hailey is the daughter of Nikki & Wayne Mullinex

SLLA has lots to sell

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Prime real estate is about to become available in Seven Lakes South.

After lengthy negotiations last year with Seven Lakes Country Club, The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] accepted nineteen undeveloped lots owned by the the Club on which dues had not been paid for a number of years.

"It was the belief that, if the Country Club owned the lots contiguous with the golf course, then the Country Club did not have to pay the Association dues on these lots," President Steve Ritter explained during the SLLA Board's Monday, February 10 Work Session. "[SLLA Treasurer] Conrad Meyer

started doing an audit and uncovered all of this."

The Association's governing documents prevent it from offering that sort of waiver.

Adding the nineteen lots to another nineteen already owned by the Association brings the total number of SLLA-owned lots to thirty-eight. Meyer and Ritter formed an ad hoc committee to evaluate the salability of the lots.

"It ranges from nice to swamp land," Meyer said. "There are a half-dozen good lots that could be sold for decent money and, hopefully, have homes built on those."

Meyer provided the Board with a spreadsheet profiling the lots.

"Eleven lots look like they are good candidates to sell," he said. "The question is:

How much water do you want to have on your lot?" He also noted that several of the lots had the potential to be common area.

Tee (shots) on the deck

Two of the lots near Hastings Road lay at the bottom of a hill with a Par 3 tee above them, making them sitting ducks for overly-long tee shots.

"If someone built a home there, they would be under constant bombardment of long tee shots," Meyer said. "They are currently maintained by the Country Club. Those would be the two lots that would make sense for common area."

"Once you convert a lot to common area then it is really hard to change it back to a

(See "SLLA Work," p. 29)

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Clarification on ownership of Foxtail lots

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



In our February 7 article on the Foxfire Village Council's Work Session, *The Times* reported that Council members planned to levy fines on the owner of three unfinished foundations on Foxtail Circle. As they have worked, over the past year, to correct that problem, members of the Council have consistently referred to local builder and developer Ron Jackson, by

name, as the owner of those properties, and our reporting has been consistent with those statements.

According to Moore County records, Jackson does not, and has not, owned the lots in question personally. However, all have been owned by companies of which Jackson and/or his family members are managers, members, partners, or shareholders.

According to the online records maintained by the Moore County Register of Deeds, Foxtail Lane 18 & 20 are currently owned by Redus One, LLC of Charlotte, a Delaware limited liability company with its office in Charlotte. Redus One, LLC appears to be one of many similarly-named companies that handle real estate owned by Wells Fargo.

Redus acquired the two lots, along with some additional properties, from R&M Commercial Real Estate, LLC in November 2013. R&M acquired the lots from Quality Built Homes, Inc. in 2008.

According to the records maintained by the Moore County Register of Deeds, the lots at 22 and 24 Foxtail Lane are currently owned by FAC Holdings, LLC, which acquired them from R&M Commercial Real Estate in 2012. R&M acquired them from Quality Built Homes, Inc. in 2008.

Moore County records show that the lots at 38 and 40 Foxtail Lane are owned by FAC Holdings, LLC, which acquired them from Quality Built Homes, Inc. in 2008.

Letters of organization and annual reports filed with the office of the NC Secretary of State for FAC Holdings, LLC, R&M Commercial Real Estate, LLC, and Quality Built Homes, Inc. show Michelle L. Jackson as either the manager of the LLCs or the President or Secretary of the corporation. Michelle Jackson is Ron Jackson's wife.

Foxfire's May 2 letter setting a six month-deadline for the homes to be completed or

the foundations removed was address to Ron Jackson; Quality Built Homes, Inc.; R&M Commercial Real Estate, LLC; and FAC Holdings, LLC at the address in Aberdeen that all three companies share.

Correction

We also reported in our February 7 that two of the Foxtail Lane lots with unfinished foundations were involved in a bankruptcy. We now believe that statement, and our reporting of it, was in error. *The Times* regrets the error and apologizes to the various current and past owners of the lots in question on Foxtail Lane.

No action by Council

Despite the Foxfire Council's consensus in their Jan-

uary 30 Work Session that fines should be levied for non-compliance with the Village's ordinance governing uncompleted construction, that matter did not appear on the agenda of the Council's Tuesday, February 18 Regular Meeting. Council members told *The Times* that they planned to discuss the matter during their Thursday, February 27 Work Session.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be e-mailed to mail@sevenlaketimes.net, dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, mailed to P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376, or faxed to 888-806-2572.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, 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.

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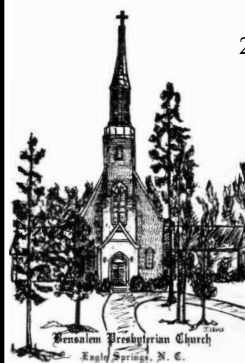
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Foxfire K9 unit helps find lost four-year old

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



It takes only a second for child to wander away. On Monday, February 1, the Foxfire Police Department was alerted that a four-year-old boy was lost. The boy had managed to get out of the house and walk into the woods.

"The boy was lost here in the Village, down in the woods, quite a ways from his home near Foxfire Road," Councilman Mick McCue reported at the Tuesday, February 18 Village Council meeting. "Our police force responded very quickly. Officer Scott Patterson was the first on scene. He knows about the canine unit and knows how to use them properly. Very quickly he got a toy that only the little boy had played with and put it in the bag. Sergeant Chad Shue got there with the canine unit, and let the dog smell the toy."

Patterson had already begun searching for the little boy. The dog took to the trail and headed in the same direction. The child was found stuck in the mud and couldn't extricate himself. Patterson arrived first. The well-trained dog soon showed up, walking in the little boy's footprints.

"Anyone who questions our police force and K9 unit might change their mind," McCue said.

Storm response wins praise for police force

During the unusual Winter storm that hit the area on February 12, the three man police force found themselves doing double duty.

"Our police officers might be the only ones in the county who are tasked with clearing the streets," McCue said. "I would like to thank their Herculean effort during this last winter storm. As you undoubtedly know, we don't have a great deal of equipment."

The Foxfire snowplow is

actually a small pickup truck with a seven foot plough attached.

"It took several passes to clear each side of road, and they did a great job with minimal equipment," McCue said.

Frusco also commended the police officers for doing all the set up work to provide a backup generator and make ready a shelter, in case of power outages. She also thanked Village Clerk Lisa Kivett, who managed the website and sent weather advisories to residents as needed.

Corso & Miles present Moore Alive

Council members heard a presentation on Moore Alive, a \$150,000 website and marketing initiative designed to attract new talent and entrepreneurs to Moore County.

Pat Corso, Executive Director of Moore County Partners and Progress, and Caleb Miles, President and CEO of the Moore County Convention & Visitors Bureau have been making the rounds of local governments, attempting to secure funding and generate support for the project, which is modeled after a workinthe-

triangle.com, a Wake County economic development project.

Corso told the Council that Moore County cannot rely on the old formula that has fueled its growth: retirees from "up North" selling their home at a large profit and retiring to enjoy golf course

living in the Sandhills. The recession ate into the home values that funded that trend, and the demographics of retirees is changing.

The way to spur economic growth is to change directions, Corso explained.

"We need to bootstrap it (See "Foxfire," p. 21)

Natural History Society

Sandhills Natural History Society will meet Monday, February 24 at 7:00 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

Martin Farley, Professor of Geology at UNC Pembroke, will discuss techniques of extracting fossil pollen from geologic sediment and how the pollen

can be used to determine flora present in past periods.

Eastern NC will be used as an example of climate reconstruction based on fossil pollen from sediments of Carolina Bay lakes. Visitors are welcome!

Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit online at www.sandhillsnature.org

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West End GOP Meeting

There will be a meeting for all Republican party members for the West End District at the home of Ann-Beth Simmons, Precinct chair on Wednesday, February 24 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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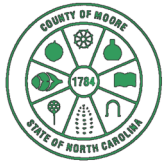
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Solar Farm, Harris Crossroads tower approved

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



A 300-foot cell-phone tower at Harris Crossroads and a commercial-scale solar farm on NC Highway 211 near Candor were both approved during the Thursday, February 6 regular meeting of the Moore County Planning Board.

Harvesting the sun

The five megawatt commercial solar facility will occupy 41.3 acres of a 46.7 acre tract on the south side of NC Highway 211 east of its intersection with Spicewood Road. The land, which lies in front of the Perdue feed mill, is currently used by Sandhills Turf for turf grass production.

Speaking for the property owners — all members of the extended Harris family, Attorney Bill Harris said the lease payments provided from the solar farm would provide family members with more income than is generated from harvesting turf grass. He added that his sister lives on a tract adjacent to the field.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church will host its Annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, from 6 to 7:30 pm, in the church's fellowship hall.

The menu includes pancakes, sausage, harvest apples, juice, coffee and milk. Cost is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. All proceeds will be donated to Linden Lodge, an area group home.

McDonalds Chapel is located at 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen (off Linden Road from Pinehurst). Call Jill McCloy at (910) 692-5094 or Jayne Cummings at (910) 295-5220.

This is the second Harris project to come before the Planning Board, which approved a similar project in November that will be located on Harris-owned land nearby on Samarkand Road.

Both facilities are rated at five megawatts, each producing enough electricity to serve 300 homes over the course of a year. The electricity generated will be sold to Duke Energy.

Harris said his family's land has attracted solar companies because of its proximity to high capacity power lines, which he attributed to the

power needs of the nearby feed mills.

The project involves two companies that have been particularly active in solar energy development in the state: Strata Solar and Argand Energy Builders, each responsible for different aspects of the project.

Low impact operation

Strata engineer Brent Niemann told the Board that the construction and operation of the solar facility would have minimal impact on the land and the surrounding area.

"We don't grade sites," Niemann said, explaining that the company instead uses logging nets to provide temporary construction roadways, so that no impervious surface is added to the site.

The project will use 576 racks to support the solar panels, the tops of which will be approximately nine feet off the ground. Niemann explained that the racks are driven into the ground

mechanically, requiring minimal soil disturbance.

The fixed solar panels will be tilted to the south at 20 to 25 degrees.

Minor excavation will be required to install underground wiring connecting the panels to one of six inverters and to connect to the power grid. Niemann said all wiring will be underground until the point of connection to

(See "Planning," p. 24)

Spaghetti Supper

West End United Methodist Church will host a Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, March 1, 5:00 – 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, desert and a drink. Takeout 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.



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Guild lowers dues, pushes for new members

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Ed Hill, the new President of the Seven Lakes Area Business Guild, hopes to grow the Guild's membership while building on the successful string of community events the Guild has held over the past two years and continuing to raise money to fund improvements to the streets and common areas in the Business Village.

In pursuit of that first goal, the Guild has lowered its annual dues from \$150 to \$100.

"I believe we have roughly 150 businesses in Seven Lakes," Hill told *The Times*, "and not all of them are members of the Guild. We want to make it easier for them to join."

Hill, a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones, is a native Seven Laker. His parents built the third home on Lake Echo in Seven Lakes North. Natives of Hendersonville and Salisbury, they met as students at NC State.

"They toured Seven Lakes looking for the right lot in the back of a pickup truck," said Hill, who attended Elementary and Middle School at West End and then went to Pinecrest for High School. He followed in his parents footsteps and graduated from NC State.

Hill recalls fondly life as a kid in in Seven Lakes — and, in particular, "all these great functions the community used to have to bring people together. We used to have parties on the lake," he remembered. "Folks who moved here as adults in the early days will remember the big events that the community threw — that's why they moved here."

Hill sees the Summer Concert Series, Meet The Merchants, Chili Cook Offs, and other Guild-sponsored events as an extension of that drive to bring all of Seven Lakes together as one community.

"This isn't just a retirement community anymore, and it isn't just a family community," Hill told *The Times*. "It's a diverse community, and we want to find things we can do to bring folks from all over the community together."

As an example of the potential for Guild-sponsored events to not only bring the community together — but to bring in potential customers and potential residents from outside Seven Lakes, Hill cited the wildly successful McKenzie's Mill concert last Summer, which brought an estimated 800 concert-goers to the Business Village.

This year, the Guild has a

number of events already penciled on the calendar, including;

- The Blaiseing Spirit Benefit on Sunday, March 2.
- Meet the Merchants later in the Spring.
- A "Progressive Dinner," that will give residents an opportunity to visit a number of area businesses.
- The Summer Open Air Concert Series.
- A Chili Cook Off or Fall Festival.

Hill told *The Times* that other ideas are welcome.

A key function of the Guild has always been to raise money to try to repair the substandard streets in the Business Village, as well as make other improvements. Unlike the residential areas of Seven Lakes, the Business Village lots were sold without the creation of a landowners association to maintain common areas.

"We would like to raise enough money to not just fix potholes, but so that we could pave the roads," Hill said. "We don't want to see the community crumble. We want to see it thrive."

The Guild also offers a place

for local business owners and employees to network. The Guild's monthly meetings bring Guild members together for that purpose, as well as for business-oriented guest speakers and presentations — for example, on effective advertising, or the use of social networks.

Another goal that Hill shared with *The Times* is making the wider community more aware of the Guild's website and Facebook page.

Businesses interested in learning more about the Guild can contact Hill at 910-295-0307 or at Edward.Hill@edwardjones.com.

Danny Bowers of Lake House Bar & Grill serves as the Guild Vice President this

year, and Cheryl Darwell of Cruise Planners is Secretary. Darwell may be contacted at cdarwell@cruiseplanners.com or at 910-673-7245.



Ed Hill

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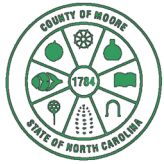
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SLLA candidates respond to landowner questions

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



It takes some moxie to run for and serve on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Direc-

tors. Candidates Paul Chavez, Mary Farley, Sandy Sackmann, and Chuck Leach spent a hour on Wednesday, February 5 being peppered with questions about Association policy and direction.

The occasion was the SLLA Candidates' Night, moderated

by *Seven Lakes Times* Publisher Greg Hankins, who commended the four candidates for stepping forward: "These folk are brave enough not only to sit up here, but are brave enough to endure four years on the Board. I have been covering the com-

munity for sixteen years now. Working on the board is not an easy job. Anyone who has served on the Board will tell you that. It is a statement of their love and dedication to the community for them to run."

During the meeting the

candidates, provided brief biographies and explained why they are running for the Board.

The audience submitted written questions to be asked by the moderator.

You'll find our report below.

Paul Chavez



Paul Chavez

Paul Franklin Chavez is a rarity in Seven Lakes — a native Moore Countian. He graduated from Southern Pines High School in 1962 and was drafted into the armed forces the following year. That service would evolve into a twenty year career. A "crypto technician," Chavez worked on every major piece of crypto equipment in the Army's inventory.

Chavez married Nancy Garrison, of West End, and they had two sons Paul H. and Carl. Chavez began his second career as a civilian employee for the US Army in crypto, which eventually led to becoming a computer specialist.

The family moved to Seven Lakes in 2000. "I told my wife and son that I wanted to buy a tractor and move to a place that had water," Chavez said. He got one of the two.

(See "Chavez," p. 26)

Mary Farley

SLLA Board Candidate Mary Farley traveled the world to retire in Seven Lakes. Farley was born in Wiesbaden-Bierstadt, West Germany in 1945. She graduated from the Wiesbaden School of Business in 1962 with a major in retail sales and marketing.

Mary and Jerry Farley, a United States Air Force [USAF] Command Chief Master Sergeant (Retired), have been married for almost fifty years. While in the USAF, they were assigned to numerous bases. Mary supported her husband and family during the moves as an active volunteer. Stationed in Hawaii, she was elected President of the Hickam Air Force Base Hawaii Wives Club for 1988-1990 and was the first recipient of the "Heart of Hickman" volunteer award.

When Jerry Farley retired, Mary

(See "Farley," p. 26)



Mary Farley

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- 106 Butterfly Ct.** — Waterfront with bulkhead and docks. Awesome view! **\$299,000**
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- 410 Sawgrass Rd.** — in Eagle Springs 1.5 acres with septic and well! **REDUCED to \$13,000**

Several Carolina Equestrian Lots —
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Chuck Leach

Charles (Chuck) Leach currently serves on the SLLA Board. He has had responsibility for the Facilities and Grounds Committee and told landowners gathered at the Wednesday, February 5 Candidates' Night that he hopes to continue in that position.

"I would like to stay where I am," he replied, when asked which job on the Board appealed to him. "I have had three years in electrical

schooling; and, at one time, I was thinking of going into the electrical business."

"A newer amenity that should not be forgotten is the debris site," Leach added. "It is the second most loved amenity."

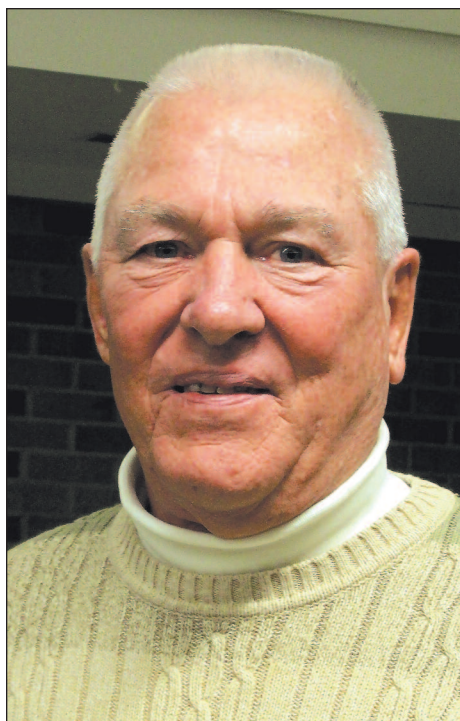
Leach and his wife Jane have been married for forty-six years. They built their home in Seven Lakes in 1998 and became year-round residents in 2005.

"For that reason alone, I need to get back on this Board," Leach laughed. "My wife says we need some separation."

Leach was an educator for much of his life. Beginning in the classroom, he taught elementary, middle, and high school. In 1976, he earned his Master of Science Degree in School Administration and was hired as an Assistant Principal in Sparta, New Jersey. Leach worked as principal for thirteen years before being appointed as Director of Curriculum and Staff Development for the Sparta Township Public Schools.

Leach chaired The Sparta Youth Development Commission, a program nationally recognized as a Model Preventative Drug and Alcohol Community Program. In 1988, the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly recognized Leach for his service to the children of Sparta.

(See "Leach," p. 25)



Chuck Leach

Sandy Sackmann

Of the four candidates standing for election to the SLLA Board of Directors, Sandy Sackmann has lived in Seven Lakes the longest. She and her husband John left jobs in Ohio to move to Seven Lakes to raise their children.

"In 1980, my husband John and I, and our two daughters, began to vacation at Seven Lakes," Sackmann said during the Wednesday, February 5 Candidates' Night. In 1985, we decided that we would prefer to have our children grow up in a small community."

"When we first arrived, we worked at Seven Lakes Country Club," she said. Sandy worked in the Pro Shop and John served as business manager. While teaching in Findlay Ohio, Sandy had earned her master's degree in education at Bowling Green State University.

"After a year at the Pro Shop, I missed teaching and applied and was accepted to teach at Aberdeen Middle School. After twenty-six years of middle school teaching, I was encouraged to go to Pinecrest [High School], where I spent my last fifteen years of teaching. I also was the golf coach at Pinecrest for the men's and women's teams."

After forty-one years of teaching, Sackmann retired in 2012.

"I guess I decided run for the Board because of my love of our

community and the number of years that I have lived here," Sackmann said.

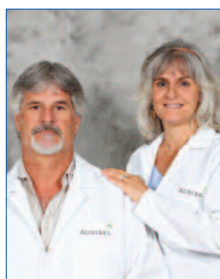
"I would like to see things continue to progress. I don't have a particular agenda because I haven't had time to become active with the Board. My primary focus is in helping to maintain the quality of life we have in our community."

Recognizing the importance of first
(See "Sackmann," p. 25)



Sandy Sackmann

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Filing begins for County & State offices

Monday, February 10, marked the first day that candidates could file for those County and State offices that will be up for grabs on Election Day this November.

And it was a busy day at the Moore County Board of Elections office in Carthage, with plenty of office seekers on hand to pay the filing fee and get their name on the ballot.

Three seats are open on the Moore County Board of Commissioners this year, and in only one case has the current officeholder indicated a desire to hold onto his seat.

District II Commissioners Otis Ritter told *The Times* that he plans to file on February 20. He will face Seven Lakes West resident Louis Gregory in the May Repub-

lican primary. Gregory was on hand on opening day to file for the office.

Larry Caddell and Jimmy Melton, the Commissioners from District I and District IV, have announced that they will step down in November. Oscar Romine and former Clerk of Superior Court Catherine Graham have filed for Caddell's seat. Jerry Daeke is, thus far, the only contender for Melton's.

Romine, Graham, and Deake are Republicans.

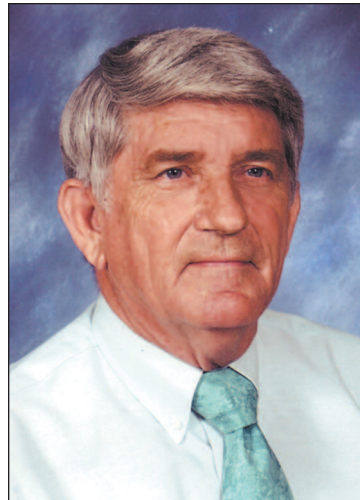
Four seats on the Moore County Board of Education
(Continued on page 9)



Neil Godfrey,
Moore County Sheriff



Steve Adams,
GOP Candidate for Sheriff



Otis Ritter,
Commissioner, District II



Louis Gregory, District II
Commissioner Candidate



Catherine Graham, District I
Commissioner Candidate



District IV Commissioner Candidate Jerry Daeke, who was
accompanied by his wife, Carol, to filing day

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VOTE FOR CHUCK - FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2014

Many incumbents will face challengers

(Continued from page 8)

are in contention, including the District III seat currently held by Charles Lambert and the at-large seats of Ed Dennison, Enola Lineberger, and Dale Frye.

Pam Thompson, who previously served on the Board, has filed for Lambert's seat, and Lambert has filed to keep it.

Of the at large incumbents, only Dennison has filed, along with challengers Daniel P.

Armstrong and Sue McKenzie Black, both of West End.

Clerk of Court Susan Hicks will face a challenger in the Republican primary: Doyle Markham of Vass. Both had filed at press time.

And Sheriff Neil Godfrey will face off against Steve Adams of Southern Pines in the May GOP Primary.

Register of Deeds Judy Martin has filed for re-election but, as yet, has no challenger.



Oscar Eldridge accompanied Clerk of Court Candidate Doyle G. Markham to the filing, along with campaign manager Steve Talbert and supporter Thomas Israel



Judy Martin,
Register of Deeds



Susan Hicks,
Clerk of Superior Court

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Lent at Chapel in the Pines

The community is welcome to join the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines on Sunday, March 9, for a Lenten study called "What Wondrous Love: Holy Week in Word and Art."

This six-session adventure will be held on six consecutive Sunday mornings through April 13 and will be facilitated by pastors Reverend Paul James and Reverend Fran Stark.

Each Sunday, they will explore an event in the life of Christ during the week before his death and resurrection. The pastors will discuss scripture from all four gospels as the group will be guided by video commentary from several members of the faculty at Chandler School of Theology at Emory University.

Each biblical text will be illustrated by the beautiful artwork of John August Swanson and artists from the Chapel will comment on their interpretation of his work. Finally, the group will sing and delve into the background and lyrics of a hymn that will make the scripture come alive.

Each session will be a stand-alone unit, so there is no need to be concerned that you cannot attend all six. The community is welcome to attend one session or as many as you are able.

The Chapel in the Pines is an interdenominational chapel that welcomes all people to worship God with them each Sunday morning at 9:00 am. A time of coffee and fellowship follows in the fellowship hall at 10:00 am.

The Lenten study What Wondrous Love: Holy Week in Word and Art will follow at 10:30 am, March 9 through April 13. Childcare provided. Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.



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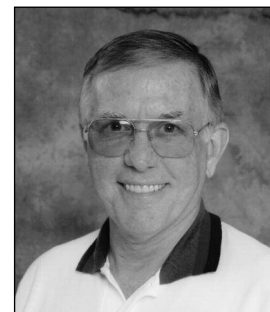
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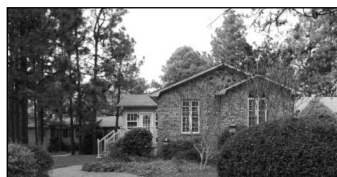
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The Wild Side

The Eastern Box Turtle is always at home

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

Shelter, abode, home, dwelling, casa, residence, digs, and pad — we humans put a lot of thought, work, and expense into our lodging. But a two-thousand square foot stick frame house with all the creature comforts — and a thirty-year mortgage — can dampen the wanderlust of the well intentioned globetrotter.

There's a grassroots movement toward tiny homes: a four hundred square foot retreat with just enough room for the essentials. Some folks hit the road pulling their home behind — freedom as

far as the gas tank and asphalt can carry you. Freer yet is a sturdy backpack with tent and supplies — but the pace is considerably slower.

No matter how hard we try, we mere humans will never be as evolved as a turtle — Earth's most complete being. With little worry of seeking shelter, the Eastern Box Turtle can live more than a century.

A Moore County box turtle needs only a healthy diet of mushrooms, worms, and grubs, a little salad on the side, and a nearby water source. Though the box turtle is a walker, not a swimmer, it enjoys getting its feet wet

and prefers a perennial water source.

The box turtle is equipped with its own innate GPS. Biologists with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission tracked one box turtle with a radio transmitter in the Sandhills Gamelands.

Mostly, this turtle was content to hang out near a clear, cool stream. Then, one day, it hit the road. It was clear he was not just out for stroll, as he hiked the sandy upland ridges for roughly two miles.

The turtle's destination was a blackberry patch. The turtle arrived just as the ripe blackberries were dropping from the brambles. He stayed and

feasted for two weeks, before the long trek home. Remarkably, the turtle knew where to find the blackberries and when they were ripe for eating.

Annual blackberry pilgrimages aside, box turtles tend to stick close to home. But "home" is a territory encompassing at least several acres and sometimes as many as to eighty acres, depending on the quality of the habitat.

In the dry Sandhills, an Eastern Box Turtle has a bigger range, and territories can overlap slightly, allowing for the rare conjugal visit.

You don't have to look under the hood to check the sex of the turtle. Just look it straight in the eye. If the box turtle's eye is red, then it is male; if yellow brown, it's a female. It can take from five to ten years for a female

(See "Turtle," p. 20)



No, this red-eyed box turtle hasn't been hitting the booze — the red eye is a dead giveaway that this is a male turtle, probably on the prowl looking for a lady turtle.

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In memory of . . .

Grace Louise Starwald, 85, of Seven Lakes, died Sunday, February 16, at Manor Care, Pinehurst.

Mrs. Starwald was born in Newark, New Jersey, she later lived in Buffalo New York. A 1949 graduate of Syracuse University School of Education, she became an elementary school teacher. She first taught kindergarten and first grade classes at the Green Street Friends School in Philadelphia and later at schools in St. Thomas, BVI and near Rochester, New York.

She married Charles O. Starwald, a high school coach and also an avid golfer. Their later golfing adventures took them to courses at St. Andrews, Scotland and in Europe.

In 1980, they retired to Seven Lakes.

Survivors include her husband Charles; sister, Dorothy A. Aberger of Williamsville, NY; brother, James D. Dilts, of Baltimore, MD; and several nieces and nephews.

A remembrance and celebration of her life will be held at 2 pm Saturday, February 22, at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

Arthur R Dykeman Major, United States Marine Corps, (Retired), 99, of Seven Lakes died on Saturday, February 15, at Quail Haven Village, Pinehurst.

He was born in Seattle, Washington son to the late

Arthur Dykeman Sr. and Helen McIlvaine.

He was a veteran of WWII and Korea serving with the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Dykeman retired from the USMC after serving 25 years. After retiring from his military service, Mr. Dykeman became an engineer for LTV Vought for twenty years.

He was an avid golfer in his earlier years and was also known to spend hours in his shop woodworking; with his beloved cat "Olivia" watching and always by his side. Mr. Dykeman also authored the book "My Marine Corps" which is filled with the stories from his military career.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, February 22, at 3:00 pm at Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes with military honors.

Visitation will follow the service from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The family will have a private interment at a later date.

Mr. Dykeman is survived by his wife of 58 years, Anne Tuttle Dykeman; son: Robert G Dykeman (Alethea) of Washington; daughters: Karen Kratz (Alan) of Lillington; Donna S. Harrell of Michigan; his grandchildren; and his cousin, Henry Meacham (Patricia) of Washington.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to The Wounded Warriors Project, PO Box 758517,

Topeka, KS, 66675 or Seven Lakes EMS, 969 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is serving the family.

Marilyn Archey Evans, 90, of Adamstown, Maryland (formerly of Seven Lakes), died of natural causes on Thursday, February 6. She was born in Rochester, NY.

Mrs. Evans attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she met her husband William H. Evans. She and Mr. Evans resided in Florham Park, NJ for 35 years before retiring to Seven Lakes, from 1985 until Mr. Evans' passing in 2005. Since that time, Mrs. Evans has been a resident of Buckingham's Choice in Adamstown.

Survivors include her children, Sandra J. Morse of Frederick, MD; Richard B. Evans MD of Skaneateles, NY; and Peggy Evans White of Darnestown, MD; family members Barbara Coggeshall Evans of Skaneateles, NY; Mark R. White of Darnestown, NY; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service celebrating Mrs. Evans' life was held on February 15 at Buckingham's Choice. Interment will follow at a later date at Chapel of the Pines, Seven Lakes.

Sheila Marion (Meador) Jones, 87, of Seven Lakes West, died Wednesday, February 5.

Born in Brooklyn, New

York, she began was a life of service, beginning with her education in the Cadet Nursing Corp at Russell Sage College in Troy, New York, leading to a twenty-nine year career as a registered nurse culminating with her retirement as an Operating Room Supervisor at Putnam Hospital in Carmel, New York.

She was preceded in death by her parents Aubrey and Anna Meader and brother Kenneth Meader.

Survivors include her husband of 68 years, Harold Leroy Jones; children Craig Jones and wife Donna; Brian Jones and wife Jeanie; Mark Jones and wife Mary; Lisa Rowe and husband Ken and Kristen Jones-Wright; her grandchildren and great-

(Continued on page 13)

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Mrs. Martin comes to Seven Lakes from Richmond Family Medicine, where she had been a provider since March 2008. Her approach to wellness and the special needs of women define her as a practitioner and keep her patients, even those living in Rockingham, coming back. As a new resident of Seven Lakes, where she now lives with her husband and two sons, she provides the community with an excellent nurse practitioner.

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In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 12)
grandchildren.

A Mass celebrating her life will be held at a later date at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pinehurst.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are requested to be made in memory of Sheila Jones to Seven Lakes EMS, 969 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

Sherrill Bradford Rush, 82, of Southern Pines died February 10, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Rush was a long time resident of Southern Pines and retired as a window clerk from the Southern Pines Post Office.

A graveside committal service was held Tuesday, February 11 at West End Cemetery.

A memorial service to celebrate his life was held Wednesday, February 12 at First Baptist Church of Southern Pines. The Dr. David Helms officiated.

He was preceded in death

by his parents Thomas Theodore and Agnes Bailey Rush, brother Theodore (Ted) Rush and sisters-in-law Margaret Byrd Rush and Frances Brewer Rush.

Survivors include his wife

of 60 years Betty Baughn Rush; daughters Sherilyn Harris (Ricky) and Tama Rush; sons Greg Rush (Pat) and Wesley Rush (Tammy) all of West End; grandchildren; great-grandchildren;

many nieces, nephews and a large extended family and friends.

The family request memorial contributions be made in Mr. Sherrill's name to the sanctuary renovation fund

at First Baptist Church, 200 E. New York Ave, Southern Pines, NC 28387 or to the charity of your choice.

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

World Day of Prayer

Everyone is welcome to join in the World Day of Prayer at the Chapel in the Pines on Friday, March 7 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The doors of the sanctuary will be wide open for anyone in the community to spend as much time as they would like in silent prayer. Every thirty minutes the silence will be interrupted as scripture is read and one of the pastors leads in a brief, guided Christian meditation.

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

The Chapel is located at 581 Seven Lakes Drive.

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Spence responds to new law on teacher tenure

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



A new state law will offer one quarter of teachers across North

Carolina a four-year contract with \$500 pay raise in each of those years, if they agree to give up career status — commonly called “tenure.” Local school district superintendents are charged with identifying the teachers to be offered the contracts. The same legislation ends tenure for all North Carolina teachers in 2018.

Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence briefed the Board of Education on his plans for handling this task during the Board’s regular Monday, February 10 meeting, while making clear his disagreement with the new policy.

“The is the law,” Spence said, “and, as Superintendent, I have sworn to uphold the law. Regardless of how we feel about the law, we should uphold the law. But

this should not be construed by any member of the community as expressing support for the legislation.”

Teachers groups in the state have objected to the law, and the Guilford County Board of Education has asked the General Assembly to rescind the law and instructed its Superintendent to file suit to stop it.

Spence said an eligibility questionnaire will be sent to all certified staff — which includes classroom teachers, as well as media specialists and other personnel — to gauge their interest in being offered the four-year contract and associated raise. Working with the subset of teachers who are interested, Spence said he will use two years of performance data to trim the list, if necessary, before bringing a recommendation to the Board.

The School Board is required to review the Superintendent’s recommendations and approve the list of teachers who are offered contracts.

“We will adhere to the law and allow the Board to defend

its decision making — in a legal sense,” Spence said. “We are prepared to move forward with this process. We will begin immediately sending out the consideration forms. There is pending litigation. If a temporary injunction is granted, we won’t move ahead.”

“We will build the list and wait,” he continued, “so we are prepared that there is a process in place to move forward by the required date.” The legislation requires contracts to be offered no later than June 30.

“I think Aaron [Spence] has worked hard on creating a fair process,” Board member Ed Dennison said.

Other Business

In other business during their Monday, February 10 regular meeting, members of the Moore County Board of Education:

- Approved a Master Facilities Plan for the school system. [See story on page 1.]

- Heard from Board member Bruce Cunningham that a forty-member team is working as a grading task force, re-evaluating the way MCS awards honors, for example, naming a valedictorian. Cunningham noted that, under the current system, honors can be determined by differences of one-hundredth of a percentage point.

- Approved changes to thirty MCS policies, which Board member Laura Lang said were largely necessary because of changes in state legislation.

- Heard and approved a quarterly financial update

from Chief Financial Officer Mike Griffin.

- Applauded Growing to Greatness Award recipients Peggy Overton, a Kindergarten and First Grade teacher for eighteen years at West End Elementary; Kinney Hussey, custodian at Highfalls Elementary, Shandy Shingleton, a parent who volunteers in the Media Center at Vass-Lakeview Elementary; and Shannen Burns, a Union Pines High School Senior who is a section leader in the marching band, manager of the wrestling team, a National Honor Society

(See “Spence,” p. 15)



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Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Minestrone Soup ♥ Baked Ziti Dinner	4 White Bean Chicken Chili Chicken Enchiladas Dinner	5 Mushroom Bisque Pot Roast Dinner	6 New England Clam Chowder Basil Shrimp with Orzo Dinner	7 Lentil Soup ♥ Two-Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥
10 Tomato Basil Soup ♥ Baked Spaghetti Dinner	11 Split Pea with Ham Soup Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	12 Corn Chowder Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	13 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Tilapia Scampi Style Dinner	14 Curried Carrot Soup ♥ Mexican Casserole Dinner
17 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Spinach Ravioli with Marinara Sauce ♥	18 Goldie's Chili Shepherd's Pie Dinner	19 Broccoli Spinach Soup ♥ Pork with Apples Dinner	20 New England Clam Chowder Shrimp Creole Dinner ♥	21 Vegetable Soup ♥ Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥
24 Tortellini Soup Pasta with Ratatouille Sauce Dinner ♥	25 Black Bean Soup Chicken with Tomatoes & Peppers Dinner	26 Greens, Beans, & Sausages Soup ♥ Smothered Pork Chops Dinner	27 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Tilapia Florentine Dinner ♥	28 Chicken Noodle Soup ♥ Italian Meatloaf Dinner
31 Spinach & Rice Soup Spinach Manicotti Dinner	MAKE SURE WE MAKE ENOUGH! Order in advance to make sure we have plenty on hand to fill your order.			

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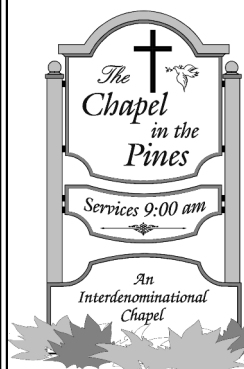
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February 23rd – Rev. Paul James
“Transforming Water into Wine”
(Matthew 2:1-2; 3:13-17; John 2:1-11)
Guest Soloist, Glenda Clendenin

March 2nd – Rev. Fran Stark
“Mountain Climbing”
(Matthew 17:1-9)
Chapel Choir

Rev. Paul James
Chapel Minister

Rev. Fran Stark
Associate Minister

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Pate's Painting are B-ball champs

Pate's Painting won the Winter Youth Basketball Tournament 7-8 year old division held at North Moore High School on Saturday, February 8.

Front Row: Nathan Pate,

Henry Rust, Azir Gillespie, Weston Thomson

Back Row: Coach Scotty Pate, Parker Wilson, Christian Scott, Daniel Edwards, Emilio Najm, Colby Wallace, and Coach Bobby Edwards



Spence

(Continued from page 14)

inductee, and a tireless volunteer.

- Heard a presentation from Dr. Eric Porter on the Sandhills Leadership Academy, which allows teachers with an interest in becoming principals to intern for a year with a principals in counties throughout the greater Sandhills area. Current Moore County teachers involved include: Julia Brown, Clarkie Hussey, Shaun Krencicki, and Jennifer Wiley. Superintendent Spence noted that MCS has hired all of its Leadership Academy graduates as either principals or assistant principals.

- Heard in public comment from Jeff Clay, who urged the Board to develop plans to tighten security at Moore County Schools, denying access to anyone who has not been screened.

- Also heard from Ernie

Hussey, who urged the Board to delay their decision on the possible closing of Elise Middle School in order to hold a public forum at Elise.

- Approved changes to the school calendar to make up for snow days, as presented by Community Relations Advisor Tim Lussier. [This was before the big snow storm and more snow days last week.]

- Heard a presentation on registration for high school courses for the 2014-2015 school year, which will be handled online through the Powerschool web application.

- Approved a policy for Board travel.

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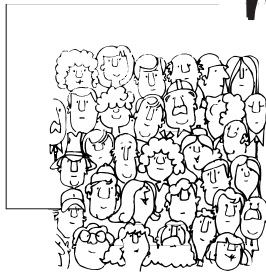
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- **"Wednesdays with Friends"** – Opening Reception, 6 pm to 8 pm. The Artists League of the Sandhills will be hosting their show from through March 21, in the Exchange Street Gallery of Fine Art, 129 Exchange Street, Aberdeen.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 12 Years a Slave – 7:30 pm, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Rogers and Hammerstein's South Pacific** – 7:30 pm, on stage at Sandhills Community College, Owens Auditorium. Reserved seating. Tickets \$18. Tickets can be purchased online through "ETIX" www.sandhills.edu. There is an ETIX surcharge if tickets are bought online. Tickets can be purchased at the Boyd Library on the SCC campus, 9 am until 5 pm Mondays through Fridays (no surcharge applies for tickets purchased in the Boyd Library).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- **Indoor Yard Sale** – 9:00 am to 2 pm, free admission at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. Proceeds benefit Youth Mission Trip and Summer Camp. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Lego Build Saturday** – 11 am to 1 pm. Kids come ready to build! The library's collection of Legos and K'nex will be provided. Moore County Library, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage.
- **Turkey Shoot** – Alec Creek Farm, Jackson Springs at 7 pm, (weather permitting) through March 1. 12 Gauge Shot Guns only. Prizes. 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** – 12 Years a Slave – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Rogers and Hammerstein's South Pacific** – 7:30 pm, on stage at Sand-

hills Community College, Owens Auditorium. Reserved seating. Tickets \$18. Tickets can be purchased online through "ETIX" www.sandhills.edu or be purchased at the Boyd Library on the SCC campus, 9 am until 5 pm Mondays



through Fridays (no surcharge applies for tickets purchased in the Boyd Library).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- **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.
- **Piedmont Bridal Show** – 1 to 4 pm. Wedding expo will feature caterers, florists, photographers, bridal stores, cake makers and other area professionals to assist in planning weddings and other special events. Prize drawings for brides.
- **EXPLORERS! Ministry for Children at West End United Methodist Church** – 5 pm, Explorers children meet on Sunday nights for school age kids, Grades K-5. Children will have a time of learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – show 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *The Gibson Brothers*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.
- **WEUMC Youth Group** – 6

Admission is free. Brides may pre-register at www.piedmontbridalshow.com. Expo held at Cole Auditorium, Richmond Community College, 1042 W. Hamlet Ave, Hamlet. 910-331-9965 for more information.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 12 Years a Slave – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Rogers and Hammerstein's South Pacific** – 3:30 pm matinee, on stage at Sandhills Community College, Owens Auditorium. Reserved seating. Tickets \$18.

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. Youth Ministry led by Mandy Allen, Youth 6th – 12th grades.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Republican Precinct Meeting** – 6 pm, meeting for all Republican party members for the West End District at the home of AnnBeth Simmons. RSVP 910-638-5346. Directions provided.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm meeting at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Martin Farley, Professor of Geology at UNC Pembroke, will discuss techniques of extracting fossil pollen from geologic sediment and how the pollen can be used to determine flora present in past periods. Visitors welcome. Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit online at www.sandhillsnature.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven

Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Covenant Preparatory School** – 9:15 am, hosting an open house. Email covenantprep@hotmail.com for details or visit www.covenantprep.com. Childcare provided.
- **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, Seven Lakes. Weekly gathering for individuals who are in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Facilitators: Rev. Fran Stark and Amy Natt, M.S. No cost for participation. Contact Fran Stark 910-673-5493.
- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. Children age 3 to



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5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- **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.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Save Our Sandhills: Gasland Part II movie** – 7 pm, Josh Fox's new Fracking documentary, at Congregational Church of Pinehurst, 895 Linden Road, Pinehurst. Free. Following the film, a speaker from Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League will discuss fracking developments in NC. Betty Thomas (919) 754-7255.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- **Game Night at Seven Lakes Country Club** – Come after dinner for an evening of fun and games.

Play canasta, bridge, dominoes, chicken foot or another game of your choice from 6:30 to 9 pm. Cash bar and snacks only. No reservations needed. Non-members always welcome.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

- **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.
- **Growing Vegetables in Containers** – 10 am until Noon, Residents of the Sandhills will have the opportunity to learn all about vegetable gardening in containers. Jan Leitschuh will lead a session on Growing Vegetables in containers at the Sandhills Community College, Steed Hall Stephens Laboratory. Attendees will go home with a five gallon and a one gallon container of vegetable plantings. Cost \$20 Sandhills Horticultural Society members, \$25 for non-members. Call Tricia Mabe at (910) 695-3882.
- **Lego Build Saturday** – 11 am to 1 pm. Kids come ready to build! The library's collection of Legos and K'nex will be provided. Moore County Library, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage.
- **Spaghetti Supper** – at West End United Methodist 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Sponsored by West End United Methodist Men in the Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets \$8 each, include salad, spaghetti, desert and a drink. Takeout

is also available. Tickets can be purchased from anyone in the United Methodist Men's Group or at the door.

- **Turkey Shoot** – Alec Creek Farm, Jackson Springs at 7 pm, (weather permitting) through March 1. *12 Gauge Shot Guns only*. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or cash. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

- **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.
- **EXPLORERS! Ministry for Children at West End United Methodist Church** – 5 pm, Explorers children meet on Sunday nights for school age kids, Grades K-5. Children will have a time of learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – show 6:45 pm, doors open 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music

guest: Brett Harris. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

- **WEUMC Youth Group** – 6 to 7:30 pm, West End United Methodist Church Youth Group invites all youth to join them as they meet in the Youth Room. Youth 6th – 12th grades.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

- **McDonalds Chapel Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** – 6 to 7:30 pm, in the church's fellowship hall. Pancakes, sausage, harvest apples, juice, coffee and milk. Cost \$5/person or \$10/family. Proceeds donated to Linden Lodge. McDonalds Chapel, 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen (off Linden Road from Pinehurst) Jill McCloy (910) 692-5094 or Jayne Cummings (910) 295-5220.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

- **Ash Wednesday**
- **Rosary at Our Lady of**

the Americas Church – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.

- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – 7:30 pm, "The Search for Josef Mengele" will be discussed by Dr. David Marwell, Director of the Museum of Jewish History in New York. Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst. Free. 910-245-3132.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

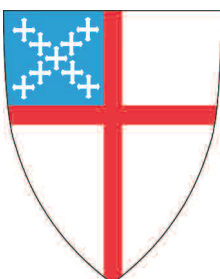
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry for seniors. Fellowship, devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 2 pm, Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall. The "Clowns from First Health" will be sharing stories and experiences. The clowns bring cheer to patients at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. Come and share in the fun. Refreshments served. All are welcome
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949.

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Children's Chapel - 9:45 am
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Tuesday Mornings

Intercessory Prayer
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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

ning Director Debra Ensminger, Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter, and Commissioner Larry Caddell and Nick Picerno assured the crowd.

"There is nothing in this code harmful to you or your rights on your property," Hayter said.

The UDO combines three existing ordinances governing zoning, the subdivision of land, and flood damage prevention. Hayter explained that one of the goals, in creating the UDO, was to simplify those ordinances.

In pursuit of that goal, five zoning districts were eliminated and the parcels in those districts assigned to other districts. The result was 266 rezonings. Ensminger said her office mailed out 1148 certified letters and posted 215 signs throughout the County alerting property owners to the changes.

A four-year process

The process of creating the UDO began in January 2010, Ensminger said, and included eighteen work sessions from February 2011 to January 2014 in which the Planning Board received feedback on the document. Two of those work sessions were specifically held to allow owners of properties targeted for rezoning to provide input.

The Planning Board held a public hearing in 2012 and voted unanimously to forward the UDO to the Commissioners for approval. The Commissioners decided to delay approval of the UDO pending the completion of the County's new Land Use Plan, which was being rewritten in a parallel process.

Both state law and personnel on the Planning Board changed in the meantime, so the Planning Board undertook another review of the UDO in January 2014, before again unanimously recommended approval by the Commissioners.

Since that approval Ensminger has met individually with the Commissioners to brief them on the document.

That generated some minor changes, she explained during the meeting. Rules governing the size and use of personal workshops built adjacent to homes were reduced or eliminated.

In the section governing cellphone towers, the Planning Board had provided for a larger setback from inhabited dwellings on adjacent properties than from uninhabited land. After consulting with the NC School of Government, that section was removed. Instead cell towers must be set back from property lines a distance equal to the height of the tower.

Few Comments, Mostly questions

Far more citizens signed up to speak at the Commissioners' hearing on the UDO than actually spoke. Many, when their time came, said their questions had been answered in the presentation by Hayter and Ensminger.

During the Planning Board's review of the UDO, the section on cell towers received a great deal of attention, partly because of nine applications filed by American Tower Company, many of them for 300-foot towers near Moore County's Scenic Byways, NC Highway 705 and NC Highway 24/27.

Originally, the County's ordinance required that such towers be either of a stealth design or placed at least one mile from Scenic Byways. The Planning Board decided instead to treat all roads in the County equally, eliminated the special provision for Scenic Byways, and instead applied a 500-foot setback from all public and private roads listed in the County's database.

Mary Holmes Mahan, representing the Seagrave Potter's Association, asked the Commissioners to restore protec-

tion for Scenic Byways.

"These eighty businesses are the lifeblood of Northwest Moore County and rely heavily on the tourist traffic," she said.

Two other residents of the northern leg of NC Highway 705, Scott Thomas and Brian Monroe, also asked for that protection for scenic byways.

But the Commissioners declined to make that change, showing little interest in allowing aesthetics to trump property rights.

"For the gentleman that says I don't want a cell tower outside my window," Commissioner Nick Picerno said, "well, guess what? Some people don't want a blue house next to them. Some people don't want a light pole out in the front yard. But everyone wants electricity, and

everyone wants to live in a home."

"So," Picerno continued, "be careful what we say we don't want when it's on somebody else's property. Because there's probably something on your property that you don't want somebody else to take away from you. This country was founded on property rights. It's your property. If you're not harming your neighbor, what is the neighbor's right to tell you you can't do it?"

Commissioner Otis Ritter, who has an extensive background in emergency services at both the local and state level, noted that seventy-five percent of calls to the County's 911 call center are from cellphones.

"If you can't make the (See "Commissioners," p. 19)

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 11)

phone ring down there," Ritter said, "then you can't get help. In the upper end of the County, your cellphone makes a pretty good paperweight, and that's about all."

Commissioners will approve Conditional Use Permits

The newly-approved UDO will shift responsibility for final approval of Condition Use Permits [CUPs] from the

Planning Board to the Commissioners.

CUPs are required for a number of uses of land that are permitted in a specific zoning district, but only with certain project-dependent conditions. For example, a solar farm is permitted in the RA-Rural Agricultural District, but only with certain conditions involving fencing, vegetative buffers, etc. The Planning Staff often helps

the applicant for a CUP craft a set of conditions for the use that are appropriate to the project and location.

Previously, most CUPs have been approved by the Planning Board, but Chairman Hayter won the support of other Planning Board members for moving that responsibility from an appointed board to elected officials accountable to the voters.

Other business

In other business during their Tuesday, February 18 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Approved a CUP for a sand mine that will be located on undeveloped land along NC Highway 211 across from Archie Road.

- Approved a change in the Voluntary Agricultural District [VAD] ordinance that allows the VAD Board to meet quar-

terly instead of every other month.

- Approved the closeout of a contract with Atlantic Coast Contractors, Inc. for the Old Town and Lake Pinehurst Sewer Rehabilitation Project. The \$5.1 million project came in \$80,400 under budget.

- Accepted \$68,000 in additional state funding for the County's Day Reporting Center to support substance (See "Commissioners," p. 20)

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UNDER CONTRACT!

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133 SUNSET WAY • 7LN



3/2 WITH WORKSHOP! – \$115,000

106 SCARLET OAK DR • 7LN



3BD, 2.5BA + BONUS – \$164,000

112 CLAY • 7LW



SPACIOUS WATERFRONT! – \$549,900

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106 SIMMONS • 7LW



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

101 HAMPTON CT • 7LS



3 BD + 2.5 BA BRICK – \$210,000

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Turtle

(Continued from page 11)

box turtle to reach sexual maturity.

The male's shell is concave so that it can climb up on the back of the female turtle to mate. The female can lay fertile eggs up to four years after one mating — so those conjugal visits can be few and far between.

The laden female digs a hole in the ground, lays her eggs, and buries them. The depth and humidity determines the sex. The warmer the eggs, the more likely the turtles will be female. Cooler incubation will deliver a hatch of males.

As soon as the eggs are laid, they are vulnerable to predation. Foxes, snakes, hawks, coyotes, feral cats, and raccoons all consider turtle eggs and baby turtles a delicacy. With time the, young turtle's shell will become a tight home, secure against predators.

Mother turtles have no interest in a bunch of pesky kids underfoot. Young turtles leave their mother's territory, to make their own way in the world.

If turtle is unlucky enough to have staked out a territory that is also being staked out by developers, then its future

can be crushed by anything from a Buick to an enthusiastic Border Collie. Given the pace of development in North Carolina, it's not surprising that Eastern Box Turtles are identified in the NC Wildlife Action Plan as a species needing attention.

New homes, new shopping centers, new and expanded roads all shrink the turtle's habitat, placing the species at risk.

Giving a turtle a helping hand across the road in the same direction it is headed can be lifesaving.

But taking it home and releasing it is often devas-

tating. For an Eastern Box Turtle, it's habitat is what truly defines its home. Remove it from its territory,

and it can never go back home.

Gasland, Part II

Gasland Part II, Josh Fox's new Fracking documentary, will be shown Thursday, February 27, 7 pm, at the Congregational Church of Pinehurst, 895 Linden Road, Pinehurst. Admission is free.

The movie is co-sponsored by Save Our Sandhills and the church's Mission, Peace and Justice Team. The film covers the increasing influence of the gas industry, research on environmental

contamination from methane, and global consequences of fracking.

Following the film, a speaker from Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, a group instrumental in passing Anson County's fracking moratorium, will discuss fracking developments in North Carolina.

For more information, call Betty Thomas at (919) 754-7255.

Commissioners

(Continued from page 19)

abuse and cognitive behavior intervention services.

- Heard from County Manager Wayne Vest that the County continues to gather information from MHK, Inc., developer of the Dormie Club

and Pine Forest, regarding the number of full-time jobs that were generated by the Dormie Club project. MHK accepted a grant from the now-defunct NC Rural Economic Development Center contingent up on the creation

of a certain number of jobs, and appears to have fallen short on that pledge. The County has been working to recover some of the grant funds from MHK.

- Appointed Judith Steeder, Theresa Heller, and Judy Snider to the Nursing and Adult Care Home Community Advisory Board.

- Appointed attorney Art Blue to the Courthouse Facilities Advisory Committee.

Literacy Tutors Needed

The Moore County Literacy Council is in need of tutors for their site at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Seven Lakes. Tutors provide one-on-one tutoring for adults who are learning to read, read better and/or speak English. Sessions are held in Seven Lakes on Tuesday evenings between 5 to 7 pm. For more information, please call Pam or Marian at 692-5954.

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Foxfire

(Continued from page 3)

ourselves and make something happen," he said. "Create demand, a new boom, new jobs, and recruit talent."

Corso and Miles hope to have the new Moore Alive website in place by the end of April, so that it can handle traffic generated by the publicity surrounding the US Open.

"This is not just a website," Miles said, explaining that the project will utilize all the tools of digital marketing and search engine optimization.

"This is a Moore County effort," Miles said. "It is about all of Moore County — selling it as a great place to live work and play."

Maintaining the Rural Quality of Moore County

"Where's the end," Councilman McCue asked. "We are going to attract people here, create new businesses, and make something happen — but where is the end?"

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I don't want an outlet mall or a strip mall."

"I like rural North Carolina, and the fact that we are rural is somewhat a strong preference for me. There's the Sandhills Farm to Table movement that helps Moore County to keep agriculture growing. I think it is fantastic. I don't want to lose that."

A key objective is to stabilize property values, Corso explained. He said median home prices are falling in the County.

"The primary goal of the program is to replace ourselves," Corso said, "to make sure the quality of life stays as good."

"I could see areas of Moore County having depopulation in the future," Corso warned. "We might face situation where property values go down and the County either has to cut services or raise taxes — or we can be proactive, get in front of the curve, to do something about it."

McCue said that, as a father, he has observed that good schools are necessary for growth.

"Improving the schools is one thing Moore County could do to help itself," he said. "Good schools attract all kinds."

A Dime will Do

Corso and Miles have had some success finding funding for the Moore Alive project.

Duke Energy pledged \$50,000 in a matching grant. The County Commissioners have indicated they will provide that level of support in the next budget year. Municipalities that contribute will have links on the website.

"We asked the county for \$50,000," Corso said. "Pinehurst has pledged \$25,000 and Southern Pines \$10,000. We are out making our appeals and asking for towns to see the value in this to them. It is about you. We really need financial help. But if you give ten cents you

will be there."

Mayor George Erickson had already done some calculations in preparation for the meeting.

"I put some thoughts together earlier today," he said. "You talked about contributions that have already been made to project. With what has been given it, averages out to forty-five cents per person. At this juncture, forty five cents times our 2012 population equals \$418.50."

"My recommendation is to give them \$425 toward what they are trying to do," Erickson recommended to the Council. "The amount takes in our much smaller population, but it still says we, too, are interested."

Councilwoman Frusco advised that Erickson's proposal be discussed during the Council's Work Session at the end of the month. Noting that two Council members — Steve Durham and Vic Koos — were absent, Frusco

said they should also have a chance to review the material.

Rezoning Approved

The February 18 Foxfire Village Council meeting included a public hearing on the rezoning of just over three acres in Grand Pines and a just under seven acres in Pineland Preserve to RS-40 (Residential Single Family - Watershed). No residents spoke during the hearing.

"We did get applications for three additional homes to be built there in the last week to be reviewed by appearance committee," Mayor Erickson said. "Currently, there are three homes already in there. That area is beginning to be developed."

Developer Pete Mace said he intended to subdivide the seven acres in Pineland Preserve into five lots.

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If it itches . . . scratch it!

I think we, as parents, as a society, just might be getting a tad overprotective. Even our rural kids are becoming citified, when the great outdoors are groomed trails, raked beaches, and soccer fields.

Even worse, our kids have forgotten how to itch.

When I was seven I had a tick holed up in my belly button. Mamma just couldn't get to it. Tweezers, needle nose pliers, Vaseline, a hot match to its behind — nothing worked.

The party line was buzzing with remedies. It was my Aunt Avis who came to the rescue, with a salve made of chicken fat, ashes, and a few other choice ingredients —

plus a pot of chicken and dumplings. She had that tick backed out in no time. Before I knew it, I was at the table enjoying a big bowl of

Stirring the Pot

Ellen Marcus

dumplings and a glass of iced tea.

A tick in the belly button is really a whole different experience. It is like you itch from the inside out. I remember scratching my back to try and reach that itch. It

just came at me from all sides.

Itching, stinging, burning, sweating, and scratching used to be a rite of passage.

There was no bug repellent, sunscreen, or safety padding. Mamma said after lunch, "I don't want to see you until supper time." And she didn't.

Out of sight was out of mind. If we were within hollering distance, we were way too close to being called back for chores — real chores: hauling hay, push mowing, picking peas, canning tomatoes, weeding the gardens, feeding the cows, clearing the branch, cutting brush, and shoveling the drainage line.

Let lose to run wild and

free we were always at risk for pin worms, hook worms, ringworms, ticks, seed ticks, dog ticks, hitchhikers, red bugs, tag-alongs, grass burs, stick-tights, bull nettles, leaches, horse flies, yellow jackets, bees, red wasps, hornets, berry vines, stickers, copperheads, cottonmouths, water moccasins, coral snakes, timber, diamond-back, and pygmy rattlers, poison oak, poison ivy, and just a good case of the hives.

In the evening after supper — and after slurping watermelon on the front porch — we would line up at the water hose and get a good ticking. If our ribs were showing and shoulder blades too sharp, then we would get a good worming.

It wasn't a good day until we were all good and itchy.

After clawing our way through the late movie, usually starring Elvis or John Wayne, my brothers, my cousins, and I would stretched out on quilts on the floor. Mamma's ingenious air conditioner was a dishpan of ice cubes in front of a box fan. That icy breeze soothed our itch easing us into sleep.

Turns out we were no worse for the wear. Really, we were better and stronger for it. Nothing can teach a child patience, endurance, and fortitude like not scratching in church.

Maybe it's time to invest in more calamine, popsicles, and watermelon and less in sunscreen, elbow pads, and bug sprays. For a child, it is better to have explored and itched herself raw, than to have never itched at all.

Finding the value in old things . . . and schools

Something pretty exciting happened at a School Board Work Session a couple of weeks ago.

I can tell by that smirk on your face that you don't think anything exciting every happens at School Board Work Sessions.

But you can wipe that smirk off your face, because something exciting did hap-

pen — they started talking about philosophy.

Another smirk, I see.

Well, some of us find philosophy exciting. I darn near majored in philosophy over at Davidson College. But then I realized that philosophy, as Robert Frost said of free verse, is kind of like playing tennis without a net. So I majored in theology instead.

But enough about me. I want to talk about Dr. Aaron Spence, Superintendent of Moore County Schools, who is the man responsible for committing philosophy in a School Board Work Session.

Asked why the Board would want to close Elise Middle School up in Robbins in order to spend \$5 million to \$7 million to move its students to Robbins Elementary School, Spence said,

"I think the board has to adopt a philosophical perspective on where you invest money. Are you going to put new money in old facilities or in new facilities?"

This bit of philosophy struck me as profoundly odd. You see, I live in an old farmhouse that was built in 1903. On the outside it has those old southern pine clapboards that won't hold paint worth

a darn. On the inside it has walls and ceilings of beaded board, not all of which looks exactly like the rest of it. In between there is not insulation, but air.

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins

Nevertheless, we invest a good bit of money in propane and a good bit of sweat in firewood every year to heat it. This Summer, we'll invest both cash and labor in painting the exterior. And by Fall we expect to invest a good bit in a brand new metal roof for the top of it.

All of this in a big old two story barn of a place that was actually used as some

farmer's hay barn for a few years.

So, when it comes to putting new money into old buildings, I must plead guilty.

Why would I do such a thing?

Fortunately, Dr. Spence provided an explanation.

"If you want to keep two schools open just for the sake of keeping two schools open, then that is an emotional decision, not a fiscal decision," he told the

School Board.

So, this peculiar tendency I have to put my new money into my old house comes down to that: I just have an emotional attachment to the place, and, if I had any good, hardnosed fiscal discipline, I'd let that old barn fall down and find me some sparkly new house to invest my new money in.

(See "Investing," p. 23)

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Thanks from the Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Dear Editor:

The 31st Annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast was a wonderful success and, in addition to our own members, we have a lot of people to thank for helping us.

First to *The Seven Lakes Times* for their extended coverage.

And to the merchants who put up our posters and helped sell tickets: thanks Prescription Shoppe, Quality Care Pharmacy, the Sandhills Winery, Lakeside Barber and

West End Elementary.

And a special thanks to Jason Joyce and the scouts who helped us by bussing all those tables. . . . great job guys and gals.

But our biggest thanks goes to the extended Seven Lakes and West End community for your support buying tickets for the breakfast.

Because of you, we made over \$5,600 which will go toward helping the children of our town and Moore County.

The scouts will receive \$200 from those tip jars you generously filled and West End Elementary will receive the much needed new Math Computer Module to help educate our young people.

Thanks to all. See you again next year for the 32nd Annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast.

John Clohessy,
John Shaughnessy,
and Bud Sales,
Kiwanis Breakfast
Co-Chairs

Investing

(Continued from page 22)

I'm just like those folks up in a Robbins, who have an emotional attachment to an old school that was built just about the same time as old my house.

Now, I have already admitted to bailing out of the whole philosophy racket early on in my educational career. But I did hang around long enough to recognize some common fallacies. And I think I can safely say that what we have encountered here is what philosophers call a "false dichotomy."

Dr. Spence would have us believe that these are only two types of decisions to be made here: one based on sound fiscal policy and another based on emotion. But that is simply not true.

For example, there is economics. The small business people struggling to hang on in Robbins are concerned that closing Elise will eliminate a significant amount of weekday traffic traveling past their stores.

There is community. A school is a natural gathering place. Take that away, and you threaten the health of the community.

There is history. We spend a considerable amount of time teaching our children about things that happened in the past, because we believe there is value in knowing what came before us.

There is tradition. Going to the school that your Dad and your Grandma attended

knits you more closely to the community — and gives that community a better chance of surviving by hanging onto its young people.

As it happened, the School Board split down the middle on closing Elise, as we report on our front page. Board member Bruce Cunningham raised some points very like those I've just mentioned.

I don't know if that was the right decision. It's not my job to make that call. And, besides, like most of

the folks who recommended closing Elise in the first place, I've never been there.

But I am glad that some folks refused to boil it all down to a false dichotomy between fiscal prudence and emotional attachment.

That's the problem with cheap philosophy: it has a way of latching onto catchy phrases — "don't invest new money in old buildings" — when people, and the communities they build, are far more complicated than that.



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FIVE WAYS TO CLEANSE AFTER UNHEALTHY EATING

"If you don't take care of this most magnificent machine that you will ever be given . . . where are you going to live?"
— Karyn Calabrese

I love the beauty, fun with family, rest and comfort of being home that Snow Days can bring.

For some of us, including myself, Snow Days = lots of comfort food = lots of unhealthy eating! Living on the 80/20 rule: 80 percent of the time I feed my body healthy, nourishing foods, and 20 percent of the time I get to enjoy the pleasures of life without guilt, especially after snow days and winter celebrating!

Here are 5 easy ways to detoxify and get your body back to normal. I suggest adding 1 tip a day so by the end of the week you have easily included all 5 tips to your daily routine to cleanse and restore your body!

1. **DRINK!** Water, that is. Start each day off with warm lemon water. It cleanses the blood liver, and kidneys, and activates our digestive system for maximum efficiency throughout the day. Focus on downing six to eight glasses of water daily, adding lemon or an orange slice for Vitamin C will help burn fat and reduce inflammation. Your stomach and skin will thank you!

2. **FIBER FIX!** Get your digestive system back on track, and fiber will do just that! Start with a high fiber breakfast, such as oatmeal, to regulate the system and fill you up. Throughout your day include high fiber fresh fruits and veggies which will also reduce your risk of heart disease, diabetes, and help lower

your cholesterol.

3. **GET MOVING!** Did you know exercising helps your body detoxify naturally? The increased circulation helps eliminate pollutants faster. So get moving and get your heart pumping! Shoot for 30 minutes of movement which can be spread throughout your day or done all at once. Walk, run, dance, stretch- whatever gets you moving is what you want to do!

4. **GO GREEN!** With veggies! When you nourish yourself with greens, you will naturally crowd out the foods that make you sick. Greens help build your internal rain forest and strengthen the blood and respiratory systems. There are so many greens to choose from. Find greens that you love and eat them often. When you get bored with your favorites, be adventurous and try greens that you've never heard of before. Asparagus, Broccoli, Bok Choy and Kale are my favorites!

5. **SLEEP!** New studies found that while we are asleep, our bodies are at rest, but the cleanup system in the brain, responsible for flushing out toxins, goes into overdrive. Many physiologists agree that sleep has come to serve many different purposes, ranging from memory consolidation to the regulation of metabolism and the immune system. So boost your brain's self-cleaning system and get a good night's sleep!

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Planning Board

(Continued from page 4)

the grid.

The tract already has a healthy stand of bermuda grass; once construction is complete, it will be over-seeded and covered with straw.

Construction is anticipated to take three months, Niemann said, adding that "there is almost no traffic after construction." Inverter and solar panel performance is monitored via the internet, so that maintenance personnel can be dispatched only when a problem is detected.

The site will be protected with a six-foot-tall chain link fence topped with three strands of barbed wire. That fence will be concealed with a vegetative buffer. On the north side of the tract, facing NC Highway 211, the plans call for a shade trees and understory shrubs. The buffer on the eastern and western sides of the property will utilize shrubs and shorter understory trees, so that the solar panels can catch the morning and evening sun.

The project's minimal permanent impact on the site is one of the attractions for the Harris family, Bill Harris told the Board — as is the fact that the family will retain ownership of the land.

"We are going to get this land back," Harris said. "We do not want to sell the property. I would love to see it come back to farming," once the solar farm lives out its productive life. "It is not going to be residential, because of the Perdue plant," Harris added.

No one spoke in opposition to the project, and the Planning Board unanimously approved the conditional use permit.

Tower approved for Harris Crossroads

The Board's approval of a conditional use permit for a 300-foot cellphone tower at Harris Crossroads was not unanimous. Board Member Todd Williams argued that the same coverage could be obtained through the use of the the 195-foot towers that are preferred in the County's Zoning Ordinance, and ultimately

voted against the motion to approve.

But Planning Director Debra Ensminger reminded the Board that the applicant had fulfilled all the requirements of the ordinance, and Board Member Buck Mims argued that made it incumbent upon the Board to grant the permit.

"We have to look at our job, and our job is not always the same as our opinion," Mims said. "We set the laws, the ordinances; and, if you, as a business, you comply with those and you do exactly what you are supposed to do, then I can't vote to deny."

The tower in question — an American Towers, LLC project for the cellular carrier AT&T — was the subject of a December public hearing, which was reopened at the February 6 meeting.

Three key issues

The Board had deferred its decision pending the gathering of additional information on three aspects of the application. Ensminger ran down

the list.

First, the existing wireless communications facilities ordinance requires that taller, non-concealed towers be located at least one mile from properties on the National Register of Historic Places. There was a question whether the Harris Crossroads tower was too close to the Bryant House, or to an adjacent lot also owned by the Moore County Historical Association.

A search of federal records established that the adjacent lot is not part of the registered property, and a formal survey established that the tower site is more than one mile from both the Bryant House and the closest corner of the tract on which it sits.

Second, the existing tower ordinance requires that the applicant demonstrate that there are no less intrusive options for siting the antennas — for instance, on a county-owned water tower. Ensminger said the applicant had established there were no such options.

Finally, because the need for 911 coverage in the area had been a subject of testimony from the applicant and members of the public, the Board had asked that it be provided with information on the coverage provided in the Harris Crossroads area by other cellular companies. Ensminger told Board members that that information "is not something that is required to be provided to you" under the ordinance.

The County's consultant on wireless communications facilities testified that the 300 foot tower was necessary to meet the needs of AT&T's cellular system, which operates with a lower signal strength than some other carriers.

"Their network architecture requires them to have greater

height," he explained.

The tower will sit on an eighty by one hundred foot leased area within a 17.3 acre parcel at the intersection of Mt. Carmel Road and Dowd Road.

A motion to approve the application was made and approved in a seven to one vote, with Williams opposed. Board member Johnny Harris had recused himself from the hearing because he resides in the Harris Crossroads area and because he is related to many members of the extended Harris family.

The Board has substantially revised the rules governing Wireless Communications Facilities and incorporated that revision in a final draft of the Unified Development Ordinance.

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Leach

(Continued from page 7)

Asked what he would change about Seven Lakes if he could wave a magic wand, Leach said, first, he would put more women on the SLLA Board of Directors.

"Over the years, we have continued to have too much testosterone on the board; and we need a gender adjustment, a balance of men and women," Leach said. "The issue is being met this year with Sandy and Mary running for the board."

Having served on the Facilities and Grounds Committee, Leach understands the importance of budgeting for

routine maintenance.

"We are trying to change a long established thought pattern held by some of the good folks in this community: that is, if prices continue to rise and dues remain the same, then the board is doing a good job," Leach said.

"In reality, if the cost of everything around us goes up and the dues remain level, then the assets of the community begin to decline. This current Board has spent the necessary money on repairs of the pool, roof replacement, street signs, roads, landscaping, docks, and the lake. The appearance of our community

has started to improve. The dues increase should be considered. For \$25 less — than the cost of half a tank of gas — that increase needs to be supported," Leach said.

Leach supported continuing to maintain those amenities that the community has traditionally offered, including the stables.

"I don't think the community realizes that the stables and the pool were here first and have always been a part of Seven Lakes," he said. "We also have to be flexible and reflect the needs of the community. The stables expenses are pretty fixed. I don't know

how much savings you can derive without doing something different. I would like to see us possibly try and consider and pursue the thought of boarding one or two horses to assist us in bringing some more revenue."

"The one thing a kid can't say in Seven Lakes is: 'We have nothing to do,'" Leach said. "Tennis, pickle ball, swimming, lakes, stables, golf, and fishing. We have a lot for kids to do here. The dues we pay provide children a great deal here. One particular thing I would like to see is providing a place for skateboarding."

"It is my sincere hope that my community members will support my reelection," Leach said.

Sackmann

(Continued from page 7)

impressions, Sackman said, "I think my greatest concerns are in the appearance of community and security. I think it is important to ensure that our rules and regulations are followed. We have a very beautiful community. If we care for it, then it will continue to be inviting to people who might want to come and move here. I also would like for the Board to give Security

more power to deal with some of the incidents that occur around Seven Lakes and stop the vandalism and things like that."

In Seven Lakes, there is always something for kids to do, Sackmann said.

"We moved here when our daughters were eight and ten," she said. "They were two of about ten children in the community. They had more than enough to do with

the things that were offered here."

"I would prefer to keep the stables here as long as we can afford to have them," she added. "It is a good opportunity for adults and youth. I am not in favor of horse shows or taking horses off premises. The horses were purchased by the Seven Lakes Landowners and need to be here for the use of the residents in Seven Lakes."

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Chavez

(Continued from page 6)

Chavez has known his share of heartbreak. He and Nancy lost their eldest son in 1999. Nancy died in 2007 from breast cancer. Chavez's younger son and his two grandsons, Currie and Trevor, live with him, giving him a firsthand perspective on the interests of younger residents.

"This is a good place to raise kids," he said during the Wednesday, February 5 SLLA Candidates' Night. "I have two teenage grandsons. One loves to go fishing. He will be out there until it is time to go home. Both boys go swimming and fishing in

the lakes in the summertime. Walking to McDonald's the back way seems to be popular with teens. There were some problems last year with teens, but I believe we got that cleaned up. It something to keep an eye on."

Chavez is confident that he can grow in a leadership role. "I am not used to being in management," he said. "In my career, I was more support. But I was told, 'If you don't move you die.' It will be a learning experience."

If elected, Chavez said, "I would like to serve on the Security Committee, since I have background and training in emergency services."

Chavez's interest in the ongoing revision of the SLLA Bylaws was one reason he decided to run for office.

"I am pretty much satisfied with how things are going in Seven Lakes," he explained. "I got involved in a couple of meetings on the bylaws. My major concern was there were several articles in *The Seven Lakes Times* about a new attorney from up north that moved down here and that this was his specialty. Most of us have lived here a long period of time and we tend to take a more relaxed view of things."

[Jim Slaughter, the attorney who is helping the Board

rewrite the Association's bylaws, is a specialist in the law governing homeowners associations, but he is a native of Kannapolis, educated at UNC-Chapel Hill, and practices almost exclusively in North Carolina. —GH]

Chavez said serving on the Board would require a small adjustment to his weekly routine. "If I am voted in, it will take up Bingo at the Elks Club, but I can give up one night," Chavez laughed.

A grandfather to two active teens, Chavez recognizes the importance of safety: "I would like to see a path put alongside one of the roads for walking and riding bikes," he said.

"I would also like to see an area for children to ride their skateboards. Riding down the roads without helmets is not safe."

Chavez has less interest in the stables. "We might want to sit down, take a look at it, and prune some of the activities," he said. "At one time, there was talk about terminating the stables. They are a lot of money; and, the next thing you know, they are buying more horses. I am not an expert, but maybe we should look at pruning costs and reducing activities."

Farley

(Continued from page 6)

revived her career, becoming an independent sales and marketing representative for numerous food companies working with the military commissaries in the Washington, DC area.

In 2005, the Farleys relocated to Seven Lakes. Mary went back to work as an independent Avon Representative and has received the Avon President's Award for four years running. In 2013, she was made a member of Avon's "Honor Society." In her free time, she is an active volunteer with the local chapter of the Red Hats and an avid amateur gardener.

Like many who moved to Seven Lakes, she was attracted by the rural setting.

"One of the first things we saw were the horses and all of this," she said during the Wednesday, February 5 Candidates' Night. "It was such a beautiful picture we

thought it has got to be a nice place to live."

Responding to a question about the stables, Farley said: "I think there is a happy medium. I am not in favor of buying additional horses, and I don't want the horses that we have to go away. I like what the stables offer the children. They enjoy a fabulous program. In the summertime, they can give more lessons to make some money if they need to."

Mary believes in keeping fit, walks daily, participates in water aerobics, and is also an avid "game room" player; Rumi Kub, Mexican Train, and Canasta are her favorites. If she were elected to the Board, she said serving on the Recreation Committee would be a natural fit.

"It is close to my interest and what I am good at — and I have had experience at it," she said.

The biggest changes Mary would like to see in the community are to have lines painted down the middle of the street and to add walking paths.

"It can be very dangerous to walk along our streets because of the traffic," she said. "We need a path where people can enjoy walking without the worry of being run over. We maybe could put a path around the stable area. We also need a place for the young people to ride their skateboards. It is not safe on the street."

Farley said it is important to encourage parental involvement in organized activities

for children.

"Children can't be let lose," she said. "Parental involvement is necessary, whether the kids are going swimming or fishing at the lake. We

could start summertime activities that might not be here: baseball, basketball, t-ball, and swimming lessons, if parents and residents are willing volunteers."

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

lot," Meyer continued. "It would need two-thirds member approval to change from common area back to a lot. So let's call that 'irreversible.' Once you pull the trigger, then it is pretty much a permanent decision. It is one we can always make in future."

Love to List It

The Board's next step is to list the salable lots with a Realtor®.

"They are just sitting in the office," Ritter said. "No one knows they are for sale. It doesn't make any sense. We should list them so that everybody knows that these properties are for sale."

Meyer agreed with Ritter that, once all paperwork was finished, the lots should be listed. The Board voted to move the recommendation to the February Open Meeting.

Recombining lots comes with a price tag

Subdividing a lot that was previously created by combining two or more separate lots can create considerable confusion in SLLA territory — particularly if the lot has changed hands a number of times since the combination.

Researching years of Board minutes in order to understand the original intent of an SLLA rule on subdividing previously combined lots, Director Meyer determined that, if a combined lot were split, the owner was required to pay assessments on both lots back to the time it was originally combined.

At the February 10 Work Session, the board considered a landowner's request to subdivide a previously combined lot — and to have the back dues waived. After much discussion, the Board reached agreement that it would set a bad precedent to waive past dues.

How much back dues?

Meyer, who had researched the combined lot in question, said, "I read all transfers of lots combined in 2002. I don't have the history [in front of

me] of what the dues were all the way back to 2002. I think it is about \$300 for an additional lot. So we are probably talking about \$3,500."

Meyer later told *The Times* that the total is actually closer to \$4,500.

The SLLA offers a dues discount for the second and each additional lot owned by the same entity. Current dues for developed lots are \$1000 for an improved lot (one with a home), \$670 for an unimproved lot, and \$497 for each additional lot.

Board Director Bob Racine asked if the rule was consistent with past actions.

Meyer answered, "We put it down solid in writing, after we had found plenty of references of combined and later uncombined lots."

Dues for two

Residents who own two adjacent lots will often combine them to avoid paying dues on two.

"A lot of communities don't allow combinations at all," Meyer said. SLLA Manager Ray Sohl agreed with Meyer: "By combining lots, it increases the amount of dues for the rest of residents."

The resident in question had informed management that the request to divide the lots was dependent on whether or not the dues were waived.

President Steve Ritter asked

whether the income from future dues on an additional lot would offset waiving the past dues.

"I am leaning toward not approving the request," Ritter said. "But I would like to speak to the other side. The other side of the equation is, going forward, to have a lot presently combined and we are getting paid \$1000 once versus dividing that going forward and getting double. Should we factor that into the request?"

In other words, if the currently lot were subdivided, and homes built on each of the resulting lots, the Association would be collecting dues on two developed lots.

"How many combined lots are in Seven Lakes?" Racine asked.

The Directors agreed that a good estimate would be approximately 100. [Meyer later told *The Times* the number was closer to 170.] What was not clear was how many of those lots could ever be successful uncombined.

Director Bob Darr recommended denying the request, saying "We ought to hang on to the rules."

New Dam Engineer recommended

SLLA Management has recommended changing the engineering company the Association has on call for

(See "SLLA Work," p. 28)

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Schools

(Continued from front page)

ningham said, "These kids are part of history and they are part of the culture and the heritage of that school."

"That school is downtown," Cunningham added. "What are the prospects of the Town of Robbins taking it over? They can't afford it. It is not going to happen."

"I don't think there is going to be an alternative use. I think we will end up with a blight on downtown Robbins if we abandon that facility."

Both Elsie and Robbins Elementary are "working well," Cunningham said, "students studying, teachers

teaching well, things were clean . . . If it isn't broken, why fix it?"

He also noted that, unlike Highfalls and Westmoore, both K-8 schools serving roughly 300 students. As a K-8 school, Robbins Elementary would have 677 students "in a building that wasn't designed to do that and that has already been modified once."

"You dance with the one that carries you to the dance," Dale Frye said, noting that the voters in North Moore had consistently supported his election to the School Board. "In talking with people

in that part of the County, who have faithfully voted for me, I have found no one in favor of closing Elise. I will not turn my back on the people of Robbins tonight, and I will support keeping it open."

"That community has a lot of passion, and they have taken some hits," Ed Dennison said. "I'm not sure they can take more."

"I have a concern about the community, he added. "I want them to know that we listened."

Merging schools more expensive

Both Dennison and Cunningham pointed out that the consolidation of Elise and Robbins Elementary was expected to cost \$7 million to \$9 million, while improvements needed at Elise are expected to cost only \$2 million, with half of that for traffic and parking improvements that may be optional.

Charles Lambert noted that moving Elise students to Robbins Elementary — which lies outside the town limits — would mean MCS would have to pay for a police officer to cover that campus, since Robbins Town Police would be unable to do that.

On the other side of the question, Lang, who made

the motion to merge the schools, said "We have to remove our heart from the situation, and go with what is in the best interest of safety for children and most efficient."

"I am not any happier about taking a beloved institution out of a part of our county than anyone else," she said, adding that Elise has problems, including an open campus that is hard to secure and the fact that it is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA].

Lang noted that the merger of Elise and Robbins was listed as the very last priority in the Master Facilities Plan, and thus several years away from implementation.

(See "Schools," p. 29)

SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 27)

issues relating to the dams. Three bids were submitted by professional engineering companies — and those did not include the current engineering company, S&ME.

"We chose not to ask them," Sohl said. "We had significant cost and time overage on the Little J Dam, and I was unimpressed by the service they were providing. All bids rated within five percent of the S&ME contract."

Having a contractor on call is not a choice, Darr reminded the board. "It is mandated by state rules."

Good Eating Size

SLLA fishermen will be happy to know that mid-size bass caught in the ten to fourteen inch range are now considered keepers. The pur-

pose is to help encourage the growth of the larger fish by reducing competition for food.

The Lakes and Dam Committee based its recommendation for a rules change on advice obtained from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Fishing for carp is prohibited, and any caught must be released.

Dues on Time

A variety of payment options will be included in the annual dues packet. The most popular option is prepayment of the entire annual amount due, with a check sent to the lockbox address.

But there are a variety of online options, including paying through the CAS website

or setting up and automatic bank draft. Dues may be paid monthly through an automatic draft, but will incur a one percent monthly fee.

Bylaws ready for a vote

The revised SLLA bylaws has gone through its final edits. An updated draft will be made to all Board Members prior to the Open Meeting.

"I want to see this ahead of time," Director Darr said. "If the changes are not done, I won't support it. We got to know what the heck we are voting on, and it has to be done right."

The Board voted unanimously to move approval of the Bylaws to the February Open Meeting.

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Schools

(Continued from page 28)

"That opens up the opportunity for us to see how we can make better use of that facility," Lang said, "and we have seven years to have discussions with Robbins."

"I would not want to be responsible for not addressing this now," Enola Lineberger said. It would be a long time before it was addressed again . . . In my heart of hearts I feel it is the right thing to do. We will have some school closures that would come before that."

The Robbins Elementary School has a chance to be the heart of that community," she added.

Noting that it was "the most difficult decision since I have been on the Board," Ben Cameron said, "I think student achievement might be even better because they get new classrooms." Cameron also expressed concerns about the safety of the open Elise campus.

Chair Kathy Farren expressed concerns about campus security at Elise, as well as specific areas of the school that are in need of repairs.

"The music classroom scares me to death where that thing is," she said. "I don't know how we'd legally hold a class in that room . . . The cafeteria is not in good shape."

Farren also noted that she had heard from relatively few citizens opposed to closing Elise.

"When we closed Academy Heights, my phone and my email were lit up," Farren said. "I have not had one person call me about Elise. She noted that only three people had spoke against the closing at a School Board meeting.

Remainder of plan passes easily

The remainder of the Master Facilities Plan was

approved unanimously, and follows closely the recommendations of the 21st Century Facilities Task Force that the Board convened to review MCS needs.

The approved Master Plan gives top priority to increasing the capacity of Pinecrest and Union Pines High Schools, building a new concept high school, and renovating and adding a Wellness Center at North Moore High School.

Next in line is a new K-5 elementary school in Area III (the Pinecrest district) and major renovations and building replacement at Pinehurst Elementary.

All of those tasks are envisioned in the first three years of plan implementation, and are expected to cost between \$59.9 million and \$73.0 million.

Union Pines High School is currently serving 1277 students with classroom space designed for 990. Pinecrest has a capacity of 1606 and a current enrollment of 2152. North Moore has athletic teams practicing in every available space — and starting practice at 5:00 am because of space constraints.

Years 3-5 include two new Area III three elementary schools with a 650 student capacity and a new Area III middle school with a 450 student capacity but built with a core that could accommodate 850 students. The cost is estimated at \$44 million to \$50 million.

Years 5-7 involve expanding West Pine Elementary to serve 650 students, at a cost of \$1 million to \$1.5 million.

The goal estimated cost of the plan is \$104.9 million to \$124.5 million.

Too much, too soon?

Lang expressed some concern that the Year 1-3 plan is too aggressive, both in terms of accomplishing all the construction in that timeframe, and in terms of front-

loading the sale of voter-approved school bonds, possibly driving up property taxes.

Superintendent Aaron Spence said the Board, in facilities work sessions, had expressed a desire to deal with over-capacity schools first, and that problem is worse at the high school level.

"Whenever you adopt anything with the word 'plan' in it, it is a plan," Spence said. "They are all time bound, but rarely do you do

everything in the plan. You make adjustments as you go along. These are the things that we want to see happen. If the financing isn't there, then it is a plan that can be modified."

Public input?

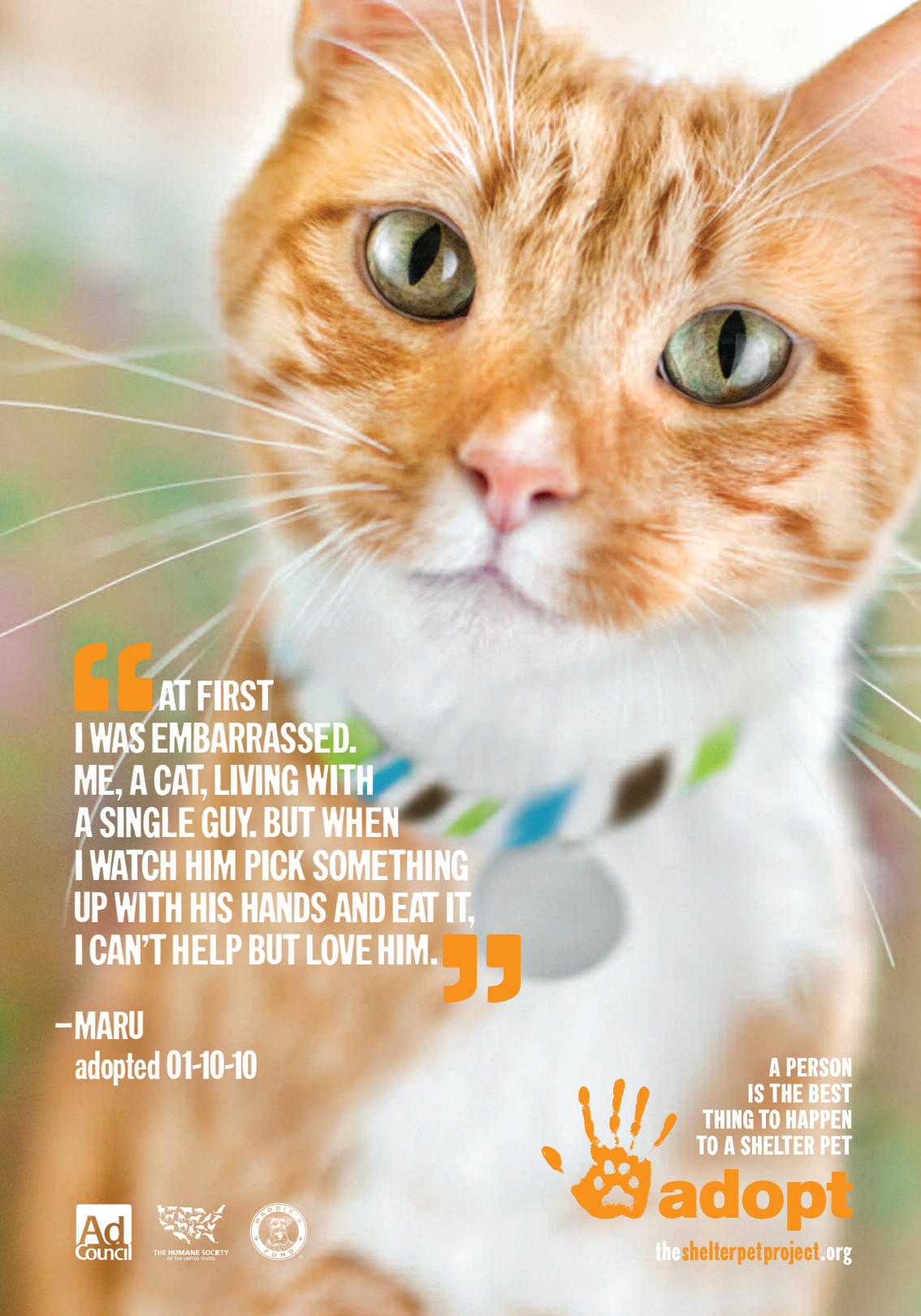
Lang said she was under the impression that the Board would host public meetings before setting priorities. Spence said that was the purpose of the public meetings hosted by the 21s Cen-

tury Facilities Task Force.

However, he added, there will be public meetings about the design and placement of schools, as well as any changes in attendance districts.

"There will be a great deal of public input," Spence said. "But, in order to design that input, we need to give the staff priorities."

"We have narrowed down the feedback we received in community meetings to get to this plan."



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INTERIOR PAINTING — Get the inside of your home spruced up at reduced Winter prices. I also pressure wash, clean windows and gutters. Call or email Brian today for your free estimate! 910-585-8174. Fully Insured. brianleake06@gmail.com

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BOATS FOR SALE

TURN YOUR USED BOAT INTO CASH — People are looking to purchase good condition used boats. Let us connect you to the prospective buyers. Call Jeff at 910-673-1440.

Times Classifieds
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are \$1 per line.

Indoor Yard Sale
Seven Lakes Baptist Church Gym
Saturday, February 22
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
40 10x10 Spaces Available — \$25 each
8:00 am Setup - 3:00 pm Close
Call 910-673-4656 to reserve your spot!
Proceeds Support Youth Mission Trip & Summer Camp

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#1 IN THE SEVEN LAKES MARKET FOR OVER A DECADE!



Seven Lakes West \$565,000
Beautiful custom home on Lake Auman
4 BR / 3BA
103 Vanore Road



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



Seven Lakes West \$230,000
Charming cottage with water views
3 BR / 2 BA
136 Otter Drive



Seven Lakes North \$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 / 3BA
108 Rector Drive



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Charming cottage on two lots- great privacy
3 BR / 2 BA
255 Firetree Lane



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Stunning custom waterfront home
3 BR / 2.5 BA
459 Longleaf Drive



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



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



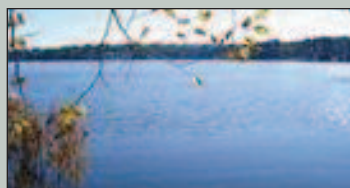
McLendon Hills \$575,000
French country farmhouse on 3 acres
4 BR / 3.5 BA
600 Broken Ridge Trail

Outstanding Lake Auman Lots



126 Simmons Drive \$250,000

Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping. Beautiful wide water views. Lot beside this lot is also for sale — wonderful chance to own over sized lakefront for your special house!



128 Simmons Drive \$250,000

Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping. Beautiful wide water views. Lot beside this lot is also for sale — wonderful chance to own over sized lakefront for your special house!



126 Swaringen Drive \$395,000

Gorgeous wide water views — eastern exposure for optimum enjoyment of your late afternoon entertainment — one of the best lots on the lake! (.67 Acres)



128 Swaringen Drive \$375,000

Spectacular, wide-open water views. Site is perfect for walk out level. Eastern orientation for beautiful sunrises and cool shaded evenings on your deck! (.64 Acres)



107 Butterfly Court \$395,000

Enjoy wide water views from this wonderful waterfront lot on Lake Auman! Cul-de-sac location! The perfect spot to build your dream home!



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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3 BR / 2 BA
181 Firetree Lane



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



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

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