

Durham elected Mayor of Foxfire

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Steve Durham was named Foxfire Village's mayor during the August Tuesday, August 12 meeting of the village council. Durham had previously served as Mayor Pro-Tem and had acted as mayor since longtime mayor George Erickson resigned earlier in the summer.

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco, who serves as the Village's Finance Officer, was named Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilman Mick McCue will continue to have responsibility for public safety.

Councilman Vic Koos will retain responsibility for streets and parks, and recently-appointed councilman Jon Sedlak will head up the Water Department. Sedlak previously served as the village's water superintendent.

Protecting the Village water supply

Durham encouraged residents to check any wells on their property for appropriate back flow devices to prevent well water from entering the village water system.

"The Backflow Prevention Program pertains to private wells," Durham said. "If there is no cross connection, then it is not relevant."

"What we are talking about are homes that have wells that are no longer in use or wells used for irrigation or other purposes," Frusco explained. "The possibility exists that there may be a cross contamination that neither we nor the homeowner know about."

"When residents tapped on to Village water, they should have shut down the well and turned off the source," Sedlak said. "But, who knows if they shut down the well or not? It was in the early 80s, and, back then, the rules were different. I know plenty of people who have active wells that they use for irrigation. The question is, do we need to be monitoring those? As Leslie [Frusco] suggested, there is a systematic way to start to identify homes that had wells before the water system ever went in."

Village residents are encouraged to call the Village Water Department, if they feel that there is even the remote possibility of backflow issues.

(See "Foxfire," p. 28)

Foxfire Village Council



Members of the Foxfire Village Council include: Jon Sedlak, Vic Koos, Mayor Steve Durham, Mayor Pro-Tem Leslie Frusco, and Mick McCue.

Superintendent lays out challenges facing schools

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Testing.
Innovation.
Facilities.
Funding.

Each of those areas presents a challenge for Moore County Schools [MCS], newly-installed Superintendent Robert Grimesey, Jr. told members of the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, August 12.

Grimesey, the guest speaker for the meeting, was accompanied by West End Elementary Principal Leigh Ann McClendon, whose school has long benefitted from Seven Lakes Kiwanis donations and community service projects.

Testing

Grimesey said MCS and the community it serves is challenged by the national obsession with testing.

"It starts with 'How does

America compare on tests with other countries?'" he said "And, once we embrace that as important, we start to see a bunch of dominoes fall. And ultimately, test-taking, if you're not careful, it emerges as what you become about."

"We want our children to perform well on tests," Grimesey said, "but we don't want that to be the final end product. We don't want that to change how we provide learning opportunities for children. We have to find the right

(See "Grimesey," p. 26)



Robert Grimesey, Jr. – Superintendent of Moore County Schools, addresses the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club

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League to host former Senator Ellie Kinnaird

The League of Women Voters of Moore County will kick off a busy season on Tuesday, September 16 with a luncheon at Table on the Green.

Former nine-time North Carolina state senator, Ellie Kinnaird of Carrboro, will be the guest speaker. During her service as state senator, Kinnaird served as Chair of the Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety, Chair of the Mental Health and Youth Services Committee and Vice Chair of the Agricultural/Environmental/Natural Resources Committee. She is a voice for environmental protection and electoral reform. She is also a strong advocate for local government.

In addition to the kick-off luncheon on September 16, the LWVMC will host a voter registration event at Sandhills Community College on September 23 as part of the Third National Voter Registration Day.

LWVMC is one of 300 Leagues nationwide which are participating in this important event.

Candidate forums are in the planning stages for County Commissioners and other important races, including the Moore County School Board. Final dates and locations will be announced.

tions will be announced.

The major year-long emphasis for the local league this year will be studying the impact of immigration in Moore County.

Monthly speakers will be invited to address such topics as educational issues, housing, poverty, agriculture and

health care as it relates to immigration in our area. Immigration is a focus of both the national League of Women Voters organization as well as the North Carolina State League.

Luncheon meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at Table on the Green,

Midland Country Club. The cost of the lunch and program is \$13.

All luncheon meetings are open everyone, both members and non-members. Please make your reservations by email at owegeecoach@gmail.com or by calling 910-944-9611.

September Lunch Bunch

The September Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Lunch Bunch program will feature Ken Rahal, a pancreatic cancer survivor.

Rahal, an active community volunteer, was recently honored by the Aberdeen Rotary Club for his work with disadvantaged high school students in Moore County.

When he visited Pinecrest High School, Rahal learned that a number of students didn't have sufficient food on weekends. He immediately put the wheels in motion to fill that need.

Pinecrest Assistant Prin-

cipal Charlene Vermeulen says that Rahal operates the way every human being should – "he is a world changer."

All single seniors are invited to attend the Lunch Bunch at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall on Wednesday, September 10 at noon.

There is no cost. Reservations would be appreciated. Transportation will be provided if needed.

To make a reservation for lunch or transportation, please call the Chapel office at 673-2156.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
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

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Seven Lakes Mens Bowling

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.

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Board promises better meeting information

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Keeping residents well-informed about Association matters was a key concern at the Monday, August 11 work session of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors.

President Bob Racine explained that the distribution of board packets and minutes will be made easier once the Association's new website is up and running. The Board voted during their July 30 Open Meeting to hire the company that created the website for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association.

Currently, agendas and packets for board meetings are emailed to residents. Hard copies can be picked up in the office.

During the August 11 work session, Racine asked whether everyone in attendance — both board members and residents — had received the work session agenda and packet by email.

"The email distribution should include everybody on

the database," Racine said, referring to the list of member email addresses maintained by the landowners office. "If you don't get one, then certainly call the office. For a while I was getting two copies."

Several residents reported that they were not getting the full packet that the board received. Racine looked over a resident's packet and said, "I do apologize. The packets should include the agenda, approved financial report, rules and regulations amendments, bylaws amendments, and any policy changes. That should be the minimum standard."

Even though the packet was incomplete, one resident said it was more than he had received in the past: "This is the first packet I have ever received other than the agenda."

The residents also encouraged the board to make available any attachments referenced during the meeting, as well including committee meeting minutes.

SLLA Community Manager Ray Sohl, who was hired in 2012, said he had continued

the already-established procedure of mailing out only the agenda prior to work sessions.

"Since I began working here, the work session [mailing] did not include anything other than the agenda," Sohl said.

The residents in attendance agreed that more information would be helpful in preparing for the meeting.

"How can you discuss something if you can't see it?" former director Conrad Meyer asked. He also suggested that packets include a draft of minutes that are to be approved.

The residents would need to understand that the minutes were in draft form, Director Steve Ritter noted. Racine concurred with Ritter that they would need to be published as "draft," not "approved."

"We can put draft minutes in the open session packet," Racine said. "Generally, we have very few changes, and those are minor."

All directors were present for the work session and they agreed that no motion was necessary to implement the

change in the contents of the meeting packets.

"We don't need a motion; this is administrative," Racine said.

"We can't vote on it," Ritter said, "but we are all in agreement that what we have discussed will be included in future member packets."

Law Enforcement Officers to host Golf Tournament

The Moore County Law Enforcement Officers Association will sponsor a Captain's Choice Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 6 at Pinehurst Golf Course #6, at 97 Juniper Creek Boulevard, Pinehurst.

The proceeds from this tournament will be used to help pay for the Public Safety Officers' Memorial being constructed on the campus at Sandhills Community College, to continue funding a law enforcement scholarship and to make improvements to the Moore County Law Enforcement Officers Association's train-

ing facility.

Check-in begins at noon. Play begins at 1:30 pm. Lunch will be provided by the Outback Steak House.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place gross and net. There will be numerous door prizes.

Registration is only \$75 for individual golfers. Hole sponsorships are available for \$100 each.

Registration forms can be obtained from any Moore County Law Enforcement agency.

For additional information, contact the Moore County Sheriff's Office at 910-947-2931.



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Enforcement requires increased staff time

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



A backlog of work on Community Standards and Architectural Review matters has Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] management looking for more manpower.

During the August 11 work session of the SLLA Board, Community Manager Ray Sohl requested that the administrative staffs hours be increased to cover a backlog of Architectural Review Board and Standards Committee Cases.

The hours of a current part-time staff member would be increased from twenty-four hours to twenty-nine hours per week for ninety days.

"Part-time help can go up to twenty-nine hours without benefits," President Bob Racine explained. "We have to be on top of things. The thing most of us want is to enforce our rules and regulations. There is a backlog, and it takes time to get through that."

The current SLLA administrative staff consist of three full time and one part time positions.

"A community this size normally has a full time staff person for ARB and Standards," Sohl reported.

Every time a violation is reported, that creates more work. The more violations, the more work.

"I think it is important that this backlog goes away," Director Chuck Leach said. "When everything is caught up, the part-time employee can go back to twenty-four hours a week."

Racine agreed, "Let's give them a little a breathing space, and give our staff the little extra time that they need."

Customers come first

Customer service comes first in the SLLA office. During office hours, it often necessary for staff members to interrupt work and act as a receptionist, Assistant Manager Leslie Hosterman explained.

"We do not want to make members wait," she said. "When you walk in you shouldn't have to wait."

"Last month, our part-time employee sent out forty-eight letters," Hosterman said. "We have a great Community Standards Committee and they send in things all the time. Some of the members send a photo with it, and some don't. It is not always obvious where the picture was taken."

"The information has to be verified, and then a letter is sent out. Follow-up is required two weeks later to make sure the problem has been corrected. Before I can send a letter I have to physically see the issue. It takes a long time and is a big process."

A member in the audience expressed his concern that SLLA Management and Staff were spending too much time issuing permits and collecting fees.

"I think the staff and board are doing an outstanding

job," he said. "However, there is stuff they are doing that they shouldn't be doing, including tracking, collecting, and accounting for fees for boats, golf carts stickers, and fees for stables."

"There is accounting for all those fees coming in," he said. "My point is, when we pay our yearly dues we get a card and it should open the entire community. This board needs to get a really good headline in the newspaper for a change: 'SLLA does away with all extra amenity fees.'"

Much of the member's comments would fall under the new business section of the meeting, Racine explained. He pointed out that the item

under consideration was specific to a temporary increase in staff hours.

Renter Fees To Be Changed

The board voted to forward to the August open meeting a change in the Renter Fee Policy.

The amendment would discontinue billing renters an annual \$100 administrative fee. Property owners who rent or lease their property would be charged a one-time fee of \$100 for each new renter.

Rental properties for which the renter has already paid the renter administration fee in FY 2014-2015 are grandfathered in; those landlords would not have to pay the

(See "SLLA Meeting," p. 28)

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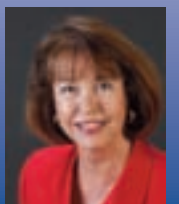
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Standards proposed for fences and docks

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



New standards for fences were on the agenda of the Monday August 11 work session of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors.

Director Bill Hirsch and members of the Architectural Review Board [ARB] had developed the proposed guidelines. Hirsch read each element in the proposed Fence Installation Guidelines. The list included procedures; placement; permitted styles, types, and materials; installation; and upkeep.

"The purpose here is to make it easier to understand," Hirsch said.

An ARB member in the audience voiced concerns regarding containment fences and animals.

"If a fence is proposed for animal containment, then everybody within 100 feet of

the property should be notified," he said. "We are getting three, four, five applications [for containment fences] a month."

"As board members, we have the obligation — and, if we deem plans, specifications, and details to be contrary to the interest or rights of other members — then we have a moral obligation not to protect just the people applying, but the people surrounding the fence. At the very least, we should give notice. We should be like the West Side. They have to notify the public by registered mail what is going on so that they can have input."

But board members agreed that the ARB could not discriminate against SLLA members requesting containment fences. Instead, they argued that, if a dog becomes a nuisance, it should be put before the Judicial Committee.

"I used to raise German Shepherds," the ARB member

said. "I love dogs."

"This used to be a different community. Now we have all these young families moving in. They leave their dogs in the yard and go to work. It is not their problem from

about when a fence-like decorative element becomes subject to the rules governing actual fences.

"It says no fences are allowed in the front yard," Director Steve Ritter said,

"A lot can be resolved by just going and talking to your neighbors."

— SLLA President Bob Racine

8:00 am to 5:00 pm. We should have the obligation to inform people when containment fences are going in on their streets. It's going to affect property values."

President Bob Racine suggested talking to the dog's owner first.

"A lot can be resolved by just going and talking to your neighbors," he said.

Is a faux fence a "fence?"

The discussion of fences continued with conversation

referring to the proposed guidelines.

"I have seen some homes where people want to frame their house with an eight-foot section on either side of the property. Would this prohibit that?"

"These rules would not permit that in the future," Hirsch replied. "The board has the opportunity to amend this to read any way that you like. In many ways, that is not a fence; it is a landscape feature."

Ritter agreed: "It's not really a fence. It is more decorative."

But even decorative yard features would require ARB approval.

"If it's not a fence, and it is decorative, then would they have to get approval to do that," Hirsch said

"I think yard decorations are an issue in this community," Community Manager Ray Sohl commented.

A member in the audience who identified himself as a gardener said, "It's a minor point, but I have vegetable garden in my front yard. To protect against deer and rabbit, I have put a fence around it. It is temporary. I can take it down in winter."

"Technically, we don't allow vegetable gardens in the front yard," Sohl replied. "You can have a flower garden but not vegetable garden."

"My front yard is where the sun is," the member said.

(See "Fences," p. 25)



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County board wary of complex MegaPark deal

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County's Board of Commissioners are united in their support for the Heart of North Carolina MegaPark, a potential industrial site that sits astride the Moore-Montgomery County border north of NC Highway 24/27.

But they are just as united in their aversion to signing complicated legal documents that might lock the county into paying for the park's roads, water lines, or other infrastructure.

That cautious support for the MegaPark came through loud and clear during a Tuesday, August 22 special meeting of the commissioners that focused on a thirty-one page interlocal agreement between the Moore County, Montgomery County, and the non-profit Megapark board.

The agreement spells out how Moore and Montgomery would split — fifty-fifty — any increased tax revenue that either county would gain if a major industrial plant is built on the site.

The park encompasses 3,000 acres of timberland currently in the hands of eight different owners, all of whom have agreed to an option on their land that ties it to the MegaPark for ten years, with an additional ten year extension possible. About two-thirds of the land is in Montgomery County.

The goal of the MegaPark Board is to recruit one or more large manufacturing facilities to occupy the site, providing jobs for local citizens and tax revenue for both counties.

'A game-changer for Moore County'

Pat Corso, Executive Director of Partners in Progress, Moore County's economic development arm, briefed the commissioners on developments that could make the park a prime location for auto parts manufacturing — and a regional hub for

advanced manufacturing training.

Corso said Randolph and Chatham Counties have developed an 1800 acre industrial site targeted to automobile manufacturing. He said the site is ranked as one of the top five such sites in the nation.

"If they were lucky enough to attract an automotive company, here is our park just below it," Corso said.

On another front, Central Carolina Community College, Sandhills Community College, and the community colleges in Randolph and Montgomery Counties have applied for a \$10 million grant to support training in advanced manufacturing. Another \$3 million grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation could pay for a building in which to do that training.

If the grant comes through, an advanced manufacturing training facility would be built on a 117-acre parcel in the MegPark site — a joint project of the four colleges.

The presence of that facility would help attract industry to the MegaPark site, Corso said, and, meanwhile, would provide advanced training for students from all four counties.

"If we have the same training opportunities for our kids as urban kids do, then we give our kids a leg up," Corso said.

"The dynamics are in place that could make this a game changer for Moore County," he added. "Particularly northern Moore County."

Corso pointed out that the MegaPark is twelve miles from Robbins and sixteen from Carthage, both of which have suffered from the loss of manufacturing businesses.

Commissioners wary of complexity

Moore County's Commissioners were clearly in favor of the picture Corso painted — and the arrangement for sharing tax revenue with Montgomery County, should

that scenario come to pass.

But they were wary of the complex legal document Corso and May presented.

County Attorney Misty Leland explained that the agreement went well beyond that simple revenue sharing deal, creating mechanisms for either county to provide additional funding to the development of the MegaPark. She stressed that the agreement didn't obligate the county to provide additional funding, but did create a structure in which that could happen.

"We would be foolish to say we don't want jobs in Moore County, Commissioner Nick Picerno said. "We want anything or any type of infrastructure that will bring jobs to Moore County."

"The hesitancy I had with the agreement is that it is very thick, very filled with legalese," he added.

"I don't think it's fair for the taxpayers of Moore County to put money into a development that would benefit private developers," Picerno said.

"Being on the boards of both Partners and the MegaPark, I know there are some exciting opportunities out there that could be game changers," Commissioner Randy Saunders said. "They could change the entire dynamics of the park and change the opportunities. But I want to make sure we aren't getting Moore County obligated to pay for the infra-

(See "MegaPark," p. 28)

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Commissioners slam immigration policy

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Undocumented immigrant children and adults aren't welcome in Moore County, according to the text of a resolution approved unanimously by the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 19.

The resolution, based on a similar document recently approved by the Beaufort County Commissioners, urges the federal government "to refrain from housing any unaccompanied minors and adults in Moore County."

Entitled "Resolution on the

resettling of illegal immigrants including unaccompanied minors," the document says "the influx of school-age minors will have an adverse effect on our local school district educational funding, resources, campus security, public health and safety, as well as county resources."

Commissioner Nick Picerno, who brought the resolution to the Board's attention, said 1500 undocumented minors have been relocated to North Carolina, though he added that no information is available about the number of those children who may have been settled in Moore County.

Noting that a federal government agency is involved

in the resettling of undocumented alien minors, Picerno said: "We are putting burdens on Moore County taxpayers to help settle people here."

Versions of the resolution, which was originally authored and approved in Brunswick County, are making their way to counties across the state. The resolution is a response to the well-publicized, unprecedented influx, in recent months, of undocumented immigrant children, unaccompanied by adults, at the southern border of the United States.

Under the Homeland Security Act of 2002, responsibility for unaccompanied alien children was transferred from the Immigration and Naturalization Service — a division of the Department of Homeland Security — to the Office of Refugee Resettlement — a division of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement [ORR] provides housing for the undocumented children as they await hearings on their immigration status, contracting with relief agencies like those of the

Lutheran and Catholic churches.

While some reside in group homes, the ORR attempts to quickly place the children in regular home settings, preferably with members of their own extended families who already reside in the US. According to the ORR, eighty-five percent are ultimately reunified with their families.

According to ORR data, more than ninety percent of the children involved are from the Central American countries of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Political language

The language of the Brunswick County resolution was stiffened and made more

overtly political when it was placed before the Beaufort County Commissioners, with the addition of this language:

"WHEREAS, the reason for the influx of minor children has less to do with the honest pursuit of a better life as much as it is the lawless policy of the current administration to open our borders and intentionally affect the traditional demographic in our country (a close look at the current situation shows that the minors have been dumped here because of the explicit message they got from the United States government that as long as they get here to American soil, they will be permitted to

(See "Commissioners," p. 24)

Pine Forest Extension

The developer of the proposed Pine Forest PUD between West End and Pinewild was granted a one year extension of his zoning permit in action taken by the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, August 19 regular meeting.

Developer MHK Ventures has made no progress toward fulfilling the requirements of its permit since it was granted in September of 2011, Planning Director Debra Ensminger told the Board last month.

The developer had also failed to create, in the relat-

ed Dormie Club subdivision, the number of fulltime jobs necessary to meet the terms of a NC Rural Economic Development Center grant.

MHK came up 18 jobs short, creating 25 instead of the promised 43. Once the Commissioners had been assured by County Manager Wayne Vest that MHK had repaid the \$180,000 owed to the Rural Center, they approved the zoning permit extension in a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Randy Saunders made the point that the extension is for one year only.

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Fate of Academy Heights building still a puzzle

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Despite the best efforts of the Moore County School Board, Moore County Board of Commissioners, and State Representative Jamie Boles, an answer to the question of what to do with the former Academy Heights Elementary School remains elusive.

The school, located in Taylortown, was most recently used for a year-round school program. But the Moore County Schools [MCS] budget crunch following the 2009 recession led to the closing of the school and the transfer of the year-round program to West Pine Elementary.

The building has historical significance for the residents of Taylortown, and the town would like to acquire it for use as a community center. But town officials are unable or unwilling to pay the \$543,000 price that MCS considers the fair market value of the property.

The North Carolina Constitution requires that local school boards receive fair market value when they dispose of school property.

A new proposal

The issue was back on the agenda of the Moore County Board of Education during its regular, Monday, August 11 meeting.

MCS Director of Budget

Mike Griffin presented the board with a proposal to sell the property to Moore County for \$542,978.

The County Board of Commissioners has perviously expressed a willingness to give the property to Taylortown, if the county could acquire it.

Griffin suggested that the county, rather than handing over \$543,000 in cash, could instead deposit the funds in an already-created, county-maintained School Capital Reserve Fund.

The commissioners created that fund as part of the FY2015 budget process. It will serve as a depository for millions of dollars in county funds designated for new school construction, if the commissioners and school board are able to agree on a set funding formula for the schools.

Griffin's proposal is similar to a previous MCS proposal, which suggested that the county pay for the Academy Heights property, but then deduct that same amount from the annual capital budget for the schools in the next year.

That idea met with resistance from the commissioners, who were concerned that they would simply be seen as cutting the local school budget. Griffin's new proposal was an attempt to avoid that problem.

A legislative strategy

A second strategy was pursued by State Rep. Jamie Boles during the current session of the General Assembly. Boles succeeded in having a local bill passed that gives MCS the explicit right to transfer the property to Taylortown for less than fair market value.

But MCS' attorney remains unconvinced — relying on the NC School of Government and relevant judicial decisions — that the local bill can trump the state constitution.

"When this came up and came out on our agenda," School Board Chair Kathy Farris said during the August 11 meeting, "the county com-

missioners saw it and so did the press."

"The county commissioners were under the understanding that the local bill would work, and wanted some more clarification about the local bill, from the attorney general or whoever. We need to get more information from the county commissioners before moving forward with this."

The board then tabled the matter.

Other Business

In other business during their August 11 meeting, the Moore County Board of Education:

- Received a presentation on a recent Science Technol-

ogy Engineering and Math [STEM] Camp that involved sixty five students in activities ranging from introductory coding to engineering an egg bungee jump.

- Approved the purchase of new wrestling room practice mats for Pinecrest and Union Pines High Schools at a total cost of \$44,000.
- Authorized the purchase of 700 Chromebooks at a not-to-exceed price of \$225,000 to be used in the first part of Phase 3 of the MCS digital learning initiative.

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In memory of . . .

Juanita Richardson Robinson, 88, of Candor died Monday, August 18.

The family will receive friends on Friday, August 22, from 1 to 3 pm at the Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes with funeral service following at 3:00 pm. Burial will be at Candor Cemetery.

She was born in Moore County, daughter to the late Joe Brantley Richardson and Lula Jane McKenzie Richardson. She was raised by an

uncle and an aunt, Arthur and Ada Richardson. They took her when she was only two weeks old, after her mother died.

Mrs. Robinson retired from Montgomery County Schools. She was a member of Star Chapter III Order of the Eastern Star, in Bisco, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW post 9881 in Biscoe, and a member of Candor Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death

by her husband Grady Robinson and grandson Scott Franklin Robinson.

Survivors included her son Greg F. Robinson of Whispering Pines; daughters Gale Robinson of Raleigh; and Pat Chaffin of GA; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory will be assisting the family.

George W. Senior, 87, of West End, died Sunday August 10.

He was the son of George Washington Senior and Katherine Macdonald Senior.

Mr. Senior was a WWII veteran and served proudly in the U.S. Navy.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother

Harrison Grant Senior, two sisters Caroline Senior Doane and Bernice Arlene Senior.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years Lula Mae Beck Senior; son Donald of West End; daughter Carol Senior of Gasport, NY; and brother Dallas Senior of Falls Creek, PA; his grandchildren Lindsay Senior of Denver, CO; Sarah Senior of West End; Tina Davis of Roanoke, IN; Shannon Wiepert of Wilson, NY; five great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Gerald John Lewin, 80, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, June 28.

He was born in Chicago, IL son to the late John and Elsie Schultz Lewin.

He was a retired Mechanical Engineer with Motorola in Schaumburg, Illinois. Mr. Lewin loved traveling with his wife, cooking, spending time with his close friends and playing golf.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Patricia Simmons Lewin of the home; son David Miles Lewin of Chicago, IL; daughter Kathryn Thwaites of Pinehurst; and four grandchildren Bradley Thomas Thwaites, Jennifer Nicole Thwaites, William Peter Lewin and Sophia Irene Lewin.

Memorial services were held Wednesday August, 13, at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 175 E. Connecticut Ave., Southern Pines. Father Andrew McNair officiated.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

A Declaration of Faith

Rev. Dr. Robert Whitehouse, pastor of McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church, Aberdeen, will begin a new adult Sunday School class program on Sunday, September 7, at 10 am.

Based on a Presbyterian document entitled "A Declaration of Faith," Rev. Whitehouse will lead an exploration of questions and issues related to several core Christian and Presbyterian beliefs, such as: Who is the living God? How is God in Christ? What is the role of the Christian church?

This will be a ten-week

study, beginning on the church's annual Rally Day, which kicks off both children's and adult Sunday School, after a summer break. Sunday School will meet from 10 am to 10:45 am, followed by the church's worship service at 11 am, and concluding with lunch for all in attendance.

Anyone interested is invited to attend. For more information, please call Rev. Whitehouse at 245-7024.

McDonalds Chapel is located at 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen (off Linden Road from Pinehurst, on the way to Foxfire Village).



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Rain can't spoil the fun at the Rick Rhyne

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

The Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills splished, splashed, and fished at the eleventh annual Rick Rhyne Fishing Tournament on McKenzie Lake in Foxfire Village, held on Saturday, August 9.

A southern summer monsoon couldn't dampen the enthusiasm. To the happy surprise of the young fish-erfolk, the downpour sent

the fish jumping for their bait.

Fish often bite better during a rainfall. It stirs up organic material to feed on, pushes flying bugs closer to the surface of the water, helps drown out noise, and masks ripples in water.

"It didn't matter that it was raining, we had a great time,"

said Caroline Eddy, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills, which manages the event. "The kids caught a lot of fish."

The fishing tournament was started by Rick Rhyne, when he served as Foxfire Chief of Police. Rhyne under-

(Continued on page 11)



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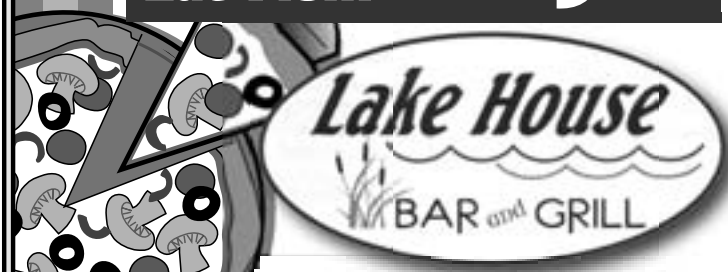
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Fishing Tournament in Foxfire Village

(Continued from page 10)

stood the importance of getting kids outdoors and fishing. Rhyne was killed in the line of duty in 2011, while serving as a Moore County Sheriff's Deputy.

Rhyne's widow, Wanda Rhyne, works all year to coordinate the event.

"Rick's dream was to see kids engage in outdoor activities with their parents", she said. "He would say that any child who comes out and participates wins a prize, even if they don't catch a fish."

It was a full day of soggy fun, with educational exhibits including the Wildlife Mobile Aquarium, The Sensory Safari trailer and the Fire Safety trailer. Talbert's BBQ provided lunch for all the kids.

Committed volunteers from across North Carolina have helped Wanda continue Rick's legacy.

NC Inland Fisheries and the Southern Pines Parks

and Recreation Department provided fishing poles. Numerous local businesses donated supplies and prizes.

The Foxfire Village Police Department, Moore County Sheriff's Department, and West End Fire and Rescue

all turned out to help.

"This is a wonderful chance for children to gain a greater appreciation for the natural

world around them and learn a sport that they can enjoy for a lifetime," Eddy said.



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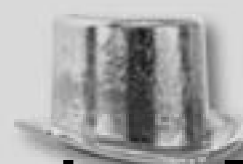


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Easy-going catfish have a bad reputation, but

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

Catfish are easy going. They aren't flashy, like bass. They don't crave the sun, like perch. They prefer hanging out on the cool dark bottom, minding their own business. It's all about patience. They know, if they wait quietly, their lunch will eventually be served.

Their lonely, dark hangouts have earned catfish some unattractive epithets, "bottom dwellers," "scavengers," "opportunists." The firm, white, sweet flesh of the catfish is often considered a Southerner's or poor man's food.

In 1669, when French fortune hunter Robert de La Salle lead a party exploring the North American interior, his priestly partners Dollier and Galinee reported: "Fishing is pretty good We had only to throw in a line in the water to catch forty or fifty fish of the kind called here barbue (catfish). There is none like it in France. Travelers and poor people live on it very comfortably, for it can be eaten, and is very good cooked in water without sauce."

Though the French priests blessed gave the catfish a four-star rating, cosmopolitan American city folk are still known to turn up their noses at a platter of catfish dredged in cornmeal and fried up crispy.

Not exactly a fashion plate

Catfish are, after all, homely. They have a dark skin that lacks luster. They have long whiskers that have a life of their own. They are more than a little slimy to the touch. They resemble mutant wet eel cats. And their dorsal fins are sharp, mean, and deliver a small dose of venom.

But the catfish carries its own antidote. If punctured by a fin, just rub the wound in the slime found on the belly of the catfish. The pain goes away in seconds.

All catfish have large, heavy, flat heads. It's those big heads that keep them on the bot-



The catfish is worthy prey for young anglers, like this young man who pulled a couple from Foxfire's Lake McKenzie

tom. Negatively buoyant, the fish don't have to fight to stay deep. Catfish wear their senses on their skin and can smell and taste from tail to fin.

Fishing for catfish doesn't require anything fancy. All you need is a heavy duty pole or rod, a weighted hook that can skim just above the bottom, and something odiferous to use for bait.

Shad, shad guts, shad heads, night crawlers (change them if they become waterlogged), old chicken gizzards, old chicken livers, pert crawfish, hotdogs, raw bacon, and soap — they all catch catfish. Then there is the infamous "Catfish Bait," sold by the pint at your finer tackle stores. It is a fouler than aged fowl, but a catfish is guaranteed to swallow it hook, line, and sinker.

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"At that time, Lake Auman was stocked with 75,000 channel catfish (6 to 10 inches long); 260,500 bluegills (fingerling size); 112,500 red headed sunfish and shell crackers; 4,000 larger mouth bass (6 – 10 inches); and 150 pounds of fathead minnows.

"Since 2001, we have added 5,000 to 10,000 bluegills almost every year," Kirst reported. "There is not enough natural food. The water is so clean that we don't have a big enough plankton population that is needed to sustain a larger

(Continued on page 13)

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monster cats lurk in the depths of Lake Auman

(Continued from page 12)

bluegill population. We have an assortment of plankton,

but we don't have enough of it."

In Lake Auman, the prized



Westsider Charlie Flinchum pulled in this 36.5 pound catfish while fishing from his Lake Auman dock

largemouth bass like a juicy bluegill for breakfast. But the catfish like bluegill, too. A couple of years back the Westside dropped any limits on the number of catfish caught, in order to give the bass a leg up in the feeding competition.

"We encouraged all the fisherman to catch and eat catfish rather than release," Kirst said. "To bring down the catfish population."

Bass fishing gets the good press. It requires a lot of bling: fancy lures, streamlined casting rods, and a decked out bass boat.

Bass fishing is pure iconic outdoorsman 20th century

Americana: the silhouette of a chiseled fisherman in a plaid button down shirt, faded jeans, and a baseball cap, casting his line in an arc beaded with sparkling drops of water into the golden sun, the hook only inches away from the surface, as a large iridescent bass with tail curved, mouth opened wide, strikes the platinum spinner. Now that is picturesque.

Fishing for catfish requires the patience of, well, a catfish. Nothing glamorous like bass fishing. You merely let the stinky bait hang out near the bottom, while waiting for the catfish to take it. But reeling in a catfish is not

easy. The cat has lake-bottom smarts. It's wily enough to swim in and out of snags, limbs, and around logs, searching for a strong enough snag to snap a line.

They don't tire easily and are strong as a bull.

"It took me about twenty-five minutes to pull it in," Charlie Flinchum said. "I had twenty pound test line. I had to play with him and wear it out."

Flinchum's catch that day, off the dock of his Lake Auman home, was a 36.5 pound catfish. Joan Flinchum, Charlie's wife, has caught 20 pounders off their

(See "Catfish," p. 25)

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Bookmobile's new schedule starts next month

Recently, someone commented that it would be less expensive to provide the "dwindling" numbers of Bookmobile users with e-readers rather than to continue to run the Moore County Bookmobile.

In reality, or at least in Moore County, the number of Bookmobile users is not dwindling! About 1,500 people come aboard every month. Last year, the Bookmobile

checked out 27,482 items. Just handing someone an e-reader, even if it were financially feasible, would hardly give the same level of service nor would it replace the human contact.

If nothing else, to see the Bookmobile riding down the highway is a reminder to citizens that literacy and reading are important to their quality of life.

The Moore County Book-

mobile visits daycare centers, schools, preschools, and Head Start programs, in addition to assisted living and retirement facilities, churches, businesses, and community centers. For many, it is a convenient option to driving to the main library in Carthage.

For those with physical, economic, or geographic barriers to library service, the Bookmobile provides a means to access information or entertainment that can improve or change their lives. Not to mention that the Bookmobile introduces young children to one of the best and most democratic aspects of American life — the public library.

The Moore County Bookmobile's new fall schedule will begin on Monday, September 8.

This fall, some new stops have been added, including daycares, two schools, and an assisted living facility, as well as some previously

unserved parts of the county, namely the High Falls area.

"We get frequent requests from those who want to be added as stops on the Bookmobile schedule, and of course we want as many residents as possible to benefit," said Library Director Alice Thomas.

This new Fall schedule will introduce a change for Seven Lakes Bookmobile users. Instead of making weekly stops, the Bookmobile will be making its Seven Lakes stops twice a month. Currently, Seven Lakes is the only location that the Bookmobile serves weekly. All other stops are on the every other week schedule.

"We want to spread out the service, so it's more equitable for the unserved and underserved areas," said Bookmobile driver Nancy Wienstroth.

Seven Lakes stops will be on the following dates this Fall: September 17, October 1 & 22; November 5 & 19, and December 3, 17, & 31.

The Bookmobile will be at the Seven Lakes Baptist Church on those days between 11:30 am and 12:00 pm; at the Food Lion parking lot from 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm; and at the Seven Lakes Landowners Office from 2:35 pm to 3:30 pm.

"We sincerely hope this change won't upset or inconvenience Seven Lakes residents," Director Thomas said. "But as avid Bookmobile users, you know what these other areas in the county have been missing and how much they will appreciate being included on the schedule."

For a complete Bookmobile schedule or other information about Moore County Library programs, visit www.srsls.info



Kaye Brown, Bookmobile driver Nancy Weinstroth (of Seven Lakes), and two young patrons

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Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 CLOSED Happy Labor Day	2 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Chicken Enchiladas Dinner	3 Butternut Bisque Pork with Apples Dinner	4 New England Clam Chowder Tilapia Florentine Dinner	5 Minestrone Soup Spinach Ravioli with Marinara Sauce — Closing at 3:00 pm —
8 Pasta & Peas in Broth Baked Spaghetti Dinner	9 Chicken & Dumpling Soup Chicken & Mushrooms Dinner	10 Beef Vegetable Soup Beef Stew over Rice Dinner	11 Manhattan Clam Chowder Linguine with Clam Sauce Dinner	12 Split Pea with Ham Soup Turkey Meatloaf Dinner — Closing at 3:00 pm —
15 Chicken & Stars Soup Spinach Manicotti Dinner	16 Curried Chicken Soup Chicken with Tomatoes & Peppers Dinner	17 Beef Barley Soup Bourbon Pork Dinner	18 New England Clam Chowder Shrimp Scampi Style Dinner	19 Curried Carrot Soup Two Bean Enchiladas Dinner — Closing at 3:00 pm —
22 Pasta in Broth Pasta with Meat Sauce Dinner	23 White Bean Chicken Chili Sausage, Peppers, & Onions Dinner	24 Goldie's Chili Pot Roast Dinner	25 Shrimp & Corn Chowder Crab Cakes Dinner	26 Black Bean Soup Italian Meatloaf Dinner — Closing at 3:00 pm —
29 Lentil Soup Baked Ziti Dinner	30 Chicken Noodle Soup Lemon Chicken with Artichokes Dinner	Many Other Menu Selections Available!		

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Women of Seven Lakes will host Friend to Friend

The Women of Seven Lakes was formed about 35 years by a group of women who wanted to support local charities.

Since the population of Seven Lakes was much smaller, it was a great way to meet other residents, and, as a result, lifelong friendships were formed. Today, the Women of Seven Lakes is still active and looking for ways to support local charities.

During the May 2014 meeting, a new Board was installed for the 2014-15 year. The 2014-2015 Board members are: Pat Weber, President; Lee Connelly, Vice-President; Barbara Leoncini, Secretary; Joyce Friert, Treasurer; Connie Loy, Joan Welsh and Sharon Cloud, Membership; Elly Schutt, Programs. General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month from September through May at the Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall at 2 pm.

The speaker for the September 4, General Meeting will be Anne Friesen, Executive Director of Friend to Friend.

Friend to Friend works with several anti-human-trafficking task forces in North Carolina. Friesen will introduce Friend to Friend's latest initiative, Freedom Project, which is designed to support, shelter, and educate victims of human trafficking and to raise awareness about human trafficking in Moore County and beyond. She will share knowledge needed for the awareness of human trafficking, actual experiences, success stories, and how anyone as an individual can help the effort.

Human trafficking is here and is in our back door. The Serenity House, which serves as a shelter for women of

domestic violence and sexual assault, is also a resource for women freed from human trafficking.

Donations will be accepted at the meeting for Friend to Friend. Some suggested items

are: dishwashing supplies (no phosphates), stamps, envelopes, copier paper, office supplies, laundry detergent (hypoallergenic), toiletries, tissues, bathroom tissue, paper towels, storage and

trash bags and cans, socks (new, all sizes), sports bras and underwear for women and children (new).

Everyone is welcome to attend the Women of Seven Lakes General Meetings – so

bring your friends, neighbors and relatives. Refreshments are served after the speaker and short business meeting. For more information on the Women of Seven Lakes, call Pat Weber, 673-1457.



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FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Magic in the Moonlight*, Woody Allen film. A romantic comedy about an Englishman brought in to help unmask a possible swindle. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

- **Third Annual Children's Treasure Trail Adventure** – 9 am – Noon, this free and exciting event will take place at the Ball Visitor Center, Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst. An outstanding morning of fun and adventure for children of the Sandhills. Kids to have the opportunity to visit a Plant Education Station, learn about vermiculture, each child will receive a plant to take home. Music provided by The Army Ground Forces Band "Loose Cannons" from Fort Bragg. Register for this free event by calling Tricia Mabe at (910) 695-3882.
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 2:20 & 7:30 pm, *Magic in the Moonlight*, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Game Show Night Seven Lakes Country Club** – at Tufts Bar & Grill, from 7 to 10 pm. Enjoy an evening of fun and laughter, cocktails and limited menu. To participate in the Newlywed

Game or Minute to Win It, call Carol Dunn at 400-5006. Open to everyone.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

- **Sandhills Horticultural Society Lunch & Learn Fall Perennials**

– noon to 1 pm, the Society will feature Matt Whittaker of Green Haven Plant Farm who will speak on Fall

Perennials and their care. Held at Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. Lecture is free. Bring your lunch, drinks provided. Space is limited, register by email at: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Armeia Medlock.
- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Jennifer Archambault, Research Associate in the Department of Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University, will give a presentation introducing native freshwater mussels and their ecology, followed by some highlights of her mussel research, including thermal

What's When



- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr. 673-3838.
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *Magic in the Moonlight*, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Moth Mimicry** – 3 pm, From owl eyes to bird droppings, moths (and their caterpillars) display some amazing mimicry and camouflage tactics that help them survive. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines 910-692-2167. Free.
- **West End United Methodist Church Youth Back to School Night** – 6 pm, The Youth group invites area youth to join them as they meet each Sunday evening from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the church.

ecology and toxicology. Visitors welcome. Call 910-692-2167 or www.sandhillsnature.org

- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Magic in the Moonlight*, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

- **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.

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center.
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Magic in the Moonlight*, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** –

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8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **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 in the Fellowship Hall. Bible study will offer an in-depth Christian World View Experience. Led by Dr & Rev. Won Namkoong and Larry McCune. Call or email the Church office at 673-1371 or weumc@earthlink.net to register.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Magic in the Moonlight*, a Woody Allen film. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes

Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Magic in the Moonlight*, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

- **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 31

- **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.
- **Become a Jr. Ranger** – 3 pm, Join a park Ranger at the Visitor's Center to explore the junior ranger and handbook. The Ranger will get you on your way to completing the handbook and becoming a junior ranger, earning your Weymouth Woods patch and a certificate of completion. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines 910-692-2167. Free.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- **Labor Day**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- **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.

- **Women's Volleyball at Seven Lakes Baptist Church** – 6 pm to 8 pm, every Tuesday, open gym for Women's Volleyball. Connie McDermott coordinate the program. All participants are requested to familiarize themselves with the basic skills of volleyball, so they can come ready to play. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **AWANA Youth Group Kick-off** – 6:30 pm, outside the Hankins Family Life Center with free hot dogs,

inflatables and games. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

- **The Truth Project** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall. Bible study will offer an in-depth Christian World View Experience. Led by Dr & Rev. Won Namkoong and Larry McCune. Call or email the Church office at 673-1371 or weumc@earthlink.net to register.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- **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.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 2 pm, in the Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall. Anne Friesen, Executive Director, of Friend to Friend, will introduce Friend To Friend's latest initiative, "Freedom Project" which was designed to support, shelter, and educate victims of human trafficking and to raise awareness about

human trafficking in Moore County and beyond. Please join the Women of Seven Lakes for this informative talk.

- **Photographic Artwork Exhibition by Sandhills Photography Club** – reception today at 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Club will present a collection of its photographic artwork at Sandhills Community College, displayed in the Hastings Gallery next to Boyd Library. Public invited. Exhibition concludes October 28.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- **Sunrise First Friday Summer Concert** – 5- 8:30 pm, Musical Guest: *Simplified*. Free Admission. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- **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.



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Erwins donate pontoon to Mattamuskeet

On Friday, August 8, the nonprofit Mattamuskeet Foundation accepted the donation of another Seven Lakes boat in support of its educational mission.

Roger and Linda Erwin,

residents of Seven Lakes West donated their 18' Sweetwater pontoon boat and 40HP Evinrude motor to the nonprofit organization.

According to Dr. Lewis Forrest, executive director of the

Mattamuskeet Foundation, the Erwins are retired and after recently buying a new boat, they decided to donate their 1997 boat and motor to support the work of the foundation. On behalf of the nonprofit organization, Forrest expressed his gratitude for the donation and described the Erwin's boat and motor as being in excellent condition.

Roger Erwin spent his career as a physical therapist and Linda Erwin was an administrative assistant at Richmond Yarns in Ellerbe. According to Linda Erwin, she and her husband enjoy boating on Lake Auman and are members of West End Presbyterian Church.

Mattamuskeet is North Carolina's largest natural lake and makes up most of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, on the mainland of Hyde County, just west of

the Outer Banks. The freshwater lake is known for the large number of migratory waterfowl that winter there each year and supports thirty-one species of fish, including a few salt-water species. Crabbing is a favorite summer recreational activity at the lake and Blue Crabs caught in the lake average about twice the size of Blue Crabs found in nearby Pamlico Sound.

Forrest explained that the mission of the Mattamuskeet Foundation is to preserve and interpret the rich history and unique ecology of Lake Mattamuskeet. For more information about the Mattamuskeet Foundation or to discuss the donation of a boat, trailer, or operating vehicle, contact Forrest at 252-341-7882 and visit their website at www.mattamuskeet.org



Linda Erwin donated her family's pontoon boat to the Mattamuskeet Foundation

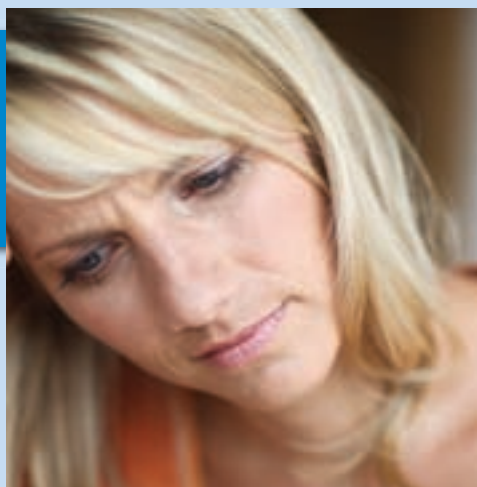
Women's Volleyball

Seven Lakes Baptist Church will begin holding open gym for Women's Volleyball, beginning Tuesday, September 2. Volleyball will be held every Tuesday from 6 pm to 8 pm in the Hankins Family Life Center gym.

Connie McDermott will

head this up program and requests that all ladies attending please familiarize themselves with the basic skills of volleyball, so they can come in ready to play.

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



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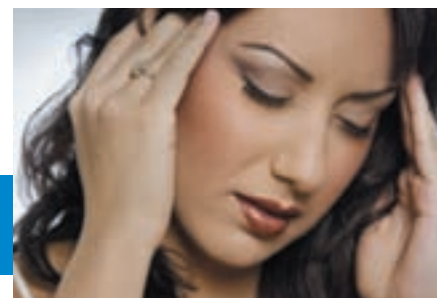


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Residents of Moore County who currently receive state or county financial assistance may be able to have their pets spayed or neutered at no cost.

The County of Moore has teamed with The Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic of the Sandhills to offer this service. An appointment is necessary and space is limited.

Interested residents should call 910-692-FIXX (3499) for

more information. The Clinic is located at 5071 US Hwy 1 North in Vass.

Space is also limited at the county shelter, The Animal Center of Moore County at 5235 Highway 15/501 in Carthage. The facility houses around 50 dogs and 40 cats, yet over 3,000 passed through its doors in 2013 alone. The County urges residents to be part of the solution by spaying or neutering

their pets.

For information regarding The Clinic, go to companionanimalclinic.org. To see pets available for adoption at The Animal Center plus opportunities to volunteer or donate, go to animalcenter-moorecounty.com

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Cape Fear Museum hosts Festival of Yesteryear

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex will celebrate Lafayette's birthday in grand style with their annual Festival of Yesteryear: A Celebration of Early America on Saturday September 6, from 10 am to 5 pm in Arsenal Park. Focusing on the Colonial and Revolutionary War periods, the program features costumed re-enactors demonstrating various aspects of daily life including woodworking, music, toys and games, silhouette drawing, and militia drills.

The merry cadences of Tryon Palace's renowned Fife and Drum Corp will transport the crowd back to colonial days with performances at

10 am, 12 pm, and 2 pm. Musical historian Simon Spaulding will also perform. Other living history groups include: Camp Flintlock, a colonial group that provides demonstrations in music, open fire cooking, and more; the North Carolina Highland Regiment, an 18th century group depicting Highland loyalists from the upper Cape Fear River valley; and Captain Dry's Militia Company. Firing demonstrations will take place at 11 am, 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm, and 3:30 pm.

Be sure to visit Apprentice Alley, where children can participate and learn a variety of trades through hands on crafts and activities including

making a tricorne hat or mob cap, weaving, and rebus puzzles. The stocks and pillory provide a great photo opportunity as visitors learn about colonial crime and punishment.

There is another reason for this celebration of early America. This year marks the 225th anniversary of North Carolina ratifying the U.S. Constitution. A large replica of the ratification document will be on display and visitors can add their name, recreating the actions of the delegates.

Concessions will be available on site from R-Burger. Fayetteville's newest high quality mobile food vendor

will be serving fresh ground hamburgers, specialty burgers, and fresh cut fries. Funnel cakes, hot dogs, and pork rinds will also be available.

Admission to the event and all activities are Free. Activities take place in Arsenal Park located in the Haymount Historic District on the old Arsenal grounds at Arsenal Ave/Myrover Street minutes

from downtown Fayetteville.

For more information visit www.ncculture.com and search Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex.

This event is part of the Lafayette Birthday Celebration held annually in Fayetteville. For Lafayette Birthday Celebration events visit www.lafayettesociety.org

Chapel needs your rummage

On Saturday, October 18, from 8 am to 1 pm, the Chapel in the Pines will hold its 31st Annual Rummage Sale, at the Old West End Gym.

The Chapel needs many items to sell and are happy to receive donations from the community. The Chapel will accept furniture of all kinds, household and decorative

items are also "big sellers." Please keep the Chapel in mind as you do your fall cleaning and updates.

The Chapel cannot accept clothing, shoes, encyclopedias, or textbooks.

However, up-to-date books are preferred and can be accepted.

All proceeds from the rummage sale benefit the Chapel

"Community Christmas Fund." To schedule a time for early pick-up of donated items please call the Chapel office at 673-2156, between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Donated items may also be brought to the West End Gym on Friday, October 17, before noon.

AWANA Kick-Off

Seven Lakes Baptist Church AWANA youth group starts back with a Kick-off Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 pm outside the Hankins Family Life Center with free hot dogs, inflatables and games.

AWANA will then continue each Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8 pm at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

Seven Lakes Chapel Art Sale

Join the Chapel on Saturday, September 20, from 9 am to 2 pm for their art sale in the Fellowship Hall

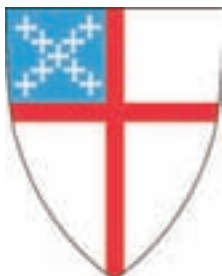
There will be many pictures on display, representing a wide variety of subject matter. Many are beautifully framed and some are signed. There are also empty frames just waiting for your pictures. They are priced to sell! All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Chapel "Community Christmas Fund."

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Children's Chapel - 9:45 am
Adult Christian Education - 10:45 am

Tuesday Mornings

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<p>289 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW</p> <p>SPACIOUS 4BD+BONUS, FENCED YARD \$299,900</p>	<p>115 BAKER • 7LW</p> <p>UNDER CONTRACT! LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT! RV/BOAT STORAGE - \$374,000</p>	<p>418 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW</p> <p>INSPECTIONS COMPLETE! SPACIOUS, GREAT LOCATION \$323,000</p>	<p>103 EDGEWATER • 7LN</p> <p>UNDER CONTRACT! WATERFRONT LAKE ECHO \$190,000</p>	<p>111 JOSEPH'S POINT • 7LW</p> <p>SUPERIOR LOT ON LAKE AUMAN \$375,000</p>
<p>119 DARTMOOR LN • 7LN</p> <p>3/2 GRANITE, HARDWOODS! \$199,900</p>	<p>107 PINWOOD CT • 7LN</p> <p>LAKE SEQUOIA WATERFRONT! SPACIOUS WITH AMAZING VIEWS - \$369,000</p>	<p>271 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW</p> <p>2800 SQ FT, WELL MAINTAINED! \$240,000</p>	<p>109 SANDHAM CT • 7LS</p> <p>TOTALLY RENOVATED TOWNHOME - \$159,000</p>	<p>134 SIMMONS DRIVE • 7LW</p> <p>LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT, ALL BRICK, GREAT VIEWS - \$585,000</p>
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Enough with the unnecessary stamping of feet

Over the past few years, Moore County's Board of Commissioners have done an excellent job of improving the efficiency of county operations.

When the recession took hold of the US economy in 2009, the county took a massive hit to its share of sales tax revenues — a loss that still hasn't been fully recovered. The Commissioners responded by raking through the budget and county operations with a fine-toothed comb, rooting out funded but unfilled positions, trimming expenses, looking for efficiencies.

And that all paid off. The County's General Fund expense budget is lower now than it was in 2008. Yet the services that the county provides to its citizens do not appear to have been hurt; the county has paid off bond debt early, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in interest; and local funding for the schools continues to match or exceed pre-recession levels.

When the Moore County Board of Commissioners stick to their knitting — providing local services to Moore County citizens — they are pretty darned good at what they do.

It's when they turn to politics that they tend to get sloppy.

The Board of Commission-

ers approved, during their Tuesday, August 19 regular meeting, a resolution on resettlement of illegal immigrants that is an ill-conceived, sloppily-written, inaccurate, confusing, and unnecessary bit of political posturing.

There's no doubt that some members of the Board are passionate about the immigration issue — and about the seeming inability of the federal government to get anything done about that problem and a host of other problems.

But passion is no excuse for signing onto badly-written political resolutions. Most of the folks who elected the five members of the Moore County Board of Commissioners put them in their seats to do what they, in fact, do quite well: run the county. They were not elected to try to run the federal government. And, when they do get involved in making political statements, they just get sloppy.

You can go read the resolution yourself, but here are a couple of points that illustrate the problem.

In one tortuous passage, the resolution says that the presence of 250 million folks

in the US "has resulted in a severe burden to the country, in terms of resources, services, education, employment, and increased crime."

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins

It's not clear what version of the US Census the Brunswick County folks who originally wrote the document were consulting — or why no one in Moore County checked the numbers — but the US Census bureau will tell you there are well over 300 million of us here now. If it was bad at 250 million, things must be really, really bad now.

The Moore County Commissioners would never make a mistake of that magnitude in their budget, but, when they stoop to politics, they don't seem to worry about checking the facts.

Another example. The resolution states that "the influx of school-age minors will have an adverse effect on our local school district educational funding, resources, campus security, public health and safety, as well as county

resources."

Federal data from the agency responsible for settling undocumented children indicates 1429 were settled with families in North Carolina from January to July of this year. If they reached Moore County in numbers proportionate to its share of the state population (just under one percent) that would be thirteen kids.

Since these children are being placed with Hispanic families, and Moore County has a lower percentage of Hispanics than the state as a whole, you can discount that number by thirty percent, which gets you to nine or ten kids.

Nine or ten kids are going to "have an adverse effect on our local school district education funding?" "On public health and safety?"

I could go on, but you get the idea.

Watching the federal government fail to deal with pressing problems, no matter your political loyalties, can be frustrating. It can be particularly frustrating for local elected officials, who actually manage to get things done for their constituents.

But there's a way to fix that. It's called voting.

Passing poorly-worded, sloppy resolutions is the local government equivalent of childishly stamping your feet because you aren't getting your way.

The members of the Moore County Board of Commissioners are better than that. They should resist the urge to stamp their feet and stick to what they do so well: taking care of Moore County.

A thank you for Pinehills Vet Service

A Sincere Thank You

We want to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Dave Garza with PineHills Mobile Veterinary Services.

He had been caring for our beautiful little girl papillon Ursa for the past several months and had worked miracles keeping her comfortable so we could enjoy her company for just a little longer. On Sunday, August 3, she suffered a stroke at 9:30 pm. Even though a weekend and very late at night I called him and he was at my house in 20 minutes. He and his

lovely wife as well as his assistant, Shayna, are two of the most compassionate and caring people you could ever meet.

He made life for Ursa much easier in her last few months and I don't know what we would have done without him on that Sunday night. The world needs more doctors (both human and animal) like him.

Thank you Dr. Garza for truly caring about your patients and their owners.

Brenda & Ed Massimo
Seven Lakes South

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Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

Why is it that a country that is just about the same size as New Jersey seems to be in the forefront of the news almost daily? Nearly half of the United Nations decisions involve this tiny little country.

The folks who live there have been enslaved and abused as much or more than any other people group in history. The hatred for and treatment of the people of this nation is reminiscent of a horror movie.

Have you guessed who it is yet? Yes, it is Israel.

Israel is one of the few nations in that area of the world who gives the same rights to women as are afforded to men, offers freedom of religion and speech.

Yet the United Nations Human Rights Council "deplores" and "condemns in the strongest terms" Israel's "grave, widespread systematic, and gross" "violations of human rights."

The word "Hamas" is never mentioned. Yet Hamas uses children as human shields. They send in wave after wave of suicide bombers into Israel. They fire rockets into Israel unprovoked and they rally around quotes like "We love death as much as Israel loves life."

Their stated agenda is to eliminate the Jews.

The UN Human Rights Council held a special session in Geneva on July 23 to declare effectively that Israelis do not have human rights. The session ended with a resolution that launched an "investigation" into what the Council decided in advance were Israel's violations of Palestinian rights. The vote was twenty-nine in favor, one against, and seventeen abstentions.

It appears that many of the European nations are so threatened by the growing Muslim populations in their countries that they would rather abstain than make a right decision. The U.N. seems to be growing more and more anti-Semitic every day.

As a Christian, I believe

that Israel is God's chosen people, and the deep hatred for this tiny nation stems from a hatred for God at the very base level.

curse those who curse him. He also promised that all of the nations of the world will be blessed through Israel.

A few years ago, I was able to go to Israel and one of our stops was

the Holocaust museum. It was set up as a timeline, so that you could see how the atrocities

could be allowed.

One of the most effective tools used by the Nazis was their propaganda machine which they used to dehumanize the Jewish people for about ten years before Hitler began to exterminate them.



I also believe that one of the reasons that the United States has been blessed is that we have stood with Israel on many occasions. In Genesis 12:3, God promises Abraham that He will bless those who bless him [Israel] and



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pm at the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. The lecture is free. Bring your lunch and the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens will provide drinks.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 7)
stay)...”

Kathy Bergquist, President of the League of Women Voters of Moore County, objected specifically to that clause during the public comment period of the Commissioners meeting.

“Media outlets as diverse in basic reporting philosophy as Fox News and National Public Radio have reported that the message for easy entry into the United States does not come from the United States government, but from unscrupulous individuals, called coyotes, posing as social workers, who are in fact human smugglers,” Bergquist said.

“While the League of Women Voters of Moore County is concerned about the rush that appears to have been placed on passing this resolution,” she added, and the perception the resolution will have among the 5,261 residents of Latino origin in Moore County . . . a county so dependent on agricultural and resort operations . . . we are also very concerned about some of the language.”

When the resolution came up for consideration later in the meeting, Commissioner Picerno agreed that the clause was overly political, and asked that it be stricken from the resolution.

Noting that his grandparents immigrated separately

from Italy to the US in 1900, and met at Ellis Island, Picerno said “There is a process for people wishing to come to the United States of America . . . We are a nation of laws and rules.”

He objected to immigrants breaking US laws by entering the country illegally, as well as to the inaction of the federal government, including both present and past administrations, to solve the immigration problem.

Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday, August 19 regular meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Heard from a number of pilots and Whispering Pines residents who were critical of the Board’s August 5 appointment of Whispering Pines Mayor Bob Zschoche to the Moore County Airport Authority.

- Approved an agreement supporting the county’s \$100,000 contribution to Partners in Progress that provides the economic development agency with more detailed objectives than has been the case in previous years.

- Renewed their decision not to provide Taylortown with a master water meter to serve a new Harris Teeter Shopping Center on NC Highway 211, indicating that the

county will serve the facility directly.

- Approved the purchase of a 1993 fire engine from the Village of Pinehurst for \$5,000. The truck will be stationed at the new Glendon-Carthage Road Fire & EMS station.

- Approved employment contract for Clerk to the Board Laura Williams and County Attorney Misty Randall Leland.

- Approved a state-required plan for inmate medical care

at the county detention center.

- Approved an encroachment agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. to allow the Public Utilities Department to move ahead installing a gravity feed sewer line that will allow the decommissioning of a faulty pump station near Vass.

- Accepted the report of the 2014 session of the Board of Equalization and Review. Chairman Jim McNiff reported that his board had

reviewed the tax valuation of 151 parcels, reducing the assessed value of 79 and increasing the valuation of six.

- Approved a \$101,000 Department of Social Services contract with Sandhills Transportation, which serves as the secondary non-emergency transportation option for Medicaid clients, when Moore County Transportation is unavailable. The cost is one hundred percent federally funded.

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Fences

(Continued from page 5)

"The back is too shady."

The board agreed that the fence guidelines needed more work.

Ritter recommended withdrawing the item, "Everyone needs more time to think about and process it."

"I will send it back to ARB with your comments," Hirsch said.

Where to Draw the Line?

The ARB also presented guidelines for docks for the board's consideration.

The proposed requirements included a rule that a dock cannot extend into the lake more than twenty feet. Former Director Conrad Meyer asked how the ARB would

determine where the shoreline is.

"There has been discussion about determining where the shore line is to measure from, he said. "I have bulkheads, so it is pretty easily determined."

On some lots, it's fairly obvious where the lawn ends and the lake begins, Meyer noted, but many lake front lots do not have a natural feature to determine the shoreline.

"There are some lots where the property lines ends, and then there is the water line," Hirsch said. "That's about as far as we went. In some cases there is the bulkhead, plus some additional ground to the water."

"Then you understand my question," Meyers said. "Where do you start the twenty feet from?"

Hirsch said neither he nor ARB knew the answer to that, adding that it is difficult to determine the shoreline, because water levels change with rainfall and season.

Resident George Temple recommended adding, "some definitive language that a dock can't be located within x feet of [a neighbor's] property line. If you build a four foot dock and park an eight foot boat, then the boat will extend into the neighbors water."

To better determine shoreline, Ritter recommended taking an average. "To make

sure we don't have docks stretching too far out into water, take an average high water line of the lake."

But lack of rainfall could make some docks unusable. Racine said he tried, in July, to move his boat; and his

motor got stuck in the mud.

"I couldn't get to the dock, especially in the coves," he said. "Some of the docks won't be usable."

The proposed dock rules were returned to the ARB's drawing board.

Catfish

(Continued from page 13)

pier.

The Lake Auman Sports Club works to make fishing an enjoyable sport.

"Right after the lake was finished, a few of us got together and decided we needed a sports club for families," Flinchum said. "We offered whole family memberships at \$15 per year."

"We [the sports club] take care of the buoys and docks. We have a fish feeder set up near the marina. It automatically goes off twice a day and holds about 150 pounds of fish food. The fish congregate up there, and it keeps them close to the pier so that kids have a place fish."

"The annual kids fishing tournament is coming up," Flinchum reported. "Seven Lakes West kids can fish with their parents or grandparents anywhere on the lake. The headquarters is up here at the marina. All they have to do is let us know what size fish they caught and show us the picture of the fish. They can throw back the fish."

The Sports Club also hosts an annual catered picnic and sponsors a bass tournament every year for sports club members and their guests. Most importantly, they help restock the lake.

Retirement on Lake Auman can still be defined as, 'gone

fishing' for many Westsiders.

Seven Lakes West might just be the retiree's dream, where you can sit on your pier in the cool of the evening, watching the cork bob, pull up supper, and dine like a king (or French priest).

There's a lot to be said for a catfish lifestyle.

Native freshwater mussels

The Sandhills Natural History Society will meet Monday, August 25 at 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

Jennifer Archambault, Research Associate in the Department of Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University, will give a presentation introducing every-

one to native freshwater mussels and their ecology, followed by some highlights of her mussel research, including thermal ecology and toxicology.

Visitors always welcome.

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Grimesey

(Continued from front page)

balance between creativity and accountability. That's a challenge."

Innovation

The public school classroom is changing rapidly, not only with more testing and more measures of teacher accountability, but also through the introduction of innovations in both technology and pedagogy.

Grimesey said MCS must keep pace with that change, but "we've got to move slow enough to ensure that our teachers are able to embrace it. It can't be something that we make them do; it's got to be something that they choose to do. And good leaders find ways to get them to choose to do it."

"Most of the time it works better if you create an environment in which they think it is their idea," he said, "and they get the credit for it."

"We've got to beware of what I call 'innovation saturation.' It's got to be balanced."

Facilities

"Moore County Schools currently has six major and seven smaller projects that have to be completed right now," Grimesey said.

"How do we know where to start?" he asked. Noting that the school board has approved a priority list of projects, Grimesey added, "but any one of those has to

be done immediately."

"And right out of the box, I am seeing different adult groups in the community jockeying for position — which is normal. But we have to be careful, that we don't allow our reasonable adult need to debate about these projects mean that we keep putting off the next one, because we are afraid somebody is going to get upset."

"We are going to do the one that the money is available for," he said, "because they are all needed. And the only option that we do not have is the option to do nothing. We have got to start something. And then we need to be planning for the next something."

Grimsey said he was confident that it is possible to find the right balance between the impact on taxpayers and the needs of children.

Funding

Grimesey's comments about school funding focused not on the local support MCS receives from the county, but instead on the broader question of state funding. The state provides sixty percent of MCS funding; the county, less than thirty percent.

"North Carolina simply cannot allow itself to rank among the states with the lowest paid teachers and the smallest educational investment per child. Period," Grimesey said. "The state that is the home of the Research Tri-

angle cannot afford that reputation . . . it can't happen."

"In terms of our state's reputation, how in heaven's name can we assume that that is good for North Carolina, if we continue to have the ratings that we currently do?" he asked.

"And taking the state budget and simply shifting money around to try to boost teacher salaries compared to other states, while depleting the resources to support those teachers is not necessarily the way to go either."

"At some point, we as North Carolina citizens have to make a decision about where we want our state to be and then we have to determine what that cost is, and then we've got to make some serious choices about what we're going to pay for."

Puppet on a string

A key problem with school funding — both state and federal — is the strings attached to it, Grimesey said.

"What's particularly frustrating for me — whether it's North Carolina, Virginia, or anywhere . . . is government's fetish with control. Technology has allowed, Washington, Richmond, Raleigh, to control some of the most detailed activity that occurs in our classrooms."

"And that puts me and the

central office administrators into a difficult position, where we have to be compliance officers more than leaders" he explained.

"That means you have to be conscious every day, you have to look in the mirror every day, and ask, 'Am I part of the problem or part of the solution?' Because, if you're not careful, you're nothing more than a puppet on a string carrying out what somebody from some faraway place is telling you to do."

From icing to cake plate

One Kiwanian asked Grimesey about the state's use of funds from the NC Education Lottery, saying he had heard that the state had applied lottery funds with one hand, while cutting existing funding sources with the other.

"I wish North Carolina were the only state doing that," said Grimesey, who moved

to North Carolina from Virginia to take the MCS job. "That is actually common practice on both sides of the border."

"We once upon a time had the education lottery available for extras. That is what would get you upgraded buildings. It would get you upgraded technology. It was for those things that kept North Carolina on the advanced end of education. Not too long ago — five, six years ago — North Carolina had a different reputation in terms of its competitiveness."

"This shift in lottery funding, which was once the icing on the cake, has now become the plate that supports the cake."

Teacher pay

Grimesey said the increases in teacher pay found in the just-approved FY 2014-2015 state budget come at the

(See "Grimesey," p. 27)



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Grimesey

(Continued from page 26)

expense of other spending on education.

"A lot of that money they say is going into teacher salaries is money that is begin shifted around," he said.

And the state budget offers little flexibility to local school districts in the way funds are allocated.

"There is more of a loss of local autonomy in North Carolina than what I had experienced before," Grimesey said. "We need to work on that."

The superintendent recalled a time when his Virginia district sent a team to Greensboro to recruit new teachers. They had previously recruited in Pennsylvania, but hoped to broaden the diversity of their workforce by recruiting further South.

"When our team came to Greensboro, we had people attaching to them like staples on a magnet," he said, "wanting to know how they could get to Virginia, who couldn't wait to see what other opportunities were out there."

On that trip, his team came back empty-handed, because the NC Teaching Fellows scholarship program was keeping new teachers in North Carolina.

"But now the money has been cut for that," Grimesey explained. "If my former school district were to come back now looking for teachers, they would find more ripe opportunity."

"And that is one of the poorer school districts in Virginia," he added, noting that Orange County had, in fact, the second lowest per student spending in Virginia.

"Still higher than Moore County," he said.

"There is room for us to have some conversations about that."



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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

Village drops Triangle J membership

Also during their Tuesday, August 12 meeting, the Foxfire Village Council agreed not to renew the Village's membership in the Triangle J Council of Governments. Triangle J promotes collaboration among local governments, stakeholders, and partners within seven counties including Orange, Chatham, Durham, Lee,

Wake, Johnson, and Moore. Moore County recently suspended its membership in Triangle J. Among Moore County municipalities, only Carthage, Cameron, and Foxfire Village are members.

Former Mayor Erickson had attended the monthly Triangle J meetings.

"George [Erickson] got some benefit and felt it personally helped in his duties as mayor," Durham said. "In my time serving on the Council, I haven't seen a lot of rel-

evance to Moore County. If you look at the section Triangle J covers, we are in the Southernmost end. Our needs here are more aligned with Montgomery and Richmond than they are with the counties that border us to the North."

As an alternate delegate, Councilman McCue attended several Triangle J Council meetings in Erickson's absence.

"We don't get a lot of bang for our buck," he said. "It is

a few hundred dollars. To us that is a whole lot of money. Triangle J is centered in the Raleigh Durham area."

Lower speed limit sought

Village residents have voiced complaints concerning excessive speeding on Hoffman Road. The council contacted the NC Department of Transportation asking that the speed limit be reduced.

"They have received the information and said that they will look into it and get back with us," Durham reported. "We took the initiative to enquire."

Regardless of whether the speed limit is reduced, the current speed limit needs to be enforced, advised Councilwoman Frusco.

"The only thing I am going to say is lowering the speed limit won't make any difference if we don't enforce it,"

she said. "It won't make any difference what those speed limit signs say, if it is not enforced."

Reynview paving complete

Paving has been completed at the entrance of Reynview Vista, with the goal of resolving a traffic problem created by a concrete slab that covers a Foxfire Village Water system shutoff valve.

"After a long, long time I am very pleased to report it is finished," Councilman Koos reported. "Also, the patching and fill in of cracks and chuckholes is just about finished as well."

Committee vacancies

There are currently vacancies on the Board of Adjustment and the Appearance Committee. Interested residents may call Village Clerk Lisa Kivett.

MegaPark

(Continued from page 6)

structure needed to develop the property."

"We have inherited some deals contractually — that we didn't do — that could end up costing the money needlessly," Chairman Larry Caddell said. "That is our biggest concern."

"All we are talking about here is how you divide the increased tax revenue," May

said. "This is about how you split up the pie. It's easier to reach an agreement now, when there is no pie there, than waiting till the pie is on the table."

"Can the agreement be reduced down to say just that — how the pie will be sliced — and take all the rest out?" Picerno asked.

And, ultimately, that is what the commissioners

asked attorneys May and Leland to do — to pare down the agreement to state simply how Moore and Montgomery would share any new tax revenues generated by development in the MegaPark.

"I would like to see it go from about thirty-one pages to about two," Commissioner Otis Ritter said. "Make us an agreement that we can understand."

Montgomery County's commissioners had already approved the language May presented, so the revised agreement will need to win approval from both Boards.

Chairman Caddell asked that it be ready for action at a Commissioners meeting in September.

SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 4)

new fee this year.

Board Director Sandy Sackman noted, "The renter would still be responsible for other applicable community fees as determined by the board."

Help for the Country Club?

During the discussion of new business, a member expressed his concern about the financial viability of the Seven Lakes Country Club.

"I would like to draw attention to common knowledge that the Seven Lakes Country Club is becoming a little bit unstable," he said. "Members are aging out, and folks aren't member of clubs like they used to be."

"I know there has been some covenant language changes," he said, referring to recent changes in the covenants governing the country club property that ensure it will remain either a golf course or open space.

"It would behoove us to

lend any assistance, if there is any to lend, to come up with some solutions to keep it community-owned and that it stays semi-private."

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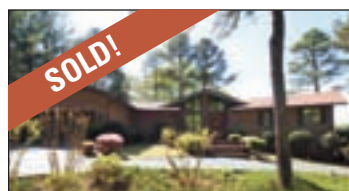
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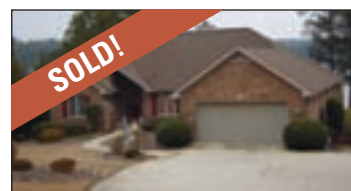
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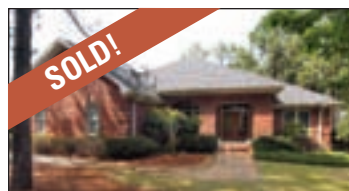
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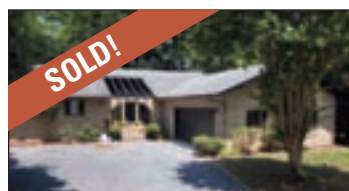
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