

7 Lakes Country Club searching for a buyer

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

"Our goal is for this golf course to be here," Seven Lakes Country Club President Roni Hann said. "That's the goal of the board."

Hann spoke with *The Times* a week after the club's membership authorized the board of directors to "pursue and potential sale, lease, or exchange of any or all of the Club's assets."

The vote was taken in a special membership meeting on Sunday, July 14. The Board reported in a Tuesday, July 16 email to the membership that it had won the two-thirds majority needed for that authorization.

Hann told *The Times* that there is no buyer currently waiting in the wings. Rather, the board sought the support of the membership before beginning the process of seeking a buyer.

"There was no reason even to start looking until after we went to he membership to obtain their support," she said. With that support in hand, the board will be exploring options with brokers specialized in the golf course business.

Hann said the board promised club members the opportunity to vote on any deal that it is able to negotiate.

(See "Country Club," p. 28)

\$300 fine levied for dog running loose

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



There was a time in Seven Lakes when the monthly "dog report" — number of dogs barking, number of dogs running loose, number of dogs chased, number of dogs apprehended — delivered by a director of security for one of the landowners associations, was an occasion for amusement.

But dogs running loose can be a

hazard for pedestrians and traffic — and a costly rules violation for the owner who fails to leash his or her dog.

Such was the case for Seven Lakes West resident Jeff Barnhardt, who was assessed a \$300 fine by the judicial panel of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA].

According to Community Advocate Ed Silberhorn, who is charged with bringing cases before the Judicial

(See "Dog," p. 25)

Top of the steeple



Dwight Parsons affixes the cross to the top of Culdee Presbyterian Church's steeple, which has been undergoing repairs. [See page 12.]

SLLA capital project plan tops \$300,000

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



There's more than \$300,000 worth of repairs, remodels, and upgrades in the Multi-Year Capital Projects Plan recently approved by the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors.

The board hosted a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, July 10 to introduce the plan and gather input from landowners. Director Chuck Leach walked attendees through a detailed slide presentation.

He explained that the capital project plan does not include road repaving, which is covered by a separate plan — and funded from restricted reserve funds. Phase 2 of that effort should begin in 2015, Leach said.

The capital project plan is funded

instead by unrestricted reserve funds, and includes recommendations from the Reserve Study completed a few years ago, an energy assessment developed by former director Conrad Meyer, Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and input from the SLLA's various committees.

While the plan is intended to guide and help prioritize Board decisions about capital maintenance and improvements, Leach said the board will ultimately be asked to approve each of the individual projects in the plan as they come up.

He also noted that unexpected maintenance needs can arise, as was the case with the roof of the shelter at Big Juniper Lake and the footings at Sequoia Pavilion this year.

Leach said having a multi-year
(See "Capital," p. 27)

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Board ponders repairs to Sequoia Lighthouse

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The landmark lighthouse on Lake Sequoia in Seven Lakes North is in need of rehabilitation, Director Chuck Leach told his fellow board members during a work session on Monday, July 14.

"It's a landmark that many associate with Seven Lakes," Leach said. "It's a quaint-looking thing. When I became chair of the maintenance committee, it was my belief that we should restore what was originally built to present condition or make it better."

A resident reminded the board that the question of whether to repair or remove the lighthouse was debated several years ago — and residents were strongly in favor of keeping the lighthouse. At the time, the needed repairs were projected to cost \$3,200.

Director Sandy Sackman confirmed that recollection.

"A couple of years ago, they talked about taking it down," she said, "and the residents were quite upset. A person in the community personally put money in it to make repairs and save it."

A lighthouse with a light might be a good idea, President Bob Racine offered.

"The lighthouse doesn't have a beacon," he said. "Wouldn't be nice to see a light going around?"

Laughing, former Director Conrad Meyer reminded the

board that members living on the lake might have a different perspective on the desirability of an oscillating beacon lighting up the night sky. Meyer noted that the only known postcard of Seven Lakes was one of the lighthouse.

By an impromptu show of hands the work session audience made it clear that they were in favor of keeping the lighthouse.

The structure was recently inspected, yielding a recommendation that the shingle siding and roof needed to be refurbished.

A resident familiar with the structure said that it was soundly built. "The stairs are solid; they don't move," he said. "The main support is steel. The platform on top seems to be very secure."

Former Director Bob Darr suggested having a complete assessment in hand before moving forward.

"My position, before you

go forward on this, is to take a look at the whole thing to see what it needs to be done, before work is started," Darr said.

Leach replied that the recent inspection in fact included a thorough examination.

Director Bill Hirsch, an architect by trade, offered to look it over.

"I can do a structural evaluation of the building as a whole," Hirsch said.

Meyer advised Hirsch to take a drill if he went out to the island.

"Be advised, when you go out to the lighthouse, there is a big piece of plywood that has been screwed in place to secure it," Meyer said. "You aren't going to be able to look it over unless you remove it."

The board agreed to move consideration of lighthouse repairs to the Wednesday, July 30 Open Meeting.

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@sevenlakesimes.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, 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.

RR Crossing Closure

Seven Lakes West's front entrance project and the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway's repaving of the Lakeway Drive crossing and installation of new crossing gates will impact traffic at the crossing and on Lakeway Drive for most of the remainder of July.

Thursday July 24 at 4:00 pm - The ACWR will close all access to the front entrance, including BB&T and Seven Lakes Plaza Shopping Center.

Saturday, July 25 - *The Times* has received mixed reports on whether the ACWR will be done with

its paving work at the crossing, reopening it to allow traffic to access Seven Lakes Plaza Shopping Center. Shopping center management told *The Times* that ACWR representatives assured them that the crossing will reopen on Saturday, Westside project managers indicate paving will still be underway on Saturday. *The Times* was unable to reach the ACWR for comment.

Monday July 28 - The exit and entrance lanes open and project completed.

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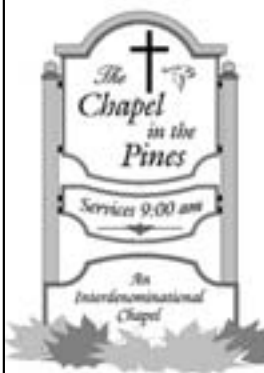
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Lack of rain drops lake levels, raises questions

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The sparkling lakes that give Seven Lakes its name are overdue to be replenished and refreshed by steady rainfall. Below average precipi-

tation in May, June, and July has Big Juniper Lake down six inches, Little Juniper Lake down thirteen inches, and Longleaf Lake down three inches.

During the July 14 work session of the Seven lakes Landowners Association

[SLLA] Board of Directors, Lakes and Dams Committee member Jerry Johnson asked why there has been no pumping to help offset the deficits.

He also expressed concern that, after the resignation of Rich Faraci from the board, the Lakes and Dams Com-

mittee was without a chairman and out of action from May until July.

SLLA President Bob Racine agreed in July to head up the Committee.

"Appointing Bob [Racine] to the committee was a good move," Johnson said. "I am really pleased with what we have done recently. However, there should never be another lapse, suspending the Lakes and Dams Committee. That can't happen. The committee oversees the safety of the lakes and their structural integrity."

Several residents echoed Johnson's question about pumping, asking why SLLA management had not begun

the required pumping when lakes levels dropped and questioning whether there might be a misunderstanding of the established pumping policies.

Pumping policy set last year

In May 2013, the SLLA Board approved a policy of pumping water as needed from:

- Big Juniper to Little Juniper
- Longleaf to Little Juniper
- Windermere to Little Juniper
- Longleaf to Big Juniper
- Echo to Ramapo
- Echo to Timber
- Sequoia to Dogwood

(See "SLLA," p. 26)

License needed to drive golf cart on SLLA streets

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



It's illegal for kids to drive golf carts on Seven Lakes streets — inside or outside the gates.

That was the conclusion the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Security Director Steve Ritter after investigating the relevant NC General Statutes.

Ritter's research was sparked by complaints from residents about young teenagers driving golf carts on SLLA roadways. He shared those concerns with his fellow directors during the board's Monday, July 14 Work Session.

"I have had residents come up to me to report that kids are driving golf carts around the South Side community," Ritter said. "The complaints are coming in that 13-and-14-year-old kids are driving carts around, with five or more kids in them. They don't have driver's licenses and don't know rules of roads."

"So I did some research on the state statutes," Ritter continued. "A golf cart is not the same thing as an ATV [All-Terrain Vehicle]. There is a legal distinction. In North Carolina, in order to operate a golf cart on a roadway, you have to be 16, with a driver's license. We checked with the Sheriff's office, and he confirmed state law."

Rules changes recommended

Ritter recommended a proposed change to the SLLA rules and regulations that would require all golf carts driven on roadways to be operated by licensed drivers.

There is already a rarely-enforced rule that golf cart owners must obtain and keep current liability insurance.

"We have talked to [Community Manager] Ray [Sohl] about getting back into the habit of making sure that operating golf carts have insurance," Ritter said. "We are also recommending that golf carts would only be used

during daylight hours unless they have headlights and tail lights. And, finally, that golf carts shall be operated in a safe manner, and all pas-

(See "Carts," p. 26)

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The National Golf Association — Pro golf's AA League — played a three day tournament at Seven Lakes Country Club



Driving off the 15th tee

Seven Lakes hosts NGA

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Pros from the National Golf Association [NGA] Tour competed in a three-day tournament at Seven Lakes Country Club on July 16, 17 & 18.

Richy Werenski of South Hadley, MA finished at the top of the leaderboard, posting ten under par in the three days of play, with eight-under on days one and two.

Mac McLaughlin of Cleve-

land, OH placed second, seven under par. J.C Horne, Dominic Bozelli, and Justin Martins tied for third, at five under.

The NGA is two steps removed from the PGA Tour.

"We're Double-A. That's the best way to explain it," NGA staffer Cole Suttle told *The Times*, referring to minor league baseball, in which Double-A is two steps below the major leagues.

Tyler Light, a pro from Canton, OH, said the SLCC course wasn't particularly difficult, except for the greens.

"It's a nice course," he said. "But the greens are slopy and small." Light said he was used to faster, smoother greens, and the undulations in the Seven Lakes surface were a particular challenge.

"The greens are kind of slow, but you wouldn't want

(Continued on page 5)



One NGA pro said the slower, undulating greens of the SLCC course were its most challenging feature.

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Pros

(Continued from page 4)

them any faster with all the undulations," he said.

Southsiders Susan Clark and John Svedman were out on the course watching the play, as were Lakers Kathleen and Daniel Stanley. Both couples provided housing for pros competing in the tournament.

Noting that many of the golfers are not long out of college, Clark explained that the tournament entry fee is \$1000; and the prize money not much more than that.

Top finisher Werenski took home \$5,750 for his trouble, but the two pros who tied for sixth won only \$1,100.



Rhyne Kids' Fishing Tourney is August 9

The 2014 Memorial Fishing Tournament in Memory of Deputy Rick Rhyne will be Saturday, August 9, 10 am – 4 pm at Lake McKenzie in Foxfire.

NC Inland Fisheries and the Southern Pines Parks and Recreation Department are providing much of the fishing tackle that will be used that day. Families are encouraged to bring their own equipment.

If anyone has extras to share with kids that might not have gear, please contact 692-0777.

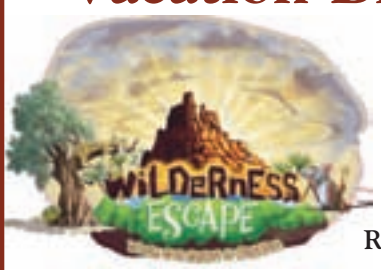
Talbert's BBQ will be providing food for each child and there will be food available for purchase.

Exhibits include the Wildlife Mobile Aquarium and the Sensory Safari trailer and the Fire Safety trailer. Aberdeen Coca Cola will provide water.

Prizes will be awarded throughout the day, and every child will receive a prize. The day will end with a balloon release.

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FAMILY MEDICINE

Volunteers protest firing of animal center staffer

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Citizens who volunteer at the Moore County Animal Shelter turned out in force at the Tuesday, July 15 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners to protest the firing of the shelter's volunteer coordinator, Betsy Ficarro.

Though he did not comment on Ficarro's performance or termination, County Manager Wayne Vest pointed to "great strides" made at the Animal Shelter in recent months and invited volunteers to attend a meeting with county officials on Sun-

day, July 20.

Speaking during the public comment segment of the meeting, Judy Pund said Ficarro had taken the number of volunteers working at the shelter from five to seventy-five in nine months. The part-time volunteer coordinator position is budgeted at \$12,000 per year.

Pund said Ficarro had provided "exceptional service, dedication and leadership."

"Her commitment to the animals was unwavering," Pund said, noting that Ficarro had offered to continue working without pay.

"Why eliminate a position with proven leadership?" Celeste Watson asked. She said volunteers contributed

954 hours in May and 799 in June.

"The results are indisputable," she continued. "Volunteers were organized, had clear objectives, and won a lot of praise. It was a good return on the county's investment: hundreds and hundreds of man-hours for less than \$1,000 per month."

Vest noted that the shelter has seen a number of personnel changes in recent months. Former Animal Operations Director Al Carter was fired earlier this year, and Animal Control Officer Frank Ringelberg was fired last month.

Vest said that county staff, with the assistance of the Animal Operations Advisory

Board and volunteers, have been successful in professionalizing operations, to the degree that Moore County is often mentioned as one of the top county animal shelters in the state.

"These successes require the efforts of a team and supersede any one individual and any one entity," Vest said.

Vest said he is in the "final stages" of hiring a director for animal operations. He

added that the county plans to reclassify one of the currently vacant Animal Center positions to create a "program coordinator" position, responsible for volunteer activities, public education, and adoption and awareness activities aimed at reducing intake and increasing adoptions.

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Innovation is key on area farms

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County has lost farmland but gained farmers — and those farmers are embracing innovative approaches to the business, growing new crops and finding new markets.

Those were among the key takeaways from the annual report that County Extension Director Stephen Greer and Extension Agent Taylor Williams presented to the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their regular Tuesday, July 15 meeting.

Williams said agriculture accounts for about seventeen percent of Moore County's economic production and employs about fourteen percent of the workforce.

The average Moore County farmer is 57 years of age, so the extension service is sponsoring a Sandhills Farm School "so young folks wanting to get started can look at and see what the opportunities are."

The most recent session attracted thirty students, who paid \$200 each for class-

(See "Farms," p. 25)

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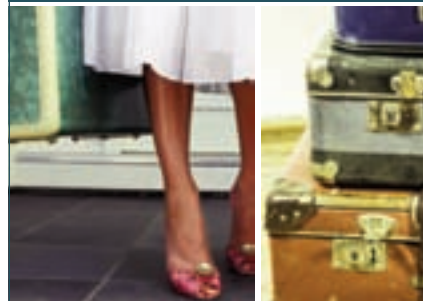


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County looks at upgrade to GIS aerial photos

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Using Moore County's current geographic information system [GIS] on the world

wide web, citizens and county staffers can access a map of the entire county enhanced by aerial photographs. Those photographs are flat images, taken from directly above the landscape below.

During the July 15 Board of Commissioners meeting, GIS Coordinator Chris Butts presented a proposed upgrade called "oblique imagery acquisition." This form of aerial photography takes photos from an angle. Once the images are compiled, the technique provides a three dimensional view of buildings and landscape features.

Noting that he had seen an earlier preview of the presentation, Chairman Larry Caddell said "This would be a great tool, especially for fire and EMS."

Butts explained that the NC-based vendor, Pictometry, offers data files that integrate with the county's existing

GIS software, GIS website, and 911 call center software. In addition, the company hosts all the images on its servers, creating less demand on GIS staff and the county's computer systems.

A six year contract that includes two complete overflights of the county would cost \$181,516.

Butts explained that the technology allows the user, at a computer screen, to measure distances, including the height of buildings. Images can also be annotated by the user. More than seventy five counties and cities currently use the Pictometry system, he said.

Departments weigh in

Gary Briggs, of the county tax department, told the commissioners that he had visited other counties that use the Pictometry system and found that it cut down on the number of "field trips" that tax assessors must make to properties.

"You can actually measure height using this," he said, adding that photos from different overflights can be used to see where buildings have been added or removed from

properties. Overflights take place every three years.

Briggs said the system would be particularly helpful during the county's reevaluation of properties. Moore County is due for reevaluation next year.

Both Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips and Chief Deputy Jerrell Seawell told the board that the three-dimensional imagery would allow emergency responders and law enforcement officers to better pre-plan activities in a given area.

"We are very excited about it," Seawell said. He explained that officers planning to execute a search warrant could evaluate possible exits from a particular building. It would also be useful in planning traffic control and in preparing exhibits for use in the

courtroom, he said.

Butts said the GIS department has tested the Pictometry system in a two-month trial, has demonstrated the system to other county departments, and has assessed interest among the county's municipalities.

Pictometry offers both nine-inch and three inch photographic resolution. Butts said the higher resolution would be appropriate in more densely populated areas, adding that the Village of Pinehurst has expressed a willingness to pay for higher resolution imagery covering its jurisdiction.

He explained that the county has previously paid for the one-dimensional vertical currently in use, but that is now provided by the state. Funds budgeted for the con-

ventional overflights could be used instead for the Pictometry system, with additional funds drawn from various departmental budgets.

"I think this is something that we need to figure out a way to fund it," Chairman Caddell said. "It is a security issue, a 911 issue, it helps the tax office. I would like to put it back on the first August agenda, to give board members a chance to talk about it."

Commissioner Nick Picerno sought assurances that adopting the system would not require extensive upgrades to county computer systems.

"I just want to make sure we know exactly where the money is coming from," Commissioner Randy Saunders said.




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Skip out on your water bill, lose your tax refund

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



If you have left an old Moore County water bill unpaid, you may not get that big tax refund you were expecting. Or that big lottery prize you won.

At Public Works Director Randy Gould's request, the Moore County Board of Commissioners approved, during their regular, July 15 meeting, a new method of attempting to collect long overdue utility bills.

Moore County will join the NC Local Government Debt Setoff Clearinghouse Program, submitting long overdue accounts to the state, so that state tax refunds or lottery earnings due the debtor can be directed instead to pay off their debt to the county.

Public utilities has \$223,915 in outstanding debt from 2,183 inactive customer accounts. The new collection system will be used by both Moore County Public Utilities and the East Moore Water District. The state charges \$15 per customer for the service, if any past due amounts are actually collected.

Upset bid process started for lot in Pine Ridge

Also at Gould's request, the commissioners accepted an offer of \$14,000 for a once-acre lot at the corner of Pine Ridge Lane and Holly Place in the Pine Ridge subdivision near Seven Lakes.

That vote initiates an upset bid process, in which the county advertises the accepted price, giving those willing to place a higher bid ten days to do so.

The \$14,000 initial offer was submitted by Jerry Glenn Bowles, the owner of the adjacent property. The one-acre lot was once the site of a county water well, abandoned due to the presence of radium in the water.

No water meter for Taylortown

The commissioners turned down a request from the Town of Taylortown for a master meter on the county water system that the town would use to serve a new shopping center being constructed near Olmsted Village.

Taylortown has its own water system, but planned to supply the new customer with county water.

Commissioner Jimmy Melton said he preferred that the County serve the development directly, and the board unanimously approved his motion to that effect.

Bulk water rate changed

At Gould's request, the board voted to change the county's bulk water rate to a flat \$5.70 per thousand gallons, no matter how much water is used.

Previously, customers who used more than 40,000 gallons per month were charged a discounted rate of \$4.80. Gould said that encouraging high levels of water usage by offering a discounted rate was questionable from a conservation standpoint.

He noted that the county currently has only three bulk water users, one of which is temporary in nature.

"It's not really a great deal of money, but it cleans up the rate structure philosophically," Gould said.

Other business

In other public works-related business during their Tuesday, July 15 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Increased by \$15,000 the project ordinance for the replacement of sewer lift station 3-4, near the Pinehurst #8 golf course. The

estimated total cost for the project is \$1,137,000

- Awarded a \$150,000 contract to Simmons and Simons Management for the grinding of yard debris at the Moore County Landfill. The County accepts approximately 13,000 tons

- of such debris each year.
- Awarded a \$100,000 contract to Cape Fear Site Works for the hauling of mulched yard debris from the landfill.

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The **Seven Lakes Times** is seeking a part-time reporter to cover local government meetings, write feature stories, and photograph events.

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County is #2 in state for tax collection rate

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County's tax department collected 99.80 percent of real property taxes due in

FY 2013, Interim Tax Administrator John Edmondson told the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their regular Tuesday, July 15 meeting.

That's the second highest collection rate in the state of North Carolina. Only Transylvania County, in the western mountains, outperformed Moore County, with a collection rate that was only one-hundredth of one percent higher.

Meeting the requirements of the NC General Statutes, the board accepted the tax settlement reports that Edmondson presented for 2012 and 2013. \$211,180 of the real property taxes due in 2013 remain unpaid, as does \$18,401 of the personal property taxes.

After accepting the settlement, the commissioners charged Edmondson with the collection of taxes for the current year.

Non-profit grants cut five percent

The commissioners approved grant agreements with six non-profit agencies that receive county funding, in each case reducing the funding amount by five percent from FY2014.

During discussion of the FY2015 budget, the board expressed a desire to eventually eliminate county-funding of non-profits, in part because there appears to be little rationale to explain why some non-profits receive county funding while others do not.

Awards for FY2015 include:

- \$47,500 to Friend-to-Friend, which serves victims of domestic violence.

- \$8,316 to the Arts Council of Moore County, which mounts a number of festivals showcasing local artists.

- \$7,600 to the Sandhills Moore Coalition for Human

Care, which provides food to hungry families.

- \$6,650 to the Moore County Literacy Council, which provides one-on-one training for adults who want to learn to read.

- \$3,800 to Habitat for Humanity of the Sandhills, which constructs affordable

housing for low-income working families.

- \$3,800 for the Malcolm Blue Historical Society, which maintains a historic farm in Aberdeen, offering tours and educational programs for schoolchildren and other citizens.

Hearing called on roads in Foxfire, 7 Lakes West

The Moore County Commissioners have called a public hearing for their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 5, to rename three roads and name for the first time seven others, including one, Heath Ct, in the proposed Stonegate subdivision off Gateway Drive near the back gate of Seven Lakes West.

Within the Grande Pines subdivision, a portion of which lies within the Foxfire

Village limits, Windswepp Vista is to be renamed Windswept Vista, apparently to correct a spelling error.

Four other new roads are in the Juniper Ridge subdivision off Murdocksville Road.

Earnhardt Ln, apparently named for the NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt, will be renamed Honey Bee Ln because the road sign was repeatedly stolen, creating a public safety hazard.

Other business

In other business during their Tuesday, July 15 regular meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Authorized a \$30,000 increase in the county's contract with Sandhills Transportation for the non-emergency transport of Medicaid recipients. Director of Social Services John Benton explained that Sandhills is used when transportation needs fall outside the hours covered by the county's own transportation service. One hundred percent of the expense is reimbursed by the federal government.

- Approved an amendment to the contract with Aramark for the provision of meals in the county detention center, accepting a 2.8 percent increase, which Chief Deputy Jerrell Seawell explained was

due to the increasing cost of food.

- Adopted a resolution requesting a \$25,000 reimbursement from the NC Department of Transportation for the paving of a driveway at the new Glendon Carthage Road Fire/EMS Station. Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips told the board that the metal building that will be used to house equipment is complete and construction of the housing and office unit is on schedule.

- Approved a two-month extension of the county's contract with Pinehurst Medical Clinic, which staffs the Wellness Works Clinic used by county employees.

- Requested an extension of the one dollar, five year lease for county antenna space on an NC Highway (See "Commissioners," p. 25)

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In memory of . . .

Emmett Joseph Crahan, 95, of Seven Lakes died Tuesday, July 8, at Pinehurst Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral Services were held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Father Joseph Mulroney officiated. Burial followed in the Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Mr. Crahan was born in Bennington, Vermont son to the late Eugene J. and Mary Agnes Hill Crahan.

He chose his profession early making small caskets for birds and animals he and his friends found. In his senior year of high school, Mr. Crahan started his apprenticeship working mornings and attending school in the afternoon.

He graduated from Renaud School of Embalming in New York City and worked for various funeral homes becoming more experienced as he worked for larger homes.

After World War II, Mr. Crahan was employed by a firm in Schenectady, New York which was under contract with all branches of the military.

Working for the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home in New York City prior to 1954, he had the opportunity to prepare funerals of many prominent people. In 1962, he was involved with the funeral of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Mr. Crahan joined the Dodge Chemical Company of Boston and conducted many Embalmers' Clinics in his territory to teach new methods, as well as giving seminars in Hawaii and Florida, and starting courses at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, New York for the first Funeral Director and Embalming course.

He retired from funeral service work after 65 years in the business.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Frances Crowe Crahan.

He is survived by his wife Claire Tourt Crahan; daughter Kay of Seattle, WA; sons, Gary and wife Nicole of Palm Coast, FL; and Jack and wife Pauline of Deland, FL; eight grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Fry and Prickett Funeral Home assisted the family.

Marilyn Geiler Netschke, age 86, of Concord Township, formerly of Euclid, and Rocky River, OH, and Seven Lakes, died Monday, July 7, at the David Simpson Hospice House in Cleveland.

She was born in Cleveland.

Mrs. Netschke had been a volunteer for the junior hospital board at Euclid General Hospital for over 40 years. She enjoyed playing golf as a former member of Madison Country Club, Pine Ridge

Country Club and Seven Lakes Country Club. She had her first ever hole-in-one at St. Andrews in Scotland in 1992.

Mrs. Netschke attended Painesville United Methodist Church and was a former member of East Shore United Methodist Church in Euclid. She was a graduate of Rocky River High School and had received her bachelor's degree from Ohio University, where she was a member of the Alpha Xi Delta Sorority.

Survivors include children Kathy (Bill) Franz; Gordon (Lynne) Netschke; Nancy (Marc) Werbach; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Gordon W.

Netschke; her parents Charles and Katherine Geiler; sister Elizabeth Porter and brother-in-law Milton Porter.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, September 11, at 11 am at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

Memorial contributions may be made to Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 2125 Seven Lakes South, West End, NC 27376 or Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center, 16497 Snyder Rd., Chagrin Falls, OH 44023.

Seven Lakes League wants men bowlers

The Seven Lakes Mens Bowling season is starting soon and they are looking for new bowlers.

The season will begin on Thursday, September 4, at 10 am and ends on April 30, 2015.

Teams will be formed soon and if you are interested in

joining the league let Ed Nuti know. Current and new bowlers can contact him by phone at 673-7565 or at cenuti@nc.rr.com.

An organization meeting will be arranged in August. Details will be announced at a later date.

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& PRIME WATER FRONTAGE - \$325,000

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SPACIOUS LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT -
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141 LANCASHIRE LN • 7LS



UNDER CONTRACT!

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GOLF FRONT - WATERVIEW!
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119 SHAGBARK • 7LN



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3/2 WATERVIEW, ALL BRICK
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WITH AMAZING VIEWS - \$369,000

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LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT!
CUSTOM HOME, UPGRADES - \$855,000

109 SANDHAM CT • 7LS



TOTALLY RENOVATED TOWNHOME -
\$159,000

134 SIMMONS DRIVE • 7LW



LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT,
ALL BRICK, GREAT VIEWS - \$585,000

113 SANDHAM CT • 7LS



7 LAKES SOUTH TOWNHOME,
UPDATED 3/2, CAROLINA RM - \$165,000

289 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW



SPACIOUS 4BD+BONUS, FENCED YARD
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59 S. SHAMROCK • FOXFIRE



2/3 MINT GOLF FRONT
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Culdee Presbyterian has a new old steeple

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

The Eastwood community and Culdee Presbyterian Church's congregation is blessed with a good supply of talented journeymen,

craftsman, and skilled laborers.

Fifty years ago, Culdee parishioners helped build the copper-clad steeple for their church. In the last year, the weathered copper steeple

had begun to leak.

There was no need to bid out the job. They had the perfect man in house: Culdee member Dwight Parsons.

"The steeple came down, was fixed, and put back up

without a hitch," Culdee Secretary Edith Martin said.

Parsons did call on his family for some assistance. His wife Donna helped attach the copper.

His brothers, Doyle and Dwayne, along with Adrian, one of his many nephews, helped with the steeple's removal and replacement.

"We have a lot of talent here in our church," Culdee member Connie Marion said. "Carpenters, woodworkers, retired school teachers, musicians, bakers, and quilters."

Marion, a retired fifth grade teacher, is heading up a hands-on layman Bible School where children are exposed to different trades. In an elaborately-staged old world marketplace kids can construct wood boats, weave baskets, create tile mosaics, work with clay to make pinch pots, grind spices, scribe Greek letters, visit the produce stand for fresh grown fruit and vegetables, and find homemade bread in the the bakery.

(Continued on page 13)



Donna and Dwight Parson affix new copper to the fifty-year-old steeple of Culdee Presbyterian Church.

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(Continued from page 12)

Volunteers are plentiful, with more than thirty adults

volunteering to teach the sixty-three children in attendance.

"That's a two to one ratio," Marion said. "Last week, we had five ladies here starting

the baskets, so the kids could finish weaving them."

It is their commitment that is nurturing the next generation of talent.

"While the steeple was being worked on, so many people would come by and say 'I helped put that up fifty years ago,'" Martin said. "They were proud to see it being repaired."

With the steeple back atop

the church, it's hard to tell that it was ever removed.

Dwight and Donna Parsons chemically weathered the shiny copper before returning it to its perch.

"It might even last a little bit longer than fifty years before it needs repairing again," Martin said.

When it does, they are sure to have plenty of help.



The steeple of Culdee Presbyterian Church sits on the ground, awaiting a new copper covering.

SLCC offers beginners golf class for women

Women's Ready, Set, Golf is being offered every Tuesday at 4:00 pm during July and August at Seven Lakes Country Club.

Each session includes 15 minutes of golf theory with a PGA professional and 3 holes of playing lessons with a female member. The fee

is \$10 per session.

This is a great chance for women to learn the rules of the game and refine beginner golf skills.

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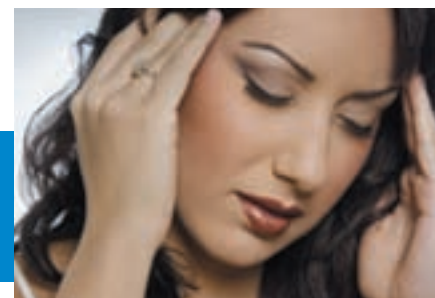
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Partners in Progress agreement tabled

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



For the second meeting in a row, the Moore County Board of Commissioners has tabled the renewal agreement of its agreement with Partners in Progress, the public/private organization that attempts to foster economic development in the county. The agreement would provide Partners with \$100,000 in funding in this fiscal year.

During its regular Tuesday, July 15 meeting, the board tabled consideration of the agreement at the request of Commissioner Nick Picerno, who questioned whether the county is receiving an adequate return on its investment in Partners.

Picerno praised the work

and dedication of Partners Executive Director Pay Corso and Office Manager Melanie Thompson.

"They are very committed to the county," he said.

But, noting that the county had invested more than \$800,000 in Partners' economic development efforts in the past six years, Picerno said, "I don't think that the return in terms of the number of jobs was good."

Picerno said he had contacted former Moore County Chamber of Commerce CEO Patrick Coughlin, who recently assumed leadership of Cabarrus County's economic development efforts. In Cabarrus County, the Chamber and economic development functions are handled by a single organization — an option that the commissioners have discussed as a pos-

sibility for Moore County.

Coughlin provided Picerno with documents that describe the goals and objectives of the organization he now heads.

"I think it sets out a much clearer path and set of goals that Partners and the Chamber could use," Picerno said. Picerno asked the board to table the pending Partners agreement so that commissioners could have time to review the Cabarrus County documents.

"I think there is a better way to handle our agreement with Partners," Picerno said. He noted that the first payment to Partners under the new agreement was not due until September. The commissioners have two scheduled meetings in August.

"I don't think it would hurt anything for us to postpone this," Commissioner Jimmy Melton said.

"This is the basic contract we have had with Partners

for years," said Commissioner Randy Saunders, who represents the board on the Partners Board of Directors.

"I think we've done business as usual in the past, but I don't think that has worked for the taxpayer," Picerno replied, adding that

the Cabarrus County approach provides more detailed guidelines for economic development efforts and also emphasizes working toward the retention and expansion of existing businesses in the county.

(See "Partners," p. 15)

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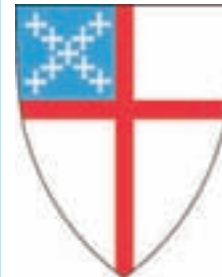
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Only 'the big ones'



Five-year-old Madison Kirst caught this 6.2 pound, 23.5 inch bass on a recent foggy Sunday morning in Lake Auman — her second big bass this month.

No longer satisfied merely catching bluegills; she told her grandfather that she only wants to fish for the "big ones."

Madison is the granddaughter of Paul and Kathy Kirst of Seven Lakes West.

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Westside entrance project nearly complete

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



"While it may seem like a mess today, a week from now the Front Entrance Project should be completed, except for tying up a few loose ends," said Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] President Bruce Keyser during the Tuesday, July 22 meeting of the Board of Directors.

"I would like to thank Mick Herdrich and his committee for their diligence in seeing this project to completion. I would also like to thank the community for their support and patience. The end result will be worth the effort.

Herdrich reported that surface preparation on the areas of the front entrance that have yet to be paved was ahead of schedule, so traffic could flow freely in both directions on Tuesday and Wednesday July 22 and 23.

The schedule calls for the entrance — and the railroad crossing itself — to be closed completely at 4:00 pm on Thursday, July 24, cutting off front access to the Westside, as well as BB&T and the Seven Lakes Plaza Shopping Center. The crossing and entrance are expected to reopen, at the latest, on Monday morning, July 28.

[Seven Lakes Plaza Management told *The Times* that railroad representatives had assured them that the crossing itself would be open to traffic on Saturday morning, July 26. Herdrich said the paving company had indicated they would be paving in the area at that same time. *The Times* has been unable to confirm the schedule with the the railway company.]

Herdrich said additional landscaping work is scheduled for Monday August 4. In addition, work is underway to choose the correct color for lettering on the new

entrance sign.

In other entrance-related matters, the directors voted unanimously to ratify Treasurer Mercedes Herdrich's signature on an easement agreement with James Kirkpatrick, who owns Seven Lakes Plaza and the recently cleared land that lies between it and Lakeway Drive.

Keyser provided no details of the agreement, other than to note it provides access to the Kirkpatrick property from Lakeway Drive. The agreement had been pending for a number of months.

Receivables improve

Treasurer Herdrich reported that the Association's aged receivables declined for the first time in several months — a positive development that she attributed to aggressive collection efforts and a new \$20 per month charge for late payments.

"We will continue to monitor and manage this as aggressively as the law allows," she said.

Because annual dues and other payments tend to be front-loaded in the fiscal year, the association's revenues continue to outstrip budget projections, a situation that Herdrich said would stabilize over time.

For the first two months

of FY 2015, revenues totaled \$811,250, while expenses were \$156,893. In addition, the association paid \$18,695 in debt service and added \$109,334 to its reserves.

Year-end reports for FY 2014 are available on the SLWLA website, Herdrich said, and the Association's taxes have been completed and filed.

Manager's report

Community Manager Jeanette Mendenso reported that the fourth of July parade, fireworks, and concert were a big success.

The next Johnson Point concert will be held on Saturday, August 9 at 7:00 pm and will feature the McKenzie Brothers.

She noted that the exterior
(See "Westside," p. 18)

Partners

(Continued from page 14)

"I always thought you ought to work more on your customer base that you already have here," Chairman Larry Caddell said. "That's my two cents worth."

The commissioners ultimately agreed to table consideration of the Partners agreement until their second meeting in August, scheduled for Tuesday, August 19.



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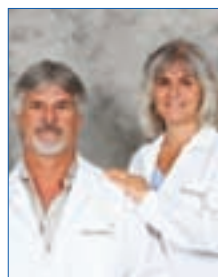
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FRIDAY, JULY 25

- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Begin Again*, A chance encounter between a disgraced music-business executive and a young singer-songwriter new to Manhattan turns into a promising collaboration between the two talents. Stars: Keira Knightley, Mark Ruffalo, Adam Levine. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **"Sip & Sparkle" Trunk Show** – 2:30 to 5:30 pm, at the Tufts Bar & Grill at 7 Lakes Country Club. Enjoy a wine tasting with light hors d'oeuvres and view Celebrity Coveted Fall line of Stella & Dot jewelry and accessories. Call 673-1100 ext 3 for reservations. Everyone is welcome.
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *Begin Again*, Stars: Keira Knightley, Mark Ruffalo, Adam Levine. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

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

Biscoe, 974-3051.

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Grace Church VBS** – at 10:00 am (during church service). VBS will be held at



What's When

Grace Church Seven Lakes in the Seven Lakes Plaza. Children ages 3 – 5th grade will enjoy music, games, stories, and snacks as they discover Jesus loves them. melissajones@gracechurch-sp.org

- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *Begin Again*, Stars: Keira Knightley, Mark Ruffalo, Adam Levine. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **"Geology of the Sandhills"** – 3 pm, Have you ever wondered where all the sand in the Sandhills came from? What is paint rock and jet stone? Join the Park Ranger to learn the answers to these questions and dis-

cover more about the geology of the Sandhills. Meet at the Visitor Center. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.

- **West End United Methodist Church VBS** –

Sunday, July 27 thru Thursday, July 31. West End United Methodist Church invites all children to a Wilder-

ness Escape. Vacation Bible School will begin tonight with registration at 5:30 pm. Each night VBS will meet 6 pm until 8:15 pm for ages 3 years through 5th grade. Family Night on Thursday, July 31 at 6 pm to present a program and snacks. Join WEUMC for this week of learning and fellowship.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. *Musical guest: Tom Maxwell and the Minor Drag*. The Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org

MONDAY, JULY 28

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

Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Armecia Medlock.

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, meeting at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Gather this month to share food and natural history favorites. Bring a dish or snack to contribute while members look through a collection of nature photography taken by members throughout the past year. Visitors welcome. Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit www.sandhillsnature.org
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Begin Again*, Stars: Keira Knightley, Mark Ruffalo, Adam Levine. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

- **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. Reverend Carol Burgess. All are welcome.
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Begin Again*, Stars: Keira Knightley, Mark Ruffalo, Adam Levine. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **"Medicare 101"** – 10 am-12 pm, Gail Willis gives an Overview on Medicare. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Sunrise Met Opera Summer Series** - 1 pm, *Romeo & Juliette*, The world's most famous love story comes to operatic life with superstars Anna Netrebko and Roberto Alagna as the star-crossed young couple. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.
- **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. Bible study will offer an in-depth Christian World View Experience each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. Led by Dr & Rev. Won Namkoong and Larry

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- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Begin Again*, Stars: Keira Knightley, Mark Ruffalo, Adam Levine. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **"Eating Wild" presented by Save Our Sandhills** – 7 pm, Terry Sharpe will discuss one of his favorite topics: Eating Wild, and he will describe the joys of reconnecting with a more natural way of life. Southern Pines Civic Club, corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Southern Pines. All are welcome.
- **SunFlix Summer Classic Movie** – 7:30 pm, *Gremlins*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

- **Sunrise Theater First Friday Outdoor Concert** – 5 to 8:30 pm, Free. *Musical Guest: The Delta Saints*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW

Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Caterpillar Hunt** – 3 pm, Join the park Ranger at the Visitor's Center for a brief talk and a 1 mile walk through the park. The Ranger will talk about basic life cycles of butterflies and moths and concentrate on the larval life stage, a caterpillar. These are some fascinating creatures. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines 910-692-2167. Free.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

- **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.

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:30 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Lavender Workshop** – 10 to noon at the Sandhills Community College, Ball Visitors Center. Norma Burns of Bluebird Hill Farm will conduct the program on growing lavender. Cost \$30 Sandhills Horticultural Society members, \$35 non-members. Space limited. Register 910-695-3882.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 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 Fellowship Hall. Bible study offers an in-depth Christian World View Experience. Rev. Won Namkoong and Larry McCune. Church office 673-1371 or weumc@earthlink.net to register.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **SunFlix Summer Classic Movie** – *The Graduate*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Rick Rhyne Memorial Fishing Tournament** – 10 am – 4 pm, at Lake McKenzie in Foxfire. NC Inland Fisheries and the Southern Pines Parks and Recreation Department are providing fishing poles. Families are encouraged to bring their

own poles if they some handy. Talbert's BBQ will be providing food for each child and there will be food available for purchase. Exhibits for kids. Aberdeen Coca Cola providing water. Prizes awarded to all the children. Registration 692-0777.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Nifty Nests** – 3 pm, Come discover just how amazing birds are as builders. See the park's bird nest collection. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines 910-692-2167. Free.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

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Input needed on Hazard Mitigation Plan

As part of a regional effort to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, Moore County is requesting public feedback on natural disaster risk and preparedness.

This feedback will assist the efforts of Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Johnston, and Moore Counties to combine respective local natural hazard mitigation plans into one regional plan.

A mitigation plan identifies and assesses a community's natural hazard risks, and determines how to best minimize or manage those risks.

A brief survey provides the public an opportunity to share opinions and participate in the regional planning process.

Responses will help the planning team to better understand the region's haz-

ard concerns, which can lead to mitigation activities and help reduce the impact of future hazard events.

By maintaining a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, Moore County is eligible for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants, which provide funds for eligible mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from

future disaster damages.

HMA provides funding opportunities for mitigation activities both before and after a disaster, as well as long-term hazard mitigation measures after a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

Residents of Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Johnston, and Moore Counties and their respective municipalities are invited to participate in this

survey.

A link to the survey is available on the homepage of the Moore County website at: moorecountync.gov.

Look for the red lettering in the left hand sidebar, under Moore County News.

To learn more about disaster preparedness and mitigation, please contact Moore County Public Safety at (910) 947-6317.

Westside

(Continued from page 15)

of the West Side Park Community Center had recently been power washed.

Architectural Review

The pace of new construction in Seven Lakes West continues to be good, architectural review Director Dan Blue reported.

There are currently fifteen homes under construction on the Westside, the most at any time during Blue's tenure on the board, he said. Three additional projects are being readied for submission

to the Architectural Review Committee [ARC].

Remodeling and other projects have slowed down during the summer, dropping from fifty-seven active projects last month to thirty-four active this month.

At the request of local builder Bob Van Houten, Blue asked that the board table final approval of a revision to the ARC standards that would specify the type of vinyl siding that is preferred in Seven Lakes West.

Van Houten said he would

like to assemble a group of builders active in the community to develop a presentation that would bring the ARC up-to-date on trends in the industry that might affect the proposed standard.

The Board agreed to table the matter.

The Directors unanimously approved a second standards revision, making consistent all references to the "ARC Submittal Review Fee."

Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, July 23 meeting of the SLWLA Board:

- Lake & Dam Director Bob Fewkes said his committee had met with the Westside's dam engineer to discuss upcoming projects and update the five-year maintenance plan for the dam. The committee also discussed on-going buoy replacement, lake monitoring, and a plan to add safety notices to the

SLWLA website.

- Legal Director Chuck Watkins told the Board that the Judicial Panel had imposed a \$300 fine on a Westside resident for violations of the community's regulations on keeping dogs on a leash when off the owners property. [See page 1.]

- Director Jim Pierman did not attend the July 22 meeting.



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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
July 28 <i>Lentil Soup</i> Baked Spaghetti Dinner	July 29 <i>Bacon & Chickpea Soup</i> Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	July 30 <i>Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo</i> Smothered Pork Chops Dinner	July 31 <i>Curried Salmon Soup</i> Shrimp Scampi Style Dinner	1 <i>Greens, Beans, & Sausage Soup</i> Turkey Meatloaf Dinner – Closing at 3:00 pm –
4 <i>Tomato Basil Soup</i> Baked Ziti Dinner	5 <i>Chicken Brunswick Stew</i> Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	6 <i>Corn Chowder</i> Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	7 <i>Manhattan Clam Chowder</i> Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner	8 <i>Red Pepper with Lime Soup</i> Mexican Casserole Dinner – Closing at 3:00 pm –
11 <i>Macaroni & Peas Soup</i> Broccoli & Bowties Dinner	12 <i>Shrimp & Sausage Gumbo</i> Shepherd's Pie Dinner	13 <i>Mushroom Bisque</i> Smothered Pork Chops Dinner	14 <i>New England Clam Chowder</i> Shrimp Creole Dinner	15 <i>Spinach & Rice Soup</i> Spinach Pie Dinner – Closing at 3:00 pm –
18 <i>Tortellini Soup</i> Tortellini with Meat Sauce Dinner	19 <i>Bacon & Chickpea Soup</i> Chicken & Mushrooms Dinner	20 <i>Corn & Potato Soup</i> Pot Roast Dinner	21 <i>Curried Salmon Soup</i> Jack Daniels Salmon Dinner	22 <i>Minestrone Soup</i> Italian Meatloaf Dinner – Closing at 3:00 pm –
25 <i>Broccoli & Cheddar Soup</i> Broccoli Manicotti Dinner	26 <i>Chicken Noodle Soup</i> Chicken with Tomatoes & Peppers Dinner	27 <i>Summer Vegetable Soup</i> Teriyaki Pork Chops with Mango Salsa	28 <i>Manhattan Clam Chowder</i> Tilapia Florentine Dinner	29 <i>Lentil Soup</i> Pasta Primavera Dinner – Closing at 3:00 pm –

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Dementia education offered for caregivers

Beginning on Thursday, July 31 the Family Caregiver Support Program at the Moore County Department of Aging will be offering a 4 part educational series for family caregivers of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The classes will be held at

the Senior Enrichment Center on Highway 15/501 on Thursdays July 31, August 7, 14 and 21 from 1 pm to 2:30 pm.

As a caregiver you will find that the challenges that lie ahead may be eased by gaining knowledge and insight on how to understand and

fulfill the needs of your loved one as the disease progresses, as well as effective ways to cope with the feelings, emotions and frustrations that you will be facing.

The series will include the following topics:

I. Normal aging, common dementias explained and

the basics of Alzheimer's disease

II. How memory, perception and behavior are affected

III. Dementia caregiving – coping with feelings including grief, anger, guilt and loss

IV. Prevention and prevention strategies, breathing, relaxation and other stress relieving techniques

The series will be facilitated by Christie Engelfried and Peggie Kennedy.

Engelfried is a retired New York State Clinical Social Worker who has completed extensive training through the Rochester Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. She has worked with families

touched by dementia for the past 30 years, has written three books on the subject and together with Kennedy. Peggie Kennedy is the family caregiver advisor for the Department of Aging, and an advocate for increased resources and services for families in Moore County. Together the two have been co-facilitating Dementia Specific Caregiver Education and Support groups for the past two years.

Class size is limited and registration is required. Please call 215-0900 for more information or to register.

Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 NC Highway 15-501, West End.

Arsenal presentation July 31

On July 31 at 7 pm, Jim Greathouse, senior museum specialist for the City of Fayetteville, and co-chair of the NC Military Historical Society, Fayetteville Chapter, will present a free slide show on The Building of the Fayetteville Arsenal, at the Museum of the Cape Fear.

The Fayetteville Arsenal was one of the key reasons that Union General William Sherman brought his army to Fayetteville in March 1865. A facility that originally took up an entire city block, and 18 years to construct, was leveled in a matter of hours by Union troops on their way out of town. Greathouse will walk the audience through those 18 years of construction, which included several additions made by the Confederate government once it took ownership.

The arsenal's cornerstone was laid in 1838 and by 1854, building construction was completed. In March of 1865, the Union army razed the arsenal as they made their way through North Carolina. Ironically, the government that built the arsenal was the same government that destroyed it.

This presentation is being co-sponsored by the Museum of the Cape Fear and the Fayetteville Chapter of the NC Military Historical Society, which meets at the museum

every other month. The presentation is open to the public, and anyone interested in learning more about the NC Military Historical Society is

welcome to remain after the presentation to learn more about joining the organization. For more information, call 910-486-1330.

Volunteers needed for FirstHealth tinnitus study

A FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital clinical trial is seeking volunteers who suffer from tinnitus.

The clinical trial is assessing the safety of a new drug in the treatment of acute (three months or less since onset) tinnitus following an injury to the ear or an ear infection.

Tinnitus is the medical term for "hearing" noises in the ears when there is no outside source of the

sounds. Noises may include ringing, blowing, roaring, hissing or buzzing.

FirstHealth research treatment opportunities are provided through support from the Reid Research Center. For more information on this and other clinical trials available at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, call (910) 715-2200 or visit FirstHealth's clinical trials at www.firsthealth.org/clinicaltrials.

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Eating Wild – Terry Sharpe at Save Our Sandhills

Save Our Sandhills (SOS) is pleased to host Terry Sharpe, who is returning for a second time to discuss one of his favorite topics: Eating Wild on Thursday, July 31, 7 pm, in the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Southern Pines.

His presentation is extremely popular, and SOS is very pleased that he will describe the joys of reconnecting with a more natural way of life.

Sharpe, a semi-retired wildlife biologist and forester who has spent 30 years working with the NC Wildlife Commission, grew up learning to hunt with his dad and exploring all aspects of nature, especially wild plants and wild animals.

Conservation is a central focus of his life, so much so that he and other professional friends do annual controlled burns on their properties to help promote the native grasses and wildflowers that help sustain wildlife populations, such as bobtail quail, rabbits, fox squirrels, and gray fox, to name just a few.

The result is a property whose "yard" is a healthy Piedmont loblolly pine ecosystem. It highlights the crucial link between native plant species and native wildlife.

Sharpe studies native edibles using numerous guides, as well as researching plants used by Native American Indians.

He has been planting some native edibles, including blueberry bushes, to complement a small vegetable garden, but overall he considers all outdoors to be one big dinner plate. Among favorites on his menu are items somewhat foreign to many people: wild blueberries, daylily tubers and roots, lamb's quarter, spring beauty root, local figs, and groundnut root.

In the fall, he scouts particularly for black haws and paw paws. Sharpe uses his garden vegetables along with native plants, also adding

occasional local game to his diet. And he experiments with various methods of food preservation, as well – freezing, drying, pressure canning, etc.

He is concerned that there is such a disconnect between people and nature, and that it continues to increase as we become a more technologically-oriented society.

Nevertheless, citizens are becoming more and more concerned with meat additives (including hormones and steroids), pesticide use, and genetic engineering, and the ultimate effect that all this will have on our health.

Sharpe, a strong proponent of conservation, stresses that no matter how technically sophisticated we appear to

be regarding our food supply, we are still dependent on nature for our survival.

This should be a lively evening, with interesting discussion, delicious food samples, and hand-outs of recipes

and research sources. Please join Save Our Sandhills on Thursday, July 31, 7 pm, in the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. All are welcome.



Terry Sharpe will educate Save Our Sandhills members in 'Eating Wild'. Guests are welcome.

Moore Tea Citizens Picnic is August 2

Moore County Tea Citizens will be hosting their 5th Anniversary with a Picnic on Saturday, August 2, noon to 3:30 pm at Cannon Park, Pinehurst.

There will be candidates and dignitaries from both

parties attending the event.

The main speakers will be Deeneen and Tom Borelli.

This event will be catered and a band will be there for everyone to enjoy.

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LOT #5438 - \$35,000

LOT #5436 - \$35,000

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Country clubs must change to survive

Perusing the pages of that other Moore County newspaper the other day, Marcy's eagle eye landed on the lamentations of an erstwhile lady golf writer, who allowed as how "ladies of a certain age" in the Home of American Golf were tut-tutting about the scandalous golf togs adorning the athletic frames of quite a few competitors in the recent US Women's Open.

One pro's attire merited comparison to the uniform worn by Hooter's Girls, the scantily-clad wait staff of that "delightfully tacky" Florida-born wing joint.

Being a dutiful husband and crack investigative reporter, I could not let these claims go unexplored. So, I fired up my secret investigative portal, known to some as "the Great Google," and popped in a couple of names bandied about by the ladies

of a certain age.

I will not say I was disappointed (mindful of my responsibilities as a dutiful husband), but I will say that what I found was more than

(as they were during my high school years in the 1970s). In short, these golfers could have passed for very athletic suburban soccer moms.

Like all fashion, the tight shirts and short shorts shall pass, as soon as retailers have determined that they have fully stocked all the closets of American women with

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins

a little tame by the standards of the internet. It was, in fact, tame by the standards of your average shopping mall or Starbucks.

What I found were rail-thin 20-or-30-somethings clad in form-fitting polo shirts (or "golf" shirts, I suppose) and those very, very short shorts that are the fashion this year

said articles, whereupon long shorts and baggy shirts will be proclaimed fashionable and today's tight, short fashions will be consigned to Goodwill.

So, the 60-something golf fashionistas of Pinehurst have nothing to worry about, in the long term, fashion-wise.

But underneath their tuts one can see a symptom of the comfortable lethargy that is attacking the golf business — and the property values of folks who live on golf courses.

American Golf, as it exists today, was built on a country club system aimed at projecting an air of privilege. That's why clubs have dress codes and why the remnant dress code enforcers of that era are tut-tutting about pros who dare to dress like regular folks.

Projecting that air of privilege — and even having time to play the game — required an economy in which a man without a college education could afford a wife who stayed at home, tending a nice suburban rancher, with a car in the garage, and 2.5 kids, who all went to college.

Those days are gone.

The man without a college

education, these days, is lucky to have a job at Wal-Mart. The woman who stayed home now has her own career — and it takes both their incomes to pay for that nice suburban house and to save for the college education of their 1.5 kids.

With two jobs, the same amount of housework, and plenty of homework and soccer after school and on weekends, they have neither the time nor the excess cash to participate in one of America's most expensive leisure time activities.

Nor do they have much patience for snooty golf ladies who want to tell them what to wear on the links.

The golf of yesterday no longer fits into the lives of most of today's families. The clubs that survive will be those that figure out how to appeal to those families.

The rest will vanish.

Country Club is an asset for all of 7 Lakes

A letter to all

Seven Lakes Landowners:

As all the landowners of the South Side are aware, Seven Lakes Country Club is suffering from the decline in golf play and decline in membership. I have been a member of the Country Club

for the past eleven years since moving to this area. I own golf front property on the South Side and enjoy a view of the 14th hole.

Should the Country Club fail, how will it affect you and me and our community?

Here's the answer: Should SLCC be forced into closure due to the loss of support of the community and a general decline in golfing activities, this community will lose an amenity that is rated as one of the top 100 courses in North Carolina and is a major

drawing card for attracting new residents.

There are 250 homes on the South Side that front on the golf course. Of these 250 homes, only 37 are owned by members of the country club.

Should SLCC be forced to close, the golf course it will return to its primal state of woodlands. Each of those 250 homes would be devalued by approximately \$15,000 and will lose greatly in marketability. The amount of loss to the Southside landowners and our community would be in excess of \$3,700,000 to our property values. That calculation includes only properties with golf course frontage.

For the other homes on the South Side, the loss of value may be less; however, they will also lose value, due

to a lack of any amenities. Therefore, this is not just a SLCC issue but, an issue that needs to be addressed by all landowners and the Seven Lakes Landowners Association.

Our community will suffer greatly in its ability to attract new residents and a loss of millions of dollars in property valuations. If the Northside lakes were to dry up, the home owners would have a problem similar to those of the South Side.

The management of SLCC is doing everything it can to insure SLCC remains a viable part of the community, but they need the help of everyone if the club is to continue to be a important amenity of this community.

Terry McPheeters
Seven Lakes South

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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Proud of Moore County

On Friday July 11, members of the church I pastor went to Hillcrest Park, where Moore County was hosting the 2014 Girl's Softball State tournament.

We were asked by the county to do our "block party," where we set up face painting, inflatables, games and snow cones in order to support our community and hopefully show the love of Christ.

I was so impressed with the job that our Parks and Recreation did that I had to say something about it.

Driving into the park there were American Flags covering the entire park. It was decorated with enthusiasm and great taste. There were volunteers from all over the community who set up different activities for all of the visitors to our community.

The tournament was the 2014 Dixie Softball State

Tournament that is for girls 9 years old to 18 years old. It began on July 11 and went all the way through Thursday, July 17.

In a year where Moore County did an outstanding

job hosting the U.S. Open, sometimes things like this tournament that go unnoticed. There were hundreds of girls who came into town to play ball accompanied by siblings, parents, grandparents, and friends. Many of these visitors stayed in our hotels and visited our estab-

ishments for all of their needs for the week. It was a great reminder to me that we live in a fantastic community that embraces hosting world-class events.

I am reminded of Acts 28:2 which says "The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and

it was cold." I am proud to live in a community that rallies together to welcome people from all over the world to our small community for things like the U.S. Open, but is equally hospitable to those within our state. As I reflect over the past few months, I am amazed at all

of the volunteers who worked the concessions at the U.S. Open in order to raise money for the community, but I am more impressed with those who do it week after week and year after year to make Moore County a wonderful place to live.

Most of the time, those who volunteer to make our community great never get the accolades that they deserve. They certainly don't do it for the accolades, but they do it because they have a love for people and they take pride in their community. I thought that I would take an opportunity to thank you for all that you do. I am proud to live in a community with you!

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



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

Please pick up after your dog

Dear Editor:

As a resident of Butterfly Court, I am upset about the lack of concern some dog owners have for properties on this street.

I walk my leashed dog twice daily and always carry a Pick-up-poop bag with me. Unfortunately, a few other people do not do the same.

On a recent walk, I counted eight fecal deposits from small to large dogs. This is an unsanitary practice, and individuals should respect all properties and pick up

after your pet on house occupied and vacant lots.

When you walk your dog, please carry a bag and pick-up-the-poop.

*Priscilla Snee
Seven Lakes West*

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Those with mental illness take back seat again

Dear Editor:

"Those With Mental Illness Take a Backseat Again"

As Chairman of the Linden Lodge Foundation (LLF), a registered 501(c)(3) organization located in Moore County, I am appalled by the NC Legislature when it comes to housing for those with a serious mental illness.

Linden Lodge Foundation's sole mission is to operate the finest 24/7 supervised living home in the State for those impacted with a chronic and serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar, and major depression.

The only means of sustaining the Linden Lodge Foundation "home like" residence is with the use of the residents' Social Security entitlement for those that are disabled (meager amounts)

and the remaining necessary dollars from Special Assistance and private donations.

The shortfall is great but we have always managed to make that up – but that will be impossible without Special Assistance (SA) which ranges from \$250 to \$500 per month depending on the resident's entitlements. The fee for each resident is \$1,182, which includes 24/7 supervised living with a well-trained staff on-site at all times, all food, transportation for jobs, volunteer, education, and recreation opportunities, to list just a few of the things Linden Lodge Foundation provides. The Linden Lodge Foundation is not about making a profit, but about humane treatment for those disabled by a mental illness and for their families.

This past Tuesday, the Sen-

ate presented yet another proposed budget which adds even more insult to injury.

Currently, those who live with mental illness may receive Special Assistance (SA) if they need or choose to live in a group home and the proposal is to eliminate that funding.

The Senate estimated that 6,000 people will lose their eligibility with this proposed policy change. This change would not save money for the state but, instead, we will spend that money in other areas like ERs, jails, and other crisis services. Instead, we need to ensure that all those who need services can have access to an array of services in the community which include living in a supervised group home situation.

We would certainly never consider taking away hospice services for those that are seriously ill and in need – so why take away these services for those with a chronic brain illness?

My answer is we have uninformed legislators representing this most discriminated population as they continue to propose measures that in other quarters would be con-

sidered inhumane treatment.

I invite our legislators representing Moore County to come visit Linden Lodge themselves to see what appropriate housing can mean, and do, for those with a serious brain illness not of their making.

Marianne Kernan
Chairman

Linden Lodge Foundation
Pinehurst

Dr. Pete rides for the cure

Dear Friends:

Well, one of the really good things I can say is: "I'm back!"

Actually, I haven't been away, especially from the Tour to Tanglewood bicycling event for Multiple Sclerosis. This will be my 21st year raising donations to help those with the disease.

But I was out of action last year, when my leg kept me from riding in the Tour. I had a severe infection of my leg associated with a knee joint replacement and had to have two operations to help cure the problem. My leg is mending well, and it is nice to be able to ride my bike again.

I am so happy to be able to ride in the Tour to Tanglewood this year and feel like I am doing some good for the cause to help with Multiple Sclerosis awareness, research and aid for those with Multiple Sclerosis. To

make that a reality, I need to ask everyone for a thoughtful donation. This is especially meaningful since my wife, Mary has the disease. For her this began five years ago. Our three daughters, Megan, Kelly, and Kate will also ride their bikes for Multiple Sclerosis.

Sixty percent of the funds raised goes toward programs, services, and advocacy for the 17,400 people living with Multiple Sclerosis right here in North and South Carolina. Forty percent of all funds raised supports national research to find the cause and cure of Multiple Sclerosis.

The past years of riding

the Tour have been special to me and I have a boat load of great memories. This year is filled with anticipation since it is sort of a "come back" for me.

Please help me with this effort to help those with Multiple Sclerosis with a donation. Checks can be written payable to the *Multiple Sclerosis Society*, and mailed to me at: Dr. Pete McKay, PO Box 628, West End, NC 27376. The Tour to Tanglewood is scheduled for September 27 and 28.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and donations.

Sincerely,
Dr. Pete McKay

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 9)

Patrol telecommunications tower on Glendon Carthage Road.

- Approved revisions to the county's Fiscal Policy Guidelines to provide Sandhills Community College with a one-time contribution of nearly \$1 million to replenish the college's capital maintenance fund.

- Approved the FY 2014 contract with the NC Forest Service for fire and pest suppression, as well as forest management. Moore County pays forty percent of the total \$394,147 cost, with the state

picking up the other sixty percent.

- Approved \$89,392 in funding for Communities in Schools of Moore County for FY 2015.

- Approved a \$505,372 grant agreement with Sandhills Center for Mental Health to support the agency's services in Moore County.

- Appointed Commissioner Picerno the county's voting delegate to the 2014 conference of the NC Association of County Commissioners.

- Appointed Eddie Nobles and Eugene Horne to the Planning Board, leaving one

additional vacancy unfilled. The terms of Johnny Harris, Tom McGinnis, and Todd Williams are expiring. Nobles, from Whispering Pines, is an electrical engineer with twenty years military experience and

another ten with the department of defense. Horne is a retired businessman from Pinehurst with past planning board service elsewhere in the state.

- Appointed Max Muse to

the nurse position on the Board of Health. Muse is a retired Registered Nurse, who worked for 34 years in the emergency department of FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Farmers

(Continued from page 6)

room work and visits to eight working farms.

The extension office works beyond the confines of the county to help farmers share best practices, for example, hosting a regional beef conference, and working with Lee and Richmond County to strengthen farm economies by preserving farmland, promoting local consumption, and fostering the recognition the contribution of agriculture to prosperity.

Williams highlighted the work of Sandhills Farm2 Table, which brings products from local farms directly to consumers, and noted the recent expansion of that model to serve commercial kitchens at restaurants and on Ft. Bragg, as well as to provide produce to local grocery stores.

He noted that the extension

service helps farmers explore new — and perhaps forgotten — crops. For example, grain sorghum, a crop that uses less water than corn and helps suppress weeds, is being grown in Moore County for the first time in forty years, amounting to a \$2 million crop last year.

Greer said Moore County farmers are known to be innovators, highlighting one local farm that is growing seventeen acres of stevia — used to manufacture a sugar substitute — in cooperation with a company that has recently moved to the county.

Commissioner Nick Picerno asked whether the amount of farmland is growing or shrinking in Moore County.

Williams said the USDA conducts a farmland survey every five years. In 2007, Moore County had lost 20,000 acres, but that has

now stabilized, which Williams attributed to good land use planning and the work of the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

"We have lost acres, but the number of farmers has increased," Williams said. "The Southeast — and North Carolina in particular — is increasing the number of farmers growing specialty crops."

The need to generate more revenue per acre is helping drive innovation on the farm, Williams said. Land rents have increased from \$20-25 per acre to \$150.

"So now we are looking at high-value crops and asking 'How can we add value to this crop?'" Williams said. For example, corn grown using traditional methods generates \$500 per acre, while organic corn brings \$1,000 per acre.

Dog

(Continued from front page)

Panel, a number of Westsiders had filed written complaints with the Association office, reporting that Barnhardt allowed his dog to run along beside his vehicle on community roads.

Numerous letters from management over an eighteen month period failed to put a stop to the practice, resulting in formal notices from the Community Advocate and a July 17 hearing before the Judicial Panel.

Allowing a dog to run loose is a violation of SLWLA Rule 5.8.6, which reads: "Dog leash rule: When a dog is not on the Member's property, all dogs must be under the full control of a responsible person either by a leash or other secure control device

that does not exceed six feet in length."

Finding Barnhardt in violation, but acknowledging his promise to obey the rule in the future, the Judicial Panel levied the \$300 fine, which may be appealed to the Board of Directors within fifteen days or paid prior to the August 29 regular meeting of the board.

According to the official notice, failure to appeal or pay the fine will result a lien being placed on Barnhardt's property.

Community Advocate Silberhorn told the Board of Directors, during their Tuesday, July 22 meeting, that Barnhardt had filed an appeal. It is expected to be on the agenda for the August 29 board meeting.

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SLLA work session

(Continued from page 3)

Responsibility for implementing the policy was placed with the SLLA management team rather than with members of the Lakes and Dams Committee.

In January, the policy was adjusted to eliminate Windermere as a source of pumping for Little Juniper. There are concerns that Lake Windermere, on the Seven Lakes Country Club golf course, may be overly-rich in nutrients that could result in clouding of the water in Little Juniper.

Lake Longleaf was also removed as a source for

pumping, due to the breakdown of an old and inefficient pump.

Board promises to address issue

SLLA Directors had been made aware of Johnson's concerns a day prior to their work session, and said they needed time to research the issues.

"I saw these emails about 5:30 this morning," Racine said. "I received them from residents, raising these questions."

"It needs to go first to the Lakes and Dams Committee, and then it should go to the board," Racine said. "I agree that never again should a committee be without chairman. You have my assurance that we will address each one of these issues."

The need to pump varies from season to season. The previous summer there was enough rainfall that pumping was not necessary, Racine said. But, he added, if there

is a drop in water levels, then the pumping policy should be enforced.

Community Manager Ray Sohl was on vacation and was not at the meeting and available to comment on the matter. The board agreed to discuss the issue with Sohl on his return.

Defibrillator for the pool?

In other business during their July 14 work session, the SLLA Board discussed whether to house a automated defibrillator near the Northside swimming pool.

If it were installed, the Association would be required to keep the defibrillator in working order and do monthly inspections of the unit.

It would also be subject to periodic state inspections. If, for any reason the upkeep lapses, the Association could be subject to a \$5,000 fine. Staff training on how to operate it would also be required.

Landowner Audrey Baker noted that Seven Lakes EMS

is only one mile from the pool. Board members agreed to discuss the matter with Seven Lakes EMS.

Prancing Horse

Director Mary Farley praised the Prancing Horse Program, which provides therapeutic rides for disabled children and adults at the Seven Lakes Stables.

"If you haven't gone out and seen them, it is really worth your time," Farley said. "It is amazing to see what they do and the smiles on the children's faces."

The board agreed unanimously to move to the open meeting the renewal of the Association's agreement with Prancing Horse.

Other Business

In other business during the Monday, July 14 SLLA

work session:

- The directors agreed to move to the open meeting a new contract with the company that currently removes debris from the yard waste disposal facility. "We are happy with the services and it is the same fee structure," Director Leach said.
- SLLA management recommended hiring the same web design company, HOA Sites, that helped develop the Seven Lakes West website. The company specializes in homeowner association websites. The board agreed unanimously to move the recommendation to the July 30 open meeting.
- The Board voted unanimously to name Steve Ritter Vice President.

Carts

(Continued from page 3)

sengers must be seated at all times."

"It's well within our rights to limit these," Ritter said. "Doing what we are recommending gets us into compliance with state statutes."

Once proof of insurance has been filed with SLLA management, visible stickers would be placed by CAS staff on insured golf carts, Ritter explained.

"Security would enforce it," he added. "We would also encourage residents to take photos and turn it in like any other violation. The Judicial Committee would send a letter and investigate it that way."

Cart registration fee?

"It's ten bucks to register boats and trailers," Resident George Temple noted. "Why don't people have to pay ten dollars to register a golf cart? It's just fairness."

Ritter said he was not opposed to a fee. The directors agreed that the Safety and Security Committee should fine tune their recommendations and present them for action at the July 30 open meeting.

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Capital

(Continued from front page)

plan benefits the membership because they have advance warning of how their dues are going to be spent. It provides the board with a roadmap of the projects slated for the coming year. And it provides the finance committee with preliminary cost estimates.

As directors transition on and off the board, Leach said, work on capital projects can continue uninterrupted.

Pool rehab tops the list

The plan includes more than \$266,000 in projects for the current fiscal year, though Leach said he expects that "some will slide into next year."

By far the most expensive repair slated for this year is the refurbishment of the Northside swimming pool.

"We have a large pool and a large pool deck," Leach said. "If this pool were being built for this community today, both would be smaller."

Areas under the deck and pool basin are hollow and must be dug out and back-filled before being repaired. Once the basin is repaired, all of the existing paint will be removed, and quartz plas-

ter applied. "That should last twenty to twenty-five years," Leach said.

The new plaster requires that the pool be kept filled with water year-round. As a result, the association will have to purchase a temperature sensor and a new pool motor.

Rather than purchase large amounts of cement to replace damaged areas of the pool deck, some will be replaced with what Leach called "softscapes" — in other words, plantings and landscaping.

Minimal renovations will be undertaken in the pool bathrooms to make them ADA compliant.

Plenty of projects

Beyond the pool repairs, the capital plan includes has a large to-do list of repairs and upgrades.

Roofs. Leach said that new roofs are needed on the two pavilions at Longleaf, the pool storage building, and the north and south gate houses and message boards.

NCH Kitchen. The north clubhouse kitchen is "dirty and in deplorable condition," Leach said. The plan is to replace the existing appliances with regular home appliances, if possible.

Northside Park. A professional playground consultant has recommended splitting the existing playground into two separate areas: one for 3 to 5 year olds, with parental supervision required, and a second area for older children. A new sand volleyball court is also planned. The existing North Side tennis courts will be reconfigured to accommodate one tennis court that can also be used for pickle ball, four additional pickle ball courts, two bocce courts, and one shuffleboard court.

Landowners office. The landowners office already has a new roof, windows, and doors, Leach said, which "is already making a huge difference in interior comfort and energy savings." Additional energy savings will be obtained by updating the lighting in the office and installing timers and motion sensors for the mail houses, so that the lights are not on twenty-four hours a day.

Roads. Crack repair is planned on the road surface of Firetree Lane, and some road shoulders need additional soil fill to protect the edges of the new pavement.

Next year's agenda

Moving to renovations planned for FY2015, Leach said ceilings need to be replaced in the pavilions at Big Juniper Lake, Lake Echo, and in both pavilions at Longleaf.

Concrete floors need to be resurfaced in the pavilions at Lake Sequoia, Longleaf Lake, Lake Echo, and Big Juniper Lake.

Resurfacing and restriping of the office parking lot and the North Side park basketball court are both planned for 2015, as are repair and painting of the maintenance building and main storage facility.

Lighting needs to be updated in the stables, and some insulation added above the ceilings of the Landowners office.

Leach asked that landowners with suggestions for additional projects or refinements to the existing projects submit their suggestions in writing to the Landowners office.

"Two years ago, your board began a journey, to refurbish the community infrastructure," Leach said. "A lot has been accomplished. When the year 2015 concludes, the

end of our journey will be in sight."

Public comment

Finance Committee member George Temple expressed concern that total cost of repairs contemplated for the current year exceeds the amount of unrestricted reserve funds available.

"We don't need to get into emergency reserves on any of these projects," Temple said.

"There is no way that I think all of this is going to get done this year," Leach replied.

Former SLLA President Bob Darr read an extended statement expressing concern that board members have too little input in to the development of requests for proposal, before they are sent out to contractors for bid.

Darr said a number of local contractors had shared concerns that they are never informed of the opportunity to bid on Association projects. He asked whether the management company had developed a list of approved contractors that does not include local contractors.

(See "Capital," p. 28)



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Country Club

(Continued from front page)

Declining membership

SLCC has been faced with declining membership for a number of years, as the original members reach their 80s and move away or die.

Hann said the number of members has dropped from approximately 200 five years ago to 130-135 now.

"It's a huge drop," she said.

Not only are existing members "aging out," but the recession has resulted in delayed retirement.

"And younger families don't have the income to afford a membership," she said.

"The whole golf industry is in trouble," Hann said. "And it's not easy competing with fifty golf courses." The Moore

County Convention and Visitors Bureau lists forty-three courses within the county.

Only in the past year has the club, assisted by General Manager Mike Floyd and the Brown Golf management company, made a major marketing push toward attracting younger families from Seven Lakes and the surrounding communities for membership and casual play.

The dramatic falloff in the number of members has been compounded by the club's difficulty in attracting outside play — and restaurant patrons — from the Seven Lakes area.

"People right here in Seven Lakes don't know they can eat in our restaurant," Hann said.

because "we could potentially be in financial trouble," Hann said.

Though the club president declined to discuss details of the club's financial situation with a reporter, members and former members contacted by *The Times* suggest the club has an outstanding mortgage and loans totaling \$1 million or more. In addition, approximately \$500,000 in equity is owed to former members.

Hann said the club currently lacks the cash flow to make capital improvements. If a buyer could ratchet the membership back up to 200 and increase guest play, the club could be viable, she said.

Golf course or open space

Prospective buyers for the course will need the determination and expertise to

make SLCC once again a viable golf business. Covenants negotiated with the Seven Lakes Landowners Association and finalized last year limit future use of the property to either a golf course or open space.

While the skinny fairways of a golf course may not seem like prime property for development, the owner of Crooked Creek Golf Course in Fuquay-Varina has announced that he plans to sell the money-losing course to a residential developer — much to the consternation of golf front property owners. The newly-minted covenants on SLCC property are supposed to prevent that from happening in Seven Lakes South.

Nationwide downturn

The challenges faced by Seven Lakes Country Club

— and some other Moore County clubs — are local chapters in a national story. The number of golfers nationwide is in decline, as is the number of rounds played, and the number of golf courses.

According to the National Golf Foundation, an industry group that tracks golf-related statistics, 462 million rounds of golf were played last year, the lowest total since 1995.

The Foundation says 3.7 million people took up the game of golf in 2013, but 4.1 million left the game. And the youngest adults, 18-34 year-olds, made up half of the loss.

Fourteen new courses were built last year, but 160 closed. Since 2006, 643 courses have closed nationwide, leaving 14,564 total in the US.

Capital

(Continued from page 27)

Darr said that, when he was a member of the board, the planned repairs to the pool were expected to cost \$62,000. He expressed surprise that the number has now reached \$120,000. He asked whether the board had received three competitive bids for that work, for \$36,000 in recent repairs to the boat slips, or for a \$5,000 asphalt crack-sealing contract recently awarded.

Community manager Ray Sohl defended the current practice for soliciting contractors and bids.

"We are not discriminatory," Sohl said. "We go to vendors we are familiar with. We don't discriminate against local contractors. We have asked local contractors to get on a preferred contractor bid list."

"I get parameters for the RFP from the appropriate committee," Sohl explained. "We go out and solicit bids from contractors that are known by the management company. We try to get the very best bids in. It is all out in the open and sent out to the community."

"I would be happy to talk with you or anyone about this. I have been in the business 26 years. It is all open and on the table."

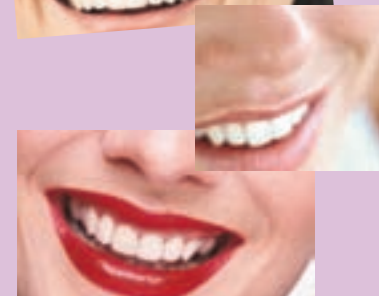
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July 25, 2014

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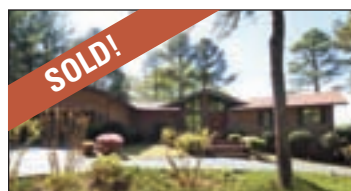
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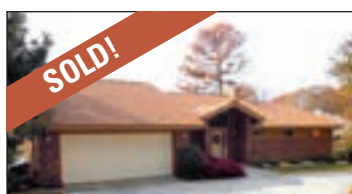
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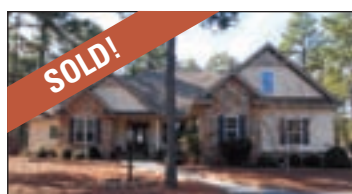
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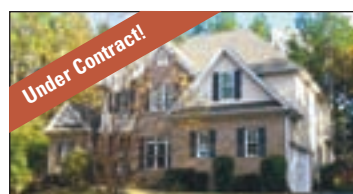
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