

## Moore MicroFashion



Chloe Green keeps a tight grip on her doggie while shopping at the Cameron Antiques Fair in October. See pages 10, 11, 20, & 21 for more Times photos from 2014.

## Commissioners see no need for tax increase

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Moore County's newly-constituted Board of Commissioners seem no more inclined than the previous board to raise property tax rates.

When the Commissioners opened their annual planning retreat on Monday, January 5 with a discussion of their personal goals for the year, the common thread was keeping property taxes at current levels.

All Moore County property will be revalued for tax purposes this year, and a key question is whether the total value of real estate in the county — the tax base — will rise, fall, or stay the

same.

Whatever happens to the overall tax base, the commissioners appear determined to minimize the impact on individual taxpayers.

"My number one goal is, in our tax revaluation, that Moore County taxpayers will not see any increase whatsoever in what they are going to pay," Chairman Nick Picerino said.

County Manager Wayne Vest "and the staff have done an excellent job in controlling costs while providing service to our citizens and getting good value for our tax dollars," he added.

"These folks out here in the audience hired me," Commissioner Otis Ritter said, "and I am going to try to work with them to keep their

taxes at that current level."

"Like the rest of our board members, I also want to keep our taxes at the current rate," Commissioner Catherine Graham said. "Bottom line — no increase. If you're paying \$100 a year now, then I hope you will pay \$100 a year next year."

"With Wayne's leadership, the staff has done a great job of keeping spending under wraps, Commissioner Randy Saunders said.

"I can't imagine that we won't be able to stay revenue neutral" — in other words, based on the new overall valuation, set a tax rate that will produce the same amount of revenue for the county."

(See "Taxes," p. 29)

## What's the goal of the concept high school?

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



While supporting the idea of a "concept" high school designed to

provide graduating high school seniors with marketable career skills, some members of the Board of Education appear anxious to nail down exactly what skills should be included in the new school's course offerings — and to make sure the course offerings reflect the needs of Moore County employers.

Members of the Moore County Schools [MCS] administrative staff presented the results of a web-based

survey that solicited public opinion about the new school during the January 5 meeting. Over ten days, the poll attracted responses from 1,069 citizens, including 518 students and 350 parents.

Associate Superintendent Kathy Kennedy said 59 percent of the responses came from the area served by Pinecrest High School, 30 percent from the Union Pines area, and 11 percent from North Moore.

Board member Charles Lambert urged that staff make an extra effort to alert North Moore residents to opportunities for input, since many residents in that area do not regularly peruse media based in Southern Moore

County.

Survey respondents were presented with a list of potential course offerings, grouped within four "academies," which included Life & Health Sciences, Agriculture, Design & Production, and Hospitality & Culinary Arts.

Most proposed course offerings received at least some votes. Among the most popular were Animal Science (including Veterinary Assisting), Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management, Horticulture (including Golf Course & Turf Management), and Life & Health Science (including Physical Therapy, Anesthesiologist, & Nursing).

There results "tell us we  
(See "School," p. 27)

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# You can get your Girl Scout cookies online

North Carolina Coastal Pines announced that girls from local troops will be part of Girl Scouts' new national Digital Cookie platform, a revolutionary addition to the Girl Scout Cookie Program that will enhance and expand the program's ability to teach girls new skills for business and life.

The groundbreaking platform adds a new digital layer that broadens and strengthens the essential five Skills

girls learn in the traditional cookie program, including goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. The future of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, Digital Cookie will introduce vital 21st century lessons about online marketing, application use, and e-commerce to more than one million excited Girl Scouts.

Digital Cookie follows Girl Scouts' classic "hands on" approach to teaching girls new skills. Utilizing ABC Baker's COCO Cookie Com-

mand platform, local Girl Scouts are able to create a customized, web-based business center to set and track goals, manage their cookie activities online, and even accept orders through select smartphones and tablets.

Customers who buy cookies from girls using the new COCODirect application will be able to have their order processed, paid for, and confirmed right in front of their eyes.

This platform offers an online experience that allows girls to learn about digital

money management, and teaches modern skills while aligning with the interests of today's girls.

"Through Digital Cookie, we are bringing the Girl Scout Cookie Program fully into the 21st century," said Lisa Jones, chief executive officer at Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines.

"Digital Cookie lets us continue our proud tradition of teaching today's girls the skills of tomorrow, while remaining true to the core principles of the Girl Scout mission and the values taught by our iconic cookie program."

Because 100 percent of the net revenue raised through

the Girl Scout Cookie Program stays with the local council and troops, customers who purchase Girl Scout Cookies are not only getting a delightful treat—they are also making an important investment in their communities.

Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines will begin using the COCODirect platform at the start of its cookie-selling season that kicks off on Saturday, January 17, 2015 and will run through Sunday, March 1.

To learn more about Digital Cookie or about Girl Scouts, visit [www.nccoastalpines.org](http://www.nccoastalpines.org) or call (800) 284-4475.

## CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

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## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, Jan 16	Fri, Jan 23
Fri, Jan 30	Fri, Feb 6
Fri, Feb 13	Fri, Feb 20
Fri, Feb 27	Fri, Mar 6
Fri, Mar 13	Fri, Mar 20
Fri, Mar 27	Fri, Apr 3
Fri, Apr 10	Fri, Apr 17
Fri, Apr 24	Fri, May 1
Fri, May 8	Fri, May 15
Thu, May 21*	Fri, May 29
Fri, Jun 5	Fri, Jun 12
Fri, Jun 19	Fri, Jun 26
Thu, Jul 2*	Fri, Jul 10
Fri, Jul 17	Fri, Jul 24
Fri, Jul 31	Fri, Aug 7
Fri, Aug 14	Fri, Aug 21
Fri, Aug 28	Fri, Sep 4
Fri, Sep 11	Fri, Sep 18
Fri, Sep 25	Fri, Oct 2
Fri, Oct 9	Fri, Oct 16
Fri, Oct 23	Fri, Oct 30
Fri, Nov 6	Fri, Nov 13
Thu, Nov 19*	Fri, Nov 27
Fri, Dec 4	Fri, Dec 11
Thu, Dec 17*	Fri, Dec 25

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

## Body Flowers Workshop

On Tuesday, February 3, from 10 am until noon, Carol Dowd of Botanicals Florist will conduct a "Body Flowers Workshop." It will held at Sandhills Community College, Horticultural Gardens in the Ball Visitors Center.

Participants will have the opportunity to make a gold wire and floral brooch and one other surprise item.

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# Cunningham: Faith that democracy works

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



How does a criminal defense attorney with a busy statewide practice wind up chairing a local school board?

The answer might just lie with US Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren — if the attorney in question is Bruce Cunningham, who has just been elected to his second stint as Chairman of the Moore County Board of Education.

As a student at the University of Virginia's School of Law, Cunningham had the "joy and the privilege" of talking with the former Chief Justice, who was invited to a class in constitutional law class taught by one of his former clerks.

"I got to ask Chief Justice Earl Warren questions like 'For what case would you most like to be remembered?'" Cunningham told *The Times*.

Warren presided over the Court from 1953 until 1969, through the turbulent 1960s, and Cunningham and his fellow students expected that the the justice's answer would surely be *Brown vs. Board of Education* — the school desegregation decision — or *Miranda v. Arizona* — the decision that generated the "Miranda warning," given to suspects being placed under arrest.

"He thought about it for a minute and said 'Baker vs. Carr.' That was the one man one vote case," Cunningham explained.

"He said, and I'll never forget it, 'if the democratic process is working the way it's supposed to, most of the rest of the problems take care of themselves.' You don't need courts going in there and micromanaging society, if the democratic process is working."

Chief Justice Warren's surprising answer left Cunningham with a strong interest in constitutional law and abiding conviction that democratic institutions — like a local school board, for exam-

ple — can effect real, positive change.

## Thanks to the US Navy

Cunningham found himself in a constitutional law class at the University of Virginia, in part, thanks to the US Navy.

His father was a chemist with Continental Can Company. Though Cunningham was born in Ohio, corporate transfers moved the family to Connecticut and then on to Charlotte, when he was in the fifth grade.

Graduating from East Mecklenburg High School in 1966, Cunningham made his way to UNC-Chapel Hill. As graduation approached, knowing he was headed toward a change in his draft status, Cunningham was commissioned in the US Navy as a potential attorney in the judge advocate general's office.

By the time he graduated from UVA in 1973, the Vietnam War had wound down, and the demand for military lawyers had declined. Of the seventy-five just-graduated JAG lawyers-to-be, twenty-five were released, including Cunningham.

"I fulfilled my four-year commitment in thirty days," he explained.

## Hello, Moore County

Having expected to serve in the US navy for at least four years, Cunningham had not, of course, interviewed with any private law firms.

So, he joined the Moore County firm of his "ex-father-in-law," Pollock, Fullenwider, Van Camp, Robbins, & May, taking a desk in the firm's Carthage office, above the Sears, Roebuck & Co. catalog office on the traffic circle.

That bit of happenstance — courtesy of the US Navy — converted Cunningham into a dedicated Moore Countian and a criminal defense attorney.

The latter conversion was aided and abetted by a country lawyer, cum gubernatorial candidate, cum television commentator named Herbert Floyd Seawell, Jr., known more commonly as "Chub."

"My first assignment was to squire Chub Seawell around the state for numerous court appearances," Cunningham explained. That's how I got exposed to trial  
(See "Cunningham," p. 25)



Moore County School Board Chairman Bruce Cunningham



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# West Side entrance got whole new look in 2014

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter

A full year of work and an investment of \$715,000 transformed the entrance to Seven Lakes West this past year. Improvements included the removal of the old gate house, construction of a new gate house positioned further inside the community, reconfigured entrance lanes, new pavement, new entry signage, and fresh landscaping. New trees were planted and new arrows painted on the entrance lanes in the final days of 2014.

Eleven years of planning, public hearings, and good old-fashioned nagging bore fruit when the NC Department of Transportation and the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway installed new railroad crossing signals and gates at the intersection of Lakeway Drive and NC Highway 211.

Another long-term Westside infrastructure project was brought to a successful completion in 2014: the installation of fire hydrants. The Board thanked Patti Cleary and Ray Mackay for their persistence in moving that project forward.

## Internal traffic enforcement begins

Speeding on Westside roadways continued to be a top concern residents of Seven Lakes West; but neither pleas nor warnings from Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Directors succeeded in persuading residents to enjoy life in the slow lane.

By late Summer, the Board and management were ready to take action. A special meeting was called in September to address safety and security, moderated by former SLWLA President Director Mick Herdrich. A sizable crowd of residents turned out to express their concern for the safety of law abiding

motorists, pedestrians, and children.

After much discussion and input, the SLWLA Board decided to begin enforcing the speed limit using Security staff, issuing violation letters to offenders. At the last count more than thirty residents had been cited and fined \$50 each. A offender who repeats within a six month period is fined an additional \$100.

## Repaving of Longleaf Drive gets underway

An unintentional deterrent to speeding was introduced in November, when the repaving of a bit more than one mile of Longleaf Drive got underway. A comprehensive study of the road conditions within the Seven Lakes West community began in 2011, generating a six-year plan for repaving and patching along Longleaf and highly-traveled neighborhood streets.

"This is my last year on this job, and it will get done," Infrastructure Director Jim Pierman announced during

the November Board Meeting. "I am bound and determined. We have started it and will finish it." Pierman said.

The year ended with the first layer of new asphalt laid on Longleaf from Lakeway to Smathers, with the completion of the top layer waiting for better weather.

Repaving — as well as roadside maintenance — is driving up both operating and capital costs on the West Side. The Finance Committee has recommended a small dues increase for FY 2016.

## Living fence on the perimeter

To better establish and enforce boundaries, on the recommendation of the CSI Committee, a living fence was planted along the Parkwood boundary, separating Seven Lakes West from a portion of the Seven Lakes Business Village. The shrubbery will grow into an almost impenetrable barrier that is expected to will keep out not only humans, but also deer

(See "Westside," p. 19)

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# Zoning issues occupied Village Council in 2014

By Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Planning and zoning issues occupied the Foxfire Village Council for most of 2014, but the biggest Village news of the year may have been the resignation of longtime Mayor George Erickson.

After serving the Village of Foxfire for more than a decade as a councilman — including nine years as Mayor — Erickson resigned July 1. He moved to Foxfire Village in 1992 and was first appointed to the Village Council in 2003. After his resignation, he relocated to Florida.

Announcing his resignation at a regular meeting of the Council, Erickson recounted a number of accomplishments during his term of office, including the funding and construction of Village Green Park, the renovation of the Village swimming pool, the updating of the ordinances and website, the growth of the village from 2100 acres to 5000 acres, the creation of the Long Range Planning Committee, and the approval of a ten year long range plan.

Following Erickson's resignation, residents were encouraged to apply to fill the vacant seat on the Coun-

cil. Residents Helen Kirk and Jon Sedlak both submitted applications and each was interviewed by the Council during a special meeting.

Sedlak had been employed as the Village's Water Superintendent for six years. After much discussion, the Council decided that Sedlak's familiarity with the Village's infrastructure gave him a slight edge over Kirk, who offered a strong administrative background and thirty-six years of managerial experience.

Sedlak was appointed to serve out Erickson's term, and the Council encouraged Kirk to run for office during the next election.

## Unzoned land inside the Village limits

Early in 2014, Councilwoman Leslie Frusco brought the Council's attention to a large tract of land on Foxfire Road, owned by developer Robert Edwards, that had remained unzoned after being annexed in June 2009.

Several small acreages within the Edward's tract had been sold to families who had an interest in small-scale farming. Because the tract was unzoned, those small holdings were not subject to the Village's zoning ordinances.

Planning and Zoning Committee Chair Mary Gilroy told

the Council that that national trends reflected a growing interest in a sustainable small scale farming and a declining interest in golf. The Council agreed that the Committee could research alternative zoning that might be suitable for the Edwards tract.

Planning & Zoning worked with the landowners to develop a better understanding of their priorities, which included sustainable farming, husbandry, and various other interests suited to larger tracts of land. In March, the committee recommended that the Council consider establishing a new "Rural Estate" zoning district for the Edwards tract.

The Rural Estate district would provide areas where the principal use of land is for low-density rural and residential development. The district allows for a limited number of animals and specific agricultural activities.

A public hearing on the

proposal was held in April. To better explain the purpose of a rural estate district, "The rural estate district is . . . a bridge between what is now the Village and the neighboring rural agricultural areas," Gilroy said during the meeting. "The design is the best of both worlds."

She explained that zoning would give landowners more freedom and the opportunity to farm their land, have animals, or even the room to collect classic cars.

"It's just allows for

increased latitude," Gilroy said. "These are good size parcels. The minimum lot is six acres."

## Solar Farms as a Conditional Use

A request for a commercial-scale solar farm in Foxfire Extraterritorial Jurisdiction [ETJ] took the Village's Planning & Zoning Committee into more uncharted territory last year.

David Wilson, whose large farm and acreage falls within

(See "Foxfire," p. 18)

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# SLLA wrestled with big ticket capital maintenance

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Policy, procedure, and measured progress carried the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] through 2014.

Much energy, time, and scrutiny went into rewriting the Association's bylaws, which were approved in February, prior to the March Annual Meeting.

Newly elected SLLA President Bob Racine labored throughout the year to ensure that action items were evaluated by all relevant committees before being brought to the Open Meeting for approval.

Big ticket items like proposed pool renovations and a new pasture fence appeared on the Board's Work Session agenda for discussion, were sent back to one or more committees for consideration, and then came back to the Work Session for further discussion, before proceeding to the open meetings.

## Capital Improvements Plan approved

In the Spring, Facilities Director Chuck Leach presented a proposed Capital Improvement Plan which had been vetted by the full gamut of committees.

Infrastructure and amenities targeted for repairs included boat slips, decking, piers, beaches, lighthouse, swimming pool, patio, tennis courts, stable bathrooms and fencing, tennis courts, clubhouse, roofing, and pavilions. Leach's proposal not only included necessary pool updates but also beautification of the surrounding patio area. Attached to the plan was an estimate of what proposed work would cost.

The SLLA Board approved the overall plan, with the understanding that individual projects would return for approval as they move to the top of the to do list.

Not included on Leach's schedule were road repaving and and state-mandated dam

repairs, which are paid for from a separate capital fund.

Repairs to the lighthouse and several of the lakefront pavilions and the projects were completed.

## Pasture fence sparks debate

In September, the Recreation Committee presented the Board with a recommendation of new electric rope fencing for the SLLA pasture. Board member Mary Farley reported that the thirty-year old split rail and electric fencing was unstable, and that horses were able to escape.

Recreation's proposal didn't sit well with the Architectural Review Board, and the ensuing heated debate resulted in the resignation of Director Bill Hirsch — for the second time in 2014.

Both the Recreation and ARB committees refined their proposals over several weeks, but Recreation withdrew their recommendation during the December Open Meeting, hoping to accelerate the process in order to avert the risk of injury due to a horse breaching the fence.

## Pool repairs approved

Proposed repairs to the Northside swimming pool generated an even longer-running debate among committee and board members.

Director Leach's Capital Improvements Plan roughed in a \$120,000 figure for repairs to the pool deck and basin, but estimates both significantly higher and lower were debated throughout the year.

During the December Open Meeting, the Directors finally reached agreement on the scope of pool repairs, and on a price of \$94,000. The work would include applying a plaster quartz finish to the pool basin and replacing tile. A \$10,000 buffer was built into the approved expenditure to cover any unexpected problems that might be discovered during excavation.

## Bocce is a hit

One of the most popular additions to the SLLA recreation amenities in 2014 was a bocce court.

Over the Summer, the court proved to be increasingly popular with as many as eighteen players waiting their

turn to play. After considerable lobbying by bocce players, construction of two new bocce ball courts was approved in December, at a not to exceed cost of \$8,000.

## Sledding banned on dam

Seven Lakes typically receives only one or two sled-worthy snowfalls each year, and those rare events have typically sparked a congregation of young folks on the steep face of Sequoia Dam.

But the best sledding spot in Seven lakes is now off limits. A serious sledding accident at the dam in February raised concerns about safety and liability, The SLLA Board voted in April to ban sledding on Sequoia dam, over the

objections of Director Leach.

## Resignations

Several Directors resigned during the past year, Hirsch, Rich Faraci, Bob Darr, and Steve Hudson. Steve Ritter and Dave Hill were appointed to serve out the unexpired terms of Hudson and Faraci.

The stables also saw two turnovers in management. Stable Manager Kate Pennington was replaced by Amanda Duggan, who herself resigned at year's end.

Assistant Stable Manager, resident and longtime volunteer Samantha Baker was made the new stable manager in December.

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# Commissioners share goals for the coming year

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



From better security for the county tax office to new parks and recreation facilities, Moore County's Commissioners shared their interests in specific initiatives or areas of special concern during a roundtable discussion that kicked off the Board's annual planning retreat on Monday and Tuesday, January 5 and 6.

While they share a common commitment to holding the line on property taxes, the varied backgrounds of the individual Commissioners generated a varied list of possible initiatives and emphases.

## Picerno: How do we make ourselves one board?

Kicking off the discussion, Chairman Nick Picerno noted that, six years ago, when he began his first term as Commissioner, "we had a board that supposedly thought a lot alike, but definitely didn't get along very well."

"Trying to bring the Board together was my number one goal. How do we make ourselves one board, focus on the needs and interests of the citizens of our county, ahead of all our personal egos?"

"Six years later, that has transformed. And now we have the finest staff of any

county government in the state," Picerno said.

"I believe that government is well-intentioned and well needed, he continued. "But, when we read about things that concern us — over-regulation, over-taxation, and so on — I realize it is not the staff that has put us there. It is us, elected officials, that have put us there."

"So, when we come up with new ideas, well-intentioned ideas, we have to really think about them. If we believe in smaller government, lower taxation, less regulation, then our actions on the Board should reflect that."

## Ritter: Focus on Public Safety

"Public safety is where my heart is," Commissioner Otis Ritter said. Ritter has served in various aspects of emergency medical services for nearly his entire lifetime, including service at the state level and serving as the long-time chairman of the county's Emergency Services Advisory Committee.

"We need to reduce our response times to any emergency," Ritter said. "We have to place our units strategically, and we need to invest in Quick Response Vehicles [QRVs] instead of full-sized ambulances."

Ritter pledged to work with the Public Safety Department and Sheriff's Office "to get them what they need to do their job."

Turning to economic matters, Ritter said the county needs to foster economic development, so that growth in the tax base, rather than tax rate increases, can fund growth in county services and the need for new schools.

"I will work with the school board to do what we can afford to do," Ritter said, "not what it might be nice to have. We would like to have the nicest of everything, but the people of the county can't afford to buy everything at one time."

He noted that the growth of the county's water and sewer infrastructure is a key factor influencing economic growth.

Ritter said he is uncomfortable with the level of security at the historic courthouse in Carthage.

"We have some folks working there that are making some unpopular decisions about taxes," he said.

And, finally, noting the small number of citizens who attend Commissioners meetings, Ritter said the acoustics in the meeting room make it hard for the audience to follow the proceedings.

"I would like to see us look toward doing something about the acoustics in there. Then folks will come back to the meetings."

## Graham: Grow economy to keep taxes low

Commissioner Catherine Graham, who was elected in November to the seat previously held by Larry Caddell, agreed with Ritter that spurring economic development is the key to expanding the tax base and, thereby, keeping tax rates low.

"To accomplish this on a long-term basis, we need new businesses," Graham said.

Key to employer and business recruitment, Graham said, is providing an educated work force.

Praising the county's high-quality schools and community college, Graham said,

(See "Goals," p. 23)

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# Mother and son business preserves a North

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter

Joe Frye looks younger than he is. Except for his tired eyes, it's hard to believe he is 31. He is quiet, polite, and thoughtful. He used to

take to the stage with a guitar and play his own style of raised in Moore County hard-hitting blues.

His mother Melodie Frye is also quiet, polite, and gracious. She prefers playing

classical Carolina front porch guitar. Her soft spoken daddy Marvin "Claw-hammer" Frye can play the lonesome blue-grass fiddle sweet enough to make you cry.

It's a crying shame they don't get to play more.

But, last Summer, Joe set aside his guitar for another line of work, after talking Melodie into joining his venture. On July 1, Joe rented the D & M Service Station on NC Highway 24/27 midway between Carthage and Robbins.

"I've been too busy to play much," Joe said. "I haven't played nowhere in a while."

In his spare time, Joe works

with Keith Caperna building custom cabinets, remodeling, and laying hardwood and tile floors. He also raises nearly

10,000 quail that he sells to PineLake Hunting Plantation and individuals.

(Continued on page 9)



Melodie & Joe Frye are helping keep a North Moore landmark alive at D&M Service Station



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# Moore gathering spot

(Continued from page 8)

"Some people want to buy a dozen or so to see if they can get them to come back on their land," Joe said.

"You used to hear quail all the time," added Melodie, who works weekdays at the store.

"We are closed on the weekends," she said. "This was Joe's idea. He wanted to do

it, and I told him I have never done anything like this before. But Joe persisted, so I said, 'Let's give it a try.'"

"The gentleman that had the store before was retiring," she explained. "I had always been a customer of the store and I hated to see it close."

"I asked him if he would be interested in renting it and let us keep it going," Joe

added. "It's been here since 1948."

Melodie has proven her mettle before. At the age of eighteen, she was the first Village Clerk for Pinehurst after it became a municipality. She worked there for ten years.

D&M sells the comfort foods you'd expect to find in an

(See "Frye," p. 24)



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# Front Page Photo Gallery

2014 brought plenty of great photos to the pages of *The Seven Lakes Times*. Here are some editor's favorites that appeared on the front page last year.



*Little Laker Hailey Mullinex made the most of a rare heavy snow that blanketed Moore County last February.*



*Helen Mantila & Mandy Martin of FirstHealth Family Care Center brought the Derby Day spirit to the Business Guild's Spring Fest.*



*The SLLA's well-attended Spring horse camp was great fun — particularly for Bandit, who got the full spa treatment, courtesy of little campers.*



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Chloe Baker & Sydney Baldwin prepare a healthy fruit smoothie at West Pine Middle's Earth Day fair.



Ayden Vest is a ferocious — if awfully cute — pirate during the SLLA Stables' Halloween Party



Nancy Koster of the Culdee Quilters gets down to business with her Singer featherweight

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Dr. Colter Chitwood with two young fawns outfitted with tracking collars.

## Coyotes in the Sandhills presentation at SOS

Whether for good or for bad, coyotes have arrived in North Carolina. They can now be found in all 100 of North Carolina's counties. This has happened only in the past couple of decades, so the Eastern Coyote is a relatively new phenomenon on the landscape.

Locally, in the Southern Pines area, the Moore County Hounds are now routinely running coyotes on their outings. Everybody still calls it fox hunting, but they are mostly running coyotes. Similar increases in coyote populations are being seen in all other eastern states.

What will be their impact? Will they be a detriment to the native wildlife species, or will they somehow prove to be beneficial? Do they pose any threat to humans or their pets? Is the Eastern Coyote a new subspecies? What does

their DNA tell us? Fortunately, scientists are trying to find the answers to those questions.

One of the scientists is Dr. Colter Chitwood, who will deliver a presentation on his findings on Thursday, January 29, at 7 pm at the Save Our Sandhills meeting.

Dr. Chitwood has conducted extensive studies on the Fort Bragg Military Reservation of coyote diets, behavior, and movements. He grew up hunting, fishing, and exploring the woods in North Georgia, where he developed an early appreciation of wildlife and science.

Dr. Chitwood holds a BS in Environmental Science from UNC-Chapel Hill and an MS and Ph.D in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology from NC State University.

The public is invited to the

Save Our Sandhills meeting and to Dr. Chitwood's presentation on Thursday, January 29, 7 pm, at the Southern Pines Civic Club, located at the corner of Pennsylvania Ave. and Ashe St. Refreshments served. All are welcome.

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# In memory of . . .

**Ricky Lynn Pope**, 52, of West End, died Saturday, January 3,

He was a native of Moore County.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charlie Pope.

Survivors include his wife Debbie Hannah Pope; his Mother Aggie Bell Cockman Pope of Carthage; daughters Heather Bryant and husband, John, of West End; Patricia Furr of West End; brother, Carter Pope, and wife Wanda, of West End; sister, Sue Caddell and husband, Bobby, of Carthage; and his grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, January 7, at West End Baptist Church. The Reverend John Terry officiated.

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines is assisting the family.

**Joseph William Diemar**, 90, formerly of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, January 3, at St. Joseph of the Pines following a long illness.

Mr. Diemar was born in Fort Lee, NJ the son of the late Joseph and Genevieve Diemar.

Survivors include his daughter, Margaret A. (Peggi) McKenzie of Aberdeen; sons Thomas J. Diemar of Leesburg, VA; William Gregory Diemar of Burlington, VT; and Richard Diemar of GA; nine grandchildren; and eleven great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be

held at a later date.

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines is assisting the family.

**Janice Teague**, 75, of Seven Lakes, died Thursday, January 1, at Moore Regional Hospital after suffering a heart attack. She was surrounded by family and friends.

She was born in Harnett County and was the daughter of William Charles Grimes, and Sudie Barnhill Grimes Core.

Mrs. Teague was a school teacher in the Moore County Public School system for nearly thirty years. She enjoyed cooking and traveling.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, William Charles Grimes, Jr., and Terry Grimes.

Survivors include her son, Jack Stanley Teague, his wife, Carrie, and grandchildren: Samantha, Sydney, and Sean, of Charlotte.

A memorial service celebrating Mrs. Teague's life will be held at 3 pm, on Saturday, January 17, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 2125 Seven Lakes South, Seven Lakes, NC 27376.

**Vi Riddell**, 94, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 17, at Quail Haven Village, Pinehurst.

She died of longevity and its various challenges – a fall, the related effects and complications, and a series of strokes over her last few weeks.

Violet Gladys (Janda) Riddell was born in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter to Anna Rose (Mottys) and Anton Janda.

Her parents were members of the Bohemian community in the Chicago area, and the family lived in Cicero and Berwyn. She attended public schools in Berwyn, graduating from J. Sterling Morton High School. She pursued further education at Morton Junior College, earning an associate's degree, and then went to Northern Illinois State Teachers College where she received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

She married her high school sweetheart, Fred Riddell, shortly after his graduation from the University of Illinois in Metallurgical Engineering as he entered the U.S. Navy.

They were stationed in Washington, DC for the last two years of World War II.

Mrs. Riddell worked as a teacher and a substitute

teacher in Chicago suburban schools in the 1940's and 1950's.

After having lived in Downers Grove for three decades, and succeeded in sending their children to college, Mrs. Riddell and her husband Fred retired and moved to Seven Lakes in 1979.

They were members of the Seven Lakes Country Club, and later members of Richmond Pines. They enjoyed bridge and contract bridge and traveled abroad, frequently, and participated in Elder Hostel activities.

She was a Board Member of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association and volunteered working with Pine Tree Enterprises in West End, the Sandhills Coalition, and Tuesday Tutoring at the West End Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Riddell preceded in death by her sister, Irene (Janda) Saggars; her husband Fred; and her son, David.

She is survived by her daughter, Lynne Maroun, of Seven Lakes; and by her son, Tom Riddell, and his wife, Meg Robbins, of Northampton, MA; her grandchildren step-grand-children; and her great- and step-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services and a celebration of her life will be held at West End Presbyte-

rian Church in West End, at 2 pm, on Saturday, January 17.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Vi Riddell's memory to First Health Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374, or Tuesday Tutoring at West End Presbyterian Church, PO Box 13, West End, NC 27376.

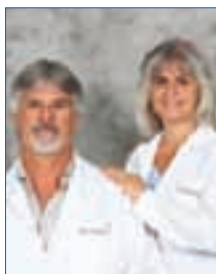
**Dr. Mahlon B. Huffman**, 97, of Winston-Salem, died December 26.

Dr. Huffman was born in Amelia, TX. In 1936, he entered Texas A&M University, where he received a BS degree in Marketing and Finance, and a commission as a 2nd Lt. in the Army field artillery. He was called to duty in 1940 serving for two years at Fort Bragg, NC and overseas in the Pacific and India. After his discharged in 1945 as a Major, he returned to Texas A&M, and received a degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1949.

Dr. Huffman entered the U.S. government service in 1949 with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and served in several states including North Carolina where he met his wife Margaret Elizabeth McDonald of Pinehurst.

(Continued on page 14)

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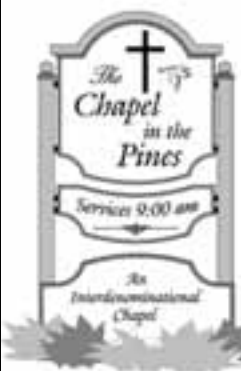


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# In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 13)

After serving in several states, he spent the remaining years of his career in Bismarck, ND as Veterinarian in Charge (VIC) where he was in charge of the APHIS field force in three states (ND, SD, & MT).

He and his wife retired in 1979, moved to Kinston, NC in 1981, then to Winston-Salem in 1997.

Dr. Huffman was a member of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church, and the Military Officer Association of America as a Lt. Colonel.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Margaret; daughter, Marsha Petersen (Robert) of Knoxville, TN; son, Jeffery Huffman, Winston-Salem, NC; grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and special nephews.

Interment was at 12 pm, Friday January 2, at McDonalds Chapel, Pinehurst.

Memorial donations may be made to Texas A&M Foundation, College of Veterinary Medicine, Director of Development, 4461 TAMU, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-4461.

**Franklin Farmer**, 78, of Winston-Salem, died Wednesday, December 24, at Forsyth Medical Center.

He was born in Moore County son to the late Archie P. and Lillian M. Farmer.

He was a member of 1954 graduating class at West End High School and a past member of West End Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Farmer was an active member of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church and involved in the choir. He was

a U.S. Navy Veteran and a Mason and enjoyed playing his guitar and working with black powder weapons.

Mr. Farmer was preceded in death by his wife of forty-six years, Jessie Farmer; and his brother, Robert A. Farmer.

He is survived by his sisters, Pat Moore of Raleigh; Karen Troutman and husband, Jerry of Fayetteville; brothers, Donald Farmer and wife, Betty of Morris, IL; and brother, Philip Farmer and wife, Polly of Wilson and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at 3 pm Saturday, January 3, at Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church. An inurnment followed in the church columbarium.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church Music Fund, 3543 Robinhood Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

**Rosa Honeycutt Scarboro**, 97, of West End, and formerly of Raeford, died Wednesday, December 24, at Kingswood Nursing Home, Aberdeen.

She was the daughter of the late Archie and Mattie Honeycutt of Vass.

Mrs. Scarboro was married to Russell Robert Scarboro and they had five children. She was a housewife, enjoyed gardening, reading, and spending time with her family and her cats.

She is preceded in death by her husband Russell Robert Scarboro; son Norman F. Scarboro; daughter Dorothy Mae Bundy; brothers Frank and Robert Honeycutt; and her sisters Ruby Smith and Alberta Baker.

Survivors include her son

Charles R. Scarboro of Laurel Hill; daughter Alice Faye King and husband Warren of Raeford; and daughter Brenda Sue Burt and husband Ron of West End; fourteen grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 29, at West End United Methodist Church. The Rev. Dr. Won S. Namkoong officiated. Burial followed at Lafayette Memorial Park in Fayetteville.

Memorials may be made to the MLD Foundation at 21345 Miles Drive, West Linn, OR 97068-2878 or to [m.l.d.foundation.org](http://m.l.d.foundation.org)

**Alice Ridenour**, age 81 passed away on Tuesday, December 23. She is survived by her husband of fifty-six years, Chuck; daughter Leigh and son Steve.

A Celebration of Mrs. Ridenour's life will be held at West End Presbyterian Church Saturday, January 10, at 2 pm with a reception to follow at the Crawford Center next to the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Seven Lakes EMS, where Mr. Ridenour is

a volunteer serving the community, or the Arts Council of Moore County where Mrs. Ridenour was actively involved.

**Leonard Pierce Jr.**, 88, died Saturday, December 20, at St. Joseph of the Pines Health Center.

Memorial services were conducted on Saturday, January 3, at Belle Meade. Pastors Paul James and Fran Stark officiated with inurnment at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

Mr. Pierce was born in Paris, Kentucky and was the only child of parents Leonard Pierce and Sally Sparks Pierce.

He served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1944 to August 1946. He marched with the 82 Army Airborne Division band in New York City for the Victory in Japan parade.

He graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and continued to complete a Master's Degree.

Mr. Pierce worked for thirty-seven years for Union Carbide Corporation, starting as a chemist and progressing

through promotions in Research and Development, Marketing and finally as Comptroller of the Chemicals and Plastics Division.

Following twenty years of residence in St. Albans, WV, he and his wife Doris moved to Katonah, NY. In 1986, they retired to Seven Lakes, where they lived for twenty-five years, moving to Belle Meade in Southern Pines three years ago.

He was an active member of the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines for twenty-eight years, where he enjoyed performing in the choir.

Survivors include his wife of sixty-five years, Doris B. Pierce; four children, Linda (Wayne) Morris; Gene (Kim) Pierce; Terry (Scott) Thurber; and Cheryl (Ray) Fetchko; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made in his memory be made to: FirstHealth Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374; First Health Hospice, 5 Avimore Dr., Pinehurst, NC 28374; Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 2125 Seven Lakes South, West End, NC 27376.

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# Chapel will host Parkinson's Disease seminar

More than one million people in the United States currently live with Parkinson's disease.

While it affects about one in 100 people over the age of 60, it can also impact some younger adults.

Fox Hollow Senior Living, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines and Aging Outreach Services have joined together to bring Jessica Katz Shurer, MSW, LCSW as a guest speaker for the third in a series of informational seminars.

Shurer's presentation "Parkinson's: The Disease Basics and How to Live Well With It" is a free program and open to the public on

Tuesday, January 27, at 4:30 pm at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

Shurer, a Clinical Social Worker and Center Coordinator, works at the Movement Disorders Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – a National Parkinson Foundation Center of Excellence.

She graduated from Penn State University with a BA in Psychology and minors in Human Development & Family Studies and Gerontology. She received her Master of Social Work from UNC Chapel Hill in 2012, where she also obtained a Certificate in Aging and was a participant in the

Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education.

In her current role, Shurer is a part of a team with the movement disorders specialists to assess patient and care partner social and psy-

chological needs; she provides resources, referrals, and counseling as needed.

Registration begins at 4 pm, light refreshments served with Jessica Katz Shurer's presentation at 4:30 pm.

For more information or to register for the Tuesday, January 27 presentation, contact Aging Outreach Services at 910-692-0683 or info@AOSNC.com

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## Beekeepers at Chapel Lunch Bunch

Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines "Lunch Bunch" will meet on Wednesday, January 14 at noon.

Following lunch, Robert and Ruth Stolting, beekeepers and members of the Moore County Beekeepers Association will present an overview of honeybees, including their sophisticated social structure, their forms of communication, how they work flowers so efficiently, and how beekeepers harvest their honey.

Handouts of good honey plants to help this struggling population will be available

and honey from various plants will be sampled.

All single seniors are invited to attend the luncheon at Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for the meal. Transportation will be provided if needed.

To make a reservation for lunch or if transportation is needed, please call the Chapel office at 673-2156, between 9 am and 1 pm Monday through Friday, or leave a message on the answering machine during non-business hours.



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*Beginning September 14*

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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9**

- **Hiding in Hibernation** – 10 am, (*For Wee-Ones*). Many animals are hiding out for the winter until warmer weather returns. Find out where reptiles, insects and other animals go as we read a book, play some games, and make a craft. Meeting will be inside and outside for this program, so dress for the weather. All activities will be geared towards 3 to 5 year-olds and meant for parents to do with their children. Program will last approximately 45 minutes. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**

- **Turkey Shoot** – Alec Creek Farm, Jackson Springs for a Turkey Shoot held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) through January 24. *12 Gauge Shot Guns only*. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or cash. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League, who are dedicated to the rescue and rehab of stray and abandoned pets. Join the fun and support the animals. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

- **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.



## What's When

- **West End United Methodist Church Explorers** – 5 pm – 6:30 pm, for children grades K-5. A time of learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the youth from 6 – 6:30 pm. Children's ministry, explore God's Word through scripture, crafts, games. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

- **West End United Methodist Church Youth Group** – 6 – 7:30 pm in the Youth Room at the church. Youth Ministry led by Mandy Allen, open to all youth in 6th – 12th grades. Enjoy fellowship, study and a meal. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 12**

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North

Clubhouse Game Room.

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

- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7-9 pm, at the Hannah Center Theater, The O'Neal School, 3300 Airport Road,

Southern Pines. Guests welcome. [www.sandhill-photoclub.com](http://www.sandhill-photoclub.com)**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13**

- **Zumba Class** – 10:30 to 11:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 673-4656.
- **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 Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30, meeting begins at 12:05, at Seven Lakes Country Club Restaurant. The guest speaker will be Rev. Michael Dubbs of Mission Clowns. Visitors welcome.
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 6:30 pm, meeting at Foxfire

Village Hall.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14**

- **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 Chapel in the Pines Lunch Bunch** – noon, all single seniors are invited to attend the luncheon in Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall. No cost for the meal. Following lunch, Robert and Ruth Stolting, beekeepers and members of the Moore County Beekeepers Association will present an overview of honeybees. Reservation for lunch or if transportation is needed, please call the Chapel office at 673-2156, between 9 am and 1 pm Monday - Friday, or leave a message.
- **AWANA Youth Group** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. Children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 673-4656.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm.

Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$5.

- **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](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17**

- **Turkey Shoot** – Alec Creek Farm, Jackson Springs for a Turkey Shoot held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) through January 24. *12 Gauge Shot Guns only*. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or cash. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League, who are dedicated to the rescue and rehab of stray and abandoned pets. Join the fun and support the animals. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18**

- **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.



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- **West End United Methodist Church Explorers** – 5 pm – 6:30 pm, for children grades K-5. A time of learning, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the youth from 6 – 6:30 pm. Children's ministry, explore God's Word through scripture, crafts, games. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.
- **West End United Methodist Church Youth Group** – 6 – 7:30 pm in the Youth Room at the church. Youth Ministry led by Mandy Allen, open to all youth in 6th – 12th grades. Enjoy fellowship, study and a meal. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19**

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Armecia Medlock.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20**

- **Zumba Class** – 10:30 to 11:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 673-4656.
- **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.

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30, meeting begins at 12:05, Seven Lakes Country Club Restaurant. The guest speaker will be Marianne Kernan, of National Alliance on Mental Illness of Moore County. Visitors are always welcome.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – 11:30 am, luncheon and program planning meeting. Public welcome. Planning the program for the year by the members of the League will be the topic for the January 20 meeting. At Table on the Green Restaurant, 2205 Midland Drive (in Midland Country Club). Reservations required, call Charlotte at 944-9611, by January 16. Cost for the luncheon is \$13, payable by check to LWVMC. Info: [www.lwvmc.org](http://www.lwvmc.org)
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:30 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, meeting, West Side Park Community Center.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21**

- **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.
- **AWANA Youth Group** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. Children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 673-4656.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 22**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. [www.sandhillswinery.com](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24**

- **Sandhills Horticultural Society Pruning Workshop** – 10 am – Noon,

Moore County Extension Agent Taylor Williams will conduct a workshop and demonstration on how to correctly prune and shape broadleaf evergreens; prune flowering trees and shrubs such as crape myrtles and crabapples to enhance appearance; and fruit trees for yield. Free workshop at Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. Contact Tricia Mabe 910-695-3882 to make a reservation. Space is limited.

- **Longrifle Lecture** – 2 pm, Join author and collector, William Ivey at the Southern Pines Civic Club, corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in Southern Pines. Books will be available for purchase at the lecture. Bring your own muzzle loaders for identification by Ivey. The program is free, but donations to the Moore County Historical Association are always appreciated. Space is limited, reserve your seat by calling (910) 692-2051. Sponsored by the Moore County Historical Association.
- **Paint for the Pantry** – 2 to 4 pm, West End United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Come and attend this fundraiser. Proceeds minus supplies benefit WEUMC Food Pantry. No skills need, just come, enjoy the fun and refreshments. Participants will go home with a completed painting. Cost \$35/person (includes supplies and refreshments). Register at [www.socialbleart.com](http://www.socialbleart.com) or Elizabeth Anne Batchelor, (910)400-5300.

**New Year, New Beginning****Ed Hill** Financial Advisor

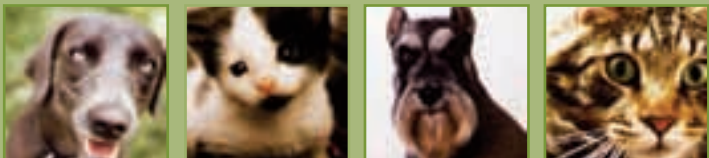
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## Foxfire

(Continued from page 5)

the western tip of the Foxfire ETJ, petitioned the Foxfire Village Council for a condi-

tional use permit to build a solar farm on his property.

But the Village Ordinances had no language addressing commercial scale solar generation. After ten months of work, the committee, in October, made its recommendation to accept solar farms as a conditional use within the ETJ.

The Council approved both the new zoning ordinance amendments and Wilson's conditional use permit. Chapel Hill-based Strata Solar will erect the solar farm on Wilson's land in 2015. Deep setbacks, vegetative screening, and secured fencing will surround the generating facility; and it will not be visible from Hoffman Road, NC Highway 211, or neighboring property.

### Non-resident use of pool sparks debate

In June, *The Times* was invited to observe a lifeguard training class at Foxfire Village's Pool, conducted in anticipation of an uptick in pool usage over the July 4th holiday. The trained lifeguards practiced lifesaving procedures both in and out of the pool.

At the end of pool season, two specific complaints were made by two different residents concerning non-resident pool use. Councilwoman Frusco included the item for discussion on the agenda for the Council's August Work Session, and questioned whether it might be possible to ban non-residential pool use.

Consulting with Village Attorney Michael Brough, the Council was advised not to attempt exclude non-residents.

Frusco suggested that non-residents could be required to purchase a season pass at a significantly higher rate than what was required of residents — and that the option of paying a five dollar fee for a single day pass could be eliminated.

Councilman Sedlak argued that no child should be turned away from the swimming pool on a hot Summer day.

The topic was an item of discussion at each Council Work Session during the Fall, though it was never presented for action or discussion during regular Council meetings.

After consulting with Village Clerk and Pool Manager Lisa Kivett, lifeguards, and other residents, the Council determined that the two complaints were isolated and did not accurately reflect the successful season.

During their last Work Session of the year, on Tuesday, November 25, with only Councilman Mick McCue dissenting, the Council agreed to continue to allow day passes at the pool and to abandon the notion of using price to exclude non-residents.

Advertise in The Times

## Chapel Outreach Ministry

The purpose of the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Outreach Ministry is to serve and care for all persons living in the community. This includes persons of all ages with special needs.

The outreach ministry includes relief for caregivers, occasional meal preparation, grocery shopping, emergency transportation, trash pick-up and small handyman functions.

The ministry has added a new program this year. The medical equipment that was previously loaned out to the community for short-term use has been donated to the Chapel in the Pines Outreach Ministry by the Women of Seven Lakes and will be available for short-term use for anyone living in the community.

Outreach also offers two support groups. The

Alzheimer's support group for caregivers meets the third Tuesday of every month at 3 pm and the other support group for those diagnosed with early dementia meets every Wednesday at 2 pm. All meetings are held at the Chapel.

For those who live alone in the community the Lunch Bunch meets the second Wednesday of the month at noon with entertainment following lunch.

There is no charge for any of these outreach programs.

If you have any questions about the Outreach Ministry or if you are in need of short-term medical equipment like walkers, bath seats, etc, or would like to join a support group, call Fran Stark at 673-5493.

To attend the Lunch Bunch please contact the Chapel office 673-2156.

## Class of 2014



**Colleen Anne Fleming**  
NC State University  
College of Sciences  
Raleigh

Colleen is the daughter of Mary Lou Fleming and the late Mark Fleming. Her grandparents are Fred and Dot Seufert of Seven Lakes.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Science with a minor in Business Administration. Colleen was also a member of the College and Department Honors Program.

She will pursue a Master's in Business Administration.

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## SLWLA

(Continued from page 4)

and stray dogs.

Additional living fence is planned for a section of the West Side that borders Lucas Road.

### Candidates reflect changing demographics

Five candidates for the SLWLA have been recommended by the nominating committee: Jim Beaty, Jim Greaves, John Shaughnessy, John Hildebrand, and Jack Lattin.

Bernadette York did not make the cut during the interview process. Determined never the less, she announced during the December meeting that she will collect the necessary signatures to win a spot on the ballot as a petition candidate. "I wasn't selected by the Nominating Committee," she told those in attendance at the December 16 meeting, "but I choose to run."

The candidates reflect the changing demographic in the community from retirees to younger working families. Only two of the five candidates are retirees.

## Literacy Council Tutor Training

Literacy – It is more than reading and writing. It's how you connect to the whole world. Yet, hundreds of Moore County adults can't read or write. If you can read, you can help.

The Moore County Literacy Council will offer a twelve hour workshop for volunteers who would like to become adult tutors.

Volunteers are required to attend an orientation prior to tutor training. All sessions are held at the Read Moore Center, 575 SE Broad Street (suite 10), Southern Pines.

Orientation begins January 26, Monday, from 1-2 pm, with Tutor Training on February 2, 4, 9 & 11 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Register by phone at (910)692-5954, or e-mail pam@mcliteracy.org

# Happy New Year!

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**205 Foxcroft Road, Foxfire**  
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1000+sqft  
MLS# 163092 \$82,000

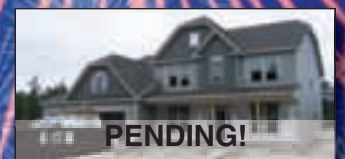


**137 Winsford Circle, 7 Lakes South**  
Quiet street with large private back yard. Gas fireplace, dining room hardwoods, & ample work space in kitchen.  
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1800+sqft  
MLS# 163035 \$175,000



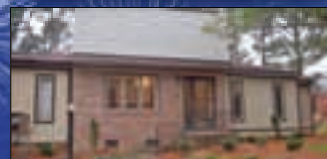
**REDUCED!**

**2 Pine Valley Cir – Foxfire**  
Only \$79 / sq ft. for this single level custom built home. Private backyard, screen porch, & rec room. [www.2PineValleyCir.com](http://www.2PineValleyCir.com)  
4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, 3400+sqft  
MLS# 161537 \$264,900



**PENDING!**

**410 Longleaf Drive, 7 Lakes West**  
New construction! H&H Home. Large kitchen with walk in pantry. Formal Dining with arches throughout.  
4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, 3400+sqft  
MLS# 161095 \$278,900

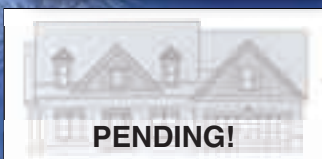


**103 Sandham Ct., 7 Lakes South**  
Lots of potential. Wood burning fireplace. Screened porch. Townhome in gated community with great amenities.  
2 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths, 1400+sqft  
MLS# 162846 \$99,900



**REDUCED!**

**106 Sunset Pt – Beacon Ridge**  
Custom home on Lake Auman! Water views & living areas on all 3 levels. Trek deck, boat ready with beach area.  
3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, 4000+sqft  
MLS# 160130 \$699,000

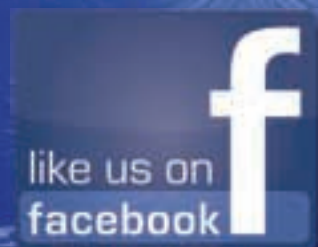


**PENDING!**

**180 Gateway Dr, 7 Lakes West**  
"The Woodcrest" by H&H Homes. Large open floor plan. Spacious kitchen. Large master suite with walk-in closets.  
4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, 2800+sqft  
MLS# 162162 \$277,900



**148 Edgewater Dr., 7 Lakes North**  
Open living areas with hardwood floors. Sitting on over half an acre, plenty of room for outdoor activities!  
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1400+ sqft  
MLS# 161602 \$115,000



**262 Longleaf Drive, 7 Lakes West**  
Golf front. Large rooms. New S/S appliances. Chef's Dream! Well lit master bedroom with walk-in-closets. Must see!!  
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 2200+sqft  
MLS# 162802 \$329,000



**419 Foxcroft Circle, Foxfire**  
Condo. Great investment property. Golf community. Furnished. HOA maintains exterior of building.  
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1000+sqft  
MLS# 162906 \$79,900



## Superb Building Lots – Seven Lakes & Foxfire

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110 Grace Ct	.....	\$15,000
118 James Dr	.....	\$17,500
421 Longleaf Dr	.....	\$34,000
139 Beacon Ridge Dr	.47 Acres	\$35,000
104 Myrick Ct	.....	\$27,500

106 Myrick Ct	.....	\$27,500
113 Banbridge Dr	1.38 Acres	\$99,500
176 Morris Dr	.....	\$35,000
117 James Dr	.....	\$32,000
124 Vanore Rd	.....	\$14,800
115 James Dr	.....	\$37,000
103 Owens Cir	.....	\$125,000
159 Morris Dr	.....	\$384,999

### SEVEN LAKES SOUTH

107 Devonshire Ave	.....	\$18,000
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### SEVEN LAKES NORTH

146 Cardinal Dr	1.17 Acres	.....	\$49,500
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4 N Shamrock Dr	.....	.....	\$32,000
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# Looking back at the year in pictures




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1193-110-14



# Seven Lakes will host US Kids Golf tourney

U.S. Kids Golf announced that it has added Seven Lakes Country Club to its list of championship courses in the Pinehurst area to serve as a host club for the U.S. Kids Golf World Championship in 2015.

The 16th annual U.S. Kids Golf World Championship is scheduled for July 30-August 1, and this will be the 10th consecutive year that the Championship will be played in the area.

"Seven Lakes Country Club is very excited and proud to have been selected to be part of the 2015 U.S. Kids Golf World Championship. We look forward to hosting the 10-year-old girls division on our award-winning golf course next year," stated Mike Floyd, General Manager for Seven Lakes Country Club. "Our highly acclaimed course is currently ranked for the 6th year in a row as one of the top 100 courses in North Carolina, and is consistently awarded 4 stars by Golf Digest."

Seven Lakes Country Club has been recognized multiple times as the National Golf Course Owners Association Sandhills Chapter "Course of the Year," and most recently, it has been ranked as the No. 1 golf course in the nation

by golfadvisor.com power rankings twice in a 4-week period.

"We are pleased to include Seven Lakes Country Club to the impressive collection of championship courses that will host the world's greatest

Cup-style team competition. The top four boys and top two girls from the United States will face off against the top four boys and top two girls from the rest of the world. The competition will return to Pinehurst No. 2 in 2015.

The U.S. Kids Golf World Championship (ages 5-12) will take place July 30-August 1 with over 1400 participants scheduled to play on Pinehurst No. 1, No. 3, No. 8, Midland Country Club, Longleaf Golf & Country Club, Talamore Golf Club, Mid

Pines Golf Club, Southern Pines Golf Club, Little River Golf & Resort, and Seven Lakes Country Club. Upon completion, the top 18 finishing 12-year-old boys and girls will form two teams (United States vs. International) for the U.S. Kids Golf World Cup on August 3. The Kids World Cup will also take place on Pinehurst No. 2.

In addition to the World Championships and World Cups there will be 240 participants in the popular U.S. Kids Golf Parent Child Championships played on Monday, July 27. This unique event will be hosted on Pinehurst No. 1 and No. 8 and is presented by Honda, the official vehicle of U.S. Kids Golf.



young golfers during the U.S. Kids Golf World Championships in 2015," said Dan Van Horn, Founder and President of U.S. Kids Golf. "The World Championships continue to grow each year and it is truly a luxury to have so many championship-caliber golf courses to choose from for our Championships."

The 10th annual U.S. Kids Golf Teen World Championship (ages 13-18) will take place July 23-25, 2015, with over 550 players competing on Pinehurst No. 2, No. 4, No. 8, No. 9, and Mid Pines Golf Club. The Teen World Cup will follow on July 26. This much-anticipated event will be a special opportunity for boys and girls in each age group to play in a Ryder

## Chapel White Christmas



The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines would like to thank all who contributed to the Community White Christmas Fund.

The generous donations from Seven Lakes businesses, residents, and former residents of Seven Lakes helped to make this Christmas special for thirty-five needy children and their families.

On the Saturday, December 20, the children and their families were invited to a Christmas party at the Chapel with refreshments, a visit from Santa, an English and Spanish Christmas program, and a big bag of gifts from the community.

Each family received food vouchers for Christmas with an additional food voucher to be mailed to them at Easter.

Thank you Seven Lakes for helping put smiles on the faces of so many people this Christmas. May the year 2015 be a blessed one for everyone.

*The Chapel in the Pines*

## Help Wanted! Part-Time Reporter

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

Relevant educational background and experience are required. Actual reporting experience is strongly preferred. *The Times* needs someone who writes clearly and concisely and has a passion for accuracy. Excellent computer skills are a must.

The time commitment averages six to twelve hours per week, but is determined by local government meeting schedules — and thus is not particularly flexible. Morning, afternoon, and night meetings are required, and deadlines are firm.

### Interested?

Please **email** cover letter, resumé, and writing samples to [mail@sevenlaketimes.net](mailto:mail@sevenlaketimes.net)

# Happy New Year!



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## Goals

(Continued from page 7)

"We need to lean on them to provide training in specific fields that are needed by prospective employers that plan to come to Moore County. We don't need to lose a business because we don't have educated workers."

Enumerating a long list of advantages that the county offers prospective employers and their employees — from a burgeoning organic farming movement to first class health care facilities — Graham said "we need to promote our area as a positive place to live and work. We can't keep it a secret. We have to grow our tax base to keep our tax rate low."

### Daeke: Cooperation with the towns

Newly-elected Commissioner Jerry Daeke served for a number of years on the Southern Pines Town Council. He said he would like to ensure that the county and towns are working together more closely on a range of issues.

"I do want to make sure the towns and the county are working together for the betterment of the whole county," Daeke said. "It seems to me there has been some fragmentation."

"I think the county is doing a good job with water, but I would like to see the county work with the towns."

Responding to Daeke later in the meeting, Chairman Nick Picerno recalled that, a few years ago, the county held quarterly meetings with representatives of the municipalities.

"They died off because we could never come up with an agenda," Picerno said.

In addition to Daeke's time on the Southern Pines council, Commissioner Graham served as a member of the Carthage town board, and Commissioner Randy Saun-

ders served on the Whispering Pines council.

Noting that fact, Picerno suggested that those three Commissioners could brainstorm the best way to structure a regular county-town meeting.

### Saunders: Schools and recreation

Commissioner Saunders said he began his time on the board, two years ago, with a desire to improve the working relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education.

"We have come a long way," said Saunders. "We have invested in our schools. We have done a good job working with them, spending what we can afford, and they have spent it wisely."

Referring to the school district's Digital Learning Initiative, Saunders, the father of two school aged children, said, "The technology that we are driving through there, I see being used in my home every night. My daughters in middle school don't have a book. And that, to me, is a big savings. Their books are online. I think it's very impressive what the schools have been able to do in a short period of time."

Saunders has also served as the Board's point person on economic development issues, working with both Partners in Progress and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We have made this a very positive environment for new businesses," he said. "look at the surrounding counties. Look at their tax rate. And look at ours. We have made the an attractive environment to come, live, work, and play," he said.

"We have the potential to become a hub for people like myself," Saunders said. "I like that I am six minutes from work. I don't want to

live in Raleigh, or Dallas, or New York."

Picking up on a point that Commissioner Graham touched on, Saunders said, "we haven't added a park in our county since 2001 — and our county has gotten

considerably younger. And parks are for everyone in our county. They don't just support young families. Retirees, anyone can use recreational facilities."

Saunders noted that one company currently being

recruited by Partners was interested in looking at parks and ballfields — "they wanted to know 'where can our employees play?'"

"This is something I'd really like to see use work on in the next two years," he said.



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# Frye

(Continued from page 9)

old general store. Its biggest seller is hoop cheese. A large round of orange cheddar sits under a glass dome next to the cheese cutter, ready for slicing to order.

"We also have two pound hoops," Melodie said. "People buy them at Christmas. The empty wood cheese boxes goes to lady at our church who paints them."

"We also sell grain, feed, and pellets," Melodie said.

A next door neighbor built a canning kitchen and started a business: Rita's Secret Recipes. The Frye's sell her pretty jars of muscadine jam, pickled okra, salsa, chowchow, and preserves.

D & M also serves as the emergency drugstore. A wooden book shelf is stacked with BC powder, aspirin, cold medicine, and pain relievers. Carthage and Robbins are too far to drive if you have a headache or a fever.

## Morning gathering spot

The two story white columned gas station with its original tin ceiling sits at the top of a hill. From his upstairs apartment Joe can see customers coming from either direction. The first customer of the morning is Joe's father, Rusty, who works at the West End Post Office.

"I think they're doing pretty good. It's a good business. I've been coming here for years," Rusty said.

D & M Service Station has been in business for 67 years. Tom and Maggie Flinchum built the structure in 1947, after Tom returned from serving as a Marine in World War II. They lived upstairs.

"They both passed away upstairs," said Lynn Cheek, a North Moore native, retired truck driver, and morning coffee regular at D&M.

He laughed when asked if he lives nearby.

"Right out back, so I guess you could say that's pretty close."

Lynn and his wife Linda bought the store from the Flinchums and ran it for twenty years.

Every morning, before sunup, the lighted store is a beacon to early risers. Farmers, landscapers, and tradesmen stop on their way to work to fill up, buy ice, or grab a honey bun and a cup of coffee.

Regulars can charge their purchases and pay up every two weeks. D&M only takes cash and checks.

The coffee is Maxwell House, costs fifty cents a cup, and refills are free.

## Coffee & conversation

Mornings at D&M have a regular rhythm.

The senior coffee drinkers filter in and take their places on assorted wooden chairs and stools. They all grew up neighbors, and most are kin, near or distant.

Kathy Riddle stops in to visit with Melodie. She is on her way to work at the Helping the Orphans Thrift Store.

"The proceeds goes overseas to orphans in Kenya," Kathy said.

Kathy's brother-in-law Van comes in. He lives a little

ways down the road.

"I was born and raised where I live right now," he explained. "My granddaddy built the house 140 years ago. I was the youngest out of five born there."

Van worked in construction and landscaping in Southern Moore. "I have cleared a lot of lots, dug basements, and paved driveways," he said.

## Neglected North Moore

Wayne Flinchum sits at the table with Lynn Cheek and Cecil Riddle.

"We need a fire department," Flinchum said. "We are more than six miles from either town. My insurance jumped last year about \$400, just because we are over six miles away."

Several comment that Northern Moore doesn't get much publicity and they hope a newspaper might encourage the Moore County Commissioners to take notice.

"Tell them to get us a fire station, so that our insurance will go down," Lynn said.

Wayne, a NC State graduate in agriculture spent much of his career working in Texas and Tennessee. He came back home to retire. His children live and work elsewhere. Most of the coffee drinkers' families have moved away to

find work.

Cecil Riddle, Kathy's husband, nods in agreement. He and Kathy met working at a textile plant in Siler City.

"I was born and raised right here," Cecil said. "There used to be a lot of manufacturers in every town. They left the state. If you are up here looking for work in Northern Moore, you are out of luck."

## Summer is too long

Both Lynn and Cecil are fans of year-round school. Lynn said it was too bad that it isn't available for middle and high school students.

"My granddaughter, Autumn Thompson, aged out of the year-round program," Lynn said. "She is now a freshman at Pinecrest. The kids retain more and do better in school without the long Summer gap."

"Summer is too long," Cecil agreed. "Year-round would keep kids out of trouble," he said.

"Kids used to work in the Summer, and it kept them

busy," Wayne said.

Other morning coffee drinkers nod their heads, remembering hot Summers in the tobacco fields.

Jimmy Maness worked for Ingersoll Rand in Southern Pines. He gets a good laugh from everyone with: "I think a swimming pool should be put in behind the store. It would give the kids something to do."

Most of the coffee drinkers are retired or semi-retired.

Gary Sewell retired from Fruit of the Loom.

Richard Thomas is the only non-native in the room. He relocated to Moore County in the late 1970's. "My wife was from here and I was offered a job," he said.

Joe comes back in from tending to his quail. His shiny black dog Havana, sporting a red bandanna, goes over to be petted. Its 8:30 am and getting late. The coffee drinkers begin to drift out the door.

Daylight's wasting, and it's time to start the day.

## Sandhills Photography Club

The Sandhills Photography Club will meet on Monday, January 12, from 7-9 pm at the Hannah Center Theater, The O'Neal School, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines. Guests are always welcome. [www.sandhillsphotoclub.com](http://www.sandhillsphotoclub.com)



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# Cunningham

(Continued from page 3)  
work.”

## Crucible of human emotion

Constitutional law had been his passion at UVA, but Cunningham soon discovered that the work of a criminal defense attorney involved its own passions.

“It’s challenging. It’s always something different,” he said. “It’s dealing with the same issues that get people in trouble and that got people in trouble thousands of years ago: love, money, jealousy, corruption stupidity. It’s a crucible of human emotion.”

“I’ve never drawn a will, never drawn a deed, never done a tax return. My brain doesn’t work that way. I

admire the folks that do it. But, I’m not put on this earth to do corporate acquisitions.”

Cunningham has handled “everything from speeding tickets to death penalty trials,” but his practice is focused in the highly specialized area of post-conviction appeals.

“I describe it as stuffing horses back in the barn,” he said. His clients are people already in prison who are “trying to get some relief from a sentence or a charge.”

## Serving the community

Cunningham was elected to the Moore County Board of Education in 2003, but his community service resumé begins well before

that chapter.

He began riding a bicycle during a Summer spent at the Navy War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and soon graduated to cycle racing. In 1976, Cunningham and Dave Drexel started the Tour de Moore, a professional cycling race that continues to bring top professional riders to Moore County each year.

Cunningham was an original member of the Save Our Sunrise preservation efforts, handling the renovations of the historic Broad Street theatre.

Cunningham and his wife, Ann Petersen, a Pinecrest High School English teacher, raised \$250,000 in grants and foundation support to

create Blanchie Carter Discovery Park, a four-acre outdoor learning environment at Southern Pines Primary School.

They became aware of the need for a much better playground for the school when their older daughter, Katie, began attending the school. Katie is now married, living in Dallas, working with the online lifestyle magazine Culturemap. Younger daughter Jennie, a former Pinecrest High School track and cross-country star, is a Dartmouth University engineering sophomore.

## A passion for building

Cunningham’s passion for building facilities that

enhance the community translates directly to his efforts on the Board of Education.

He has served on the Board’s Facilities Committee continuously since his election in 2003.

“I like to think that I have had some impact,” he said, explaining that the skylights over the foyers at West Pine Elementary and Crains Creek Middle Schools are the direct result of a green building conference that he attended in Chicago with daughter Jennie.

Moore County Schools [MCS] is on the cusp of a major building campaign, with major expansions (See “Cunningham,” p. 26)



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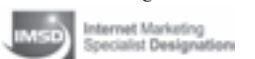
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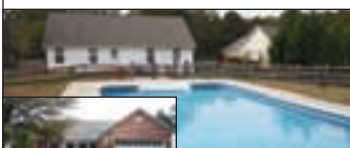
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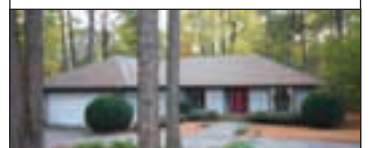
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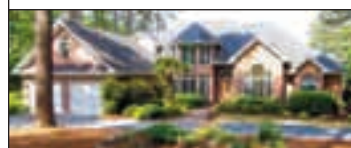
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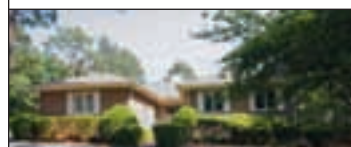
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\$160,000



# Cunningham

(Continued from page 25)

planned for Union Pines and Pinecrest High Schools, as well as new elementary schools planned for Southern Pines, Aberdeen, and the Carthage/Vass district.

"I hope that we can incorporate as many green features as possible in the facilities that we will building," Cunningham said, mentioning geothermal heating systems and solar hot water heaters. "It just makes sense."

Cooperation between the School Board, which must plan and design the new facilities, and the Board of Commissioners, who must pay for them, is critical, and Cunningham noted that the relationship between the two boards has never been better.

"[Commissioner] Nick [Picerno] has asked us to think outside the box on the financial mechanism on funding construction of new schools, and we are happy to go with him in that journey," Cunningham said. "If it doesn't work, we will work together to see what does work."

"Things have never been better."

## Serving a diverse county

"Moore County is so diverse," Cunningham said. "We have people in the Northern end of the county living on family farms, and we have fifth generation potters. We have military people in the southern end of the county who have come here from all over the world."

"That impacts my view of what Moore County Schools should look like," he continued. "We need to address the needs of students who have a world view that is so much broader than what I think you would find in other places. We have students who can go wherever they want to go."

"You would be hard pressed to name a place in such a small geographic area in which students have such a breadth of life experiences. That impacts a lot of my viewpoint as a Board Member."

Other students face the

challenges of poverty, and even homelessness.

He recalled that, on a Monday morning when students would be taking critical standardized tests, Petersen found herself stopping at a local restaurant to buy take-out breakfast for her students, realizing that some would not have had a decent meal since Friday.

"One day, when I was in the line at Pinecrest, behind a student being dropped off in a Maserati, it occurred to me that we have other Pinecrest students who are sleeping in a car."

"We have to address the educational needs of both," Cunningham said.

## Training tomorrow's workers

One of the cornerstone's of the Board of Education's facilities plan is the construction of a new "concept" high school that is expected to focus on providing high school graduates with skills in specific trades, giving them a leg up on a post-high-school career.

Cunningham said he is "excited about addressing capacity needs through an educational solution aimed at students entering the work force . . . This is the first time we have looked at capacity issues outside of simply adding more seats in classrooms."

"When I moved here, we had Stanley Furniture, tobacco, textiles, peaches. Now we have hospitality, health care, the service economy."

"We have an opportunity in our laps to train chefs, maitre d's, hotel managers, golf course workers, health care technicians," Cunningham said, adding that local medical offices have plenty of very high-priced, sophisticated equipment that creates a demand for technicians to service it.

## Pushing back

One of the greatest challenges Cunningham sees for the Moore County School Board is the need to "push back" against new methods of evaluating students, teachers, and schools, that rely overmuch on standardized testing and "the numbers."

"I see government trying to impose a business model on education," Cunningham said. "I got on the school board to try to push back against that."

Specifically, his original run for the Board was motivated "by a former superintendent who was too much concerned with the numbers and the business model."

Cunningham casts a wary eye on the ideas — many of them currently popular at the NC General Assembly — of grading schools and eval-

uating teachers based on student performance on standardized tests.

"You know when you walk into a classroom whether there is good teaching going on," Cunningham said. "I got on the school board to push back, to show teachers their value as human beings, to honor what they do for their students that can't be counted. Fortunately, the whole board shares that attitude."

"It is refreshing that there is no one on the school board that has a personal agenda or outside allegiance to anything other than the best interests of students," Cunningham said. "There are no groups within a group. No mixed loyalties. We consider ourselves non-partisan."

"I consider my constituency the students of Moore County," he said. "I make decisions based on what I think is the best decision for Moore County students and teachers."

## Input wanted

Wrapping up a lengthy interview, Cunningham returned to the words of Chief Justice Earl Warren, delivered decades ago in a UVA classroom.

"I have a great deal of respect for the democratic process and for the right of everyone to be heard," he said.

"I wish we had more input from the public," he added. "I'd like to see more people coming to a board meeting and advocating for their child. Our job is to take all of those viewpoints and use our best judgement to decide what is for the greater good."

"The most common response I get from people in the grocery store, when they hear I've been named chairman of the school board, is 'My condolences.'"

"But I enjoy it," Cunningham said. "I believe it is noble work."



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## School Board

(Continued from front page)

were on the right track as far as the pathways were concerned," Kennedy said.

Associate Superintendent Eric Porter told the Board that community forums aimed at gathering additional information are planned for February 12 at North Moore, February 16 at Union Pines, and February 23 at Pinecrest. They will be held from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

### What's the goal?

"What is the goal here?" newly-elected Board member Sue Black asked. "What type of student do we want to turn out?"

Kennedy noted that the concept high school is designed to free up space in the existing high schools, in order to provide a less expensive alternative to building a new comprehensive high school, as well as to provide career and college readiness for graduating seniors."

"I know we have a space problem, but there needs to be a deeper reason to build a new school," Black said. "I think the business community is watching us closely. They want us to train students who meet their need for employees."

But divining exactly what the business community wants may be easier said than done.

"I know that there were meetings with business community, but I never got any feedback on what the businesses said they wanted," Board member Ed Dennison said. "We need a place that our kids can go so they can go to work and earn a good living and stay in Moore County."

"Maybe we need to ask the businesses what kind of specific skills they are looking for," Dennison added. "I would like to see us be a little more focused on what our businesses need here."

But Kennedy, who participated in a roundtable with business leaders organized by Sandhills Community College, said local business leaders stressed the need for "soft skills — collaboration, responsibility . . ."

Vice Chair Kathy Farren echoed that point: "We kept asking what businesses want, and the businesses kept saying 'soft skills.' If you teach them the soft skills, then we will teach them to run our machinery."

Both Black and Dennison expressed strong support for the idea of a career-oriented high school, but both stressed the need to narrow down the curriculum.

"We need to look not at all that you could do with this, but at what will work in Moore County," Dennison

said.

"The shotgun approach bothers me," Black said, "because I don't want us to promise a lot and deliver a little."

"This idea has been around a very long time," she said, "and it is time to do it."

### More Chromebooks coming to MCS Students

By mid-February, every student at West Pine Middle School, Southern Pines Middle School, and Pinecrest High School will receive a laptop computer, as Moore County Schools [MCS] rolls out Phase III of its Digital Learning Initiative.

The computers, HP Chromebooks, will be leased over a 42 month term at a cost of \$945,340.

Budget Director Mike Griffin told members of the Moore County Board of Education during their regular Monday, January 5 meeting, that the district would be receiving newer models of the laptop computers at the same price as those purchased last year for Phase II.

The Digital Learning Initiative began in the 2012-2013 school year, with the purchase of iPads for Carthage Elementary, Mac laptops for the Community Learning Center at Pinckney, and laptops for all teachers. Federal Race to the Top

funds, as well as other grants, were used for those purchases.

County funding of the program began in 2013-2014. The first semester of that school year was devoted to pilot projects at several schools that aimed to determine which computer best suited the needs of students and teachers. Once the Chromebook was selected, 3400 of the laptop computers were deployed last Spring in high schools and middle schools in the North Moore and Union Pines districts.

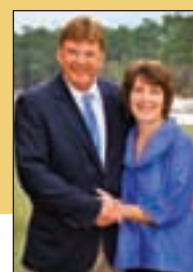
Deputy Superintendent Mark Bergin explained that 1400 new Chromebooks had arrived in the MCS warehouse on January 5, with

the remaining 2000 expected in a week to ten days. The computers are unpacked, imaged for inventory tracking, and checked out by MCS staff before being transported to the target schools.

They will be distributed at West Pine Middle on January 27, Southern Pines Middle on January 29, and Pinecrest on February 11 and 12. Students will pay a \$10 part-year technology fee; the full-year fee is \$25.

Phase 4 of the project will roll out digital devices in all MCS elementary schools, with the exception of Carthage, which already has iPads. Pilot programs are currently underway to select

(See "School," p. 28)



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## School Board

(Continued from page 27)

the most appropriate device for each grade level.

### Differentiated Teacher Pay Proposed

Human Resources Director Anita Alpenfels presented a plan that would offer annual bonuses of up to \$4,000 per teacher for those who serve in hard-to-staff subject areas, including middle and high school science and math, for exceptional children teachers in grades K-12, and for teachers in schools that have higher than average turnover rates.

Alpenfels explained that new state legislation requires the district to create such a plan; however, the General Assembly provided meager current year funding for its implementation, amounting to only \$8,000 for Moore County. She said the administration felt it was appropriate to create a plan, in case additional state funding becomes available.

### Other business

Because the January 5

meeting of the Moore County Board of Education was a work session, rather than the panel's regular meeting, most items on the agenda were either reports requiring no action, or information provided to prepare the Board to take action on other items during their regular January 12 meeting.

Additional items included:

- The Board expressed a willingness to extend the closing date for Taylortown's purchase of the former Academy Heights Elementary School to February 27, so that the town's financing plan can be reviewed and approved by the state Local Government Commission.

- The Board reviewed a proposed \$32,000 contract with the firm SFL+a Architects, who will create master plans anticipating growth of the three Moore County High Schools over the next several decades. The studies are preliminary to creating specific plans for expansions of Union Pines and Pinecrest that are the first two initiatives in the MCS Master Facilities Plan.

- Board members reviewed three contracts with the Georgia-based firm Soliant Health that could involve an expenditure of up to \$174,000. Soliant will provide services for hearing impaired students, because MCS has been unable to hire a teacher to provide those services. In addition, the firm will provide staff to offer speech pathology and occupational therapy services while four members of the MCS staff are on maternity leave.

- The Board received the comprehensive annual financial report for FY 2104 and a "clean opinion" from an audit performed by Dixon-Hughes-Goodman, LLP.

- Operation Director John

Birath briefed the Board on plans to purchase a new wrecker, utilizing an extra \$179,000 in state transportation funding awarded to MCS because of its 99.66 percent efficiency rating.

- Board members reviewed committee assignments sug-

gested by newly-elected Chair Bruce Cunningham, with those expected to be made final during the January 12 Board meeting.

- Board members Ben Cameron and Laura Lang were absent from the meeting.

## Paint for the pantry

West End United Methodist Church will be hosting a "Paint for the Pantry" event on Saturday, January 24, 2 - 4 pm in the church Fellowship Hall.

All proceeds minus supplies benefit the WEUMC

Food Pantry. No skills need. Participants will go home with a completed painting. Cost to attend is \$35 per person. To register go to [www.sociableart.com](http://www.sociableart.com) or contact Elizabeth Anne Batchelor at (910)400-5300.

## Low Cost Rabies Clinic

In the Sandhills region, rabies is a concern because of the occurrence of the virus in wild animals.

Moore County Animal Operations is offering rabies vaccination clinics during January, February and March.

They offer one year rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats for \$5 each and Microchips for \$15 each.

The schedule is:

**Wednesday, January 21**  
Old Train Depot, South Broad St., Robbins, 3 pm to 5 pm

**Wednesday, February 11**  
A Dog's Life, 11J Central Park Avenue, Olmstead Village, 1 pm to 3 pm

**Friday, February 27**  
Cranes Creek Fire Department, Crains Creek, 2 pm to 4 pm

**Wednesday, March 4**  
Spies Country Store, Rob-

bins, 3 pm to 5 pm  
**Wednesday, March 18**  
Sandhills Farm Supply, 775 S Bennett St, Southern Pines, 1 pm to 3 pm

**Friday, March 20**  
Cameron Fire Department, Cameron, 2 pm to 4 pm

State and local law requires all dogs and cats be vaccinated against rabies by four months of age.

Any pet that comes in contact with a wild animal known to carry rabies must be revaccinated within five days of the exposure.

Officers will be available at the clinics to answer questions about rabies control and prevention in addition to administering vaccinations.

Please call Moore County Animal Operations for additional information at (910) 947-2858

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# Taxes

(Continued from front page)

## Flat to lower tax base expected

When the two-day retreat reconvened on Tuesday, January 6, the Commissioners learned that, in fact, the overall value of real estate in the County — the tax base after revaluation may remain very close to the current tax base.

Interim Tax Administrator John Edmondson told the Board that a preliminary analysis suggests that total value of Moore County real estate may total \$10.8 billion, once the revaluation is complete.

That would represent a 1.3 percent decrease from the 2014 tax base. If that estimate holds up, County Manager Vest said, at current tax rates, the county would take in \$660,000 less in property taxes next year. That represents about three-quarters of one percent of the county's current \$89.7 million general fund budget.

## More cash headed to capital funds

The County should be able to easily absorb the hit to revenues, because county revenues have significantly exceeded expenditures for several years running.

During Day 2 of the retreat, Finance Director Caroline Xiang presented some preliminary numbers from the yet-to-be-published consolidated annual financial report for FY2014.

General Fund revenues for the year totaled just under \$89.7 million, against expenses of \$83.5 million.

When the county runs a surplus, the excess cash becomes part of its general fund balance. And, when that total fund balance exceeds fifteen percent of general fund revenues, the excess is set aside in capital funds.

Those funds are used to

pay down existing debt — for example, from school bonds — or to fund current construction projects, like ongoing renovations at the county courthouse and the Currie Building or the construction of new schools.

The unassigned fund balance totaled \$20.1 million at the end of 2014. Chairman Picerno told *The Times* that

should allow the transfer of \$7.5 million into county capital funds.

"This is where our capital reserve is built from," Picerno told his fellow Commissioners. "Anything over fifteen percent is transferred to the capital reserve. That's how we build the reserves for future needs."

"Better to save it and pay

for facilities than to have to borrow."

"We have been spending \$5 million a year for the last five years on school bond debt," Saunders noted. "That's \$25 million. You could

have built a high school with that."

"We need to try to avoid debt and bonds at all costs and come up with a capital expenditure plan that we can pay as we go," Picerno said.

## The art of falconry

The Sandhills Natural History Society will meet Monday, January 26, at 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

The guest speaker will be local Southern Pines falconer, Hank Minor.

Minor will present "The Art of Falconry: Ancient Sport in a Modern World" — an engaging and informative look at the art and practice of falconry.

After a brief history of the sport and the types of raptors, equipment, and facilities employed, he will bring out the stars of the show — his two female Harris hawks — to share stories of hunting with the birds.

Ample time will be allowed for questions from the audience, and photos are encouraged. Visitors welcome. Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit [www.sandhillsnature.org](http://www.sandhillsnature.org)

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## Tour Aberdeen

Discover what's new in Aberdeen from 10 am-12 pm on Thursday, January 15. The free tour starts at the Union Station Railroad Museum, 100 East Main St, Aberdeen. Discover new shops, learn more about the town. Reserve your spot by Wednesday, January 14.

Contact Lindsey Simmons Convention & Visitors Bureau 910-692-3330 ext. 242 [lsimmons@homeofgolf.com](mailto:lsimmons@homeofgolf.com)

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**SEVEN LAKES WEST** – Large wooded corner lot in (Beacon Ridge) 173 Longleaf Drive. Sale \$5,000. Brenda 910-603-4882 Naturechild01@yahoo.com

**F.S.B.O. LAKEFRONT LOT ON AUMAN** – #3408 \$249,900. 165 ft. bulkhead. Contact: artinpanama@gmail.com

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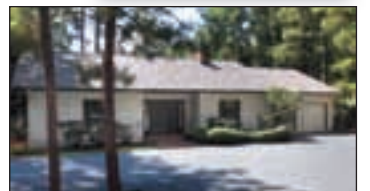
**Seven Lakes West \$235,000**  
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**Seven Lakes North \$165,000**  
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**Seven Lakes North \$198,000**  
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**Seven Lakes North \$325,000**  
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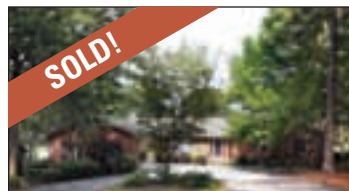
**Seven Lakes West \$499,000**  
Gorgeous custom home on almost 6 acres!  
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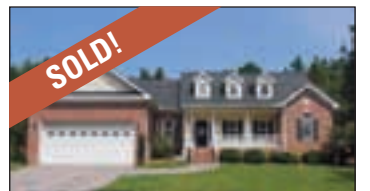
**Seven Lakes West \$649,000**  
Gorgeous lakefront home w/wide water views!  
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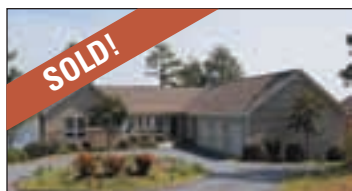
**Seven Lakes West \$249,000**  
Great house with upstairs bonus room  
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541 Longleaf Drive



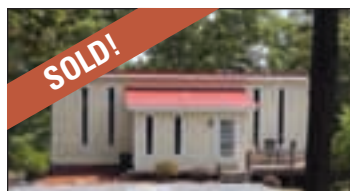
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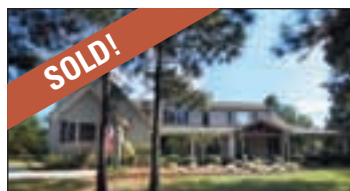
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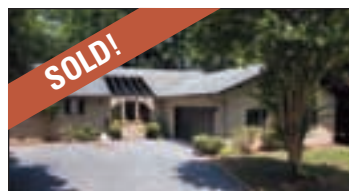
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105 Tucker Court



**Foxfire \$278,000**  
Gorgeous new construction w/ open plan  
4 BR / 2.5 BA  
1 N. Wrenn Place



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



**Seven Lakes West \$249,900**  
Lovely home with spacious living areas!  
4 BR / 2.5 BA  
115 Pittman Road



**Seven Lakes West \$259,000**  
Recently renovated w/expansive lake views!  
3 BR / 3 BA  
106 Sunrise Point



**Seven Lakes West \$250,000**  
One-story w/sweeping golf views  
3 BR / 3 BA  
296 Longleaf Drive



**Seven Lakes West \$247,900**  
Beautiful home on wooded 1.26 acres!  
3 BR / 2.5 BA  
278 Lakeway Drive



**Seven Lakes North \$279,500**  
Charming waterfront home on Lake Sequoia!  
2 BR / 2.5 BA  
105 Brown Bark Road



**Seven Lakes South \$189,900**  
Sun-filled home on well-landscaped lot!  
3 BR / 2.5 BA  
106 Somerset Lane



**Foxfire \$179,000**  
Lovely updated home on cul-de-sac  
3 BR / 2 BA  
3 Pine Ridge Court



**Seven Lakes North \$199,000**  
Lovely lakefront home w/great updates!  
3 BR / 2 BA  
110 Fox Run Court



**Seven Lakes West \$251,000**  
Immaculate, cozy golf front cottage  
3 BR / 2 BA  
214 Longleaf Drive



**Foxfire \$359,000**  
Unique golf front home w/lots of light!  
5 BR / 3 BA  
19 Ridge Road



**Seven Lakes West \$325,000**  
Beautiful golf front home overlooking pond  
4 BR / 3 BA  
230 Finch Gate Drive



**Seven Lakes West \$224,500**  
Custom home w/stunning lake views!  
3 BR / 2 BA  
108 Sunrise Point

## Thinking of Building?

Fabulous Building Lots

Available in the  
Seven Lakes Area!

CALL 910.295.7100 OR 800.214.9007 • WWW.MARTHAGENTRY.COM

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