

## Two join Board of Seven Lakes West

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] lost three and gained two Directors at the Annual Meeting held on Monday, March 16.

The Annual Meeting ballot offered voters a single candidate for the single open seat on the Board, which is being downsized from nine to seven members.

Mandy Goodman won that contest handily, collecting 402 votes out of 460 votes cast, according to results

provided to *The Times* after the meeting.

Goodman is a native of Little Rock, AR who moved to the West Side in 2008. Prior to that, she and her husband John, a former SLWLA Director, lived in San Diego, CA, where Mandy Goodman both worked full time at the University of San Diego and volunteered in a number of key leadership and management positions in both her local Episcopal Parish and the Diocese of San Diego.

Jim McDermott joins the Board as Secretary and Communication Director, appointed to serve out the unexpired

(See "Westside," p. 11)

## SLLA may end lot combinations

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Lot combinations will be a thing of the past in Seven Lakes North and South if the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board approves a policy change proposed during their Monday, March 10 Work Session.

Community Manager Ray

Sohl told Directors that Association Attorney Roger Knight had recommended the change, because none of the Association's legal documents give the Board the Authority to permanently waive assessments. And allowing lots to be combined has the effect of permanently reducing the dues paid on the combined parcel.

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

## Laptops Aplenty



Christa Blades, a New Century Middle School 8th grader, shows off her new HP Chromebook, one of 3,400 that Moore County Schools is distributing to middle and high school students as the district rolls out Phase 2 of its digital learning initiative.

## Village Council debates new Rural Estate zoning district

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



"Green Acres is the place to be" for a growing number of families who want a few acres in the country, so they can raise their own vegetables and keep chickens or a couple of milk goats.

The new "Rural Estate" zoning district under consideration by the Foxfire Village Council aims to provide just such an option — within the Village limits. Rural Estate would offer a six-acre minimum lot size with fewer restrictions concerning out-

door structures, large gardens, and farm animals, providing a transition from the suburban-style density of the core Village to the open countryside that surrounds it.

### Working with the owner

The proposal for a "Rural Estate" district was first presented to the Foxfire Village Council during their February Work Session. Mary Gilroy, who chairs the Village's Planning and Zoning [P&Z] Committee, introduced it as alternative zoning for a 380-acre tract located east of the Village center on Foxfire Road that was annexed but never

zoned.

Gilroy worked with the owner of the property, developer Robert Edwards, to discuss crafting an alternative to the more restrictive Equestrian zoning already in the Village ordinances.

During their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 11 Council members called two public hearings for the Tuesday, April 8 Council meeting to evaluate the new district. One hearing would focus on approval of the new Rural Estate district, a second would allow input concerning the zoning of Edwards' land.

The Planning and Zoning  
(See "Foxfire," p. 26)

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# NAMI-MC offers Family-to-Family course

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Moore County is offering its signature 11-session, six-week, Family-to-Family course.

Designed for family members who have close relatives with mental illness, it's taught confidentially by two veteran instructors; who share their knowledge and experience. They do so from the vantage

point of themselves having a family member with a serious mental illness and that helps participants gain valuable perspective—not only from the instructors—but also from other class members.

The course meets twice

each week, on Wednesday evenings and on Saturdays between 10 am and 1 pm. The Wednesday evening classes begin at 6:30 pm and finish by 9 pm.

The first Family-to-Family class-session starts on Saturday, April 5 at 10 am and

lasts until 1 pm. The course concludes with its final session taking place on Saturday, May 10, again between 10 am and 1 pm.

The course is being taught at the First Baptist Church of Southern Pines; located at the corner of Ashe and New York Avenue, Southern Pines.

The two teachers will convey information about how they have related to members of their own families with serious mental illnesses. You'll be inspired and heartened by their examples.

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ences; which will remain private and as you do; you'll be able to take advantage of the support and encouragement provided by the Class.

You'll learn about mental illness itself; learn about diagnosis; and learn about treatments—be they medical or behavioral in nature; and you should come away with a store of knowledge that allows you to more effectively tap into community resources.

There's no charge for Family-to-Family Course, and enrollment may be limited. For information or to register, call 910-246-6231.

## 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](mailto: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.

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## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
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.

## Chapel Lunch Bunch

All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall on Wednesday, March 26 at noon.

The program this month will feature Jan Leitschuh, master gardener, writer and local entrepreneur.

Leitschuh is co-founder of Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative. With over 1600 members, the co-op distributes up to 1200 subscription boxes of fresh, local produce from mid-April to early November.

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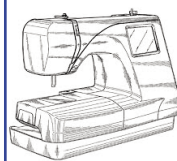
including area farmers, produce box subscribers, supporters and staff.

Leitschuh will speak on the topic "The Importance of Local Food." Come and learn how this organization creates win-win-win solutions for our area. You may read her monthly column, *The Kitchen Garden*, in the *Pine Straw Magazine*.

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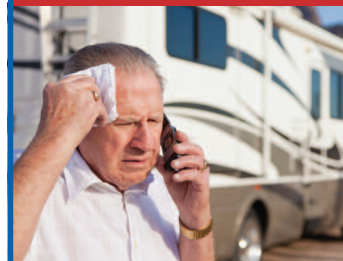
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# New stables manager, skate park must wait

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



There's a new manager at Seven Lakes Stables, Director Bob Darr told members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board during their Monday, March 10 Work Session.

Amanda Duggan has been hired as the new manager, replacing Kate Pennington, who resigned earlier in the year.

Darr said Duggan has added Sunday hours to the stables schedule, and the Association has acquired a new horse — a 16-hand, 1300-pound blonde gelding. The stable crew plans to ask the community's help in naming the new addition to the herd.

Darr said the jury is still out on whether to return a leased horse named "Bandit," who exhibited some unruly behavior on one occasion. "We will probably wait and

see if he continues to be a good boy," Darr said.

Riding lessons are available and may be scheduled through the stables staff.

"There are currently no plans to take any horses off of the property," Darr said. "If we get to the point that our kids are competitive, that will come back to the Board."

Board members agreed that six horses and two ponies is the right size for the herd, at present.

## Data-based Stables Management

"When I started the stables were a big unknown," Meyer said. "The one thing that we have now that we did not have back then, we have data, and we actually plot it. If the data goes up or goes

down, that triggers an assessment. We are watching that. Eight is right now -- if the ridership changes, we have a visual indication that the situation has changed."

President Ritter asked whether it is important to (See "Skaters," p. 25)

## Name the new horse!

Can you give me a new name?

My full name is Booher Poco Joe, but since I have moved to a new home here at Seven Lakes, I would like you to help me pick a shorter, easy to remember nickname.

I am a twelve year old Quarter Horse gelding (that's a boy) and 16 hands (5 feet 4 inches) tall.

I weigh almost 1300 pounds, and no I won't be going on a diet, I'm a big boy!

I'm what horsey people call buckskin, that's blonde with a black mane and tail.

I think the best way to help name me is for you to come visit and see me for yourself. The stables are now open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am - 5 pm, and Sundays by appointment 11:30 am to 4 pm.

I won't be ready to hit the trails until I get to know my new friends and learn my way around.

But, Summer and camps are right around the corner and I can't wait to get to work.

There will be an envelope in the Landowner's Office and at the stables, where you can drop off your submissions.

We will be tallying up all your ideas and announce my new nickname at the Spring Party on Saturday, May 3.

Spread the word and get your friends to vote with you.



**The newest addition to the SLLA Stables needs a name, and you can help!**

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# Superintendent search well underway

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



An educational leader who can motivate staff and communicate effectively with parents and the wider community — that's what Moore County teachers

and citizens are looking for in the next Superintendent of Moore County Public Schools [MCS].

An online survey conduct by the North Carolina School Boards Association [NCSBA] found those ranked by both teachers and citizens among the top five areas of skill or

expertise that the next superintendent should possess.

The Moore County Board of Education has hired the NCSBA to help conduct their search for a superintendent to replace Dr. Aaron Spence, who will leave at the end of the school year to take on the superintendent job in the much larger school District of Virginia Beach, Spence's hometown.

The survey was completed by 273 MCS staffers and 348 community members. NCSBA Staff Attorney Scott Murray briefed the Board on the survey results during its regular Monday, March 10 meeting.

Survey participants were asked about the skills that the new superintendent should possess, traits he or she should exhibit, as well as qualifications and characteristics.

Among traits, a "commitment to high student achievement" ranked number one with community members and number two among MCS staffers, while "values employees" was number one among

staff members and number two among community members. Both rated "integrity" and "commitment to the community" third and fourth.

Both community members and staff ranked experience as a classroom teacher as the number one qualification for a new superintendent, with "experience as a principal" and "experience as a superintendent with a proven record of success" next in line.

Both want a superintendent who is "willing to listen to input, but can make tough decisions when necessary," and both want someone who "inspires trust, has big levels of self-confidence and optimism, and models high standards of integrity and personal performance."

After receiving the results, Board members were asked to list some of the characteristics that they would like to see in a new superintendent. Among those noted were:

- Expertise. Decision making skills.

(See "Search," p. 19)



Isabel Pardal and her mother, Debbie, check the fine print in the MCS policy on student laptops during the Monday, March 17 distribution of Chromebooks at New Century Middle School



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# MCS looks for increase in County funding

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Moore County Schools will seek a \$2.3 million jump in funding from Moore County for the coming fiscal year, if the Board of Education approves

the budget proposed by Superintendent Aaron Spence. The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget on Monday, March 24, at 6:00 pm.

"I have heard it said too often that more money can't solve your problems," Spence told the Board during its reg-

ular Monday, March 10 meeting. "We cannot move the needle without continued support. "We have to have a commitment from our community if we are going to transform our schools."

The County is providing the schools with \$26.6 million this year; that number includes \$24.5 million in funding for operations, as well as \$712,000 in capital expenses and \$750,000 for the district's digital learning initiative. Also included is \$680,000 that is passed through to the County's charter schools.

Not included in that total is debt service — the payments the County makes on borrowing to finance school construction. Those payments are made directly by the County, not funneled through the MCS budget and will amount to \$5.6 million this

year.

The amount of money the County provides to MCS has been relatively flat, at \$26.3 million, since 2011. This year, the Commissioners provided an additional \$375,000 to help fund the drive to put laptops or tablet computers in the hands of every student.

MCS leaders and the County's finance team have held a series of meetings in recent weeks, working toward a more coordinated approach to budgeting for the schools.

MCS Chief Finance Office Mike Griffin praised that process during the budget presentation.

"The County has shown a tremendous interest in understanding our problems," Griffin said. "We want to work with them to address a funding formula that would address a variety of issues."

That includes creating a dependable formula for county operational and capital funding.

Griffin said he hoped the negotiations would bear fruit in time for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget cycle but, if not, was confident they would by the following year.

## Higher costs, less money

Griffin told the Board that MCS finds itself squeezed by rising costs and flat or declining revenues.

Although the number of students the district serves has grown by five percent in the last five years, state funding has dropped over the same period, and state funding per student, which was \$5,508 in FY 2009, is \$5,200 this year -- and expected to drop to \$5,048 next year.

In the aftermath of the (See "School budget," p. 20)



New Century parent Gary Flynn consults 8th grade English Teacher Cherisse Jackson during the laptop rollout

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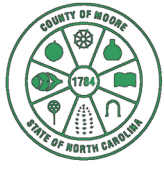
- ☆ Licensed Certified Bookkeeper
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- ☆ Served in the North Carolina National Guard
- ☆ Taught Accounting, Auditing, & Economics at the Community College level
- ☆ Volunteered on the Moore County Rescue Squads of Whispering Pines and Vass

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# Commissioners receive update on Animal Center

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



One year in, Moore County's Animal Operations Advisory Committee [AOAC] sees progress toward its goal of reducing the number of animals housed and euthanized at the County Animal Center — and plenty of work left to do.

Members of the Committee, led by Chairperson Angela Zumwalt, briefed the Board of Commissioners on both progress and plans during the Board's regular Tuesday, March 18 meeting.

In January of last year, the Commissioners, acting on the advice of the Citizens Pet Responsibility Committee and County Commissioner Jimmy Melton, removed Animal Operations from the Health Department and made it a full-fledged department with a director reporting to the County Manager.

The AOAC was established at the same time to help guide the department toward the goal of making the Animal Center a no-kill shelter. That goal was to be accomplished in a two-pronged approach: Using education and intervention to reduce the number of animals that enter the center and increasing the number of animals adopted from the shelter.

Though the data is tentative, the adoption rate has increased substantially in January and February of this year, with a parallel decrease

in the percentage of animals euthanized.

In January 2013, only twenty-nine percent of the animals that entered the shelter were adopted. This January, fifty-seven percent were adopted. Similarly, in February of this year, fifty-nine percent were adopted, compared to twenty-seven percent last February.

## Achievements and goals

Monday's presentation updated the Commissioners on achievements thus far and outlined both short-term and long term goals. Among the highlights:

- The Commissioners provided funding for a fourth part-time kennel attendant that allows the Animal Center to be open six days a week.
- A part-time volunteer coordinator has been added to the staff, and the Committee would like to see that position moved to full-time.
- The AOAC would like to expand the Animal Center's hours into the early evening.
- A vacant lot beside the Center has been partially cleared to allow for animal exercise and shelter events, and the kennel area has

been redesigned to improve the flow of animals through the facility.

- The Animal Center's web presence and use of Facebook, Petfinder, and other avenues to promote adoptable pets has been significantly upgraded. The Committee would like to see a full-time communications specialist on staff.
- Another goal is more effective use of the ShelterPro software used to manage shelter operation, including additional training on the system for shelter staff.

bers told the Board. Though there are approximately sixty names on the volunteer list, a core group of about twenty provides sixty hours a week of labor, assisting with a variety of shelter tasks, from photographing animals ready for adoption to socializing animals so that they are more adoptable.

The County's Director of Animal Operations was fired earlier this year, and Internal Auditor Tami Golden has been temporarily managing the facility. The Commissioners thanked Golden for her work in that role, and commended the Animal Center staff, many of whom were in attendance at the meeting.

## Volunteers are critical

Volunteer labor has been key to moving the Animal Center toward the realization of its goals, Committee mem-

(See "County," p. 8)

## Help the Animal Center

Individual interested in volunteering at the Moore County Animal Center can make themselves known to Volunteer coordinator Betsy Ficarro at 910-947-2858 or 910-315-9569.

Those who cannot donate time and labor can donate money to both the Animal Operations Department and

the Fix'Em fund — a fund that supports low cost spaying and neutering of pets by visiting the County website at moorecounty.gov.

Under the "Departments" menu, selection Animal operations and then look for the "Make a Donation" menu on the lefthand side of the page.

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# WEE hosts summit of student councils

by Kerri L. Blackburn  
West End Elementary

On February 20, West End Elementary hosted their first Moore County School Student

Council Summit for elementary students. All twenty-three of West End 4th and 5th grade student council members welcomed seven

other elementary student councils from across the county with grace.

It was a team effort with Principal of West End Elementary Leigh Ann McClen-don, School Counselor Kerri Blackburn, and eight schools student council chairs to make this amazing event possible for our young leaders.

A total of 120 students from Aberdeen Elementary, Cameron Elementary, Carthage Elementary, Pinehurst Elementary, Robbins Elementary, West End Elementary, West Pine Elementary and Westmore Elementary joined in the gymnasium to partake in a workshop lead by Jake Peede an 11th grader at Pine Forest High School. Peede has served as the North Carolina Association of Student Councils Vice President for his freshman to sophomore year and has been re-elected this year to serve as North Carolina Association of Student Councils President-Elect when he will assume this position late spring.

Peede shared insight on the importance of leadership, shared his personal experi-

ences and led the students in multiple team building activities. The students broke out into random groups to be given the opportunity to work with students from other schools. Each group participated in the telephone, the human knot and guess the leader activities. Then all student council members, school counselors, vice principals all joined hands to create a giant circle to play a giant game of telephone.

The statement changed every time despite their best efforts.

They ended the summit with the circle becoming a NASCAR where they had to see how fast everyone could say VAROOM one at a time all the way around the giant

circle and after several tries they got it below 30 seconds by working together with enthusiasm.

It was a wonderful sight to see student leaders working together, communicating and feeling a sense of student council pride. The young leaders left inspired to make a difference in their schools, communities and the world.



Student Council members from across the County convened in a summit at West End Elementary

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## County

(Continued from page 6)

### Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday, March 18 meeting, the Board of Commissioners:

- Commended members of the Moore County Planning Board for their work on the County's new Unified Development Ordinance.
- Authorized the Moore County Library to apply for a private, non-profit grant that would establish a program aimed at encouraging parents to read to pre-school-age children.
- Authorized a three-year, \$104,400 contract with Stanley Convergent Security Solutions for electronic security systems at the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center.
- Accepted an additional \$2,767 in federal and state grants for the Moore County Transportation Department.
- Proclaimed Moore County a Purple Heart County, at the request of Chapter 634 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.
- Tabled an agenda item that would have served notice of the County's intent to withdraw from the Triangle J Council of Governments.
- Reappointed Phyllis Magnuson to the Board of Health.
- Appointed Kathy Watkins and Tyrell Britt to the Recreation Advisory Board.
- Appointed Marsae Stone to the RSVP Advisory Council.

### Women of Seven Lakes

The Women of Seven Lakes will host the League of Women Voters of Moore County on Thursday, April 3, 2 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines.

The League will present two of their "Legends Actors." The actors portraying the Legends will be dressed in period costumes and will deliver the moving and emotional words written and spoken by the Legends.

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## Steel Magnolias features Dawn Wells

Morgan Sills, Executive Producer and Daniel Haley, Artistic Director at Judson Theatre Company will present Steel Magnolias.

The production will run from Thursday, March 27 through Sunday, March 30 at Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst.

Television icon Dawn Wells (Mary Ann on Gilligan's Island) stars in the production as Ouiser Boudreaux.

The production also stars Teresa Ganzel (35 appearances on The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson, The Toy), Terri Eoff (Emerald Cove, The All New Mickey Mouse Club, Search for

Tomorrow), Mackenzie Thomas (Mamma Mia! – Broadway), Sarah Frances Berk, and Paula Reeder Thompson.

Steel Magnolias is the hilarious and heartwarming story of six forever friends, told from their home away from home: Truvy's Beauty Spot, a Louisiana beauty parlor.

The performance schedule is: Thursday, March 27, at 8 pm; Friday, March 28, at 8 pm; Saturday, March 29, at 2 pm and 8 pm; and Sunday, March 30, at 2 pm.

Tickets: <http://judsontheatre.com/> or call eTix at (800) 514-ETIX (3849).

Groups of 10+ email JudsonTheatre@gmail.com for group pricing information.

## Homecoming Queen



Autumn Kristyn Scales

Pinecrest High School Homecoming Queen Autumn Kristyn Scales, daughter of Christopher and Lisa Scales of Foxfire Village, has been selected as a finalist for North Carolina's 34th Annual Homecoming Queen Selection, sponsored by the America's Homecoming Queen organization.

The winner of the NC State competition, scheduled for March 23 in Salisbury, will receive a cash scholarship plus an all-expenses paid trip to the National Finals to compete for the title of America's Homecoming Queen.

Scales will also be competing for the title of North Carolina's favorite Homecoming Queen. Voting takes place online at [www.americanhomecomingqueen.com/](http://www.americanhomecomingqueen.com/)

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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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# Boot scootin' fun benefits Prancing Horse

by Claudia Watson

Prancing Horse, Inc. will celebrate the organization's 30th Anniversary of service to the community at the annual Spring Barn Dance, on Thursday, April 3, 6 to 10 pm, at the Fair Barn, Pinehurst.

"There will be plenty of fun and foot stomping for everyone," says Judy Lewis, executive director of Prancing Horse. "Everyone enjoys putting on their boots and keeping step with the music – especially when you know it is a great way to support these students."

The evening will highlight the accomplishments and growth of Prancing Horse's medically approved and accredited therapeutic horseback-riding program. The local program, which began in 1984, has helped over 52,000 children and adults with physical, mental or emotional challenges.

## New programs for veterans

In the past year, the organization has experienced tremendous growth, due in part to the support of the community.

This past autumn, Prancing Horse announced the start of a therapeutic riding program for all post 9/11 veterans called "Freedom Reins." The program, which is under-

written by the Wounded Warrior Project, assists veterans who participate in the equine-assisted activity and therapy program.

In addition, Prancing Horse recently received a grant to partner with the Air Warrior Courage Foundation (AWCF). AWCF provides scholarships for the therapeutic riding program to special needs children of active duty military.

## Community needs expand

Lewis also recognizes the Golf Capital Chorus for a generous grant that will make it possible for the special needs classes at Carthage Elementary and Cameron Elementary to join the therapeutic horseback riding program this spring.

The Prancing Horse program operates from three local stables, Muddy Creek, McLendon Hills and now Seven Lakes Stables. As of this spring, the program will operate four days a week and serve over sixty riders a session.

A cadre of over sixty volunteers helps support the riders for these sessions.

Prancing Horse gives adults and children with special needs a safe environment for therapeutic horseback riding. The students challenge themselves both physically and

emotionally through a series of stimulating exercise for their bodies, as well as their minds.

## Dance the night away

This year's Barn Dance includes a spaghetti dinner and cake, as well as wine, beer and sodas.

A limited number of tickets are available for the event and early registration is recommended.

Tickets are \$50 per person and available at Cabin Branch and Moore Equine in Southern Pines, Lady Bedford's and Given Book Shop in Pinehurst and Sandhills Winery in Seven Lakes or at [www.prancing-horse.org](http://www.prancing-horse.org). For more information call 910-246-3202.



**Big Smiles** – Abigail Schaad "is a very happy little girl" every time she comes to class, says volunteer Janet Baron.

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## Westside

(Continued from front page)

term of Brian Benjamin.

"Each comes well equipped to handle the tasks," Vice President Bruce Keyser said of Goodman and McDermott.

### CAS Staff Praised

During his review of the years accomplishments, outgoing President Jack Stevens highlighted the work of CAS manager Jeanette Mendence and her staff — Molli Tallant, Luci Hadlock, and Kaite Bright.

"Over the last four years, CAS Management has continued to assume more responsibilities from the Board," Stevens said. With

three members retiring from the Westside Board and only one new member added at the annual meeting, the size of the Board has now dropped from nine to seven members.

As the Board is downsized from nine to seven members, the duties of the Safety and Security Committee and the Events Committee will moved to CAS staffers. Tallant will take full responsibility for Safety and Security.

CAS receptionist Bright manages the SLWLA website, message board, and amenities reservations, while Hadlock oversees boat registration, pool management, and updates to the Association's

documents. Community volunteers will continue to assist CAS in these areas.

Mike Ellison is the Association's maintenance employee and yard waste manager.

### Volunteers make the West Side go 'round

"I can't say enough about the talent in this community," Stevens said, turning his praise to fellow Board Members and member volunteers.

"This community relies on volunteers for leadership, experience and enthusiasm. Volunteers make a considerable financial impact, by saving money — hundreds of thousands of dollars. Many volunteers have served on multiple committees over multiple years."

Vice President Bruce Keyser replaced Stevens at the podium to thank outgoing those Directors retiring from the Board: Stevens, Nancy Workman, and Ed Cockman. Thanking them for their service, Keyser presented each Director with a humorous gift that reflected their personalities and duties on the Board.

Paul Kirst was honored

with the annual Joe Fellingham Community Service Award. Kirst has served in many Association roles since he and his wife Kathy moved to Seven Lakes West in 1999.

"He was ready to do anything he could to help with the lake or work on the dam," said Kathy Kirst, who accepted the award on behalf of the vacationing Paul Kirst.

### Achievements, attractions, and challenges

Stevens' presentation highlighted achievements of the past year department by department, ending with a look at "coming attractions" and "issues on the horizon."

The attractions included

the development of walking trails and a more parklike setting in the undeveloped areas of West Side Park.

Among the challenges Stevens cited were:

- Development — the Stonegate, Parkwood, and Colton's Corner's residential neighborhoods, as well as the two-story office building planned on Lakeway Drive.
- The future of Beacon Ridge Country Club.
- The Association's lack of control over land beyond the perimeter of Seven Lakes West. Clearcutting between Longleaf Drive and the West End Cemetery is one example of the latter.

(See "Westside," p. 12)



Three of the four members of CAS' Seven Lakes West staff — Luci Hadlock, Kaite Bright, and Community Manager Jeanette Mendence

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## Westside

(Continued from page 11)

Additional perimeter fencing is a possibility in some areas, Stevens said.

### Narrow roads dangerous for pedestrians

Sharing the West Side's narrow roads with pedestrians has the potential to be a hazard.

During the member comment segment of the meeting, Pete Chase said, "My concern is one of safety. The roads are not wide and interaction of automobiles with joggers and walkers gets a little dicey. When you are coming up to a blind spot and give a runner wide berth there is no room if you are meeting another car. Many people [i.e., pedestrians] do get off the pavement or at least to the side, but some do not, and I am afraid some day we are going to have a tragedy."

### Vote count withheld, apology issued

Also during member comment, Ruth Caldara asked: "Can we have a count on the budget? How many people actually participated in the vote for the budget, and how many voted for or against it?"

Keyser answered, "No. That is not information that has been released or needs to be released."

As Caldara asked why, Keyser interrupted, invited members to stay for refreshments, and abruptly asked

for a vote to adjourn the meeting.

The following morning Keyser issued an apology via



Newly-elected Seven Lakes West Director Mandy Goodman with husband, and former Director, John Goodman

email and the Westside website, indicating he had misunderstood Caldara's question, thinking she was asking for a show of hands from those present at the meeting.

Keyser reported in his apology that 324 members voted in favor of the budget and 126 voted against.

The SLWLA has released the numeric tallies of the Annual Meeting votes in every year but one since 2001. Last year, the vote on the budget was released, but the vote tally in the uncontested vote for seats on the Board was not made public.

## Day of Reflection

Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church will be hosting a Day of Reflection on Wednesday, March 26. The topic is "Sharing the Journey . . . Stories that Inspire" presented by Father Frank O'Rourke.

Check-in at 10:15 am,

program at 11 am, with lunch and the program ending at 2:30 pm.

Free, but registration required. To register call Trudy Hintz, 910-400-5034, or Sandra Breakfield 704-370-3220. 298 Farmers Market Road, Biscoe.

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# SOS to present 'Cautionary Tales' about fracking

On Tuesday, March 25, at 7 pm, Save Our Sandhills (SOS), Frack Free NC, and Clean Water for NC (CWFNC) will host Karen Feridun, Jill Wiener, and Robert Nehman, both dynamic speakers who have experienced first-hand the effects of the gas extraction boom, known as hydraulic fracturing or fracking in their home states of Pennsylvania, New York, and Iowa, respectively.

On a national speaking tour coordinated by the Stop the Frack Attack Network and its member groups, they will discuss "Cautionary Tales from Communities Impacted by Fracking." Hope Taylor, Executive Director of CWFNC and Betty Thomas, Co-Chairperson of SOS's Fracking Committee, will provide the latest information on current regulations and legislation in North Carolina, as well as opportunities for local and statewide action.

The natural gas boom that is sweeping across the United States may soon reach Lee County and northern Moore County. Geologists believe that there is a significant sub-basin of natural gas containing shale that extends from Granville county above Durham southward through the Sanford area and into Moore County to the vicinity of Carthage.

Fracking of natural gas wells could take place in northern Moore County within the Triassic Deep River Basin/Sanford Sub-basin, with potential implications through all of Moore County

and beyond. Gas deposits in North Carolina differ from shale formations in some other states in that they lie closer to the surface, have more faults, and are less extensive.

The speakers will discuss the fight against natural gas development near their homes.

Join Save Our Sandhills for this informative presentation on Tuesday, March

25, 7 pm at Congregational Church of Pinehurst, 895 Linden Road, Pinehurst. Admission is free. All are welcome. For more information, call Betty Thomas at (919) 754-7255.

## Navigating retirement? Look no further.



### Summer and Fall Blooming Bulbs

CCNC Horticulturalist Hilarie Blevins will speak at the Sandhills Horticultural Society program on Thursday, March 27, 10 am to 11:30 am.

She will guide participants through the selection, planting and care of summer and fall blooming bulbs.

This program will be held at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. Horticultural Society members \$5, non-members \$10. Call 910-695-3882 to reserve a place.

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# In memory of . . .

**Betsy G. Cole**, 75, of Jackson Springs died at home on Wednesday March 12.

Funeral services were held Saturday March 15, at Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Paul James and Rev. Elizabeth Forester officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Cole was born in Pinehurst daughter to the late Hugh David Godfrey Jr. and Jessie Mae (Donavan) Godfrey. She was a longtime member of the Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, and served in numerous leadership roles over the years, including Sunday School Teacher, Moderator of the Presbyterian Women, serving as Elder and Circle Chair. She was also a lifetime member of the Presbyterian Women, an active member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, the WRITS (Women, Researching, Investing and Trading in Stock) and the Southern Pines Elk Lodge.

She worked for the Town of Southern Pines for 15 years and also worked for several years with Edward Jones Investments. Most recently, she was employed with Honeycutt Jewelers.

She also served on the Miss Moore County Scholarship Association and as Co-Director of the Miss Noel Scholarship Pageant.

Survivors include sons, Richie Cole and wife Rhonda of Jackson Springs; Ronnie Cole of Aberdeen; daughters, Renee Cole, of Charlotte; Robin Williams and husband Joel of Aberdeen; and six grandchildren.

Memorial donations can be made in memory of Betsy Cole to the Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, PO Box 7, Jackson Springs, NC 27281.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory, of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

**William "Bill" Andrew Anderson**, 73, of Pinehurst, died Monday, March 10.

Mr. Anderson was born in Long Island, New York. He was the son of the late

William and Amelia Anderson. He joined the Air Force following high school. After serving our country he traveled across the country working in the moving business. He pursued his dream of owning his own restaurant, Tin Pan Alley.

After selling his business of 24 years, he made Pinehurst his home, where he continued his bar tending career at Pine Needles, and The Pine Crest Inn.

A Celebration of Life will be held Wednesday, March 26, at the Pine Crest Inn from 5-7 pm. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann; son, Daniel (Dorothy) Blasucci; daughters, Diane Basile; Sandra Cicatiello; Stacey Allgeyer, and husband Dean Allgeyer; sister, Marilyn Bromberger; and his grandchildren.

Boles Funeral Home is assisting the family.

**Daniel Francis Burke**, 79, of Seven Lakes, died March 6, at FirstHealth Regional Hospital, Pinehurst following

a short illness.

Born in Jersey City, NJ to the late Daniel F. and Clara (Wisniewski) Burke, he was a graduate of St. Peter's College in Jersey City, NJ.

After college Mr. Burke worked for NUMEC in Apollo, PA, Babcock & Wilcox in Lynchburg, VA, and retired from West Valley Nuclear Services in West Valley, NY.

While employed at NUMEC, he was named in a patent for the development of coated nuclear fuel particles.

He and his wife moved to Seven Lakes in 2007 and was a member of Sacred Heart Church, Pinehurst.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Norma (Klingensmith) Burke of Seven Lakes; daughter, Lucinda (John) Harden of Delevan, NY; son, Daniel P. (Jennifer) Burke of E. Granby, CT; brothers, Michael (Carla) Burke of Pensacola, FL; Charles (Arlene) Burke of Granada Hills, CA; Thomas Burke of Ormond Beach, FL; two grandchildren, Adrien Curtis of Olmsted

(Continued on page 15)



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TBD Pebble Drive  
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\$13,500

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# In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 14)

Falls, OH; and Logan Burke of E. Granby, CT; and sisters-in-law, Nancy Dunn of Greencastle, PA and Diane Klingensmith of Seven Lakes.

A private memorial will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 230 East Ohio St., Suite 304, Chicago, IL 60611.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

**Dale M. Heinlen**, age 92 of Seven Lakes, died on Monday, March 3, at FirstHealth Hospice House in Pinehurst.

He was born in Delaware County, Ohio, attended high school in Delaware, and attended Perdue University, and Ohio Wesleyan University. Mr. Heinlen graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in 1941, and entered Columbia University Midshipman's School.

Later in 1943, he was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy and served until 1946 as executive officer of a flagship for a gunboat flotilla

in the Pacific. During the war, he married his college sweetheart, Jean Griffith, a marriage that lasted 56 years, until her death in 2000.

After the war, he was released to the Naval Reserve, and was recalled to service in 1951, serving in staff positions in Japan, during the Korean War, until 1953. He resigned his commission in 1953 while on the promotion list to Lt. CDR. He joined Gibson Appliance Corporation in 1948. He returned to Gibson after the Korean War, becoming manager of Industrial Sales. In 1955, he moved to the advertising department, serving first as advertising manager, and later vice-president, advertising, a post he held until his retirement in 1987.

During his time at Gibson, he coordinated a sales incentive travel program for appliance dealers, taking them to all parts of the world. During the 23 years of this program, almost 150,000 persons traveled outside the United States. For many years, he was active in Republican pol-

itics, serving as county chairman in one of two counties represented by President Gerald Ford when he was a congressman.

He and his wife moved to Southern Pines in 1988 to a home they built on Pine Needles golf course. From 1988 to 2002, he was a part time employee of Pine Needles.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Cheryl.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Parsons Heinlen, a son, Jon of Lansing, Michigan, and a grandson, Ben, of Grand Ledge, Michigan,

and a sister Norma Brosie of Lakeland, FL, and three great-grandsons.

Memorial services were held Saturday, March 15,

at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

## West End History

The Seven Lakes Times is planning a series of articles on the history of West End.

We are looking for old photos of the area, as well as older residents who may be able to share with us stories that touch on the

history of the community – and, in particular, the history the buildings that remain in the area. If you have any photos or stories, please contact Ellen Marcus, Times Reporter, at 910-603-2739 or via email: ekmarcus@windstream.net



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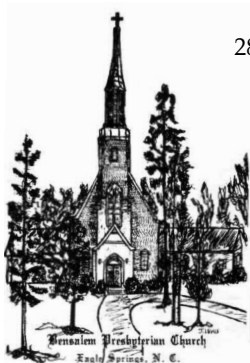
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**FRIDAY, MARCH 21**

- **Temple Theatre presents Sherlock Holmes & The Case of the Jersey Lily** – now through Sunday, April 6. Tickets or information, 919-774-4155 or templeshows.com 120 Carthage Street, Sanford.
- **Glorious Threads Lecture** – 6:30 pm, D. Jeffrey Mims, will deliver a lecture entitled 'Glorious Threads.' Weymouth Center for Arts and Humanities, 555 East Connecticut Avenue, Southern Pines. Tickets \$60 with MC/VISA via PayPal at www.weymouthcenter.org/lectures or (910) 692-6261.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22**

- **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.
- **Prescription Shoppe in Seven Lakes** – 10 am – 1 pm, Operation Medicine Drop Coming to Moore County. Event is for collecting medications for safe, secure disposal. Drop off your old or unused medications for disposal with the Sheriff's Office. Questions: Darrin Ritter, Sheriff's Office (947-2931).

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

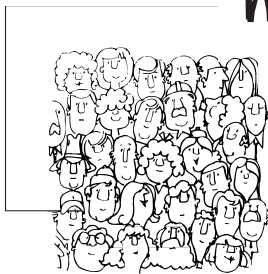
- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 3 pm, Landowners Annual Meeting at The Chapel in the Pines. Election of new officers and budget.
- **EXPLORERS! Ministry for Children at West End United Methodist Church** – 5 pm, Grades K-5. children will have a time of learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the youth.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – show 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *Asleep at the Wheel*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroost-

erswife.org (910)944-7502.

- **WEUMC Youth Group** – 6 to 7:30 pm, West End United Methodist Church Youth Group. Mandy Allen, Youth Coordinator, open to all Youth in 6th – 12th grades. Fellowship, study, meal.

**MONDAY, MARCH 24**

- **Weight Watch-**



## What's When Calendar

### ers Meeting

- 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Much Ado About Nothing** – 7 pm, The Young Shakespeareans drama group presents William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at Bethesda Presbyterian Church on Rt. 1, Aberdeen. Admission free, donations accepted.
- **Spring Flowers** – 7 pm, meeting at Sandhills Natural History Society, Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Guest speaker Katie Walsh, will discuss

spring wildflowers that can be found on the property. Visitors welcome. 910-692-2167 www.sandhillssnature.org

**TUESDAY, MARCH 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.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Frack Free NC** – at 7 pm, Save Our Sandhills. Frack Free NC, and Clean Water for NC (CWFNC) will host Karen Feridun, Jill Wiener, and Robert Nehman, at Congregational Church of Pinehurst, 895 Linden Road, Pinehurst. Admission free. Betty Thomas (919) 754-7255.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26**

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Day of Reflection** – Topic: "Sharing the Journey . . . Stories that Inspire" presented by Father Frank O'Rourke. Check-in at 10:15 am, program at 11 am, with lunch, ending at 2:30 pm. Free, but registration required. To register call Trudy Hintz, 910-400-5034, or Sandra Breakfield 704-370-3220. Our Lady of the Americas, 298 Farmers Market Road, Biscoe.
- **Chapel in the Pines March Lunch Bunch** – 12 pm, all single seniors invited, held in the Joralemon Hall. Program will feature Jan Leitschuh. She will speak on the topic "The Importance of Local Food." No cost. Reservations appreciated. Transportation will be provided if needed. To make a reservation for lunch or transportation call Chapel office 673-2156.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

- **"Living with Alzheimer's" Educational Presentation** – 1:30 to 3 pm, a Family Caregiver Support Program at the Moore County Department of Aging. Living with Alzheimer's. *Free and open to the public*. Scott Herrick, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will present at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. Information and to register Peggie Kennedy at 215-0900.
- **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. *Free*. Fran Stark at 910-673-5493.
- **Lenten Supper & Devotional Services** – 6 pm and 7 pm, at West End United Methodist Church, join together for a special meal followed by a Lenten devotional service. West End United Methodist

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Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. Ages 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – show 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *Kim and Reggie*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 27

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry for seniors. Fellowship and devotion and a meal at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Networking For Success Seminar** – 6 to 9 pm, Free seminar at Sandhills Community College Van Dusen Hall, Room 103, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst. Registration: Contact: Tom Zaleski at 910-673-2260 or Zaleski@MarketingSolutionsNC.com

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 28

- **Game Night at SLCC** – 6:30 pm – 9 pm. Looking for a place to play card games, dominoes or another game of your choice, come to Tufts Grill at Seven Lakes Country Club. Snacks and beverages available to purchase. Open to the community.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 29

- **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.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 30

- **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.
- **EXPLORERS! Ministry for Children at West End United Methodist Church** – 5 pm, Grades K-5. children will have a time of learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the youth.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – show 6:45 pm, doors open 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *Onyx Boys Club*. 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. Mandy Allen, Youth

Coordinator, open to all Youth in 6th – 12th grades. Fellowship, study, meal.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 31

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

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 1

- **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.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Living Your Fullest with**

**Dementia & Memory Loss** – 2 to 3 pm, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Weekly gathering for individuals. Facilitators: Rev. Fran Stark and Amy Natt, M.S. *Free*. Fran Stark at 910-673-5493.

- **Lenten Supper & Devotional Services** – 6 pm and 7 pm, at West End United Methodist Church, join together for a special meal followed by a Lenten devotional service at 7 pm. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.
- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. Age 3 to 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.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 3

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 2 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. League of Women Voters of Moore County will present two of their "Legends" dressed in period costumes. Refreshments served. Visitors and guests welcome.

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# Hot competition at the Sports Club Chili Cook Off

by Don Smith

Lake Auman Sports Club

This year's Lake Auman Sports Club Chili Cook-off was a popular event. Almost sixty attendees gathered in

the fiesta like West Side Community Center great room socializing with neighbors and sampling this year's competitive offerings.

Ten of the community's

best chili cookers participated in the cook-off making for a "good" competition. This year's judging took on a new look. Everyone who attended was given a chance to vote

for their top favorite chili entries. When all the tasting and voting was over, the People's Choice Awards were announced.

A very proud George Butt took first place honors with his "Canadian Chili," with a close second place finish was Don Freiert, a previous cook-off winner, and then entering his chili in the cook-off for the first this year and finishing close behind with the third place prize was Stan Makson. Thanks goes to all who participated in the event.

Thanks to all the volunteers

who helped in all phases of this event from set up to clean up. Without everyone's help, events like this would never take place.

Special thanks go to Nancy Workman, Seven Lakes West Director for Community Events and Sue Shepard for their extra efforts in helping with every phase of this year's cook-off. John Hoffman won the door prize and deserved to as he was a great help from start to finish the day of the event. Thanks too, to Ron Workman for supplying the music.



Lake Auman Sports Club Chili Cook Off Winners – George Butt, 1st Place; Don Freiert, 2nd Place, Stan Makson, 3rd Place; and Don Smith Sports Club President

## Free Zumba Class

Everyone is invited to join in for a Zumba Dance Class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church every Tuesday evening from 7:00 – 8:00 pm and Saturday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30 am, in

the Hankins Family Life Center. A Zumba licensed instructor will teach the free class. Questions? Call the church at 673-4656. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.



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# Search

(Continued from page 4)

- Experience as a teacher and principal.
- Experience with technology.
- Experience with building new facilities.
- A proven record of student achievement.
- Ability to work with the community. Someone who has a vision of what should happen and is able to translate that to the community.
- Moral and intellectual leadership.
- Continuity.

"We're not looking for a real change agent," Board member Laura Lang said. "We have a pretty clear direction; we just need someone who can help keep it going."

"Commitment to our community," Board member Enola Lineberger said.

In a comment that brought a bit of red to Spence's face — and good-natured laughs all around, former Board Chairman Ed Dennison said, "We want someone to come in who wants to stick around."

Spence accepted the job in Virginia Beach after only two years in Moore County.

NCSBA's Murray said he would take the input from the Board and the surveys and create a rating chart that would help Board Members work their way through the resumé's of the seventeen applicants for the job. Murray said that number was an above average response for searches in the state.

Board Chair Kathy Farren noted that the NCSBA does not screen applicants for the local board, but simply handles advertising, collects the applications, and forwards them to the board.

Dennison added that the search included the entire United States.

The Board will meet in closed session with NCSBA representatives on Monday, March 24 to determine which applicants will be invited for interviews, which are scheduled for the week of April 7. The Board interviewed in eleven candidates in the search that led to the hiring of Spence. Final interviews

are planned for the week of May 5.

## WEE Spanish Immersion Kindergarten featured

The program highlight for the School Board's Monday, March 10 meeting was West End Elementary School's Spanish Immersion Kindergarten class.

"Language is not taught as a subject, but as the medium in which the curriculum is delivered," Principal Leigh Ann McClendon told the Board. "Students are being taught in Spanish ninety percent of the time, the exceptions being during art, music, and physical education."

McClendon said studies have shown that children taught in immersion classes score higher than other students in other language classes and score as well or better than other students in math and science.

"As a former French teacher," Superintendent Spence said, "I was blown away by the amount of language acquisition that we saw in a short time. We know

that kids brains are hard wired for language."

Spence and some members of the Board had sat in on the class during the previous week.

"We have twenty-one students who have all instruction in Spanish," he said. "They are truly speaking listening, reading, and writing in Spanish."

MCS has partnered with VIF, "Visiting International Faculty," an organization that promotes language immersion and provides teachers for the class and support services.

Both McClendon and a parent interviewed in a video presentation for the Board said the early going for students, teachers, and parents was a bit rocky and took a real leap of faith.

"The first year is very difficult," VIF's Nathan Tomasini told the Board. "We said, 'Please trust us, it is going to work' and it did."

"I hope that I am able to come back in three years and see kids that are really fluent in two languages."

The students currently

enrolled in the Spanish Immersion Kindergarten can continue in the program in the first grade.

Board member Lang noted that kindergarteners "don't have a lot of English skills" and asked when students would begin to receive training in English.

"In second grade," McClendon replied. "After that, the amount of Spanish is less and less, but they will stay in Spanish through fifth grade."

## Letter to Legislators

Legislation passed by the NC General Assembly last year will ultimately do away with teacher tenure. But, along the way, it asks superintendents and school board to identify the top twenty-five percent of teachers in their district and offer them a raise if they will voluntarily give up tenure.

The legislation has been met with protests from educators and lawsuits from school boards. Rather than pass a general resolution

(See "Search," p. 20)

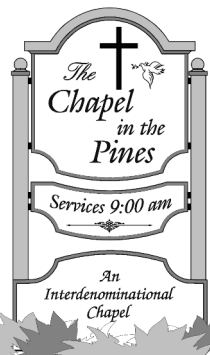
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Glenda Clendenin, Soloist

Rev. Paul James  
Chapel Minister

Rev. Fran Stark  
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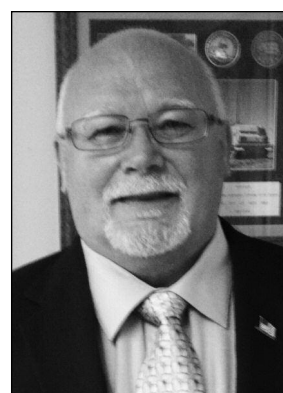
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## School budget

(Continued from page 5)

2008 recession, the federal government rode to the rescue with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly called the "stimulus," which nearly doubled the district's federal funding for FY 2010 and FY2011.

MCS' federal revenues rose from \$5.5 million in FY 2008 to \$10.8 million in FY2010. Knowing that revenue boost was likely to be short-lived, MCS stockpiled the cash, pumping the districts' fund balance from \$4.2 million in

2008 to \$12.4 million in 2012.

The goal was to use that savings account gradually over a number of years, but state budget cuts and rising expenses have resulted in MCS spending more than half of its fund balance in the past two years. The total at the end of this year is expected to be \$5.7 million.

"That is a non-sustainable use of fund balance," Griffin told the Board.

### Cuts anticipated

Rather than continue to shrink the MCS fund balance, the Superintendent's budget proposed both cutting expenses and requesting more support from the County.

Griffin told *The Times* that MCS is taking a cautious approach to its projections of state funding, because estimates are not yet available from the state.

"Since the last two budgets (2012-2013 and 2013-2014) have actually included

unforeseen reductions, we feel that holding the fund balance for now is the conservative position we must take," Griffin said.

MCS expects to end this year with total expenditures of \$102.7 million; the budget for next year trims that back to \$100.4 million. The Superintendent's budget shows state funding dropping from \$64.8 million this year to \$64.4 million next year, due to the expiration of one-time grants.

Griffin outlined proposed expense reductions in his presentation to the School Board. They include trimming thirty-five positions through attrition — that is, by eliminating vacant positions rather than implementing layoffs — which will save \$1.6 million.

Among the strategies for

accomplishing that is increasing class sizes in grades 4-12. The state sets maximum class sizes in the lower grades.

### Investments with impact

While Griffin handled the hard dollars and cents of the budget presentation, Superintendent Spence highlighted the investments in student achievement that the budget makes possible, as well as the impact those investments are having.

The district has made a substantial push to increase student reading skills, providing instructional coaches, the leveled literacy intervention program, and testing that produces data teachers can use to guide their work with individual students.

(See "School budget," p. 21)

## Search

(Continued from page 19)

opposing the move that has been approved by other school boards, the Moore County Board drafted a letter to state representatives and the governor objecting to the law, while providing specific facts about Moore County school and teachers.

"I think this is more respectful," Lineberger said.

"Our teacher's need all the support we can give them," Lang added. "I like that it tells how it has impacted our school district."

"The legislature is trying to impose a competitive model of education," Board member Bruce Cunningham said, and Moore County tends to go for a cooperative model."

Though he supported the intent of the letter, Board Member Ed Dennison objected to its length and was the only member of the Board to vote against it.

### Measuring third grade reading skills

In other business, the Board approved an alternative assessment for determining whether third graders are reading at grade level. New legislation requires third

graders who are not reading at grade level by the end of the school year to attend a Summer Reading School and to be retained in the third grade if they cannot attain proficiency.

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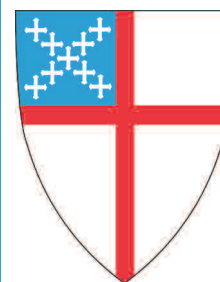
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## School budget

(Continued from page 20)

MCS has a number of programs that aim to boost the achievement of specific student groups — or individual students. The Moore Success program targets underachieving students and "lifts them up," Spence said. Other programs target children with mental or physical obstacles to learning, students who are still learning English, and academically gifted students.

Classroom teachers are also supported, through mentoring, coaching, a summer teaching academy, and a variety of professional development opportunities.

Finally, the district has embarked on a major digital learning push that will, within the next two years, put a computer in the hands of every student.

The results are visible both district-wide and at individual schools, Spence said.

Nineteen of MCS's twenty-three schools achieved or exceeded expected growth last year, up from sixteen the previous year.

Overall, proficiency scores in the district exceed the

state average and are the highest in the region, ranking Moore County twenty-fourth of the state's 115 school districts.

Improvement in the composite score on the end-of-grade tests taken by third through eighth graders propelled MCS from number 43 in the state in 2011-2012 year to number 22 last year.

Spence also highlighted specific schools that were able to correct deficiencies in certain areas of learning over the past year.

### Funding formula in the works

Board Chair Kathy Farren concluded the meeting by referring back to Griffin's comments about on-going negotiations with the County Board of Commissioners.

"The County Commissioners have come to us with a funding formula," Farren said, "and asked us to look at it and come back with ours. Mike has done that. We are still in negotiations and still trying to work that out. We hope that will work out, and, if it does I believe that it will be a positive thing

for Moore County Schools."

Earlier in the meeting, Farren thanked County Commissioner Nick Picerno for organizing a meeting on school funding that included Griffin, County Manager Wayne Vest, State Senator Jerry Tillman, and State Representatives Jamie Boles and Allen McNeill.

"We keep trying to explain to the County Commissioners that a school budget is not simple," Farren said.

"Commissioner Nick Picerno set up a meeting with the legislators . . . I think they all left with their mouths open. Even the legislators didn't understand how the funding worked."

## Living with Alzheimer's

The the Moore County Department of Aging will present "Living with Alzheimer's" Educational Presentation on Wednesday, March 26, 1:30 to 3 pm, as part of a Family Caregiver Support Program.

Living with Alzheimer's Stage 1 is an early stage educational program by the Alzheimer's Association, it is free and open to the public.

In the early stages of Alzheimer's disease families face new questions as they adjust. What does the diagnosis mean? What kinds of plans need to be made? What resources are available to help? Join the group for

this first module of a three part series to hear practical answers to questions that arise as families navigate through the stages of Alzheimer's disease and related brain diseases that cause dementia. Learn what you and family members can do to cope with the changes that come with this disease.

Scott Herrick, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will present at the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center. For information and to register call Pegg Kennedy at 215-0900.

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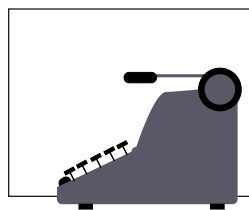
## Plenty of progress at Seven Lakes Stables

For the past year, I have been, as a member of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors, responsible for Recreation. Three years ago, I was elected to the SLLA Board and was chosen to serve as President by the Board.

I came to the Board with some of my own ideas. One of those ideas was to eliminate the Stables. In one of the early meetings, I brought this idea to the Board for consideration. The reaction from the Board and the community was akin to my stating I was against motherhood and the Flag. While not a unanimous response, it was overwhelmingly rejected.

Residents contacted me in droves. Two responses were dominant: "We saw the hors-

es in the pasture as we were looking to locate in Seven Lakes and it was one of the deciding factors. Please don't take that from us" and "The stables are unique and a wonderful amenity for us, our chil-



### Your Turn

Bob Darr  
Seven Lakes North

dren and our grandchildren when they visit."

No one on the Board knew anything about what was really involved in the operation of the Stables, including me. We knew we were spending a large portion of our budget on this amenity and really had no idea of the ben-

efit received from this expenditure. We, therefore, began an analysis. What we found was troubling.

- Actual ridership was very low, at least according to the records that were kept at the time.

- 94 percent of the rides were by seven people, and two of those riders were not res-

idents.

- We had eight horses owned by the SLLA, one donkey owned by the stable manager, and two ponies. The stables were; managed by a full time manager and two part time assistants. In 2011, the stable averaged 36 rides per month.

or 4.5 rides per horse per month.

- Based upon an \$80,000 budget, each ride was costing the Community \$185.
- Record keeping was nearly non-existent.
- Lessons were non-existent.
- Young riders were non-existent.
- The barn structure was in very poor condition.

I do not represent the numbers cited as being accurate, because of the lack of record keeping. However, these are the numbers we found and compiled. After gathering a great deal of information, the Board, in the spring of 2011, made some important decisions.

The herd was reduced to five horses and two ponies. The manager was replaced. A fee schedule was estab-

lished for non-resident usage.

A casual marketing program was instituted, with the help of *The Times*, to promote summer camps, lessons and overall availability of the amenity. Young residents were encouraged to learn to ride and eventually to compete. A program to progressively improve the facility was begun. Record keeping was computerized. Bulk purchasing was instituted to reduce costs. Sources of income were sought. Other less visible but important changes and improvements were instituted. The comparative results, FY 2010/11 vs FYO 2012/13, have been, in my view, astounding.

- Horse ridership has increased over 700% to 251 riders per month. Pony rid-

(See "Stables," p. 24)

## The ACC Tournament, a spiritual experience

This weekend my son and I had the privilege of going to the ACC tournament to watch the semi finals, Virginia over Pittsburgh and Duke over NC State. We were able to watch two great basketball games, and I had a great time of bonding with my oldest son.

Watching Virginia play, we both noticed how hard that

they played for one another. It was noticeable that Virginia had "chemistry," or the "it factor," or whatever you want to call it. In the final game, Virginia beat Duke, to my son's dismay. After the game, coach Tony Bennett gave a testimony about his faith in Jesus Christ and then talked about how his team has bought into the philosophy

of serving one another in order to make the team better. What a fantastic idea, using biblical principles in everyday life.

I wonder what society would look like if more people would consider this same philosophy: serving one

another in order to make society better. What would politics look like if, rather than toeing the party line, the politician would actually want to serve the constituent rather than serving their party?

What if Americans listened to the call from John F. Kennedy and asked what they could do for the country rather than what the country could do for them? Perhaps, we would not have so many people dependent on govern-

ment.

This philosophy wouldn't just affect politics, but it would affect the church as



### Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

well. The Christian Church has earned this reputation of being hateful rather than serving others in love. Many times we are better known for what we are against rather than what we are for.

Perhaps, we could shake this ugly label if we would begin to serve those that believe we hate them. Maybe we could open lines of communication with those with whom we disagree and understand the differences between us. We should get

back to doing what Jesus did and serve people regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, lifestyle or any other label and demonstrate the love of Christ out of genuine concern for their soul. People don't care what we know until they know how much we care.

We are not justifying sin by loving someone who is a sinner. I would contend that we are never more like Christ than when we love people, regardless of their faults.

I am so thankful that Jesus loved me in spite of my faults, and continues to love me even though I am far from perfect. After all, the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. Who knew that basketball could have such spiritual implications?

Chris Hrabosky is pastor at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. You may send him your question or comments at [chrabosky@mac.com](mailto:chrabosky@mac.com)

### SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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# Finding truth in the sandy loam of East Texas

It was a warm spring day, the sun filtering through the oak limbs. My daddy and I were sitting out back. I remember how pale his bare feet were resting in the green centipede grass, almost as white as the raveled edges of his worn blue jeans. His face was tanned and weathered from years of working in the sun, and his eyes crinkled denim blue.

My daddy was a quiet talker — more quiet when he didn't want Mom listening in. I remember straining to hear him that day. He told me that the geologists had come back out to the oil rig, that the drill bit had pulled up sharks' teeth and fossils from deep within the East Texas clay. He told me how the earth had formed over millions of years.

I stared at him disdainfully and told him there was no such thing as evolution, as our preacher said the world was only 2000 years old.

He shook his head and said, "Ellen, preachers don't know everything."

The windows were raised to let in the cool breeze. My mother's ears overheard the whispers of sacrilege. She marched out to once and for all set the record straight. She slapped the table for emphasis as she counted out loud "One, two, three, four, five, six, and on the seventh day he rested." She turned and went back in.

But Daddy got me to thinking. I guess that's usually when trouble starts, when we start to think. Being a Missionary Baptist in East Texas, I found it necessary to balance my curiosity about the outside world on a tightrope of biblical interpretation. It wasn't long after I started thinking that I found it necessary to question our pastor in Baptist Training Class.

How could Adam and Eve populate the whole world in two thousand years? His thoughtful reply was that people lived longer and had more children. I then asked, who was the woman from Nod that Cain married? How

many kids did Adam and Eve have? Who did Seth marry? In less than forty-five minutes, I became the bane of our pastor and the thorn in my mother's side.

action. Always the one to listen to higher authority, I took his word for it.

I was two semesters away from my journalism degree at Stephen F. Austin State University when I found out there was an archaeology field school. I was so excited that I went right away to enroll. Dr. James E. Corbin was

## Stirring the Pot

Ellen Marcus

I had always talked of being an archaeologist, but my daddy was surprised when I told him I wanted to go to college. He told me he had never seen anything in my actions to prove it. I never studied, was a dreamer, and didn't take much seriously. But I was determined to go and took out a student loan. A junior college counselor told me I couldn't be an archaeologist and wrote down journalism as my course of

the archaeology professor, and he asked me if I had any of the prerequisites. Out of the six classes on his list, I had only one, geology. And I had taken geology from a creationist professor at junior college who basically taught the mineral chart.

There I sat as green and backwoods as they come, with a less than stellar GPA, as I had never learned to study. It was clear Dr. Corbin's answer was no, but

I did not get up to leave. Dr. Corbin laughed and signed the slip.

In that first field school, the world began to grow. At lunch, the class would sit in the shade and talk. After I explained who all was going to hell, Dr. Corbin questioned my blind faith and the narrowness of my religion. On a different day, I told him how old the earth was, and

he asked me why God wouldn't leave us a physical record of how He created the world.

In the deep sandy loam of East Texas I read human prehistory and understood that evolution was not evil — it was the recipe for creation. In the lab, I held the heavy, cool prehistoric fossils in my hand, grounding my faith with truth — not a

(See "Texas," p. 24)

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## SPRING CLEANING

*"You can clutch the past so tightly to your chest that it leaves your arms too full to embrace the present."*

— Jan Glidewell

People like "stuff." We tend to hold onto it year after year. We save and stock up on things that we don't know what to do with anymore. Maybe we keep things because they hold precious memories of days gone by, or they remind us of our parents, grandparents, past loves or childhood. To part with these precious possessions seems out of the question. There is a saying that goes, "You have to get rid of the old to make way for the new." If you are feeling stuck or stagnant in your life, try spring-cleaning. Throw out some of that stuff, say goodbye to your past and welcome the new energy of your happy, healthy future.

For good mental and physical health, we actually have two "houses" that need to be spring-cleaned: our physical homes and our physical bodies. Just as we accumulate "stuff" in the form of outgrown clothes, magazines, rusty bicycles, tools and random keepsakes, so do our bodies accumulate old food residues and toxins that need to be cleaned out.

To spring clean your body, give it a break from rich and complicated

foods by either cleansing or fasting for a short period of time. Cleansing means paring down your food to just simple fruits and vegetables, lots of water and perhaps whole grains. Fasting means limiting most foods and drinking lots of water, fresh vegetable and fruit juices, teas and soups. Without much energy going toward digestion, more energy is available to the rest of your body and mind. Cleansing and fasting can sharpen your concentration, help you gain insight and promote spiritual awareness. It can also bring improved immune function and better digestion.

While you're cleaning out your body and home, don't forget to spring-clean your heart. Throw away negative thoughts and habits you've been harboring that no longer serve you. A clean, open heart will allow you to receive all the good that awaits you each and every day. If your heart and mind are cluttered, there is no room for life's gifts and surprises to enter.

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## Stables

(Continued from page 22)

- ership increased 16%.
- 58 children attended camp last summer and many more could not be included based upon availability of staff and animals.

- An increase of herd size to eight horses and two ponies was accomplished and, interestingly enough, has not increased feed costs and other related expenditures from FY 2011.

- Per ride costs have decreased to \$27.60.
- Income has risen from \$680 (prorated guest card purchasing) to \$3,550, offsetting costs, this income coming from non-residents.

- Entire families are now using the stables. There was no evidence of this previously.
- With an aggressive teaching program, our young riders have successfully competed.

Much of the success so far is the result of an active and dedicated group of volunteers on the Stables Recreation committee. Not all of them are riders or users of the amenity but residents giving of their time, ideas and efforts to make the operation and this community asset better. Other members are users but they, too, contribute greatly in assisting the Stable staff with pony parties, the Halloween party, pony rides at the Easter Egg Hunt, delivering Santa to the Christmas party, providing assistance

at the competitions we have held, cleaning and trimming trails, assisting with small construction projects and even contributing cash or supplies.

The Stables are a classic example of Homeowner Association improvements as a result of member participation.

The Stables have come a long way and the community is the beneficiary. It can be better. Those in the community who have interest, expertise or even curiosity can assist by joining the effort.

As I learned, my opinions were not shared and we are better for it. Opinions, ideas, input and the commitment to make improvements are vital to this community. The Stable story proves it!

## Texas

(Continued from page 23)

preacher's ridiculous interpretations. I slid my hands over our ancestors' skulls, feeling the smooth progres-

sion of humankind, in awe of how far we had come.

Dr. Corbin picked up where my conversation with my father had left off. In his

kind, patient, but not so quiet way, he taught me that I could have faith and still use the evolving brain God had given me. He hired me to work in his lab and treated me no differently from his serious students. With three hours left to complete my degree, I changed my major to archaeology and learned to study rather than dream.

I have said goodbye to both my daddy and Dr. Corbin. As I spoke at Dr. Corbin's memorial service I recognized the pain and realized I had lost a second father. Dr. Corbin took my fear of the unknown out of the equation and instilled in me the confidence to believe in myself, the knowledge to secure my faith in something greater, and the courage to question authority.

## Thanks for the New Horizons Band

Dear Editor:

I would like to say thank you to the members of the New Horizons Band that preformed at the make-up Valentine Party at The Chapel in the Pines on March 12.

Twenty-eight members of the band entertained folks living in the Seven Lakes area with a variety of music that brought back many memories. The smiles on the faces of those in attendance, along with much toe tapping and swaying to the music said it all.

Thank you for the joy you brought to so many that afternoon, and also for all the ways you bring joy to those living in assisted living and long term care facilities.

We are so fortunate to be living in a community that has folks like your band members that enjoy sharing their talents and giving of their time to bring joy to others!

Fran Stark  
Associate Pastor  
The Chapel in the Pines

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# Skaters

(Continued from page 3)

have two staff members on each trail ride — one in the lead and one at the end of the group.

Darr said, based on his personal experience, that arrangement is critical "from a safety standpoint."

Darr said a horse he was riding during a trail ride was bit by an huge horsefly, and then ran off the trail. The trailing staff member dismounted, swatted the fly, and got Darr's horse back in line.

"I have little experience with horses, and had no idea what to do," Darr said. "We will not do trail rides without two staff members."

## Skaters take a backseat

The Work Session conversation turned to skateboards and the prospect of providing a simple park with a few obstacles that skaters can use for tricks. While several Board members expressed support for the idea, the consensus was that rehabilitating and upgrading existing amenities needs to come first.

"I have been approached for several months by parents who would like to see this kind of facility," Rich Faraci said.

"I am a staunch supporter," Chuck Leach agreed. "I think it is a great thing for our kids, because they have skateboards anyway."

"There are some high liability issues, depending on what you do," Director Darr said. "There are a number of things that aren't that risky. We have kids skating all over our streets here. I don't see it as a big liability issue if you don't do a big half pipe."

"The difference [in terms of liability] is that one is a sanctioned area -- one the Association has created for the purpose," Manager Sohl said.

But President Ritter related the disastrous experience he witnessed at a municipal park in Colorado.

"There aren't a lot of the parks, and there are a bunch of kids who do skateboarding," Ritter said. "Our town

built a skateboard park — half pipe and rails and so on. The draw of that facility was such that we were getting kids coming from twenty miles around."

"Some of the skaters are a little bit . . . they are always on the edge," Ritter continued. "We saw a tremendous upsurge in fights, graffiti, criminal mischief. It got so bad we had to put an off-duty police officer down there four days a week. My concern here is, despite a gated community, it would focus more kids on that one area. I think our numbers would soar. And we don't have off-duty cops."

## First things first

A landowner mentioned that a commercial skateboard

park on NC Highway 15/501 was put out of business by a single injury lawsuit.

"Even if you don't get a claim, it is likely to reduce the number of bids you get on your policy," Sohl added.

"You can get sued for doing anything these days," Faraci responded. "We can't hide ourselves and hide our kids worrying about them getting hurt. They are kids. There are a lot of good parents who want something for their kids to do. We are worried about vandalism and graffiti, but we need to spend some money for something for these kids to do. There is a lot of request for these skating facilities. It's something we should attempt to do on a small basis."

"I would go on record

against it because of liability and potential issues," Ritter said. "The bang is not big enough for the buck."

"We have amenities we currently have that we struggle to find funding for now," Leach said, mentioning the tennis court area. "I'd like to get those up to snuff first."

"Are we going to be inviting a lot of non-resident kids in?" Racine asked.

"Probably," Ritter replied.

"If we have a nice facility, kids will want to have guests." Agreeing with Leach that rehabilitating the tennis court area is a higher priority, Ritter said: "That could impact a lot more people for the dollar."

"I suggest we set this aside because of the funds that need to be spent on other recreation issues," Darr said, and his fellow Board members agreed.

## Much Ado About Nothing

The Young Shakespeareans, a drama group comprised of local homeschooled students, will be presenting William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* on Monday, March 24, at 7 pm at the Bethesda Presbyterian Church on Rt. 1 in Aberdeen.

Admission is free, however, donations would be appreciated.



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# Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

Committee has also recommended changes to the Village's ordinances to allow additional small animal husbandry in the Rural Estate district, but those changes are under review by Village Attorney Michael Brough and will likely be the subject of a public hearing in later in the Spring.

## Water Obligations

"Why would we have annexed that property?" Councilman Mick McCue asked. "I have some concerns and am uncomfortable about the whole thing."

"Planning and Zoning have done some great things," McCue continued. "This Rural Estate zoning district was well done and well thought out. It doesn't answer all the questions for me, however. We've got annexed property that is nowhere near a developed portion of the Village," McCue said.

The Council had originally discussed zoning the tract "Equestrian" — a zoning district that already exists in the ordinances.

But Gilroy explained that keeping horses is not the only rural activity Edwards envisions in developing the property.

"When Mick and I sat down with Robert [Edwards] two or three months ago," Gilroy said, "we asked him to tell us how he envisioned that property being developed. Equestrian is not something he is focused on. The buyers he has out there right now didn't buy because they have a lot of horses. They wanted the hobby farm, blueberry bushes, or a cow. It is kind of a blend."

"We put it [the Rural Equestrian district] together based on some of the things that Robert said," she continued. "That is how we came up with it. We steered away from equestrian, because that's not what buyers wanted."

## Bridging Country & Village

The Rural Estate district provides a buffer between the core Village and the Rural Agricultural [RA] zoning that predominates in the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction that surrounds it.

"It is a bridge between RA and equestrian," McCue agreed. His concern was the level of responsibility the Village would have for new landowners purchasing property and moving into the Rural Estate area.

"I know the owner asked to be annexed," McCue said. "But future people living on those properties won't be in that position. They are going to have some very uncomfortable talking points to us and very good arguments to our representatives and say, 'I want water. I ran out of water and I want water.' Are we ready, on their timing rather than ours, to provide them water?" McCue asked.

Another concern that McCue raised was recent North Carolina legislation that weakens local govern-

ment control of development and land use.

"The situation is going to be different," McCue said. "Some of the legislation that our state legislature pushed through completely ignores what Village ordinances say. They do what they want to have done, like rezoning property in Aberdeen without going through the Town of Aberdeen, or telling Durham they will provide water to this area that they did not annex."

## Two Separate Issues

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco suggested that McCue was confusing the question of how the property should be zoned with the question of whether it should have been annexed in the first place.

When the Village originally annexed the land owned by Edwards, it was not zoned within the allotted time, so it currently has no zoning. Were it to be removed from the Village, by deannexing it, it would still lie within the Village's ETJ, and still need

to be zoned by the Village.

"We are talking about two different things," Councilwoman Leslie Frusco said. "Do we want to de-annex, or leave the land in the Village? If it wasn't in the Village, it would still be in ETJ. Either way we have control over what is built there."

"Whether we want it in the municipality or not, it is an unzoned piece of property," Frusco said. "That property still needs to be zoned."

"That property is already in the Village. The only way we could change that would be if Edward de-annexed the property."

"Whether it stays or goes, it needs to be zoned something," Frusco said. "I think that this is a good blend of a couple of things. I think Planning and Zoning has done a great job. In reference to the Village, there is only one other large piece of property that can be zoned into this [Rural Estate] and that happens to be Woodland Cir-

cle. That is currently zoned Equestrian."

## Water Rates Aim to Promote Conservation

Responding to a Work Session discussion among Council Members about whether Village water rates were too high on the top end of the rate card, Maryann Lauer spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting to clarify to why the Village water rates were originally increased.

"When the rates were set, it wasn't being punitive -- it was because the state recommended it," Lauer said. "They needed to be set higher because we were in a drought at that time, and it was to encourage people to take notice and be more careful in their watering. At that time a lot of people were moving here and putting in expansive lawns, and this isn't a place to do that."

"My husband, [Ed Lauer, (See "Foxfire," p. 27)]

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## SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

Treasurer Conrad Meyer noted that combining lots had been allowed since the beginning of the Association, perhaps, in part, because the original development plan was focused on creating lots for small, weekend cottages.

When marketing of the development switched to targeting retirees building full-sized homes, some of the original lots were too small to comfortably accommodate the larger structures.

"We have done this since day one," Meyer, who supports doing away with combinations, said. "The attorney is giving us some advice that we should stop doing it."

The issue of lot combinations — and reversing them — was raised for the Board when one landowner recently wanted to subdivide two previously combined lots. SLLA

policy has been to allow previously combined lots to be split, but only if the landowner backs up and pays the dues that would have been owed had the lots remained separate. The landowner in question asked to have the policy waived — a request that the Board turned down.

Sohl pointed out that lot combinations are not allowed in most homeowners associations. By reducing the total number of dues-paying lots, it increases the cost of maintaining infrastructure for all other landowners.

President Steve Ritter worried that changing a long-standing policy allowing lot combinations would result in charges of unfairness.

"We have a legal opinion," Director Bob Racine replied.

"Is this something that needs to percolate a little in the community?" Ritter

asked. "Or is this something we should move forward with right away?"

"We have a legal opinion," Racine reiterated. "Are we going to say we are going to break the association law for you?"

"We should move forward and do it," Director Bob Darr agreed.

The Board voted to move the item onto the agenda for the Wednesday, March 19 Open Meeting.

### Combined lots that weren't

While taking a look at lot combinations, Treasurer Meyer and the SLLA staff discovered that there are a number of lots recognized by the Association as combined that continue to be shown as separate lots in Moore County's records. Apparently the owners of those lots, having won

approval for the combination from the Association, never undertook the survey and deed filings necessary to officially complete the combination.

Manager Sohl proposed a new policy under which those not-officially combined lots would be identified and the owners notified and given 120 days to obtain a survey and file paperwork with the County.

If the property owner fails to take those steps, the lots

will be billed separately for Association dues.

"There wasn't a good procedure in place prior to two years ago," Meyer explained. "So, what we are finding is that most folks are doing it correctly. But there are some that have one of the requirements missing. We need to give them the opportunity to correct that in a reasonable time frame."

The Board moved the recommended policy to the Open (See "SLLA," p. 28)

## Foxfire

(Continued from page 26)

who oversaw the Water Department during his time on the Council] was the water man, and he saw people watering excessively even overnight. He would write letters telling them to turn off the water. It wasn't really being punitive, it was to get people to watch how much they were watering."

### Reynview Vista

Turning to other matters, Councilman Vic Koos recommended paving the entrance of Reynview Vista Road to correct the constant erosion created by the cement pad that protects the water line valve. Frusco suggested that homeowners should be given input before the board votes whether to pave or not.

### Storm Drain Fixed

A storm drain on Village property recently backed up and was flooding the grounds near the Foxcroft Circle Condos, Koos reported. Necessary repairs were made by the Village.

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## SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 27)  
Meeting for a vote.

### Handling snow

Responding to a suggestion that President Ritter made during the February Open Meeting, Manager Sohl provided a quote from Davenport and Company — the Association's landscaping contractor — for snow removal and associated services.

The quote proved to be more of a conversation starter than an actionable proposal and the Board referred the matter to the Maintenance and Facilities Committee.

### Other business

In other business during the Monday, March 10 SLLA Board Work Session:

**Lots for sale.** The Board plans to put some of the thirty nine lots it owns — half of them acquired from the Country Club in a recent negotiated deal to forgive back dues — on the market. President Ritter recommended that the Board list the lots with longtime Seven Lakes specialist Whelan Realty LLC. The Board will vote on that proposal in the March Open Meeting.

**Citizen of the Year.** Each year, the Board names an

SLLA Citizen of the Year, and are expected to vote on that honor during a closed session held in conjunction with the March 19 Open Meeting. Director Darr noted that there is no prescribed process for selecting honorees, and suggested the Board formalize the process before the 2015 Open Meeting.

**No votes for SLLA lots.** The Directors are not inclined to cast votes for Association owned lots in the upcoming Board elections and budget referendum. "Ray [Sohl] noted that our lots don't meet muster," President Steve Ritter said. "We don't pay dues, so we don't get to vote." The decision not to vote the lots will be ratified at the March 19 Open Meeting.

**Voting proxies.** The Directors will cast ballots for any proxies assigned to the Board by landowners. The ballots delivered to members in the Annual Meeting packet allow them to assign a proxy to the Board, rather than voting themselves. That will be handled in closed session at the March Open Meeting.

**Protecting volunteers.** The Board asked Community Manager Sohl to develop list of activities that volunteers should not undertake on the

Association's behalf — like operating a chainsaw — because they are too dangerous and could represent too great a liability risk for the Association. Sohl said the Association's Worker's Compensation Insurance does not cover volunteers and the SLLA's medical coverage for accidents would limit coverage to a maxim of \$10,000.

**Another look at cameras.** After looking at the cost of security cameras to cover the pool area, the Board asked the Security Committee to take a hard look at the need for cameras. President Ritter said the Committee is likely to recommend only an upgrade for cameras at the entry gates, for now.

**Bad debts.** The Board will vote in the Open Meeting whether to write off a number of accounts as likely uncollectable. Treasurer Meyer explained that approval of the motion will not stop collection efforts on the accounts, but simply remove them from the Association's books. If they are later collected through efforts of the Board's collection attorney, they will be recorded as rev-

enue.

**Backhoe repairs.** Sohl asked for Board approval to spend additional funds for major repairs to the Association's backhoe. Repairs are expected to total \$15,000. Sohl pointed out that a comparable used backhoe, with no warranty, would cost \$30,000. The expenditure will be voted on at the March Open Meeting.

**Collections.** The Board reviewed a revised collections policy that mirrors CAS's standard procedures and moved it to the Open Meeting for a vote.

**Big J repairs.** Director

Leach reported that repairs underway at the Big Juniper Dock found the structure in even worse shape than expected. A portion of the pavilion roof may need replacing, he added.

**Stick that sticker.** The Board discussed the best means of ensuring that boat owners affix new stickers to their boat and trailer. Director Meyer noted that Seven Lakes West simply imposes a fine if boats are found to lack updated stickers. Manager Sohl will investigate the West-side's process and bring the SLLA Board a proposal.

## Spring Wildflowers

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

Wildflowers of the Walthour-Moss Foundation will be the subject of guest speaker Katie Walsh, Board Member of the Foundation.

She will be presenting a

discussion on the spring wildflowers that can be found on the 4,000+ acre property. Pyxie-moss and red pitcher plants are just a couple of the highlights the group will learn about. Visitors are welcome.

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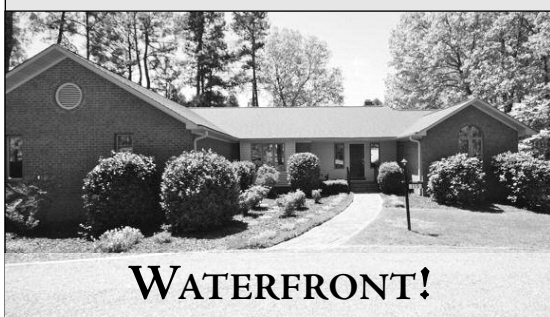


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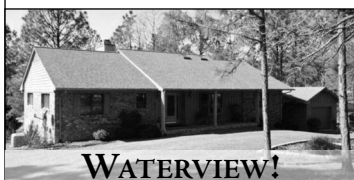
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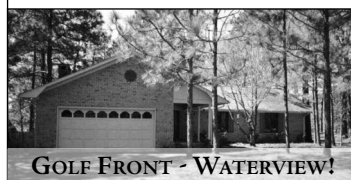
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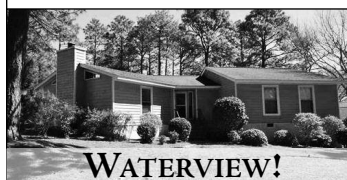
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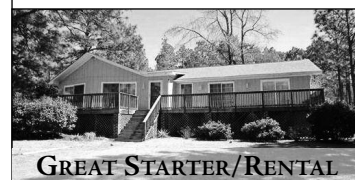
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March 21, 2014

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** – serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, and Pinehurst w/lawn maintenance & more for residential and commercial customers. Year round service. Mowing, weed eating, picking up debris, blowing. Shrub pruning, limb & tree removal and hauling away. Seeding/sod lawns. Leaf & straw removal. Haul and spread pine straw, bark, soil, gravel and mulch. Aerate, de-thatch, and edge lawns. Weeding of flower beds, planting shrubs. Re-surface gravel driveways. Blow roofs and clean gutters. Pressure washing homes, decks, concrete walks, driveways, & boats. Install driveway curbing and sprinkler systems. Garden tilling. Other odd jobs around the house? You need it done! We will do it! Call John 673-7320 or mobile telephone 910-690-6491. *tfn*

**RE-SURFACE GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS** – Prune crape myrtles, cutback pampas grass, leaf removal, general clean-ups, pine straw and pine mulch delivered and/or spread, roof and gutters cleaned, hedges trimmed, and mowing services available. Call Rick at 910-639-5206 for details.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**IN HOME PERSONAL TRAINER** – “I come to you.” Enjoy the health benefits of Personal Training without the inconvenience of going to a gym. Certified Personal Trainer specializing in Weight Loss, Flexibility, Muscle Enhancement and much more. Affordable rates with no long term contract required. Certified and insured. For a free wellness assessment please call Mark Ford 910-975-2572 or email: mford42@nc.rr.com *3/21*

**SEVEN LAKES HOME AND LAWN** – Call Ed at 638-2387, Rich at 638-8081 or email us at sevenlakeshl@yahoo.com for your lawn and yard upkeep.

**CAREGIVERS, COMPANIONS, AND HOUSEKEEPERS AVAILABLE** – Dependable and reliable. 910-692-6404, 910-992-1091, 336-302-5381. *3/21*

**TREE SERVICE — ALLEN & SON TREE SERVICE.** Topping, trimming, complete removal, clean-up, insured, 24 hour service. Free estimates, senior citizen discounts. Call James M. Allen at 910-974-7629 (Home) or 910-572-6818 (Cell). *tfn*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**PATTY'S HELPING HANDS** – companion & helper, meal prep & light housework, errands, shopping, Dr's appts, experienced, reliable, & refs. Call for appt: 910-947-5401. *3/21*

**J&L HOME SERVICES** — “A Handy Man and More.” Interior/Exterior Home Maintenance & Repairs. Call today for Free estimates. Your Seven Lakes Neighbor. Call 673-3927.

**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

**DIRTY DEEDS DONE DIRTY CHEAP!** – \$19/month. 96 gallon roll-out container provided for weekly pickup. Fully insured. Locally owned & operated. Professional Service. 100% Service Guarantee. **Carolina Waste Services. 910-673-4285 (HAUL).**

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**LOCAL RESIDENT:** I buy used cars and trucks. Call before you trade. Call Kirk 910-690-9299.

**CREATIVE CUSTOMWORK** – “The Decorator’s Workshop” Custom made Window Treatments, Bedding, Cushions, and Slipcovers. All made right here with the attention to detail demanded by the best designers! Pam Wasilewski, 336 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. Call 673-2500.

**GERITA'S CLEANING SERVICE** – Let me do your dirty work. 15 years experience. References available. 910-639-9473. *9tp 9/6*

**SEVEN LAKES DENTAL STUDIO** – Repairs of dentures, acrylic partials, and relines. Same day service available. All work will be done only through your local dentist. Tom Wasilewski, 336 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. 673-1613. *tfn*

Advertise in The Times  
910-673-0111

## BUYING GOLD & SILVER SERVICE

**BUYING GOLD & SILVER COINS** – Sterling Silver Flatware. Old Broken Gold Cash Payments! Call 910-944-0808.

## BOATS FOR SALE

**NEW & USED PONTOONS AND SKI BOATS** — Call Seven Lakes Marine. 673-1440.

**SAILBOAT 1978 CATALINA** – 22' w/trailer, 3 sails, electric trolling motor and accessories. Ready to sail, on trailer in Seven Lakes North. \$2,200 or B/O. Call Willy 207-380-7409. *3/21*

**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.

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DOWN  
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Jim Leach/Agent

JIM LEACH AGENCY – 215-8150 – [www.jimleachagency.com](http://www.jimleachagency.com)  
Located 1/4 Mile West of Olmsted Village on NC Hwy. 211 West





# Martha Gentry's Home Selling Team

## MOORE COUNTY'S MOST TRUSTED REAL ESTATE TEAM!



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



**Seven Lakes West \$265,000**  
Elegant custom home w/open floor plan  
3 BR / 2 Full & 2 Half BA  
108 Smathers Drive



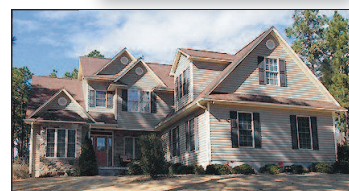
**7 Lakes West \$565,000**  
Beautiful custom home on Lake Auman  
4 BR / 3BA  
103 Vanore Road



**Seven Lakes South \$205,000**  
Super home with lots of upgrades!  
4 BR / 2 BA Code 1120  
127 Winsford Circle



**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



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



**Seven Lakes West \$450,000**  
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



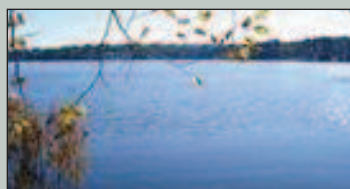
**McLendon Hills \$575,000**  
French country farmhouse on 3 acres  
4 BR / 3.5 BA  
600 Broken Ridge Trail

## 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!  
2 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 West \$230,000**  
Charming cottage with water views  
3 BR / 2 BA  
136 Otter Drive



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



**Seven Lakes North \$325,000**  
Gorgeous lakefront on Lake Sequoia  
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

CALL 910.295.7100 OR 800.214.9007 • WWW.MARTHAGENTRY.COM

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