

## Dirty hands, happy kids



Chloe Baker and Sydney Baldwin get ready to enjoy a healthy fruit smoothie during Earth Day festivities at West Pine Elementary

## School Board fine tunes plan for new schools

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Overcrowded schools are still top priority for the Moore County School Board, as they look toward adopting a ten-year Master Facilities Plan.

Both Pinecrest and Union Pines High Schools are well beyond their capacity. Pinecrest was built to accommodate 1600 students and currently has 2150 enrolled. Union Pines is educating 1277 students in a facility designed for 990.

Those numbers led the Board, in February, to approve a facilities priority list with expansions at Pinecrest and Union Pines at the very top. Next on the list was the construction of a new 800-student concept high school that would attract

students from across the County for early college classes or career training — and help reduce overcrowding at Pinecrest and Union Pines.

In March, the Towns of Southern Pines and Aberdeen asked the School Board to place a higher priority on deteriorating primary and elementary schools located in the towns. Southern Pines Mayor David McNeill and Aberdeen Mayor Robbie Farrell told the Board that local Realtors were steering buyers away from Southern Pines and Aberdeen to supposedly “better” school districts.

### A new priority list

Responding to that input, the Board asked Moore County Schools [MCS] staff to revisit the priority list and fine-tune cost estimates. Executive Supervisor for

(See “Schools,” p. 36)

## Council moves Work Sessions

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



The Foxfire Village Council began its Thursday, April 24 Work Session with a

discussion about work sessions.

Responding to an April 18 column by Seven Lakes Times Editor Greg Hankins, Mayor George Erickson led a discussion of whether the Council’s Work Sessions

should be modified to encourage greater citizen participation. Hankins had suggested doing away with the “Work Session” altogether, and instead returning to the practice of holding two regular council meetings a month, standard practice in Foxfire Village for many years.

“On Tuesday afternoon, I met with Greg Hankins and went over some notes that I made getting ready for that meeting,” Erickson told the Council. “One of the things that I indicated to him is that all meetings, their agendas, are posted on the website and on the door here before the meeting. And that we also give the press copies, like tonight, for example, of

(See “Foxfire,” p. 34)

## Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 6

Tuesday, May 6 is Primary Election Day in Moore County; one-stop absentee voting has been underway for more than a week and ends on Saturday, May 3.

The Republican primary offers voters a chance to register their preference in several key races, including the County Commissioners races in District 1, with Catherine Graham and Oscar Romine vying for the seat, and District 3, with incumbent Otis Ritter challenged by Louis Gregory.

Also on the GOP ballot is

a contest for the Sheriff’s office, pitting incumbent Neil Godfrey against challenger Steve Leader Adams.

Because no Democrat has filed for any of these races, the outcome of the GOP primary could well determine who fills each of those posts for the next four years.

The Times interviewed all six of these candidates during the week of April 20; those interviews can be found in this edition.

We hope that you will read those interviews and vote on May 6.

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# Seven Lakes EMS Chicken Dinner this Friday

Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc. will hold their Annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, May 2.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 am through 2 pm and dinner between 4:30 pm until 7 pm.

The dinner will consist of your choice of chicken breast or drumstick and thigh and include coleslaw, baked beans, roll, dessert, and bev-

erage.

You can dine in at the EMS building while visiting with your friends and neighbors or purchase take-out dinners.

The price is \$8 per dinner.

Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc. is a volunteer organization of emergency medical techni-

cians that serves Seven Lakes and the surrounding area twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

## Correction

In a story on the Moore County Volunteer Service Awards that appeared in our April 18 edition, we misspelled the name of one of the recipients. Jocelyn Schlagetter volunteers in the Friend to Friend gift shop, The Butterfly Boutique and was recognized for her service.

*The Times* regrets the error.

## CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, 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.

## Spring Fest this Saturday

Come out and enjoy Derby Day & Spring Fest this Saturday, May 3, from 1 pm to 6 pm (or on Sunday, May 4, in the event of rain).

Join the Guild for a Derby Hat Contest, Kids' Horse Race and other activities, games and prizes, and DJ Randy will spin the tunes for everyone.

The event will in held in the Village Central grassy area on Grant St. between

Lakehouse and TempControl.

The Guild will also have Live Music at 6 pm, with Tony Barnes. Enjoy the movie *Frozen* starting at dusk, complete with popcorn.

Come out and enjoy the whole day, and evening with neighbors and friends.

*All events are free.*

Sponsored by the Seven Lakes Business Guild.

## WEUMC Salad Supper

The West End United Methodist Women's Salad Supper will be on Friday, May 16 at 6 pm.

The "Salad Supper" will be served at the West End United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are \$8 each and can be purchased from Lou Anne Cline at 673-5431.

## Need A Miracle?

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Pray the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude help of hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day for 9 days and then publish. Your prayers will be answered, It has not been known to fail.

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# Board approves design for courthouse remodel

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



An expansion of the County's court facilities moved a step closer to reality with

a vote of the Board of Commissioners in a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 22.

The Board approved preliminary designs that will:

- Remodel the bottom floor of the courthouse, vacated when the Sheriff's Office moved to the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center;
- Remodel the upper floors of the courthouse to increase security for judges and other officers of the court, while increasing available meeting space for attorneys and their clients;
- Renovate the County-owned Currie Building to accommodate the District Attorney's office.

In addition, the Commissioners selected ESPA Architects and Planners as the firm that will develop formal designs and bid documents for the projects.

County staff worked with the Clerk of Court, District Attorney, Superior and District Court Judges, and the County's Courthouse Advisory Committee to develop the designs over several months.

Construction is expected to take place from July to December of this year. Renovations at the courthouse are expected to be undertaken while the facility is in use, but the Currie Building will have to be vacated while construction — which includes the installation of an elevator — is underway. Current occupants of the Currie Building include the Sandhills Community Action Program, Juvenile Services, and Guardian ad Litem.

## More space, better security

Property Manager Bobby Lake told the Commissioners that the basement floor of the courthouse includes 7,600 square feet, half of which will be used by the clerk of court. Probation offices, which are currently in rented space, will also be

moved into that area.

Renovations to the two upper floors are focused on creating more usable office space for the clerk's staff, redesigning courtrooms for better flow, providing better security, and creating additional conference rooms.

In the remodeled Currie Building, Juvenile Services will be moved from the first floor to the lower level. The District Attorney will occupy the first floor, and perhaps some portions of the second floor.

Whether the Sandhills Community Action Program and other current occupants will return to the building or be located elsewhere has yet to be determined.

## Standing up for SCAP

Early in the meeting, David Francis of Southern Pines recounted the history of the Sandhills Community Action Program, and objected to the agency's removal from the Currie Building. Francis said the building was created initially to house SCAP and

(See "Courthouse," p. 4)



**ELECT OTIS  
RITTER  
COMMISSIONER**

- Lifetime Moore County resident.
- Military veteran with 27 years of management experience in private industry.
- Since Mr. Ritter's appointment in May 2013, the Board of Commissioners, with the help of employees and citizens, has accomplished much for Moore County. Some of the major achievements are:
  - Adopted a sound fiscal year 2014 budget, holding the tax rate and increasing the capital reserve for projects by \$6.4 million.
  - Funded digital learning initiative for Moore County Schools.
  - Adopted new fire insurance district boundaries, improving insurance costs for many citizens.
  - Approved new Glendon/Carthage Fire and EMS substation, which will improve service and response times for citizens in that area of the County.
  - Identified and approved 20-year water source for Moore County — a 99-year, no minimum purchase water purchase capacity agreement with Harnett County (for 3 million gallons per day). Also approved 3 new wells.
  - Adopted updated Moore County Land Use Plan.
  - Adopted Unified Development Ordinance, streamlining and simplifying the County's Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.
  - Devised moves and building renovations, made possible by the completion of the new Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center, that will save the County \$93,271 in lease payments annually and approved relocation of County Human Resources and Veterans Services Departments, making them more accessible and convenient to the public.
  - Directed installation of American flag for display at all County compactor sites.
  - Sponsored installation of cell towers in north Moore County to enable contact with 911 Center.

— **Vote May 6** —

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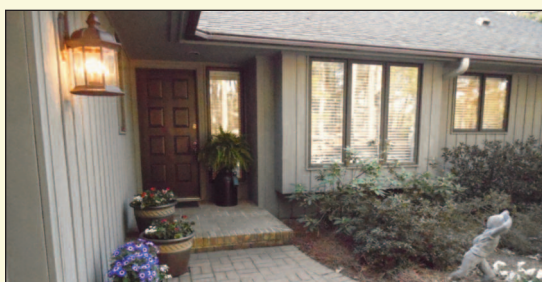
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# Graham wants long range plans for County

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



"Planning. Long range planning for Moore County's needs."

That's what Catherine Graham hopes to accomplish if she's elected to the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

Graham, currently a Town Commissioner for Carthage, is one of two Republican candidates vying for the District 1 seat on the County Board.

Graham served for more than fifteen as the elected Clerk of Superior Court for Moore County, retiring in 2009. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Sandhills Community College.

Graham's family moved to the High Falls area when she was a child; she has lived in the County for 58 years. And, as she is quick to tell an interviewer, she is a wife, mother, and grandmother.

"I would like to see some real planning, Graham says, when asked what she hopes to accomplish in her four-year term, should voters give her the job of representing them on the Board of Commissioners.

"I would like to see a long term plan. I think we all know what our needs are, but we haven't sat down and said 'How are we going to take care of these needs?'"

Ticking off a list familiar to anyone who follows County government, Graham mentions "infrastructure needs, schools, a court facility building," as key items on the

County's to-do list.

"I want to be a part of planning it. I am a big planner."

"We can identify urgent needs and the ones that can wait a little longer — and plan how we can afford it, so citizens' aren't overburdened with taxes."

## Schools

Moore County Schools [MCS] are in the midst of developing a ten-year facilities plan to replace outdated schools and relieve overcrowding in others — and planning to place a bond referendum before the voters in order to fund new construction and renovations. At the same time, the School Board is searching for a

superintendent to replace Dr. Aaron Spence, who is moving to a larger district at the end of the school year.

Graham said the School



Catherine Graham

Board might want to consider delaying a bond referendum until a new superintendent is in place.

"My personal thoughts are that they are going to be without a superintendent all Summer," she said. "I think the that the School Board needs to look at whether they want to pursue this right now or whether they want to wait until they have a superintendent on board. That's your captain of the ship, so to speak."

Graham said she felt MCS has done a good job of identifying facilities needs, "but perhaps the job has not been done as well on determining cost figures."

"I think that needs to be determined — how much money do you need? Show the Board [of Commissioners] how much money you need and back it up with some concrete proof."

"Some needs are urgent; some are not urgent. I believe we need to look at urgent needs and take care of them."

Asked about the conflict between the School Board's emphasis on first expanding overcrowded schools and the desire of the towns of Aberdeen and Southern Pines to have their deteriorating older schools replaced, Graham said: "Any time you have needs that are needy as those

(See "Graham," p. 32)



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Registration/payment deadline: June 1, 2014 (Session One)

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Registration/payment deadline: July 1, 2014 (Session Two)

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## Courthouse

(Continued from page 3)

other community services.

"Our public speaker made some points that we should take into consideration going forward," Commissioner Nick Picerno said at the close of the meeting. "We are not legally bound [to ensure that SCAP remains in the Currie Building], but we could be morally bound."

# Character, trust, values are key for Romine

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



When you ask Oscar Romine what he hopes to accomplish as a member of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, he talks first about trust.

"Being a representative is all about trust between the person elected and the person who elected them," Romine told *The Times*. "People vote based on trust. And I've never given anyone reason not to trust me."

"It really comes down to your values and your principles," Romine said. "Folks tend to get fixated on issues, but their true character is eventually going to come out."

Romine is running in the Republican Primary for the District 1 seat on the Board of Commissioners.

"People say that I lack experience in politics and local government," Romine said. "That is true. But we need people who are going to be straight up honest."

"I don't have any baggage.

My blood is not tainted by years of politics."

Beyond character and trust, there is analysis and verification.

"I try to think things through very thoroughly," Romine said. "I am very ana-



Oscar Romine

lytical. I trust, but I verify."

"In the military, you have to have three levels of verification. The question is: Can you solidify that what you are hearing is in fact true?"

**Twenty-one years  
with the US Army**

Romine, native of Alabama

and a resident of Cameron, retired from the US Army in 2013 after 21 years on active duty. He held leadership and operational positions from the core level on down, managing millions of dollars in

payroll facilities and equipment, and responsible for the safety of thousand of troops.

Romine served in combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as on peace-

keeping missions in Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and elsewhere.

During his sixteen years at Ft. Bragg, Romine met and married his wife, Christy (See "Romine," p. 29)

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- I will work to keep taxes low by making sure we spend every tax dollar wisely. We must constantly work to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government.
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- I will work to support the highest standards of education for our children.
- I will support police, fire, and EMS to make sure our neighborhoods are safe for every family.
- I will work to make sure our government is transparent and open to community concerns and ideas.

#### ABOUT LOUIS GREGORY

- Forty-three years in law enforcement, mostly command positions, to include Command Staff of the FBI Anti-Terrorism Task Force, and Chief of the Whispering Pines Police Department.
- A reputation built on decisions made from integrity, honesty, and exceptional leadership experience.
- A Criminal Justice Degree from the University of SC, Veteran of the U.S. Marines, BLET ethics instructor at Sandhills Community College.
- Married, a daughter, son, and three grandchildren.
- Committed to all of the people and focused on what counts: the people.

**VOTE MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

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# New postmaster is happy to be back home

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

West End has a new postmaster — Danielle Boykin — and she ready to throw a party for her customers.

Though she took over the West End Post Office in October, Boykin only recently received her official plaque from the Greensboro district office.

With the plaque on the wall, and her appointment official, Boykin and the crew at the West End Post Office are planing a Customer Appreciation day for Thursday, May 15 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. There will be plenty of refreshments on hand; customers are encouraged to stop by to meet the new Postmaster and greet

their old friends behind the counter.

Boykin and her husband Carl live with their three children in Foxfire Village. The Boykins have one child at West Pine Elementary, another at West Pine Middle School, and a third at Pinecrest High School.

Not only is Boykin a postmaster, but so is her mother, Jayne Cagle, now Postmaster at Biscoe, and for many years a familiar face behind the counter at West End. Boykin's husband Carl also works for the Postal Service, as a carrier in Rockingham.

Boykin herself has been with the Postal Service since 1995, serving in a variety of capacities, including postmaster in Hamlet and supervisor in Aberdeen.

"I love it here," she said of the West End Post Office. "I have found my home and I will never leave."

Boykin grew up on Lucas Road just west of Seven Lakes, attended West End Elementary and Pinecrest, and graduated from Union Pines High School.

"It's nice to have grown up in the area and be able to

come back here," she said. "Everyone has been friendly and helpful."

"I have been trying to get back to West End for a while,"

she said.

The West End Post Office has grown — and has space for more growth, Boykin said.

(See "Postmaster," p. 35)



Danielle Boykin is the new West End Postmaster

## Customer Appreciation Day

The West End Post Office is hosting a Customer Appreciation Day on Thursday, May 15, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Residents are invited to come, enjoy refreshments, and meet new Postmaster Danielle Boykin and the rest of the West End Staff.

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# Purple Diamonds are National Champs

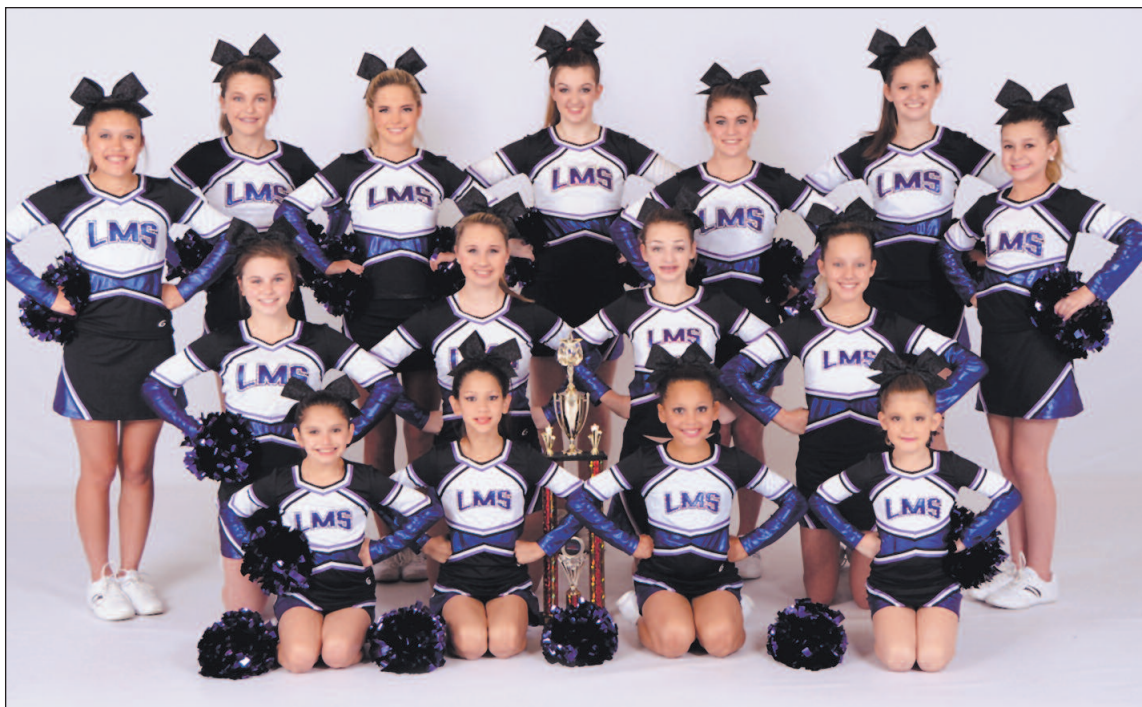
The LMS Purple Diamonds (the Competitive Cheer Team at L Mace Studios) attended three competitions this year. The first one was "Sweet Heart Classic" in Chapel Hill at the Dean Dome where they were awarded their first 1st Place win.

The second competition they attended was the "Cupid Classic" in Concord at Cabarrus Arena where the Purple Diamonds received another 1st Place Win.

Their final competition was Nationals in Wilmington, NC where they attended Fever Dance & Cheer Competition. The Cheer Team received a 1st Place win and were announced as National Champions for their level and division. Also, at Nationals some dance solos and duet/trios performed. Madison Hadaway performed a tap solo and received a 1st place and 4th overall for solos. Calli McIntyre performed a lyrical routine and received a 1st place and 2nd Overall for solos. Tanna Stafford performed a Jazz Solo and received a 1st place and 1st Overall National winner in solos. Tanna Stafford and Anna Gallant performed a Jazz Duet and received a 1st Place. Jada Carlyle and Micaila Frye performed a Musical Theatre Jazz Duet and received a 1st place as well as 1st Overall National Winner in Duet/Trio.

2013-2014 Purple Diamonds team members: Maggie McNair, Claire Allen, Ashlee Matthews, Jada Carlyle, Micaila Frye, Madison Hadaway, Tanna Stafford, Anna Gallant, Jade Baker, Kelsey Yonish, Courtney Tyner, Kelsey Wright, Vanessa Mogensen, Leilani Mogensen, Paige Adkins, Calli McIntyre. (A Special Thank You to Emily Gotschalk who filled in at Nationals) Head Coach: Lisa Mace & Assistant Coach: Gayle Mace.

Folks interested in learning more about the LMS Competitive Cheer team, contact the studio @ 673-5678. There are also all kinds of summer camps, cheer and dance, to enjoy the fun learning experience at L Mace Studios which are now online. Check the website to learn how to become an official member of the L Mace Performance group. A new prestigious dance group starting this year will perform all around the community (Summer camp for this is a requirement to be eligible). [www.lmacesstudios.com](http://www.lmacesstudios.com)



The LMS Purple Diamonds — Not Pictured: Ashlee Matthews [Photo by Capturing Memories]

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- ★ Recently retired after 15 years of experience as a District Court Magistrate, including presiding over Magistrate's Civil Court
- ★ Licensed Certified Bookkeeper
- ★ Served in the US Navy, including 18 months at the US Embassy in Singapore
- ★ 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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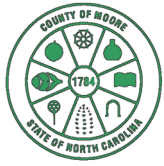
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# Ritter: Fighting to keep property taxes low

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



As someone who has spent most of his life in emergency medical services, in one capacity or another, Otis Ritter is understandably passionate about Public Safety, but he wants voters to know that he is just as passionate about keeping their taxes low.

"I am passionate for public safety, but also a fiscal conservative — and everybody knows that," Ritter told *The Times*. "I've been out there fighting for the public to keep our taxes where they are."

"We're trying to keep the County going efficiently and not spend everything that comes in sight. It really bothers me to take taxpayer money and spend \$1 million at a time. But sometimes, it has to be done."

Ritter, a native of Robbins, was appointed in May 2013 to serve out the unexpired term of District 3 Commissioner Craig Kennedy, who resigned his position on the Board. Ritter is up against challenger Louis Gregory in the GOP Primary on May 6.

Ritter has been an active member of the County's Republican Party since 1966, and has been involved in Emergency Medical Services since 1961, when he helped form the County's first Rescue

Squad, Robbins Unit 1. Ritter held state positions in Emergency Services, and chaired the County's Emergency Services Advisory Committee for twenty years. He was instrumental in bringing professional paramedic service to the County.

## Schools

Ritter is confident the County can meet the facilities needs of Moore County Schools without raising taxes — if the focus is what the County needs rather than what some folks want.

"I don't think we should go after everything we want right now; we need to go after what we need," Ritter said. "To try to do it all at one time is going to put the taxpayers in a bind."

"And we need to do a thorough check of what we need."

Ritter said he appreciates the work of the 21st Century Facilities Committee appointed by the School Board to look at the County's needs,

but he expressed concern that the panel might not have been given all the information it needed to fulfill its mission.

As a prime example, he points to Elise Middle School in Robbins, which both the facilities committee and the School Board initially seemed ready to close and consolidate with Robbins Elementary.

"My initiative has stopped that," Ritter said. "That's an

estimated \$9 million that we don't have to spend."

Ritter explained that, when he heard about the move to close the school, he and a Robbin Town Council member and the Robbins Town Manager paid a visit to the school to inspect conditions firsthand.

"I got up one morning and got a board member and the town manger, and we saved ourselves \$9 million."

"What we have to discern is what absolutely has to be done," Ritter said. "If a school is a danger, then that is priority one."

"I don't think we need a bond," he added. "If we do, it can be a small bond. A bond is not free money — we have to repay that money. And the interest on \$122 million doesn't buy County

taxpayers anything."

## Courthouse

"We know we will need a courthouse, but we need to be careful. We need to be frugal," Ritter said. He pointed with satisfaction to the plans to remodel portions of the existing courthouse to provide more space for the clerk and other court functions.

"I am proud of what we have been able to do," he said. "And it appears the clerk is satisfied with what we are trying to do."

But, when a new courthouse is needed, the County will have the resources to build it, Ritter said.

"We can do this court facility," he said. Referring to the recent County purchase of two properties adjacent to

(See "Ritter," p. 28)



Otis Ritter

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# Gregory: Taking care with taxpayers' money

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



When you ask Louis Gregory what he hopes to accomplish if the voters give him the job of representing District 3 on the Moore County Board of Commissioners, be prepared for an earful.

Gregory announced his candidacy for the seat now occupied by Otis Ritter way back in October of last year. So he's had a lot of time to think about — and talk with voters about — the opportunities and challenges facing Moore County.

"I want to make sure that the Commissioners can work as a team," Gregory told *The Times*. "Hopefully, we will be able to discuss issues before they become a problem and work together to accomplish our mutual goals."

"I want to keep taxes as low as possible. The people that are paying taxes are already hurting in many ways, so they don't need to be paying additional taxes. We need to spend money in a way in which every dollar is spent wisely."

"My past experience, in business and in the public sector, has given me experience in developing multi-million dollar budgets — and working within those budgets."

"We need to take care of the County's needs," Gregory said. "Wants shouldn't even be talked about."

"So, one of my goals would be to take care of the way we spend the taxpayers' money."

## A Background in Law Enforcement

Retiring from a long and varied career in law enforcement that included serving on the Command Staff of the FBI Anti-Terrorism Task Force, Gregory moved to Seven Lakes West in 2003 and, in short order, was appointed Chief of Police of the Village of Whispering Pines, serving in that post until January 2009.

## Schools

"One of my real concerns is to make sure that children obtain the best education possible no matter where the school is located," Gregory said, touching on recent complaints from the mayors of Southern Pines and Aberdeen that Realtors are steering homebuyers away from their towns because their schools aren't up-to-date.

"I will be looking at finding a way in which we can address the concerns of all areas of Moore County — including Aberdeen, Southern Pines, and Robbins. I want to sit down and discuss their concerns with them and have

an understanding that we can do what we need to do for the children."



Louis Gregory



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- **SERVED** and chaired the Moore County Department of Social Services Board
- **SERVED** as a member of the Moore County Schools Task Force
- **SERVING** on the the Board of Trustees of Sandhills Community College
- **SERVING** as Town of Carthage Commissioner
- Appointed by Chief Justice Sarah Parker to **SERVE** on equal access to Civil Courts
- Carthage Rotary Citizen of the Year
- Inducted in the Moore County Graduates' Hall of Fame.
- A wife, mother, and grandmother and a resident of Moore County for 58 years

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Referring to the prospect of a \$100 million plus school bond referendum on the November ballot, Gregory said, "By the time I go in, I know the bond will have been discussed, but the issues continue. I want us to look at long range plans — to know what we are going to be doing tomorrow, instead of waiting until everything piles on us at one time — like some of the things that are on us today."

Gregory is skeptical that

the time is right — and that the plans are sufficiently nailed down — to ask the voters to approve a school bond.

"I don't think there is a clear understanding of what is wanted," Gregory said, "and, until they have that understanding, then I don't think we can talk intelligently what we are going to do. We have all these other serious concerns that have come up — including the location of

(See "Gregory," p. 27)



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# Chapel Lunch Bunch

This month's Lunch Bunch at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines will feature Ken Rahal, a pancreatic cancer survivor, after extensive and aggressive surgeries and rehab.

Rahal was told by doctors that there is no medical reason why he is alive and cancer free, but he attributes his healing to his "faith and trust in God."

He is the chaplain at Manor Care and chaplain on call at Carolina House. Rahal works with a wide

variety of community outreach organizations, procuring supplies and donations of furniture, food and clothing to help those in need.

All single seniors are invited to attend the Lunch Bunch in the Joralemon Hall on Wednesday, May 21 at noon.

There is no cost. Reservations would be appreciated. To make a reservation for lunch or transportation please call the Chapel office at 673-2156.

## Alzheimer's: Is it or isn't it?

With a growing older population, there is a growing need for education on important aging issues like dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Fox Hollow Senior Living, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines and Aging Outreach Services have joined together to bring Duke Medicine's Dr. Mitchell Heflin to Moore County as a guest speaker and host an informational seminar entitled "Alzheimer's: Is it or isn't it?"

Heflin will present a review of ongoing research on diagnosis and management of the disease.

The seminar is free and open to the public on Tuesday, May 6 at 6:30 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

For more information or to register for the May 6 presentation, contact Aging Outreach Services at 910-692-0683 or [info@aosnc.com](mailto:info@aosnc.com)



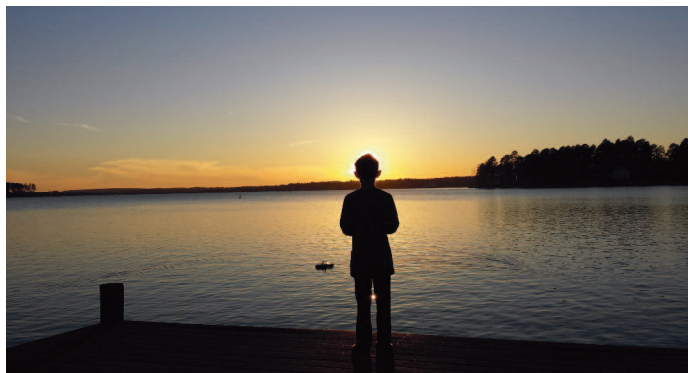
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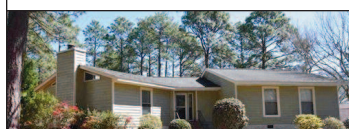
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# In memory of . . .

**Allan Everett Irwin**, 87, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, April 26, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital after a short illness.

Mr. Irwin was the son of the late George Irwin and Katie Reeder Irwin Hobart in Kinsman, OH.

In addition to his parents Mr. Irwin was preceded in death by his brothers Kenneth Irwin and William Irwin and an infant sister.

He served in the Army from 1945 to 1946, and attended Heidelberg College in Ohio where he met his wife Barbara Ann Johnson Irwin. He graduated from the University of Toledo, in Ohio with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He spent his career with Goodyear in aviation products. Mr. Irwin had a lifelong passion for flying which included building and flying his own two place biplane and serving as a flight instructor. After retirement he and his wife moved to North Carolina to be closer to family.

Mr. Irwin is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara Irwin; brother George Irwin; his children, George Irwin (Patricia), Gregory Irwin (Gayle); daughter Judy Morris (Brian) and James Irwin; his

grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday April 30, at Boles Funeral Home, Seven Lakes. The Rev. Archie Stevens officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, 969 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376.

**Arthur J. McKeon**, 87, died Tuesday, April 15, at his home in Seven Lakes sur-

rounded by his family.

A funeral mass was held Monday, April 21, at Our Lady of The America's Catholic Church in Candor.

Mr. McKeon was born in Brooklyn, NY, son to Arthur and Evelyn McKeon.

He enlisted in the United States Navy during WWII while a senior in high school, and served with the Navy Armed Guard in the Pacific. In 1950, he graduated from Pratt Institute with a Bachelor Degree of Electrical Engi-

neering. Mr. McKeon was employed in the engineering, design and construction of electrical power plants, switching stations and sub stations in the United States and worldwide for 39 years. He retired in 1989.

He married Patricia Duffy in New York City on November 17, 1951. They resided in Dumont, NJ for 45 years, where they raised their three children. He was a land owner in Seven Lakes since 1983, and a permanent res-

ident since 1996.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Patricia; son, James and wife, Karen, of Warwick, NY; daughters, Patricia of Lincoln Park, NJ; Maureen Hall and her husband Stephen of Rock Tavern, NY; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

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He will demonstrate how to create trellis, garden balls and supports using natural materials and participants will make a treasure to take home.

Reserve by calling Tricia Mabe at (910) 695-3882. Cost is \$15 for Horticultural Society members and \$20 for non-members.

# Adams wants to bring the crime rate down

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Serving as Moore County's Sheriff, according to Steve Leader Adams, a Republican candidate for that office, is more about being a skilled manager than about being an experienced law enforcement officer.

"It's like the CEO of American Airlines, Thomas Horton," Adams told *The Times*.

"He was the CFO at AT&T. He took American out of bankruptcy."

"He bought US Airways. Now they're one of the largest carriers in United States. They carry millions of people every year. People trust him with their lives."

"Thomas doesn't know how to fly an airplane," Adams continued.

"They don't make pilots CEOs. Just like they don't make mechanics the CEO of General Motors. You hire managers."

## From radio to construction and back

Adams is currently the owner of WEEB, an AM radio station serving Moore County with a news-talk format. His station carries the top nationally-syndicated conservative radio talk shows, including Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, and Glenn Beck. It also programs local news and weather.

Radio was Adam's first love, but, for many years, not his primary career. That was in construction.

Graduating from NC State with a degree in Business Management, Adams eventually became project manager and CEO at Kildaire Farms in Cary, the state's "first and largest planned unit development," Adams told *The Times*.

From there he started his own construction company, which was, he said, for a time, the largest privately held construction company in the state. "We had 300 homes going at a time at one point," he said.

Tired of bearing the risk inherent in the construction business and the hassle of growing government regulation and taxes, Adams said, he left the construction business and eventually acquired WEEB, returning to radio, his first love.

Adams got his start in broadcasting at the small carrier current radio station that served the NC State campus, moving from there to a 100,000 watt country station in Raleigh.

WEEB was the first station in the state to fully implement computerized automation — "so that you could shut the door and go home and the station would run itself," Adams said.

## Good management is key

"The Sheriffs Office needs to be run like a company," Adams told *The Times*, "and

the good old boy's club demolished."

"Officers and employees need to feel like the playing field for promotions is level. They deserve to be able to go to work and feel appreciated and have goals to achieve and the chance of promotion."



Steve Leader Adams

"The job of the Sheriff is to be the CEO of the Sheriff's department. I don't need to be a law enforcement professional, because the day I take office, I will be surrounded by 110 law enforcement professionals."

"As CEO, your set your goals, formulate a plan based on input from experts, put it in place, and establish benchmarks."

## Bringing the crime rate down

If elected, Adams said he would focus on measures that bring the crime rate down.

"Do what actually brings the crime rate down," he told *The Times*. "We're doing too much that doesn't fight crime."

"Your seatbelt violation deserves no more than a ver-

(See "Adams," p. 25)



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# Godfrey: More training, better pay for deputies

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Neil Godfrey's most immediate goal, if he is elected to serve as Moore County's Sher-

iff for the the next four years, is to get fully moved into the new Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center, and have it fully operational.

Godfrey was appointed Sheriff in May of last year to replace Lane Carter, who



Neil Godfrey

resigned. Godfrey had served as Carter's Chief Deputy.

Godfrey has an extensive background in law enforcement. He began serving Moore County in 1998 as a Special Agent for the State Bureau of Investigation. He retired from the SBI in 2002.

## More training, better pay for deputies

Beyond the immediate task of getting the new Public Safety Center fully functional, Godfrey told *The Times* that he will focus on providing better training for officers, as well as an upgrade in their pay scale.

Godfrey explained that the type of training provided to deputies depends upon their work assignments. Officers in the investigations division receive different training than road deputies.

However, some skills cut across those lines. For example, Godfrey said that his office has made an effort to train road deputies to process crime scenes and take fin-

gerprints.

"That has been a good thing to do," Godfrey said. "We have one deputy who has solved six break-ins."

"The better trained they are, the more effective they can be."

## Crime Lab

Though, like most counties in the state, Moore County does not have its own crime lab, it does have the ability to process fingerprints locally.

Godfrey explained that the county has a local automated fingerprint system that continuously compares unknown prints with known prints.

"We have one officer who we have trained in fingerprint comparison," he said. "When there is a match, we can make a case."

Town police departments are equipped to submit their fingerprints to the system, as well.

## More deputies needed

The Sheriff's Office currently has seventy-four deputies. Nine work at the detention center, and twenty-eight are patrol deputies. He told *The Times* that he would like to increase the force by eight deputies, though "we don't expect all of this in one year."

"We have used technology in the past few years to increase the productivity of our deputies," Godfrey said. "We have gone from handwritten reports to where they have an office in their car. Whatever they put into their computer, is immediately put into our database."

"We have a system that allows dispatchers to instantly know where any deputy is located. That allows us to get officers on the scene more quickly, saving time."

"But there comes a time," Godfrey said, "when, because the number of calls is increasing, you run into a manpower issue."

Godfrey said there are typically four patrol deputies working the County at any given time, a number that he called "a minimum."

## Deputy Compensation

Godfrey said that the start-

ing salaries for Moore County Sheriff's Deputies are "very competitive."

(See "Godfrey," p. 24)

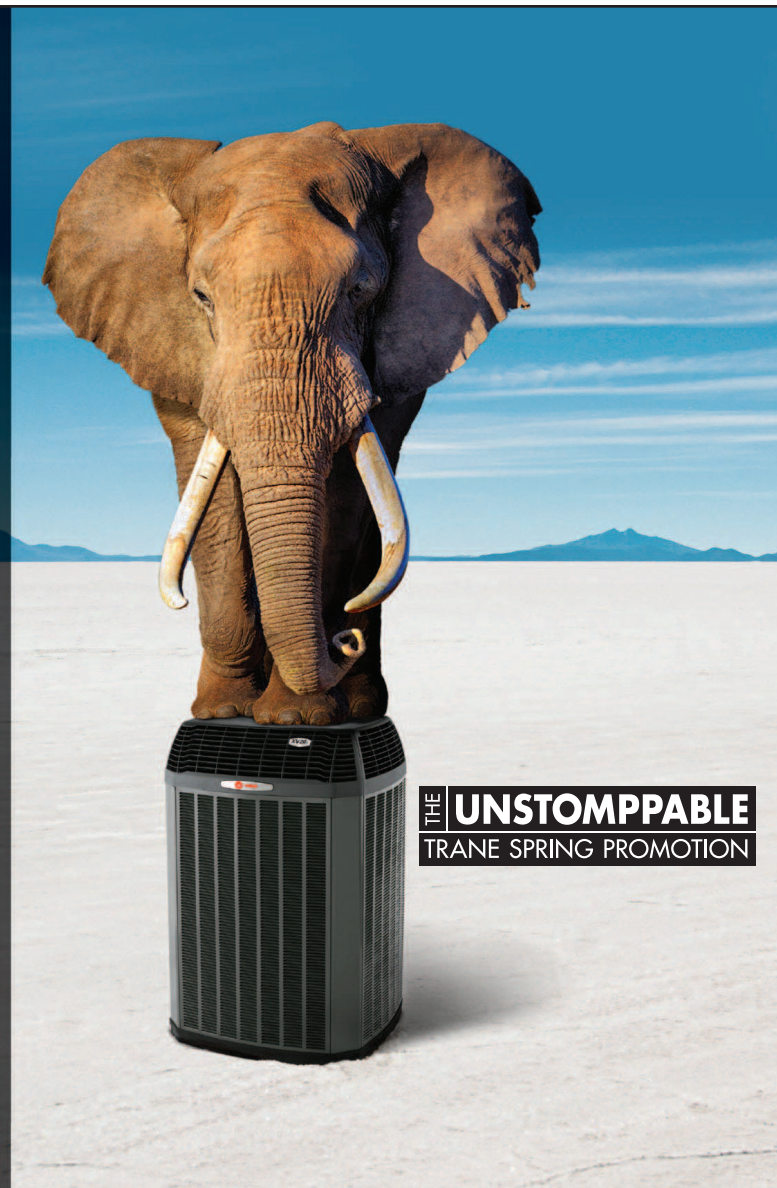


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# West End Class of '58 gathers for reunion

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter

For the West End High School Class of 1958, the sky was the limit. But those young men and women expected to work their way to success — they had already experienced a dose of good honest labor out in the fields chopping tobacco, picking peas, hoeing weeds; holding down part-time jobs at the local furniture company, drug store, grocery store, or movie theatre; or even driving the school bus.

The Class of 1958 gathered in a Southern Pines restau-

rant on Saturday, April 26, for a reunion, and gave *The Times* an opportunity to eavesdrop on their memories.

## Sarah Bost McAdams

Sarah Bost McAdams grew up on a tractor.

"Daddy didn't have any boys," McAdams said, "so I was supposed to be the boy."

The Bost home and farm was in Eagle Springs and is now owned by Billy Carter. They raised sweet potatoes, corn, tobacco, cotton, and watermelons.

McAdams remembers long

days of loading watermelons for market, but she balanced the hard work with fun and was a cheerleader. Her father supplemented the family's farm income with a job inspecting train car loads of lumber that arrived at Sandhills Furniture Company.

After high school, McAdams had no interest in working on a farm. Fate smiled kindly and she fell for and married a truck driver Robert McAdams and they moved to Thomasville.

## Pay McDonald Harrison

Pat McDonald Harrison

was an industrious soul who both helped out on her family's small ten-acre farm and drove a school bus her senior year.

"Students were the only bus drivers they had," Harrison explained. "I made money, and my parents allowed me to buy books with it." She also played basketball and cheered.

Harrison attended nursing school in Fayetteville, becoming an RN. She served twenty years in the US Navy Nurse Corps and retired as a commander in 1982.

"I had thirteen duty stations in twenty years," she said. "The most significant was a year in Vietnam nursing casualties. I was at the naval

station in Lanai."

"When I retired, I married a gentleman from Canada, and we have been living between South Carolina and Canada for 30 odd years."

## Michael & Brenda Ritter

West End's largest employer in the mind-1950s was the Sandhill Furniture Corporation, which later became Stanley Furniture.

Michael Clemett Ritter worked at the furniture plant two different times — once in the sanding department and the other time running a strip saw.

Like many of his classmates, Ritter, grew up on a farm. "We raised cows, hogs,

(See "WEHS," p. 16)



Members of the West End High School Class of 1958 met on April 26 for a reunion

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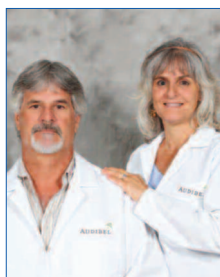
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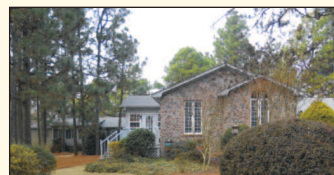
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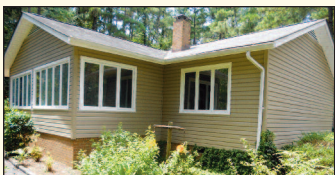
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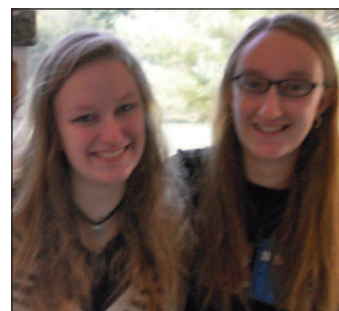
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## WEHS Reunion

(Continued from page 14)

chickens . . . dogs, and cats," he laughed.

Michael's wife and classmate Brenda completed high school and then went to work in the factory and retired after more than thirty years years. When asked if she enjoyed it she said, matter-of-factly, "I must have. I stayed there. I inspected the furniture after it was built to see if everything was ok. We made bedroom suites. "

"Brenda was three years younger," Michael Ritter said. I will tell you how we met. She invited me over to eat sandwiches, and, well, I love sandwiches. The first sandwich she made me was banana and mayonnaise. The second time she invited me over, I had a good bologna sandwich."

After Brenda graduated they headed for South Carolina to get married.

"We couldn't afford a big

church wedding," Ritter said. A year after they were married, Ritter joined the armed forces. Their romance and love for sandwiches has continued for fifty-three years.

### Frankie & Dallas Kellis

Fate can be sweet, cruel, and sweet again. Frankie and Dallas Kellis remembered the first time they danced.

"It was in the late 50s," Dalls remembered. "They used to have square dances at the American Legion Hut on Hoffman Road. That's where we met. It was love at first sight."

"After Dallas got out of the service, he went one way and I another," Frankie said. Each married, had families, and then both were widowed.

"Years later, after our spouses passed away, we ran into each other again and wound up married," she laughed.

### Clem Richardson

Clem Richardson tried his hand working in the furniture factory the Summer of his junior year.

"One Summer — that was enough for me," he said. "I

knew that was not where I wanted to spend my life."

When asked what he didn't like about it, he said, "The noise, the smell, the heat, the life . . ."

"I graduated high school

and went into the Army for three years as a military policeman," Richardson said. After living two years in Germany and completing his hitch, he came back home

(See "WEHS," p. 17)



The West End High School Yearbook staff, from the 1958 Yearbook, "The Pine Burr"



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## WEHS Reunion



Student Bus Drivers, from the 1958 West End High School yearbook.

(Continued from page 16)

to North Carolina.

"One of the guys a year ahead of us was a policemen in Greensboro. So, I decided to go up there and apply." That decision led him to his wife.

"My wife Linda is from Ruffin, NC," Richardson explained. "We met in Greensboro. She was with a friend, a girl that went to school in West End. They were looking for a parking place. It was right close to Thanksgiving. Greensboro had on-street parking, and they couldn't find a space. I told them to go around the block and come back, and I would have them a parking spot."

When they returned Richardson directed them into an empty spot. After a long five month courtship, he and Linda were happily married.

Richardson gave up being a police

officer to work for the railroad. When he retired from the railroad he was making \$24 a day.

Listening to Richardson, Pat McDonald Harrison shook her head.

"I earned \$190 a month as a nurse in Fayetteville in 1961," she said. "I remember thinking, there's got to be more money in the world."

### Drew Saunders & Louise Vaughn

West End students Drew Saunders and Louise Vaughn weren't in the same class, but they knew right away they were made for each other.

"He was the first boy I ever dated first and the last," Louise said. "Would you believe it? We would group date when I was 14. On the first date, we went roller skating."

"We dated six years and have been married fifty-something years. We

(See "WEHS," p. 18)

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## WEHS Reunion

(Continued from page 17)

had the first wedding at First Baptist at West End in 1960. There was no money for a honeymoon."

Drew went from working for Caterpillar to serving twelve years as a State Representative from Mecklenburg County.

### Jane Hartsell Brown

The Hartsell family are longtime West Enders. Jane Hartsell Brown followed in her father's and mother's footsteps and graduated from West End High School. In all, twenty five of her family members graduated from West End.

Jane Hartsell married Harold Brown from Morrisville. They met at the central office of a textile mill in Aberdeen. It was 1961.

"I was working in the billing department," Jane remembered. "We were central office for ten to twelve mills in South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina. We would bill fabric to New York, and

pull an invoice to ship it out. That was the place to work at that time for men and women, especially women. More than one hundred people worked there."

Harold worked in Information Technologies. It was the eve of the computer revolution.

"We put in the first computer in this area," he said. "They offered me a job to learn the course, and I started programming computers for them at that time. That one computer would fill up this whole room or more, floor to ceiling. It took a lot of air-conditioning to cool them."

### Marie Truman

Marie Truman moved with the seasons. "

My daddy was a tenant farmer in tobacco, and we moved a lot," she said. "I went to West End for six months, and then we moved to Candor."

Truman chose a less nomadic life, married and became a hairdresser for

more than forty years. She had to give up hairdressing after suffering a stroke.

"I am doing great," she said. "I couldn't walk and talk. Ever so many prayers were going up from everywhere. I have to give Him the credit. I am only a little weak on my left side."

### Hester & Broadus Combs

Hester and Broadus Combs grew up friends. "We knew each other in high school, got together, and fifty-three years later, here we are."

Hester was lean and tall at five foot nine. On their first date the pair went to a high school play. Neither can remember the name of the play. Both remember three flat tires in the same night.

"We had three flat tires our first date," Broadus said.

"It was late and we had to end up borrowing his dad's car to get home," Hester remembered.

### Elizabeth Cole

Stepping over the county line, Elizabeth Cole met her young handsome farmer in a neighboring tobacco field.

"My daddy was a tobacco farmer, and his daddy was, too," Cole said. "We didn't go to the same high school. He lived on the Montgomery side and I lived in Moore. He was building contractor and a good one." Cole is now widowed.

After marrying, Cole became an X-ray tech. She worked at Moore Regional

for many years and retired from Pinehurst Medical.

### Norman Harris

Norman Harris followed his parents footsteps into farming, but only for a little while. Before retiring, he spent thirty years of his life trucking across North Carolina and transporting textiles as far as California.

### Jewell Vest

Jewell Vest grew up on a tobacco farm in West End and remembers fondly her days as a high school student.

"Principal Sinclair was fun. He was strict, but fun," Vest said. She worked for years in Human Resources at

(See "WEHS," p. 18)

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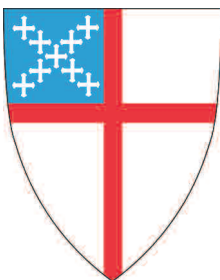
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# WEHS Reunion

(Continued from page 18)  
Gulistan Carpet.

## Mary & Lewis Russell

Mary and Lewis Russell met at a church sponsored wienie roast in Jackson Springs. Mary graduated from West End High School. Lewis went to Aberdeen High, and worked at JP Stevens.

Mary worked for Gulistan Carpets, before she married. "In 1960, we had first our child, and I stayed at home with my kids and I am thankful for that," Mary said. She went back to work after the children graduated.

"Growing up, there were nine in our family," Mary said. "I helped take care of all my brothers and sisters. My sister says that's what made me such a good mom, because I kept all them, all of the time."

## Dorothy VonCannon McDonald

It was a lifelong friendship that turned to love for Dorothy VonCannon and her

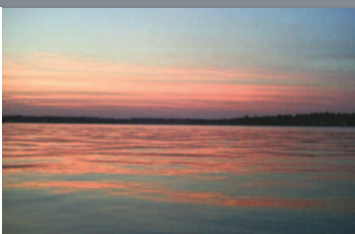
upperclassman beau Paul McDonald — and it was their shared love for their home that brought them back to West End.

"He wasn't able to come today," VonCannon said. "We grew up in same town and went to the same school. You kind of know somebody when

you see them every day. Our first date was at a dance. I went with a cousin of mine. He finally gave me a ring two years later, and we got mar-

ried in 1961."

"We lived several places before we finally decided to come back to Moore County. It is the best place to live."



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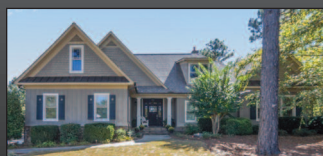
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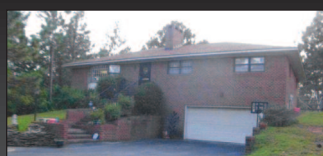
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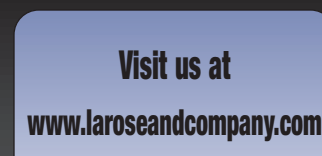
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The Open Water Meet is for all swimmers – Masters-level, Triathletes, etc. Registration and payment for Single Meet Membership must be completed by May 27. Registration information is available at FSseries.com and Sandsharks.org

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**FRIDAY, MAY 2**

- **Seven Lakes EMS Annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser** – Lunch 11:30 am – 2 pm, dinner 4:30 pm – 7 pm. Dine in or take-out dinners. \$8 per dinner.
- **First Friday at the Sunrise Theater** – *Musical Guest: Chatham County Line*, 5 to 8:30 pm. Free. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **English Speaking Union** – 7 pm, Elizabeth Lyerly, DVM will present "The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race" at its dinner meeting. Dr. Lyerly will share her experiences as a rookie veterinarian in the 2012 race. Held at the Country Club of North Carolina, and membership is open to the public. Cocktails at 6 pm. Hope Price (910)-692-7727.

**SATURDAY, MAY 3**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Church Episcopal Yard Sale** – 8 am to 3 pm. Household items, gifts for sale at bargain prices. Fresh homemade baked goods, drinks. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Cameron Spring Antiques Street Fair** – 9 am - 5 pm. held Rain or Shine. Food, and Refreshments.
- **Community Shred Event and Food Drive** – 9 am to 12 noon. Held at the Moore County Sheriff Department, Back Parking Lot, 105 Dowd Road, Carthage. Bring your personal and

professional papers for free, confidential shredding. Call (910) 722-5075.

- **SL Business Guild's First Annual Derby Day & Spring Fest** – *FREE ALL DAY*, 1 pm to 6 pm (on Sunday, May 4, in the event of rain). Derby Hat Contest, Kids' Horse Race and other

Lindau, co-author of the book. Free, 170 W. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines.

- **Plants that Bite Back** – 3 pm, Spend some time in the auditorium and then hike. Bring bug spray. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring bottled water.

Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

- **"Open the Opens"** – 3 to 5 pm,

Opening reception today. Art will feature golf-related artwork. Exhibit will run from May 4 – 27. Artists League of the Sandhills, 129 Exchange Street, Aberdeen.

- **Spring Fling at WEUMC** – 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm, West End United Methodist Church will host on the church grounds, games and activities for all ages, refreshments provided. Cameronian Quartet will perform at 4:30 pm.

**MONDAY, MAY 5**

- **Cinco de Mayo**
- **Celebrate Cinco de Mayo** – at Seven Lakes Country Club Tufts Grill with a "Build Your Own" Taco Bar. Call 673-1100 for reservations. Open to the public.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal



activities, games and prizes, and DJ Randy will spin the tunes. Held in the Village Central grassy area on Grant St. between Lake House and TempControl. Guild will also have Free Live Music at 6 pm, Free outdoor movie at dusk featuring *Frozen*.

**SUNDAY, MAY 4**

- **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.
- **East and West Southern Pines Book Presentation** – 3 pm, Southern Pines Library hosting a slide presentation and talk by Sara

it?" – 6:30 pm, an informational seminar on Alzheimer's. Free, open to the public. Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive. To register for the presentation, contact Aging Outreach Services at 910-692-0683 or info@aosnc.com

- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 7**

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **4 Week Financial Series** – 10 am - 12 pm, "Economic Update: Where are we now?" Brianna Dillon will share information on the markets. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30 pm - 6 pm, Seven



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Lakes North Clubhouse. Make an appointment, SLA at 673-4931 or walk-ins are always welcomed. Bring your donor card or photo ID. Donors must be 17 years of age to donate (16 years of age with parent's consent). Sponsored by SL Kiwanis Club and the Women of Seven Lakes.

- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, Hankins Family Life Center. Children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **The Truth Project** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church will offer an in-depth Christian World View. Experience each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. To register call or email the Church office at 673-1371

#### THURSDAY, MAY 8

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry for seniors. Fellowship, devotion, meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church,

1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)
- **Senior Games** – 5:30 pm - 7 pm, "Closing Ceremony and Award Presentation" Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Museum of the Cape Fear** – 7 pm, Author Walter Hilderma, III, will present his latest book, *Theophilus Hunter Holmes: A North Carolina General in the Civil War*, at the Museum of the Cape Fear.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 10

- **Bird Walk for Breeding Season** – 8 am, join ornithologist Susan Campbell for a bird walk. Bring binoculars, field guides and bug spray. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.
- **"Has Technology Made God and Spirituality Obsolete?"** – 2 pm, the Christian Science Church of Southern Pines, sponsoring a free lecture "Has Technology Made God and Spirituality Obsolete?" Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, Pinehurst.
- **Cinco de Mayo For the**

**Dogs** – 3 pm -5 pm. Moore Humane Society's 3rd Annual Cinco de Mayo Pooch Parade Fundraiser for animal rehabilitation and adoption. Dog owners are invited to bring their canine companions to the Downtown Park in Southern Pines to participate. Vendors, Southern Pines K9 Unit will be the honored guests. To learn more about the event and to register online [www.moorehumane.org](http://www.moorehumane.org). \$10 registration fee per dog, \$15 at the door.

- **Jazz with Symphony Orchestra Pinehurst Pops Season Finale** – 7 pm, Robert E. Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School Southern Pines. David Michael Wolff leads. Tickets: available: [www.carolinaphil.org](http://www.carolinaphil.org)

#### SUNDAY, MAY 11

- **Mother's Day**
- **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.
- **Celebrate Mother's Day in the Tufts Grill** – 5 pm with a buffet dinner fea-

turing spiral ham, oven roasted turkey and more. Call 673-1100 for reservations. Open to the public.

- **Mother's Day Wildflower Display** – 3 pm, Bring for an adventure. Hike for about a mile, bring water, sunscreen, bug spray. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

#### MONDAY, MAY 12

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room.
- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7 pm. Program will be "Flash Photography" by Brian Osborne. Guests welcome. Hannah Center Theatre Center at the O'Neal School, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines. [www.sandhillsphtoclub.org](http://www.sandhillsphtoclub.org)
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

#### TUESDAY, MAY 13

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & troubled, 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.
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7 pm, meeting. at Foxfire Village Hall.

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Covenant Preparatory School** – 9:15 am, hosting an Open House on campus. [www.covenantprep.com](http://www.covenantprep.com) for more details. Childcare provided.
- **"Medicare 101"** – 10 am - 12 pm, Join Gail Willis, SHIP Counselor as she explains the basics of Medicare. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **"Long Term Care Planning"** – 10 am - 12 pm, Knowing what qualifies as a Long Term Care need; and various ways of funding that you may not have considered. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.

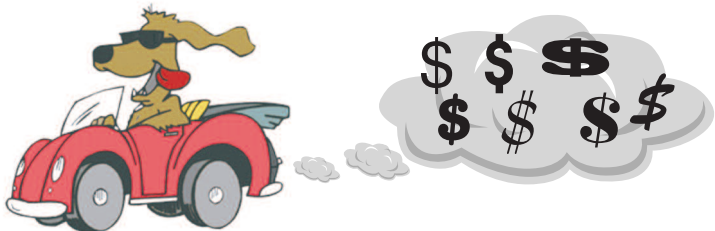
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# West Pine Elementary students get their



Keeping a productive garden requires ridding it of weeds — which then can be added to the compost pile

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter

West Pine Elementary School is not only growing vegetables, herbs, and healthy kids, but will soon have its own flock of laying chickens. On Tuesday, April 22, the students and thirty volunteers came together to celebrate Earth Day with some fun and dirty work.

"During Earth Day, we focused on school beautification," Garden Coordinator Laura Goodman said. "All day, students participated in mulching, planting, and educational activities focused on nature and gardening."

Earth Day energy continued with the afterschool West

Pine Garden Club. Before Earth Day and the Garden Club could happen, West Pine's handy and resourceful garden fairies had already put in overtime to ready the grounds.

## Sweat equity and grants

The adults have led by example, putting in sweat equity. During Spring Break, parents Kim Paller and Wade Murdock spent many hours putting in edging and cultivating new areas, so that the students could mulch and plant on Earth Day.

Seeds, equipment, and chickens all cost money. In 2011, an initial grant of \$6,000 from FirstHealth of

the Carolinas provided funding to start the gardens. Since then, the gardens have been fully funded by the West Pine Parent Teacher Organization.

This school year, parent Laura Rubin successfully applied for and received a \$1000 grant from Perdue Farms. The grant went to purchase supplies, the coop, and chickens. Rubin's husband, Dr. Aaron Rubin, a veterinarian at Perdue, volunteered to build the coop. He will also be available as a consultant for any health issues regarding the chickens.

"Our chickens will be for egg laying, not eating," Goodman said. For budding young

(Continued on page 23)

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# hands dirty celebrating Earth Day

(Continued from page 22)

scientists, in first and second grade classrooms students will hatch fertilized eggs.

Outside, the deluxe coop

is ready for the arrival of hens. With no roosters, invited, the hens will lay unfertilized eggs.

What good is a garden if

you don't get to sample the produce?

Another key initiative was a vegetable prep station. The garden area now has a beau-

tiful cement work station with two sinks. Bruce McFadden from McFadden Homes poured the concrete counter.

The WPES Garden Club meets for six weeks in the Fall and six in the Spring. This year, sixty students signed up.

"It has a really cool format where we have four rotating stations that include planting, tasting, learning, and working," Goodman said. "Every

student gets to do a little bit of everything."

Rubin, who was been crowned the official chicken coordinator, gave tours of the coop. During the after-school program, Shawna Fink brought over Aberdeen Elementary's flock of three chickens to visit with the club.

The kids guzzle berry, banana, and spinach smoothies; make cinnamon, mint, lemon and honey dip for

(See "Garden," p. 24)



West Pine Elementary students raise a cup of smoothie to celebrate their new vegetable prep station.



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## Godfrey

(Continued from page 13)

But, because the County Commissioners did away with longevity pay and performance pay, Moore County's compensation for experienced deputies and investigators is not competitive with neighboring counties.

"We have lost four or five to other jobs," Godfrey said. "Two of our sergeants went to Southern Pines."

### Responding to the Community

Asked about traffic enforcement, and particularly speeding, in Seven Lakes, Godfrey

said that he has met with leaders of the community.

"When speeding is being reported, we do some traffic enforcement. We use the radar trailer, so people can see how fast they are going."

He noted that Deputy Mike Kantorowski works thirty-two hours per week in Seven Lakes and "helps to resolve a lot of the little issues."

Godfrey's opponent has criticized the use of sheriffs deputies for traffic enforcement.

"But what do you do when you have a community like Seven Lakes?" Godfrey asked.

"The Highway Patrol has jurisdiction, but you are not likely to see them patrolling within the gates of Seven Lakes."

Godfrey said the Sheriffs Office has a good relationship with municipal police departments within the county.

The implementation of the VIPER system for emergency communications has increased the ability of the sheriffs department and local departments, as well as fire and EMS, to communicate, Godfrey said.

### Detention Center

The delays in getting fully

moved into the detention center have been frustrating, Godfrey said, but beyond his control.

"We are very satisfied with the building," Godfrey said. "But, we have run into problems where it was designed to operate a little differently than the way it was actually built."

He cited an example of a particular door that was designed by the architect to be locked at all times. But, under the fire code, that door had to be used as an escape route and could not be locked, which created a security problem and required

the installation of a storefront door within the building to preserve security. When the storefront door arrived, the frame was the wrong color, which created another delay.

Another example of a flaw that caused a delay in moving inmates into the detention center was a design that included too few shut-off valves for the sprinkler system that serves the housing units.

If an inmate decided to disrupt operations by breaking the sprinkler head in a cell, there was no safe way for guards to shut off the water

(See "Godfrey," p. 25)

## Garden

(Continued from page 23)

apples; plant, weed, and are introduced to the three little hens. It's organized fun, as volunteers rotate the kids from one station to the next.

A group of students point to the newly mulched and planted flower beds in front

of the school.

"We did all that in one whole day," one girl said smiling.

Goodman is proud of the students. "I think it is inspiring to see students working together to improve their school," she said.



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## Adams

(Continued from page 12)

bal warning. Why waste court time with it? That just puts stress on the court system."

Adam said that the Moore County courts hear 700 traffic cases every Friday and 150 to 500 cases on other days.

"Most of those could've been handled with a verbal warning," he said. "But, of course, you don't get away with a warning every time."

"I am reluctant to waste court time on petty crimes.

We need to concentrate on the crack dealer, the heroin dealer, the gangs. Let the State Highway Patrol handle traffic. We're duplicating efforts."

Plus, we are blowing off our economic foot," Adams continued. "How many people come down US 1 to play golf? You have thousands of cars a day going past the deputy out there. It's bad for business."

"We are all dependent on

tourism dollars, so quit dumping on it. They expect to see the Highway Patrol on the highways. They don't expect to see a sheriff's deputy out there."

### Focus on high crime areas

"And there are better things for us to do," he said. Adams said local law enforcement knows where the high crime areas are. "Make sure the car is going through that area regularly. That is how

you chase crime out of your area."

He said the Sheriff's office should try a technique that has proven successful in Portland, OR.

"Knock on the drug dealer's front door and tell him to knock it off," Adams said. "You put him on notice that you know who he is. They will either knock it off or move on."

"You're going to suggest that they leave the area. You

tell him, 'I'm going to put you out of business. I'm going to stop everyone who comes to your house.' If he does move on, I don't have to prosecute him, and I don't have to house him once he's convicted."

"We need to be proactive. Our job is to reduce the crime. We have to go where the problem is. That will take the stress off our courts, and maybe we can get a few more

(See "Adams," p. 26)

## Godfrey

(Continued from page 24)

supply. More shut-offs had to be added, which increased costs and delayed moving into the facility.

But, Godfrey said, that delay was appropriate, since inmates have already broken sprinkler heads off, attempting to cause a disruption.

The detention center kitchen and support services will be moved into the new facility by May 1, Godfrey said. He added that he expects all inmates to be moved from the old jail into the new detention center by shortly after Memorial Day.

"That is later than we had hoped," he said. "Some things have not gone as planned, but we wanted to make sure everything was done and done right."

### Law Enforcement Experience Necessary

Godfrey's opponent in the sheriff's race has described the job as of CEO, and argued that law enforcement experience is not required.

Godfrey disagrees.

"You have to be a leader," he said. "To be a true leader, you have to have a vision and have people buy into

that vision. To make on-the-spot decisions, you have to have experience and training in law enforcement. It is essential that the sheriff have law enforcement training and

experience."

"During my career with the SBI, I dealt with a couple of sheriffs who did not have law enforcement experience. Frankly, they were lost."

"You have to hire a very good chief deputy," Godfrey said of a sheriff without law enforcement experience. "And then who are the people going to think of as their sheriff?"

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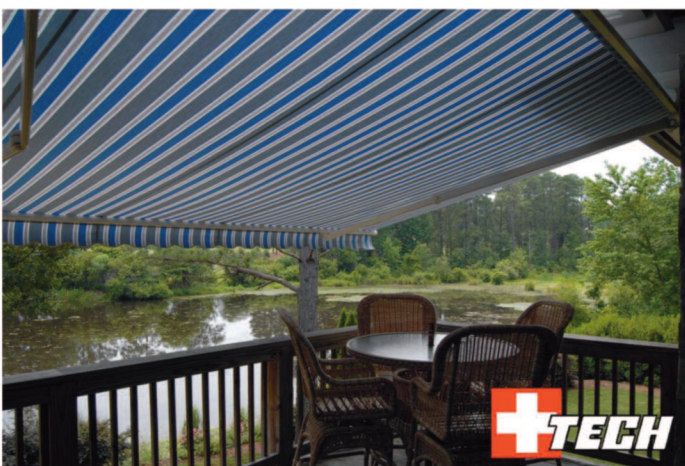
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## Adams

(Continued from page 25)

years of life out of our courthouse."

"I am opposed to building a new courthouse," Adams said, "until we have reduced demand."

### Local Crime Lab

Another major initiative on Adam's to-do list is establishing a local crime lab. He explained that, currently, all requests for lab work go to the state crime lab which is "backed up."

"It's taking a year now to get the crime sheet back," Adams said. "In that year, your case starts falling apart. Witnesses move. The conviction rate starts to drop dramatically."

"With the crime lab, you could get from arrest to trial in four months," Adams said. "That's an eight month's savings. Your conviction rate goes up. You're actually dispensing justice."

Adams estimates a local crime lab will cost \$1 million to put in place and another \$1 million each year to operate.

At an \$80 per day cost to house inmates at the county jail, Adams figures that knocking eight months off the time that fifty-two prisoners have to be housed will pay for the crime lab.

"Any more than fifty-two, and you are printing money," Adams said. "The public is due justice, as is the defendant. The lab could be used as a teaching lab for Sandhills Community College, who could share in the expense of running it."

### Detention Center

Adams is highly critical of the cost of the new detention center — and the fact that it isn't currently in full use.

"It is time to get the jail open," Adams said. "He [Sheriff Neil Godfrey] hasn't hit a deadline yet. It's because he is a lawman. If I am going to run the sheriffs department, I am going to run it like a manager, and bring projects in on time and on budget."

"He has wasted millions of our dollars not getting that jail open. We have trusted him with it, and he has failed."

### Deputy Compensation

"Since he [Godfrey] has been in there, he has never once gone in and asked for raises for the deputies," Adams said. "The County did away with longevity pay. We pay our deputies poverty rates . . . Once they get some experience, they go someplace

that pays better."

"The deputies need to know that their jobs are safe," Adam said. "I'm not coming in to clean house. I will make it so they know they have hope for advancement in the job, and those in rank will be helping the others come along."

"The Commissioners will have to come up with the money for that, and I know they can only go so far so fast. But we are going to take the stress off of the courts, so that they have more money to work with."

### Responding to the community

Asked how he would respond to requests for traffic enforcement within the gates of Seven Lakes, Adams said, "you have to build a relationship with all the communities. I want them to be glad to see me coming. If we have a speeding problem on a specific street, then we will go and knock it down."

"You have to respond to neighborhood concerns, and every concern is of equal importance."

"Seven Lakes knows what they need in Seven Lakes, and that is what we will respond to."

## The Truth Project

West End United Methodist Church will offer an in-depth Christian World View called The Truth Project each week for twelve weeks beginning on Wednesday, May 7 at 7 pm.

This lecture series will examine the "Truth" as

viewed through the lenses of theology, philosophy, ethics, science, anthropology, history, sociology, government and community.

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# Gregory

(Continued from page 9)  
the schools.”

“We need to sit back for a minute and sit down with the people who were there in the beginning — get the task force back together. Bring those people back into talks about just the first phase — have a clear understanding of what you want to do and where the schools are going to be.”

“I don’t see how a person could come up with how much money we are going to need when we haven’t seen the plan or know where it is going to be built. I would want more detail.”

## Public Safety

Given his background in law enforcement, it is not surprising that one of Gregory’s goals is keeping Moore County citizens safe.

“We have police, fire and EMS,” he said. “All three are essential in making sure we provide the safest area of the Counties surrounding us.”

Whispering Pines and the surrounding area have become a magnet for military families stationed at Fort Bragg. Gregory said that, as police chief, he was often approached by soldiers who were considering settling their family in the Village.

“I have had many soldiers ask me, ‘Is this a safe place to leave my family while I am deployed? Is this a place that I can feel comfortable leaving my family?’”

“We need to make sure we have the resources to get the very best quality police, fire, and EMS.”

## Economic Development

Moore County needs more jobs, but Gregory is skeptical of spending taxpayer dollars to attract new businesses.

“We need to encourage not only present businesses, but we have to continue to do what we can to encourage people to locate here,” he said. “We don’t need to spend a lot of money, but we could simply talk about the advantages that we already have in Moore County.”

“Sandhills Community College is a jewel,” Gregory said. “I want to make sure that continues. I want to see if there’s a way that they can help us improve the local economy, perhaps by offering vocational training — allowing people right out of high school to get a good paying job.”

Gregory said he had visited with leaders and community members and the Robbins area and is particularly concerned about economic development and the northern part of the County.

“They have a much higher unemployment rate. They are worried about being able to provide for their children. They deserve to be listened to. If we could bring something into that area and bring job opportunities, then I want to be in the forefront of that.”

“As a Commissioner, you’re

responsible for all of the County, but you can reach out to various communities. Everyone has concerns. We need someone who will go throughout the whole County to learn what is going on, and what the concerns are.”

## Courthouse

Gregory praise the way that the Commissioners and County staff have worked with stakeholders in developing a plan for utilizing the lower floor of the courthouse and the Currie Building to meet immediate space needs.

“I was glad to see that the Commissioners reached out to these people who have a lot of knowledge of what the courthouse needs are,” he said. “They are in agreement with using our existing facilities now to be able to accomplish our present needs. The

people I talked to say this will take care of the concerns they had — which included safety issues.”

Being a fiscal conservative,” Gregory continued, “I know, in today’s world, that we do not need to spend millions on a new courthouse. If we can address present needs by using our current facility, then I am all for it.”

“Our present needs may change. When that time comes, then it is time to get together and discuss how we are going to handle the courthouse.”

I support the way the Commissioners handled this. I only wish it had not come to a point where it was forced on us. I wish that had never happened.”

## Water

“I am concerned about

water,” Gregory said, referring to the plan to bring additional water from Harnett County. “We lost the \$11 million loan from the state. So we will have to find another route.”

Noting that he had been briefed on the options by Public Works Director Randy Gould, Gregory said, “We’re going to do it in stages, do it in the right way, do it so that the ratepayers can afford it.”

“Personally, I was hoping that we would find ways to bring water from Robbins, because that would have helped both ends of the county. But Randy has done the analysis, and he says the best approach is Harnett County.”

## A good listener

Gregory said that it is  
(See “Gregory,” p. 28)



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## Ritter

(Continued from page 8)

the public safety center, he noted, "We have bought two houses in lieu of the day that we have to do that. We need to delay it and get ready for it."

"In my mind's eye, what we are doing with the current court facility should buy us seven to ten years."

### Water

Ritter said the move to bring additional water from Harnett County is not the end of the story — or the end of the need to expand Moore County's water supply.

"The Harnett county deal is a twenty-year program," Ritter said, and, beyond those twenty years, he would like

to see the County take another look at partnering with the Town of Robbins to take advantage of the Deep River as a water source.

"I would like to work with the Town of Robbins to get their water worked out, because they have access to the Deep River," Ritter said.

"Me being up there, maybe they will trust us," he continued. "I think that we can work together and we can become a partner."

### Robbins

"I am concerned about Robbins," Ritter said, turning to economic development issues.

"The industry that Robbins put their hopes in was textiles, and textiles is gone," he added.

Robbins is handicapped when it comes to state economic development grants and programs because it is in a Tier 3 county, the wealthiest classification. But that wealth is concentrated in the County's southern towns.

Ritter said he had talked with State Senator Jerry Tillman and State Representative Jamie Boles to see whether it might be possible "to split this County in the Tier system to make it more possible for Robbins to get grants."

"They promised it would be a hard fight, but might be a possibility," he said. "I would like to see that dropped to Tier 2 or Tier 1. It's hopeless for Robbins to get any grants. The city council is trying hard, but when you

don't have any money . . ."

### Public safety

Moore County has made great strides in EMS and fire response times, Ritter said, but it is still not where it needs to be.

"We are trying to get at or below the national average," he explained.

One strategy for achieving that goal, Ritter said, is using QRVs — Quick Response Vehicles — a pickup or SUV outfitted with paramedic gear that can put a first responder on the scene more quickly than an ambulance. Once a paramedic is on the scene, he or she can begin treatment, and then transport a patient, if necessary, in either a rescue squad or paramedic ambulance.

The County's professional EMS system is funding through the Advance Life Support tax, billed with County property taxes. Ritter campaigned for that levy and the creation of the paramedic service in the County.

"If I save you all the money in the world, and then I let you die, I haven't really done right by you, have I?" Ritter said.

"The system is working well," he said. Though a levy of up to five cents was authorized by County voters, the tax is currently at only two cents of assessed value.

### Taking care of the people's money.

"I know the money we

spend on this Board up here is not ours," Ritter said. "I know the education of children is very important. I know we need new schools — and we're working to get it done."

We can't do it all at one time."

"I think we have proven that we can get it done, without raising taxes, by building the surplus we now have."

## Gregory

(Continued from page 27)

essential that the Commissioners have community support, and the best way to obtain that support is to listen to people's concerns.

"I want people to know that if I'm elected they can come and talk to me and express their concerns," he said. "I want to be able to get out in the community and meet with people, and listen to their concerns."

"As Commissioners, we don't have all the answers. The best way to get the answers is to be a good listener. If I go there thinking that I have all the answers, and I know more than they know, that is the wrong way to go about it."

"This campaign has been a rewarding experience for me," Gregory said, "because I have been able to meet so many good people, and so many people who will be lasting friends. I look forward to being a Commissioner."

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### LONG OR SHORT TERM RENTALS!

# Romine

(Continued from page 5)

Collins, a native of Vass. The Romines have three daughters, one at Union Pines High School, another at New Century Middle School, and a third that will begin elementary school this year.

Romine is a licensed general contractor, and owns Moore Construction Company of NC.

"I had no intention of doing this," Romine said of his decision to seek public office. "But I have always followed politics, though mostly on the national and international level."

When Romine was serving in Iraq in 2011, he served with an officer who was also from Moore County. They began reading local news on the internet and discussing what they read.

"I didn't agree with how we were going about spending money," Romine said.

## Schools

With two daughters in Moore County Schools [MCS], and another one about to enter elementary school next year, Romine understandably

has a keen interest in the schools. And his experience in the construction trades gives him a unique perspective on building in expanding schools.

Looking at the new facilities and renovations proposed by the Board of Education, Romine says he doubts that the MCS to-do list can be accomplished for the widely reported cost of \$125 million.

"That is an estimate," Romine said. "I'm in the industry. By my calculations, it doesn't add up. I think it is going to cost more than that. It could balloon up even more."

Nor does Romine believe that County can take on \$125 million in school construction expense without raising taxes.

"So, there is no way that you can take on \$125 million and keep the tax rate where it is," he said. "There is no way that we can accept the school bond without raising taxes. We can't do all the things we want to do — We can't pay for it with the current tax rate."

"We will have to do it in

phases, and then the question becomes: what do you do first?"

"The whole issue needs to be dug into a little more," Romine said.

"If you are trying to do it with pay as you go, then it would take longer," Romine said, "but if you are trying to do it in ten years, then there is no way you can do it with the current tax rate."

Beyond facilities, Romine is concerned about the safety and security of teachers and students in the schools.

"We need to have procedures to protect them, and resources available to them," Romine said. He added that it might be wise to conduct disaster drills in the schools that respond to different types of threats.

As a father who regularly helps his children with their math and science homework, Romine said he is opposed to the new Common Core standards. He has encouraged State Sen. Jerry Tillman to introduce legislation in

the upcoming short session of the NC General Assembly that would drop Common Core from the state standards. Tillman has pledged to introduce such legislation.

"As an elected representative, I will have access to other representatives," Romine said. "I will take issues that are important to Moore County back to them . . . As a commissioner, you have the opportunity to try to influence state legislators."

## Courthouse & Detention Center

Romine said he doesn't see

the need for a new County courthouse.

"From what I gather, it is all about space," Romine said. He said a better utilization of available space may spare the County considerable expense.

"How much office space do we actually have, and does it meet the requirements — for storage, for the the transportation of people, and so on? It's not really about building a new facility."

Romine said he supported the currently planned renovations to the courthouse

(See "Romine," p. 32)



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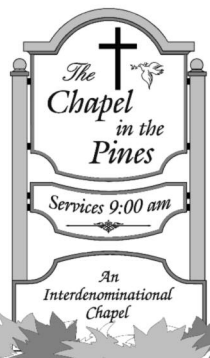
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12 Tomato Basil Soup Spinach Ravioli with Marinara Sauce Dinner	13 Creamy Chicken Alphabet Soup Chicken & Mushrooms Dinner	14 Beef Barley Soup Bourbon Pork Dinner	15 Curried Salmon Soup Tilapia Scampi Style Dinner	16 Red Pepper with Lime Soup Chicken Pot Pie Dinner
19 Spinach & Rice Soup Baked Ziti Dinner	20 Chicken Brunswick Stew Lemon Chicken Dinner	21 Tortellini Soup Tortellini with Meat Sauce Dinner	22 New England Clam Chowder Sauteed Shrimp with Peppers Dinner	23 Carrot Ginger Soup Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
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## Editorial

### A One-Party County

Tuesday, May 6 is Primary Election Day in Moore County, and two seats on the County Board of Commissioners, as well as the office of Sheriff, are likely to be decided by the results of the GOP primary.

That's really too bad — though not because of quality of the candidates available for Republicans to choose from. We have interviewed six of them in the past few days, and found them all capable folks. They are to be commended for their willingness to serve.

It's too bad because too many people don't vote in primary elections. In 2010, the most recent mid-term primary — with plenty of important offices on the ballot — turnout was a measly sixteen percent of registered voters. Of 60,000 registered voters, fewer than 10,000 cast ballots.

It's nuts to have a little more than ten percent of the population decide who is going to run Moore County.

Part of the problem is that Moore County is a *de facto* one-party county. Democrats seldom win elections around here; and, it's no wonder, since they seldom ever bother to run for office. So, the election is decided in the poorly attended May GOP primary, instead of in

the November general election.

Part of the problem is apathy. Voters can't be bothered to vote in May, just when the weather turns nice and summery.

Even the Moore County League of Women Voters, an outstanding group of civic-minded folks, couldn't be bothered to hold candidates forums ahead of the upcoming primary.

So the forums that were held were organized by the GOP or the Tea Party, rather than by a non-partisan organization. And good for them. At least they made the effort.

When you draw your candidates from one side of the ideological spectrum, when they only have to worry about appealing to folks in one political party, you are going to have some pretty predictable results.

And those results, over time, are not likely to reflect what Moore County actually looks like.

Moore County is a diverse, vibrant County that deserves an equally diverse and vibrant political culture. That won't happen as long as we draw all our candidates from a single party, and elect them in a Primary that attracts a small fraction of the voting public.

— Greg Hankins, Editor

### No curb cut provided for lot on Lakeway Drive

Dear Editor:

I am the owner of lot #5707 on Lakeway Drive. The new work being done includes blacktop and curbing, which I'm sure will look great.

My problem is I will no longer have access to my lot with the high curbing that is installed.

When someone is doing a project that will impact another person's property, it's only right that the person impacted should be contacted. When I was not contacted, I sent a few e-mails stating my concern that if they placed curbing in front of my entire lot, I will not be able to access it, and that I would like a driveway cutout to be installed.

I thought this to be a simple matter and the cutout should be done along with the other new work, so the curbing did

not have to be torn up and patched at a later date. The last e-mail I received from the Association stated, "When you submit a request with an association approved building authorization, the infrastructure committee will review and determine its course of action."

Am I wrong, or are they saying I shouldn't be allowed access to my property unless I have plans submitted for a home on my lot?

Does this mean I do not have to pay dues, since I am not planning on building a home and do not have access to my lot?

One might ask why I need access to a vacant lot.

I have several reasons, with one being that I pay over a thousand dollars in dues and taxes every year on a vacant lot that I now cannot access.

Another reason is that I can no longer clean up debris as I have in the past and as required by our by-laws.

My real estate agent has no place to park for customers interested in my lot. I do not want to block traffic by parking on the road for those wishing to exit our community.

Several cutouts were given to homeowners when the Association did their last curbing project. One was for a vacant lakefront lot. Others were for maintenance workers, so they could get their equipment to the common areas, so they did not have to jump the curbing.

So much for the West Side Board doing the right thing and using good old common sense.

Ed Sammann  
Seven Lakes West

### Praise for Carolina Car Care

Dear Editor:

I want to share with your readers a heart-warming experience I recently had at Carolina Car Care.

We may be former Seven Lakers, but we still rely on Phil, Kathy and Mike for servicing our vehicles. On a recent Wednesday, I asked Kathy, during the inspection,

to check out a strange repeating noise my wife, Jane, had noticed.

Kathy diagnosed it as a faulty water pump and said we shouldn't be driving the vehicle.

Within five minutes, she called the dealer, verified it was still under warranty, arranged for a tow truck to the dealer in Durham, to get the water pump replaced and

to return the vehicle to us. It was returned to us on Friday by mid-afternoon.

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Letters to the  
Editor

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# A vote for Doyle Markham for Clerk of Court

Dear Editor:

Another important position will be determined by the primaries in addition to the two Commissioners' seats and the County Sheriff's position. That is the position of Clerk of Superior Court for Moore County, currently held by Susan Hicks, who was appointed in 2009 to fill an unexpired term.

But, folks, let me tell you, it is definitely time for a change. In the last five years, under Hicks, that office has deteriorated from a well-run operation, providing the residents of Moore County with high quality service to an office where personnel are not properly trained or cross-trained, citizens are not being treated with respect and provided with correct information, and courts are not properly

covered with qualified staff to support the judges and the District Attorney's office, which I have personally witnessed.

Another example had a citizen making five trips between the Clerk's office and DMV to pay off five outstanding tickets to reinstate his license. The Clerk's office initially said he had only one ticket outstanding so he paid and went to DMV, who said he had four tickets outstanding; so he went back to the Clerk's office. This was repeated four more times because no one in the Clerk's office could find more than one ticket outstanding each time. Training in systems and customer service could have helped here.

It's time that position has a well-qualified person from

Moore County. That person is Doyle Markham.

Markham has been a Magistrate in the Moore County court system for fifteen years. As such, he serves as a judicial officer of the District Court and handles both criminal and civil matters. Among many other responsibilities, a magistrate issues warrants and sets bail for criminal cases, so Markham is very familiar with the court process and proceedings.

Markham has also run a successful accounting and

tax practice here for the past thirty-six years. He knows what good customer service is and what good office management entails. He has a plan to generate additional dollars for Moore County Schools as well as for managing the court schedule, to delay as long as possible the

building of new courthouse for \$50 million.

Please consider your vote carefully during this primary election. It is important to again have a well-run Clerk of Superior Court office. Doyle Markham is our answer.

Kathy Kirst  
Seven Lakes West

## Thanks!

A Heartfelt thanks goes out to each and everyone (Community Volunteers - both adults and teenagers - and the SLLA Recreation Committee members) who helped make this year's Easter Egg Hunt such a rousing success.

We had over 40 volunteers filling the eggs with goodies and hiding them and managing the refreshment tables, an estimated 150 participants (children and adults), Pony rides for 48 children, the numerous Animal Balloons provided by the "Balloon Lady" (Joyce Keller), the ever popular "Jump House," plus the "Easter Bunny" himself.

A special thanks to the two young girls who took time to come up to us and thank us personally for putting on the event. You made our day.

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## FOOD FOCUS: WATER

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— Neil Barrington

Most of us are aware of the importance of drinking enough water. Getting our daily requirement of water helps our organs perform their functions, keeps our skin clear and hydrated and allows physical action in our bodies to flow smoothly. Even with this knowledge, it can still be challenging to drink all the water our bodies deserve daily.

In the spring and summer, when we tend to play hard, sweat and spend prolonged time in the sun, drinking plenty of water is critical. Those who are not drinking enough may experience poor digestion, sluggish thinking, skin breakouts, headaches, bad breath and general fatigue.

To start your day right, set a large glass of water by your bed each night and drink it when you wake up. When the first thing that flows through your body each morning is water, it pulls out toxins left over from the previous day and freshens your system for the day ahead.

Keep a bottle of water accessible throughout the day, whether you are on the go or at a desk. Having one close by will remind you to take a sip when thirsty. The first sip will usually let you know how much more water you need. A sip or two

may be enough, or you may need a big glass. If you drink most of your daily water before early evening, you most likely will not be thirsty before bed. This is good, because drinking before bed and then waking to use the bathroom disturbs your peaceful night's sleep.

What about quality? Some people like bottled water, while others prefer filtered water. The key is to like the taste of the water you are drinking, and the water should agree with your body.

If the taste of plain water is unappealing, experiment to see how you can make it tasty and drinkable. Try adding a few mint leaves, a wedge of lemon, a sprig of parsley, slices of cucumber, a twist of lime or a squeeze of orange to make water more tempting, or to jazz up your routine.

Also, drinking tea or juice and eating raw fruits and vegetables contribute to the hydration process. So, drink plenty of water and enjoy the springtime fun!

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## Graham

(Continued from page 4)

we have, you are going to have conflict. Is my need more important than yours?"

"And, I'm glad I'm not on the School Board."

### Courthouse

Spending fifteen years as Clerk of Court in Moore County gives Graham some

firsthand insight into the needs of the court system — and the inadequacies of the current courthouse and other facilities. She has served on the County's Courthouse Advisory Committee since its inception.

"I think it is realistic," Graham said when asked about a plan just approved by the

Commissioners to remodel portions of the Courthouse — and expand the Clerks' office into the basement area vacated by the move of the Sheriff's office to the new public safety building.

"It should hold us for five years anyway. And, during those five years, that should be part of this long range

planning that I want to do. Have we found the best way to accomplish these things?"

"I think the general population doesn't understand that, as our population increases, the needs in that court facility increases — and not for criminal court, Not just for civil court, not for court, per se."

Graham explained that more people means more estates to open, more special proceedings, more domestic violence action, more adoptions. "There are all these functions that don't need a courtroom," she said, "but that need to be taken care of in the courthouse. There is so much more than happens there."

Graham said the state requires that evidence in criminal cases be kept in a

climate controlled area — something that cannot be done in Moore County because of space constraints. "I had evidence stacked to the ceiling," she said.

"It is a very frustrating thing to know that our tax money has to go to our court facility building. I understand that. I have those same feelings. I would much rather see a nice new high school than a new courthouse. But you have to realize what your needs are in the County and try to provide them."

"Our current Board has come under some heat from Chief Justice [Sarah] Parker," Graham said, "who has appointed a retired judge, who has written a letter saying the conditions are deplorable. So, the Commis-

(See "Graham," p. 33)

## Romine

(Continued from page 29)

and Currie Building as a better use of taxpayer dollars.

"Renovation is where I am standing," he said. "If we have enough space, we need to renovate to make it usable. It just makes sense. There is no way we can address all these issues at one time."

He points to the on-going repairs and rework on the new public safety center as a problem for the County.

"There are big, big issues there," Romine said. Different numbers on the cost are being thrown around. The building is there, but in my opinion, I don't think it was handled as conservatively as it should have been. We spent way too much money. We could have saved \$10-\$11 million."

"We can't go back and change that now. We need people in government who are very conservative and critical in their thinking. Trust and verify. That is where my expertise comes in. I have managed tens of

millions in payrolls and equipment."

### Water

Turning to water issues, Romine said, "I am concerned about the fact that the state denied our \$11 million loan . . . I'm not sure how the state would deny a loan to a County that has the reserves we do."

"It is important that we continue to make sure everyone has water," he said. "Anywhere that we are going to have expansion and growth, we need to have reliable water. If we are going to try to get growth, then we have to have water. The new houses are paying taxes as well as fees for the water."

### Development

Romine said he saw the County's recent adoption of a Unified Development Ordinance as a way to "protect the people and their property rights."

However, he was concerned that new rules governing cell-

phone towers eliminated a requirement that tower companies post a bond that would pay to have an abandoned tower dismantled.

"That holds the landowners more liable," he said.

### Core Values

Romine, an active member of a Christian church, said, "What is important is the moral fiber of the candidate."

"I have seven core values. I have three principles that I live by."

Those principles, printed on Romine's campaign literature, are "God, Country, and Family."

His seven values are: "loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and



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## Graham

(Continued from page 32)

sioners have to take that into consideration."

Other needs that Graham mentioned as having a place in the County's long range plan include what to do about County administrative offices and about the need to explained the Moore County library.

"If the existing court facility is vacated at some point," Graham said, "that is an awfully nice building that could be used for other purposes."

### Water

Increasing the County's supply of drinking water is "a very pressing need that the County has to address," Graham said.

The County application for an \$11 million zero interest state loan to finance bringing additional water from Harnett County failed to win state approval in process that pitted projects from across the state against each other.

"We are a sound County," Graham said. "We should be able to get a low interest rate"

to finance water system expansion.

### Taxes

Graham said she is committed to keeping taxes low. Asked about the upcoming property revaluation in 2015, she said, "My hope would be that, if any property values go up, that our taxes not go up. I don't want the taxpayers to pay any more taxes."

"We are getting more revenue from the sales tax, and I hope we will see more revenue from things like that — by attracting more businesses and building a larger tax base."

### Economic development

As a Town Commissioner for Carthage, Graham is familiar with the struggles of small towns to build a viable economy.

"The biggest problem for towns like Carthage and Robbins," Graham said, "is that we are grouped in the wrong tier." Because of the wealthy southern end of the County, Moore County is ranked among the state's Tier 3

wealthier counties, rather than among the less well-off Tier 1 counties, like neighboring Montgomery.

"That makes it hard for us to get grants and things like that," Graham said. "I would like to find out whether the County Commissioners could help in any way."

"Moore County is in a great position to grow," Graham said. "We need to look for ways to control our growth so it is a healthy growth and profitable growth."

"Our best assets are our community college and our hospital and medical facilities."

ties."

### Work Ethic

"I came from a family that taught you work ethics," Graham said. "You don't depend on handouts. You work for what you need."

"We were not a wealthy family, but I was wealthy in that I was taught the right things."

"I have always taken any public servant job as an honor and a responsibility. If elected, I will continue that work ethic and public servant attitude."

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## Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

materials that we're going to discuss through at the meeting."

The Council's Work Sessions are held in a very small room in the Village Administrative Offices rather than in the larger Village Hall meeting room. Council members gather around a small conference table, with almost no seating for the public.

Councilman Steve Durham noted that often, during Work Sessions, the Council will refer to maps or Village records. The availability of those resources is one reason they chose to hold Work Sessions in the Village's administrative offices.

During the April 25 Work Session, the one resident who attended sat in a chair in the doorway of the conference room. Recognizing the cramped quarters, Mayor Erickson said, "In light of comments about space and the lack of space, I would have no problem moving this meeting across the street to the Town Hall. That way if people did show up, they wouldn't be crammed in or anything like that."

Durham agreed, "I think it would be smart to move over there. I don't see that it's changing how we do business; it's just changing the location."

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco asked that the Village Hall space be structured for a Work Session, with the Coun-

cil sitting around a table, rather than in a straight line, as they are during regular Council meetings.

To reinforce that the Work Sessions are open meetings, and the public is welcome, Councilman Mick McCue said: "I think we should move it over there, if anyone is discouraged from coming. I encourage everyone to come to our open meetings and to hear and see for themselves what we are discussing. If the lack of space discourages people from coming, then I am all for moving it over there."

### Council once held two meetings each month

At one time, the Foxfire Council held two regular meetings each month. "When I first came on the Council," Erickson said, "there were two meetings a month. We had some discussions, even if we had to go longer. We decided, let's do one meeting a month, and we dropped the second regular meeting and had meetings that were longer. Sometimes they went after 9:00 pm."

But, Erickson suggested that one meeting a month does not provide enough time for a thorough discussion of issues — or, in some cases, a timely respond to issues that arise.

"I don't see having lengthier meetings as an issue for any of us," he said. "I see the issue as: putting a month

between our meetings, that a lot can happen."

Work Sessions have value, Erickson asserted: "The work session provides us with the opportunity to have discussions and go into the regular meeting with some understanding and consensus."

Both McCue and Frusco pointed out that the Council strives for transparency and public input. Each year, the board schedules several citizen participation meetings to allow citizens to better understand the proposed budget and offer suggestions.

"I want to emphasize that Work Sessions are open meetings," McCue said, "as they have been previously, and that doesn't change."

Quoting Hankins' editorial, 'Work Sessions can unfortunately be a slippery slope for public officials, leading almost inevitably to more and more secrecy and closed door decision making.' I think that is just the opposite."

"You know how I feel about discussing issues when they

are preliminary and brainstorming ideas. We don't have to do that; we can defer it to staff. The Mayor can say, 'Mick, I want a new ordinance. You work with the attorney on it. But then no one knows what I suggested. I think doing it like we do is

(See "Foxfire," p. 35)

## Spring Fling at West End United Methodist

West End United Methodist Church is hosting a Spring Fling on Sunday, May 4, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Held on the church grounds, there will be games and activities for all ages and refreshments provided.

The Cameronian Quartet will perform at 4:30 pm. Come and join the church for this time of fun and fellowship.



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## Foxfire

(Continued from page 34)

much more transparent. Everybody is welcome and can come."

Noting that the Council had occasionally voted on items during the Work Session, rather than waiting for a regular meeting, Erickson said: "At these meetings, it is to make recommendations. Occasionally, we might have to deal with an action item at a Work Session, because of a deadline we have to meet. But, I would recommend to the Council that this basically is discussion time to gain more background and under-

standing."

Frusco noted, "Rarely do we take actions at these meetings."

Erickson replied, "We could have waited."

### Tightening the Budget

Turning from procedures to substance, the Council undertook a lengthy discussion of departments' budget requests.

Their first concern was budgeting for a possible cost of living increase for Village employees. The Village staff includes a clerk, finance officer, and water superintendent, along with two full-time and one part-time police officers. Maintenance and groundskeeping is contracted out.

Line item after line item,

the Council scrutinized each department's expense. By the end of the meeting, they were able to whittle off a few more dollars.

Necessary expenses included a computer and new software for the office. An anticipated expense is a new police car. Waiting another year to purchase the car could mean costly repairs.

"It is always a gamble, and it is true of all cars, whether they are new or not," McCue said. "We might put that off for next year, but it might make more sense for this year's budget."

### No hike in pool fees

Councilwoman Frusco, after weighing past usage of the Village pool against the expense incurred in main-

tenance and operations, recommended that pool fees remain the same and suggested finding possible ways to lower expenses.

"It will not be profitable or break even," Frusco said. "It is a Village amenity, and it is accessible to all of our village residents."

A possible cost savings might be to leave water in the pool year-round rather than draining it during the off season, which would eliminate the expense of power washing and filling the pool. However, leaving water in the pool will require maintaining the water chemistry year round.

### Collecting back taxes

After years of work to collect back taxes, the Village has collected all that it can, so little if any revenue is expected from that source in the coming year.

"The only stuff left out there is in foreclosures, bankruptcy, or slivers of lots that we won't collect on until property changes hands," Frusco told the Council.

Frusco said that she would incorporate the changes and suggestions into the draft budget. The Council will hold Citizen Participation Meetings on the budget on Tuesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 pm in the Village Hall.

## Postmaster

(Continued from page 6)

Rural carrier routes that were once based in the Jackson Springs and Eagle Springs post offices are now dispatched from West End — adding three more carrier routes to the six that have traditionally been handled out of West End.

"We still have plenty of extra space," Boykin said. "This is a great facility."

Since Boykin joined the team at West End, "we have expanded the area where the mail is broken down," she said, "and made that operation move more smoothly. We've incorporated some ideas that I have seen work in other post offices. We want to get the carriers out delivering your mail as soon as possible."

Boykin said she enjoys working the front desk, meeting customers. "I am always customer-oriented," she said, encouraging customers to call with any ideas for improving service.

"I am always looking for us to improve and help the customers," she said.

Noting that there are some stamp collectors in the West End customer base, Boykin encouraged customers who are looking for a particular stamp to ask to have it ordered.

"We try to keep a variety, but we're glad to order stamps for our customers."

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## Schools

(Continued from front page)

Maintenance Phillip Boles presented the Board with a revised list during their Thursday, April 24 Work Session.

It had changed very little. Expansions at Union Pines and Pinecrest remain at the top of the list, followed by the new concept high school. Pinecrest's capacity will increase to 2,000 students; Union Pines', to 1250. Both will still be over capacity, but the new concept high school is expected to attract more than enough students to remedy that problem.

The Pinecrest expansion is expected to cost \$11.3 million; the Union Pines upgrade, \$8.6 million; the new high school, \$14.6 million.

Initially, renovations and a new wellness center at North Moore High School were grouped with the other High School improvements. However, in the set of priorities, that \$1.3 million project was dropped well down the list.

Next in line is a new \$15.5 million Elementary School in Area 1 — the area that feeds Union Pines High School. Of four elementary schools in Area 1, three are currently overcrowded, with the situation at Vass-Lakeview and Sandhills-Farm Life expected to worsen signifi-

cantly over the next few years. That part of the County has seen a significant influx of military families. The new school would accommodate 650 students.

Moved down the list in the latest version was \$6.5 million in renovations at Pinecrest Elementary School. The school is designed to accommodate 487 students, currently has 508, and is expected to add 40-50 more in the next few years. The proposed renovations would replace three existing buildings.

### Area 3 Elementary Schools

The Board had originally elevated Pinehurst Elementary to sixth place on its facilities to-do list, ahead of new schools in Southern Pines and Aberdeen. But the new list presented by Boles moved the two new Area 3 schools ahead of the Pinehurst expansion.

One of the new elementary schools will replace Aberdeen Primary and Elementary schools. A capacity of 650 K-5 students is planned. The second new elementary school in Area 3 will allow the closure of Southern Pines Primary School. The 650 student facility is expected to serve grades K-2. Each school is expected to cost \$15.7 million.

At the bottom of Boles' list

were a new middle school in Area 3 and an expansion at West Pine Elementary.

The \$20.1 million new middle school would be designed to initially serve 450 students, but with a core capacity — administrative offices, cafeteria, library — that could deserve 850, which allows for future upgrades.

Last on the list is a \$1-\$1.5 million expansion of West Pine Elementary School to increase its student capacity from 600 to 690 students.

### A ten year plan

Boles told the Board that the MCS staff could manage any two of the projects on the list at once. Trying to do more than that, he said, would not only stretch staff, but would stretch available building contractors and subcontractors in the local market, potentially driving up costs.

Most of the major construction projects are expected to take 20-24 months to complete, so the ten projects on the list, taken two at a time, represent a ten-year plan.

The total price tag for the plan is estimated to be \$110.1 million. The cost estimates in Boles' latest presentation had been tightened up from ranges presented in earlier drafts, where the overall cost was projected at \$104.9 mil-

lion to \$124.5 million.

Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence cautioned School Board members that "it is really difficult to get into the detail of school construction until we know we have financing available. You get into the design process after your financing has been approved. These are much tighter budgets, but not as specific as they could be."

"Should we move up the Area 3 elementary schools a little?" asked Board Member Charles Lambert, perhaps mindful of the complaints from Southern Pines and Aberdeen.

Laura Lang pointed out that building the new elementary schools in Area 3 first would result in some Area 1 students being shifted

into Area 3, in order to relieve overcrowding in the existing Area 1 elementary schools. Once the new Area 1 school is built, those students would likely be shifted back.

"You would have to move some kids into Area 3," Spence agreed. "Putting a new school in Area 1 first prevents having to do that."

"We have to do capacity first," Lang said.

"You have to have seats for kids," said Board Chair Kathy Farren.

Some members of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, who must fund the construction of new schools, have suggested that the school facilities plan should be stretched over a longer time period than the

(See "Schools," p. 37)



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## Schools

(Continued from page 36)

ten years currently envisioned, in order to avoid a tax increase to pay for the new schools and renovations.

Offering “a concluding statement from my perspective,” Spence said, “We expect to need two more schools at the end of ten years — two elementary schools. The challenge with taking this plan past ten years — when you start with the next round of school construction needs, you are already four years behind. Taking this past ten years would put the Board right back in the same position. We believe this should be a ten year timeframe.”

### Paying for the plan

Though the School Board has talked about taking the facilities plan to the voters with a bond referendum on the November ballot, Chair Kathy Farren said that it may not be necessary to sell bonds in order to borrow the money to expand and build schools — at least not at first.

“I have had a few one on one meetings with the County Commissioners talking about this,” Farren said. “They are looking at different avenues to finance it, so that we aren’t continuously going for a bond ever ten years. They understand the need, which is wonderful.”

“We need to talk about a facilities referendum on the

ballot,” she continued, “not a bond referendum. Because it may come down to bonds eventually, but it won’t start out as bonds. We need to look at it that a bond is just one way that they could pay for this.”

A formal vote on the new facilities priority list is expected at the regular May 12 meeting of the Board of Education.

### Where to put schools

Also during their Thursday, April 24 Work Session, the School Board received a presentation from Michael Miller of the Operations Research and Education Laboratory [ORED] of NC State University, that aimed to help determine where new schools should be located, based on student populations, existing school capacities, and MCS plans for new schools.

Miller presented the Board with a map on which were inscribed circles nearly three miles in diameter represent-

ing the optimal area in which each of the new schools would be built.

The circle representing the optimal location for the new concept high school stretched along NC Highway 15/501 from roughly the Pinehurst traffic circle to the intersection with NC Highway 73 in Eastwood.

Looking at the optimal scenarios for building new elementary schools in the Aberdeen and Southern Pines area, Miller said there will be no need to change the dividing line between the Aberdeen district and the West Pine and West End Districts. He did note that there is an “imbalance” between West End and West Pine elementary districts that may need to be addressed.

West End Elementary is not expected to hit its maximum capacity of 502 students within the next decade, but West Pine Elementary is expected to exceed its capacity with four or five years.

### Nailing down the budget

MCS Chief Finance Officer Mike Griffin presented the Board with a brief update on the proposed FY 2014-2015 budget, and the Board voted unanimously to move that budget request to the County Commissioners.

Superintendent Spence explained that School Board approval of the budget had been delayed while awaiting additional funding information from the state. That information is now in hand.

Griffin explained that the state planning allotments — the number of teachers the state will fund for Moore County — came in as expected, so the budget did not change from what was presented to the Board earlier this Spring.

MCS is seeking just under \$29 million in County funding, an increase of \$2.35 million over this year’s budget.

The proposed budget trims

thirty-five positions, for a savings of \$1.6 million, and includes a total of \$1.8 million in cuts.

Griffin noted that MCS is in negotiations with the Commissioners to develop a consistent funding formula that would include annual operational funding, capital reserve funding, and the transfer of vacant MCS property to the County.

The objective is to provide MCS with a consistent level of County funding that the district can count on, to help counterbalance the unpredictability of state and federal funding.

A key question in the negotiations is what level of fund balance — unspent funds carried over from year to year — MCS should maintain. Currently, MCS has an unappropriated fund balance of \$5.7 million, enough to cover about 22 days of expenses, Griffin told the Board.

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**FOXFIRE** – 83 Richmond Road, 2400SF, 4BR/3.5BA \$245,000 Tammy Lyne, Keller Williams Realty www.TammyLyne.com 910-235-0208.

**FOXFIRE** – 5 Vineyard Place, 2000SF, 3BR/2BA \$250,000 Tammy Lyne, Keller Williams Realty www.TammyLyne.com 910-235-0208.

**SL WEST** – 116 Otter Drive, waterfront, 1800SF, 3BR/2BA \$325,000 Tammy Lyne, Keller Williams Realty www.TammyLyne.com 910-235-0208.

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