

Chromebooks Arrive!



West Pine Middle School students Elizabeth Mae Smotherly and Janet Lee Smotherly clutch their new Chromebooks, accompanied by Principal Robin Calcutt and their mother, Jill Smotherly

Village pool fees will rise

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor



It will cost more to swim in Foxfire next year, if the Village Council sticks with the rate schedule they agreed on in their Thursday, January 22 Work Session. Swimmers can use the pool

by purchasing a season pass, a ten-visit punch card, or by paying for a days swim at the gate.

Council members agreed to raise the price of each of those options. Final approval will come when the Village's overall fee schedule is approved as part of the FY2016 budget, sometime

in June.

During the Work Session, Councilwoman Leslie Frusco initially proposed raising the fee for a four-person family season pass from \$150 to \$250. Each additional family member over four would cost another \$50, compared to \$25 during the 2014 swim season.

Frusco noted that Brown Golf, which owns both Foxfire Resort and Golf Club and the Country Club of Whispering Pines, offered family season passes at its Whispering Pines pool for \$550.

While her fellow council members felt the \$250 Season pass for Foxfire was reasonable, Councilman Mick McCue noted that "It is a jump."

"Will people balk and not join?" he asked. "We don't

(See "Foxfire," p. 28)

Country Club sale finalized

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor



Seven Lakes Country Club officially has new owners. Golf Seven Lakes LLC, headed up by industry veterans Larry Galloway and Jon Whittemore, closed the transaction on Tuesday, January 27.

"The members have been phenomenal," Galloway told *The Times*. "I can't remember the last time I felt so welcomed by a group of people."

The membership met on Sunday, December 14 and voted to dissolve Seven Lakes Country Club, Inc., to facil-

itate the sale of its assets.

As *The Times* reported in December, Galloway and Whittemore are both alumni of ClubCorp, the largest owner of private golf and country clubs in the US. ClubCorp owned Pinehurst Resort and Country Club from the mid-1980s until 2006.

The two men also worked together at Century Golf Partners, a golf management and consulting firm that has rights to the Arnold Palmer Golf Management brand.

The pair have acquired acquired three other courses in the past couple of years:

(See "Country Club," p. 29)

Commissioners approve business incentive guidelines

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor



With the goal of attracting new companies to the County — and helping to grow those already here — Moore County's Board of Commissioners approved guidelines for economic development incentives during their Tuesday, February 3 regular meeting.

They offer new and expanding businesses a grant tied to the the amount of new property taxes created by the expansion.

The county has had no written policy for economic incentive grants in the past. Instead, the county's economic development arm —

Partners in Progress — has had to bring the Commissioners proposals on a case-by-case basis.

Each grant will still need to be approved by the Board, but the written policy aims to make the process more predictable.

"The point of all this was to take out the uncertainty," Commissioners Chairman Nick Picerno said, "to give Pat [Corso] and Partners a guideline as to what the County was comfortable with, so you didn't have to wonder what you could do, what you could get."

Projects that involve an investment of \$3 million or more can qualify for a first year grant that is equal to 90 percent of the new prop-

(See "Incentives," p. 21)

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7 Lakes Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast is this Saturday

The Annual Seven Lakes Kiwanis Pancake & Sausage Breakfast will be held at the West End Elementary School cafeteria on Saturday, February 7, from 7 am until 11 am.

Each year the Kiwanis serve up a delicious pancake and

sausage breakfast to hundreds of Seven Lake families and the surrounding area.

The proceeds from the \$8 donation per meal benefits the West End Elementary School "Library Project" to improve and expand the library and to serve the students better.

There be a raffle and someone will take home for a big

flatscreen TV.

Come out and enjoy a Great Pancake and Sausage breakfast and support the Kiwanis and their efforts to help West End Elementary School to complete the Library Project.

Tickets are available from any Seven Lakes Kiwanis member or call 910-987-4664.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, 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.

Outreach for the Soul at Middle Cross Baptist

Middle Cross Baptist Church Student Ministries invites the community to their "Free Bowl of Soup" on Saturday, February 7, at 10 am, 440 Lucas Road, West End.

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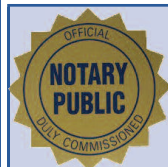
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Commissioners nix traffic enforcement team

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County's Commissioners have turned down a bid by Sheriff Neil Godfrey to create a four-officer traffic enforcement team with a potential yearly price tag of nearly \$250,000.

The vote came in a Tuesday, January 27 Special Meeting of the Board called to consider the Sheriff's request to apply for two state grants. The first grant would have partially funded the traffic enforcement team for three years.

A second grant application, which was approved by the Commissioners, will allow the Sheriff's Office to add a drug diversion investigator, focused on prescription drug abuse, to the existing narcotics division.

Maybe next year

Though they declined to support the Sheriff's application for a \$477,523 grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Program this year, the Commissioners did not close the door permanently.

Chairman Nick Picerno explained that the county is in the midst of a revaluation of all real estate for tax purposes — and early indications are that the overall assessed value of property in the county will decline. That will lower the tax base — and also lower county property tax revenues, unless the Commissioners agree to raise the tax rate, something they have pledged not to do.

Picerno said he was also aware, based on preliminary budget conversations with Sheriff Godfrey, that the Sheriff's Office will need to add personnel at the detention center and replace some aging vehicles in the next budget cycle.

"If you're adding cost, you're going to have to pay for it," Picerno told his fellow Commissioners. "And we already know that, if we keep our commitment to keep the tax rate where it is, we are going

to have less revenue — and the cost of health care, our employees, is all going to go up."

Picerno suggested that the proposed grant application be brought back to the Commissioners next year — and also suggested that the Sheriff and Commissioners look at any additional staffing needs during the upcoming FY2016 budget process.

Picerno ultimately put that suggestion in the form of a motion that was unanimously approved by the Board.

Big jump in fatalities

Patrol Captain Andy Conway made the case for a traffic enforcement team by pointing to the huge jump in highway fatalities in Moore County last year and to the benefits the county received when it previously created a traffic enforcement team, in 2004 and 2005.

Conway said local media had reported a total of twenty-eight traffic accident fatalities in the county in 2014, and said he had confirmed twenty-six of those in con-

versations with municipal law enforcement agencies.

The average number of fatalities in the three previous years had been only 8.5, Conway said.

He explained that the Sheriff's Office received a Governor's Highway Safety Grant in 2004 and 2005, when traffic fatalities in the county were averaging eighteen per year. He said the enforcement effort that resulted from the grant dropped that average to twelve per year, and the number had continued to decline until this year's spike.

Sheriff Godfrey told the Commissioners that former Sheriff Lane Carter had eventually assigned members of the 2004-2005 traffic enforcement team to other patrol duties. But Conway noted that sheriff's deputies have continued to perform traffic enforcement, increasing motorist safety on county roadways.

During the four-year period when the traffic enforcement team was working full time on that mission, Conway said, they wrote more than

7,000 traffic citations. In a more recent four year period, deputies have issued 2,700 citations.

Asked about the effect of delaying the application for one year, Conway said the unfortunate spike in fatalities last year would add weight to the county's application this year.

A step down program

The Governor's Highway Safety Grant program is a "step-down" program, in

which the state pays for a decreasing percentage of the cost each year.

The first year cost of the traffic enforcement program, which included not only salaries and benefits for a sergeant and three officers, but also vehicles and equipment, would have totaled \$477,523, with the county picking up fifteen percent, or \$71,629.

In years two, three, and four, the salary and benefits

(See "Sheriff," p. 27)

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SLLA Board approves slate of candidates

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Six candidates will compete for four open seats on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association

[SLLA] Board of Directors in a contest to be decided at the Annual Meeting in March.

The candidates, who were introduced during the SLLA's Wednesday, January 28 Open Meeting, include incumbent directors Dave Hill and Bob Racine, along with Mark Gyure, Greg Lishawa, Joy Smith, and Lawton Baker.

Baker qualified as a petition candidate by rounding up the signatures of fifty landowners.

Director Steve Ritter, whose term is expiring, will not stand for re-election. The fourth seat to be filled was vacated earlier this year by the resignation of Bill Hirsch in October.

Annual meeting packets will be mailed to the membership in late February, allowing members to vote both for Board candidates and on a proposed \$25 dues increase.

During the January Open Meeting, the Board voted unanimously to support the Finance Committee's recom-

mendation of a \$25 dues increase.

Recreation plans events

The Recreation Committee is already planning for warmer weather.

"We are working on several projects," Director Mary Farley reported. "On March 14th we will host an Arts, Crafts, and Yard Sale from 9:00 am until noon. If you are interested please give me a call."

The community will host the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4. A newcomer's coffee is being planned for a Saturday in May.

An early Summer concert is planned for Saturday, June 20. "We are hopeful that they weather will hold up," Farley said. "We already have two

bands signed up."

Speeders beware

As reported in *The Times'* January 23 edition, Sheriff's Deputy Forrest Kirk has been assigned as Community Policing officer for the West End and Seven Lakes area.

"Our previous deputy who worked here has since retired out of that position," Security Director Steve Ritter reported. "I have been told that at the beginning of County's fiscal year, July 1, Kirk will be assigned full time."

"He has already become very aggressive in traffic enforcement and has been tracking speeders with laser," Ritter said. "He has made a fair amount of stops. It's time to get the word out that we are finally getting a little more

attention on our roads by the Sheriff's Office."

Committee Reports

Committee reports during the Wednesday, January 28 SLLA Open Meeting included:

- Finance Director Sandy Sackman reported that the Finance Committee is working with management to remove unusable assets from the SLLA books.
- Building and renovation projects in Seven Lakes North and South included seven new roofs, and the completion of two houses that were under construction, Architectural Review Board Committee Member

Jane Leach reported. "January has been a busy month," she said. "Nothing this month was put on hold or denied. It's a nice thing to see people completing the applications adequately."

- Community Standards committee has a new easy to read summary of the Rules and Regulations. "We are hoping this will be effective," President Racine said. "Instead of members having to go through the whole book, we hope they will take this two page document and make use of it."
- Facilities Director Chuck Leach reported that the

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

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Can a long-term renter serve the community?

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Can someone who rents a home in Seven Lakes serve the community by volunteering time and energy in committee work?

Long time volunteer — and long term renter — George Temple isn't so sure, in the wake of an informal decision by the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors.

Temple and his wife Deb retired to Seven Lakes in 1999, George from a career with United Way; Deb from a career in accounting and administration. In the fifteen years since, they have rented two separate homes in Seven Lakes North.

Early on, the Temples were very active in the Sailing Club, with George racing and Deb in the safety boat.

George joined the Lakes and Dams Committee in 2007 and the Finance Committee a year or two later. He proved his value as a committee member with an eye for detail and deep knowledge of both SLLA finances and governing documents. So much so that, in 2012, he was named the SLLA Citizen of the Year.

"George is a tremendous source of historical information," then SLLA President Bob Darr said at the time, "He has seen, up close, the transition from a manager to a management company. But what is most significant is that he honestly and forthrightly cares about his community."

Accepting the award, Temple encouraged others to pitch in.

"Get involved," he said. "It is very gratifying — and the community needs your help."

Not quite three years later, Temple has resigned from both the Finance and Lakes & Dams Committees, no longer confident that the Board of Directors welcomes the contributions of those who rent, rather than own, their homes.

When is a decision not a decision?

That lack of confidence is a result of the way the Board responded to an offer by Deb Temple to fill an alternate's spot on the Judicial Committee.

During the December 17 SLLA Open Meeting, President Bob Racine reported the need for a new alternate on the judicial panel. Deb Temple volunteered on the spot. But Racine knew — and confirmed by consulting the rules and regulations — that only SLLA members are permitted to serve on that committee. The Bylaws and Rules & Regulations contain no such restriction for service on other committees.

The Temple's suggested that the rules could be changed to allow long-term renters to serve — a suggestion that Deb repeated in an email to Racine.

Meanwhile, the Judicial Alternate who had planned to resign reversed that decision. At that point, Racine

told *The Times*, the question of whether to revise the rules and regulations to allow a long term renter to serve on the Judicial Committee was not an urgent question.

Racine said, both in an interview with *The Times* and in remarks delivered at the January 28 SLLA Open Meeting, that he felt the matter should be held over until after the Annual Meeting elections seat a new Board of Directors.

"The possible vacancy also no longer existed as the individual adjusted his/her schedule," Racine said during the Open Meeting. So I saw no urgency to proceed."

Despite the lack of urgency, however, Racine spoke individually with each of his fellow Board members, gathering their opinions on the question of allowing non-members to serve on the Judicial Committee.

In a January 11 email to the Temples, Racine wrote: "I presented your request to amend the rules and regu-

lations to permit Deb being appointed to the judicial committee. While we all appreciate your time and dedication to SLLA, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate for a non-SLLA member to have the authority to set fines for SLLA members."

The wording of that paragraph — particularly the words "it was agreed" — suggested that the Board had voted on the matter, outside of a meeting. At least one other Board member confirmed to Temple that she understood the poll to be a vote of the Board.

Racine told *The Times* that his poll of the Board members was not a formal vote and that the matter would be taken up later in the year.

During the Open Meeting, he said he regretted his email.

"I admit that I goofed. I could have worded this differently. That wasn't my attention to be rude. Hindsight is 20/20."

"Even though we showed a preference, that doesn't mean our minds are made up," Racine said during the Open Meeting.

But the apparent consensus of the Board — and the peculiar way that consensus was reached — did not sit well with the Temples.

After speaking with Racine about the matter during the Wednesday, January 14 Finance Committee meeting, George resigned from that committee, and later from the Lakes & Dams Committee.

Is Judicial Different?

Picking up on the language
(See "Temple," p. 26)

The Silent Thief of Sight

Glaucoma offers no warning, symptoms, or cure

It can come with no warning and no noticeable symptoms. It is the second most common cause of blindness in the United States. "It" is glaucoma, the silent thief of sight, according to Dr. Barry Kavanaugh of Seven Lakes Eye Care.

Dr. Kavanaugh encourages anyone over 40, especially those at higher risk for this disease, to familiarize themselves with the potential symptoms and need for regular eye examinations. Regular eye examinations are especially critical since a person with early-stage glaucoma may not notice any symptoms at all.

Dr. Kavanaugh added that, while the early stage symptoms may not be noticeable, a person with more advanced glaucoma may notice blurred vision, the presence of halos around lights,

loss of peripheral vision, and difficulty focusing on objects.

"Glaucoma affects an estimated 4 million Americans," Dr. Kavanaugh said, "Some people are more at risk than others."

Those at higher risk include:

- People over the age of 60.
- African-Americans over age 40.
- People with diabetes.
- Individuals that have experienced a serious eye injury.
- Anyone with a family history of glaucoma.

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State teacher allotments fail to meet the need

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



School finances, at least in North Carolina, are incredibly complex. Money flows in from the state and federal governments in dozens of streams dedicated to specific purposes, from buying textbooks to hiring shop teachers and social workers.

Developing a budget is even more complicated, because the General Assembly nails down state funding long after the School Board must submit its proposal for local funding to the County Board of Commissioners.

Moore County Schools [MCS] Director of Budget Mike Griffin gave School Board members a taste of all that complexity during their Monday, February 2 Work Session, focusing in particular on the difficult question of how many teachers are needed to fill the district's classrooms — and how you pay for them.

The state provides most of the funding MCS receives for teachers, and the amount of money that is sent to Moore County is based on a very logical formula.

For example, the state formula says you need one teacher for every 24 sixth graders, and one for every 23 seventh and eighth graders. MCS has 2948 middle school students. Doing the math, the state provides enough money to pay for 126.41 middle school teachers.

So far, so good.

The problem is that those 2948 Moore County middle schoolers don't all attend the same school.

For example, there are 137 sixth graders at Crains Creek Middle School. Divide that by the state's 24 students per teacher, and you get 5.7 teachers. But you can't hire seven tenths of a teacher.

You either hire five teachers and put 27 or 28 students in each class, or you hire six teachers and figure out how to come up with the extra

funding to supplement what the state provides.

That scenario plays out in schools all across the county.

The upshot is that MCS must either increase the number students in classrooms in order to make do with the state budget allot-

ment, or the district must use additional funding from the county to pay for the number of teachers that are really needed — or both.

"Right now, we are 32 [middle school] teachers over the state allotment," Griffin told the Board. MCS chooses to add teachers rather than

increase class size. "But that puts pressure on the local budget," Griffin said.

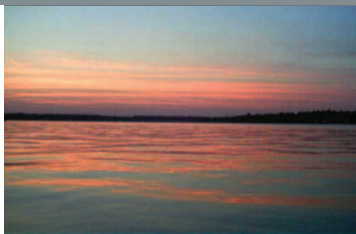
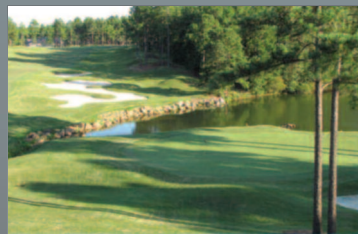
Similarly, on the high school level, the state allotment would give MCS 143 teachers. MCS, in fact, has 158.

District-wide, Griffin said, the state allotment is sixty

teachers short of the number Moore County actually needs for its classrooms.

"We are short sixty positions, which is \$3.4 million," Griffin said. "This is the pressure that is being put on Moore County by reduced funding at the state level."

(See "School Board," p. 25)



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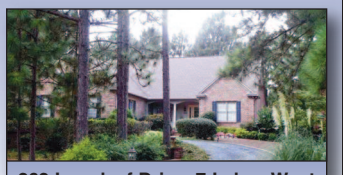
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The Times interviews Westside Candidates

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Six candidates will compete for three open seats in the Annual Meeting balloting for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board of Directors.

They are Jim Beaty, Jim Greaves, John Hildebrand, Jack Lattin, John Shaughnessy, and Bernadette York.

The Times' Ellen Marcus interviewed each of the candidates by telephone, using the same set of questions as conversation starters.

We asked about the opportunities and challenges facing Seven Lakes West, about the candidate's previous experience and preferred assignment is

elected. We asked about dues increases and controlling expenses. And we asked how the community should respond to its growing diversity.

Our goal was not so much to elicit specific answers to our questions as to give the candidates an opportunity to talk about their understanding of where Seven Lakes West is and where it should be heading — and how they might contribute to moving the community in that direction.

You'll find summaries of our interviews on the next few pages.



Candidates for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board include Jim Beaty, John Hildebrand, Jim Greaves, Bernadette York, John Shaughnessy, and Jack Lattin

ESU: WWII off the NC Coast

On Wednesday, February 11, North Carolina award-winning author, filmmaker and historical researcher Kevin Duffus will present a captivating view of WWII attacks off North Carolina's Outer Banks to members and guests of the English Speaking Union.

In 1942, the US suffered one of its worst defeats of WWII, not in Europe or the Pacific, but along the nation's eastern seaboard. Three hun-

dred ninety-seven ships were sunk or damaged, and 5,000 people died.

For six months, sixty-five German U-boats hunted merchant vessels, practically unopposed, within view of coastal communities. The greatest of these attacks occurred off North Carolina's Outer Banks.

Duffus' maritime research contributes new insights to North Carolina history: pirates, shipwrecks, Civil

War and WWI battles and lighthouses.

The Sandhills English Speaking Union monthly dinner meetings are held at the Pinehurst Country Club, 6 pm, Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres; 7 pm, Dinner, (costs \$46 per person, inclusive of tax and service charge). Membership is open to the public.

For information about ESU membership, contact Hope Price (910)-692-7727 or Hopewp@aol.com

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Jim Beaty: Westside needs better marketing

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Seven Lakes West Board Candidate Jim Beaty is the Associate

Director of Pharmacy at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. He and his wife have lived in Seven Lakes West for eight years and plan to remain in the community long term.

Beaty believes that strong rules and regulations maintain property values.

"My primary reason of running for Director," he told *The Times*, "is to build off the success of what I have seen come out of the Board in the last three years: the construction of the mailhouse, front entrance, and initiating of the road paving.

"These three things were all greatly needed, and it put this community back on track where we need to be. I want to carry that flag."

Beaty said the Westside's number one priority should be completing the road repaving project.

"Personally, I see us moving forward, marketing Seven Lakes West as a premier community," Beaty said. "If voted in, I would like to focus on beatification, including improvements to Johnson's Point, and better maintenance of the grass along Longleaf

Drive. It needs to be mowed on a more regular basis; sometimes it can get as high as twelve inches. I would also like to see new street signs put in."

whole. When I look at the total of that, I don't find a dues increase unreasonable."

Beaty supervises more than fifty people at FirstHealth.

"Due to my personality and

respectful manner. We can work together to get all of our points across and come up with some good compromises."

"I think the change in demographics is positive," when asked about the shift of Seven lakes West from primarily a retirement community to one that includes more families and children.

"I think the retired population has a lot to offer in terms of experience and history on certain issues that have gone on in the community," Beaty said.

"I think the younger group brings a whole lot of different perspectives that have gone unnoticed for a whole lot of

years. They are important if new families are to move here. Walking trails are a part of it. I feel we need them if we want our community to be viable and competitive. It is something we need to look at."

"I think we have done absolutely nothing in marketing our community," Beaty added. "We have one of the nicest lakes on the East Coast. Horse lovers can have horses on their property — golfing, if that's your thing. We need to raise our hands and say 'Come look at us!' We are having a branding issue and I think we need to consider a rebranding of ourselves."

"If you look at what we pay in dues for what we get, I think our dues are cheap."

— Candidate Jim Beaty

One of Beaty's key concerns is the appearance of the back gate.

"I would like to see a makeover of the back gate," he said. "I would like to see the split rail fence taken down and replaced with some sort of wrought iron railing — similar to what you see up at the front, and an island of some sort. A little bit of turf. Also replacing the arm's hardware, so that it doesn't look rusted and outdated. I think it should be made more consistent with the appearance of the front gate."

Beaty believes his dues payments to the Association provide a good return.

"If you look at what we pay in dues for what we get, I think our dues are cheap," he said. "In setting dues, you take the community into account as a whole; and, at the end of the day, you have to make a decision that is right for community as a

attention to detail I would like to serve on the Architectural Review Committee," Beaty said when asked what position on the Board he would prefer.

"I am level-headed enough to deal with people in a

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Jim Greaves: Connect with the wider area

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Jim Greaves is the youngest of the candidates running for the Seven Lakes West

Landowners Association Board this year.

However, that does not make him the least experienced. At age 40, Greaves has experienced first-hand the need for good planning, organization, and focus.

Greaves paid his way through Purdue University while working at a commercial construction company. Recognizing his talent for writing statistical software, he switched gears and schools and earned a B.S. in Computer Science from De Paul University.

At the age of 25, he co-founded Robotics Integration. Greaves and his wife Megan

have two young children at West End Elementary.

"We moved here almost eight years ago," he told *The Times*. "We love the weather and enjoy the amenities and activities."

"I feel like I have an obli-

Living in Chicago, Greaves recognized the need for revitalization of economically hard hit areas.

Looking at the area around Seven Lakes, he said, "The lack of planning and organization in the outlying com-

start a dialog, if there is not one already going on that I am unaware of. We need a better understanding of what is the current plan and what are everybody's interests."

"Inside Seven lakes West, I am really happy with all the work that has been done," Greaves said. "The construction of the front gate and mailhouse was needed. I don't want to see off the charts growth, but I also don't want to see the community become stagnant and decay."

Asked about the wisdom of annual dues increases, Greaves replied, "The membership determines the dues increase by voting on it. If there is pushback then the board needs to rethink the increase."

"My take is: as long as the money is being used in a way to better the community, and the community can afford it, then I am okay with

an increase."

"I have an interest in the Architectural Review Committee," Greaves said, when asked what post on the Board most interests him. "I went to Purdue for building. My work is very flexible, so that I can be available. But, with work, family, and two small children the time commitment will be my biggest challenge. We will make it work."

Greaves doesn't see the changing demographics of Seven Lakes West as a big issue.

"There is already a lot of amenities here for everyone," he said. "I am all for continuing that. We have parks. We do a lot of biking and hiking. We use the pools and the lakes. We have the community center, programs, and events."

"This is home," Greaves said.

"The lack of planning and organization in the outlying community is concerning."

— Candidate Jim Greaves

gation to step up and do this. It's my way of contributing to my home and community," he said. "I don't like complacency and would rather be active and planning."

While living in the Midwest Greaves rehabbed several homes.

"I have also done some work down here," he said. "It was more of a hobby when I had more time."

munity is concerning."

"Seven Lakes West is part of a bigger community," Greaves said. "What I would like to see is more conversation with the Seven Lakes Landowners Association and the business district. There are some good solid businesses."

"There needs to be some amount of collaboration," he continued, "and we should



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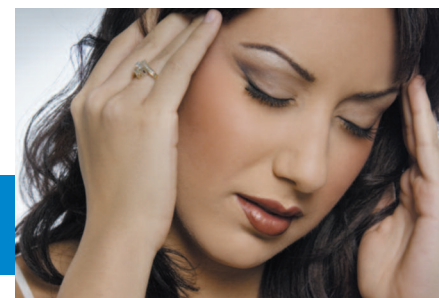
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John Hildebrand: Deciding on facts, not emotion

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



John and Lisa Hildebrand and their family relocated to Seven Lakes West from

Pinehurst. "We had friends who lived out here and they highly recommended it," Hildebrand said.

John, a commercial real estate appraiser, is a candidate for the Westside Board of Directors.

The Hildebrand's two sons attend West Pine Middle school, and both enjoy water skiing.

"We use a lot of the amenities: the lakes, volleyball courts, community center, walking trails," Hildebrand said.

"We love the community. After being approached about coming on the board, I decided to get involved. I would like to continue the good work the current board has done."

"I think they have done a very good job on completing the front gate, the mailhouse, and beginning work on the roads. It takes so long to get certain things done. I would like to try to level it out and to get approval quicker," Hildebrand said.

"I work a flexible schedule; if it were necessary to call an emergency meeting I could be available. I think that would help getting things done quickly in an efficient manner. I also think there are some small things that could probably be done a little bit better."

Hildebrand and his family fall in the younger generation of Westside homeowners and he said he appreciates the changing demographics of the community.

"We need equal representation," he said, of the younger segment in the community. "The demographics are shifting from a retirement community and are continuing to change."

to form a Seven Lakes ski team from both the Seven Lakes North and West communities."

In addition to a ski club, Hildebrand would like to see the back gate updated, and

ers, and walkers off the road."

But, before anything new projects are launched, they first must be budgeted, Hildebrand said.

"I don't like a fee increase period," he explained. "I am fiscally conservative. However, things have to be paid for."

"They [the current Board] are recommending a substantial increase to pave the roads. Once the work has been completed, I would like to see the fees come back down. I don't think anyone is going to have a problem with fluctuating fees if they go back down. If people know where the money is going and have a reasonable expla-

nation of why there are increases then they are more apt to pay it."

Hildebrand believes his career and experience would make him a good fit for the board.

"I think I would be good for the board," he said. "I am a commercial real estate appraiser. It is my job to get all the facts. I want to have all the information before I make the decision. I don't make any decision on emotion. You can make a lot of errors basing a decision on emotion. I base my decisions on logic and facts and asking what is in the best interest for the majority."

"I would like to continue the good work the current board has done."

— Candidate John Hildebrand

Asked what position on the board he would like to fill, if elected, Hildebrand said: "My interest are in the Lakes and Dam Committee. We use the water actively."

"I was in the early stages of trying to start a ski club," he said. "It would be great if we could get a slalom course on the lake. The ski club could manage the use of it. One of my sons briefly competed in a ski competition. Ultimately, I would like

lights added to the volleyball and basketball courts.

"A lot of it would also benefit retirees," he said. "It would make our community more active," he explained.

Moving to other priorities, he said, "I am still not convinced that the dam needs to be closed. I think one thing we need to do is to continue and accelerate the walking trails — especially along Longleaf — and make it wide enough to get golf carts, bik-

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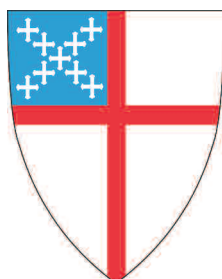
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What is a Singing Valentine? "It's actually two love songs delivered with a card, a box of chocolate and a rose by a quartet from the Golf Capital Chorus," said Neil MacDonald, who lives in Seven Lakes West and sings

as a tenor for the chorus.

The Chorus will send quartets throughout the Sandhills to surprise the most unsuspecting but most deserving with Singing Valentines.

Delivering a Singing Valentine is as rewarding as receiving one. "Without exception, it's a great experience for the singers and recipient," said Ron Sickenberger, who also lives in Seven Lakes West.

"I see the joy in the person's eye we're singing to," he added. "It's also emotional for the quartet. Imagine singing 'Let Me Call You Sweetheart' to someone confined to a hospital bed."

Sickenberger, who directs the music leadership team for the chorus as its vice president of music and performance, has "sung to teachers in schools and delivered

Singing Valentines in interesting places, such as fire departments and city halls," he said.

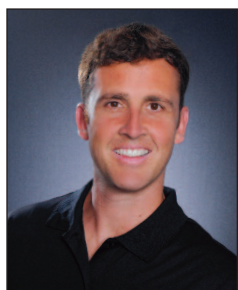
"We often receive donations to pay for Singing Valentines for military personnel," he added. "In addition to warming someone's heart, a Singing Valentine raises money that we donate to charities."

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schedule a surprise visit from 9 am to 9 pm on Friday, February 13, or Saturday, February 14.

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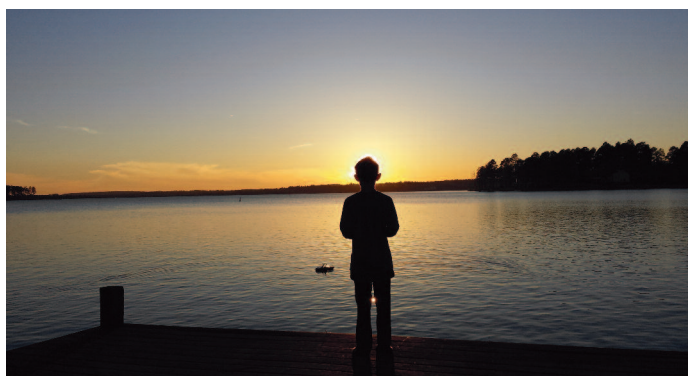
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Jack Lattin: Bringing HOA experience to the table

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Michigan natives Jack and Lori Lattin have been Seven Lakes West property owners since 2002. After twenty-seven years of service, Jack Lattin retired in 1998 as a Command Sergeant Major in the US Army. Balancing a second career in Business Management for 35 years, he retired as an Assistant Plant Manager at General Motors.

The Lattins built their Westside home in 2012.

"I think everybody should serve in the community that they live in, one way or another," he told *The Times*, explaining his decision to run for a seat on the Board of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association. "Our home is built, and we are settled in. Everything is kind of quiet. I think it's time to do my part."

Lattin is quite familiar with the governance of Homeowners Associations [HOA].

"You might say I have a lot of experience," he said. "I served on our HOA

in Michigan for five years and was President."

Lattin serves on the SLWLA Architectural Review Committee and feels his talents and experience would be well utilized as ARB Director. But he said he is open to taking on other roles on the Board.

Boards of Directors.

"I am very familiar with what has been going on," he said. "The only downside is that I do not have all facts that the Board has in front of them. For me to say I disagree with decision that they have made would be wrong,

"It has always been my position to do everything possible to avoid raising dues — and do everything possible to be prudent about spending money."

— Candidate Jack Lattin

"I have some working knowledge of the ARC," Lattin said. "I am open to any seat, having served from President to legal to infrastructure to ARB, I feel that I am fairly familiar with the responsibilities."

Lattin has been a SLLA landowner for twelve years and compliments the efforts of the current and past

because I don't have all the information."

Maintaining the community's infrastructure, while continuing to build reserves need to be top SLWLA priorities, Lattin said.

"I think that the completion of the road paving project in a timely manner, while making sure that we have adequate reserves for infrastruc-

ture, are two of SLW's biggest objectives," Lattin said.

Prioritizing projects so that they can be completed without raising dues is another key priority for Lattin.

"Let me explain," he said. "I think the most difficult thing I had to do as a board member was to spend other people's money and have to tell them that we needed to raise dues. It has always been my position to do everything possible to avoid raising dues — and do everything possible to be prudent about spending money."

Asked about the impact of the demographic shift in Seven Lakes west that is seeing retirees replaced by younger families does not have to be issue, Lattin told *The Times*.

"I think there is some friction between the old established retirees and what some of the younger members are expecting," he said. "It's extremely important to embrace both groups, and find ways to work together to continue to make this a vibrant community."

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John Shaughnessy: A great place for families

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



John Shaughnessy has decided — with a little encouragement from his friends — that it's about time he ran for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board of Directors.

"I've been asked a few times prior to this year to run," he told *The Times*. "We moved to Seven Lakes West in 1999 and have been living here for fifteen years. I have been active in other organizations, including the Kiwanis."

As chairman of the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, to be held this Saturday, February 7 at West End Elementary, Shaughnessy puts in a plug for the upcoming event.

"Tickets are on sale!" he said laughing.

"My wife Alice and I both

believe we should take active roles in our community."

Shaughnessy brings to the table experience from a long career in education, coaching, and administration.

"I am happy to serve in whatever seat available," he said. "I am open to helping the community and if I can do that in a specific way that's fine."

Longevity runs in Shaugh-

nessy's family. His mother is 105 years of age and sharp as a tack. She recently returned to her native Hamburg, New York to settle down.

Though Shaughnessy and his wife are in good health he recognizes current and future needs of Seven Lakes West's aging population.

"We have the opportunity to research and see if any developer would be interested in building senior housing here in the area," he said.

"I think one of the priorities for Seven Lakes West is that we need to accommodate our seniors. Transitional housing

"I think probably the maintenance of SLW and repairing the roads will take a large amount of funding," he told *The Times*. "The paving is going to continue over the next three years — and then we start over."

"Fortunately, we have paid for the construction of the front gate, community center, and our recreational facilities. I think we should be really satisfied with what we have at the present time, and we need to maintain what we have. We have to prioritize and budget for new projects."

Acknowledging the demographic change in Seven Lakes, Shaughnessy said differing age groups can complement one another.

"I think it is great that our demographics are changing," he said. "Being a teacher, I enjoy working with kids. I have four granddaughters and we follow them daily."

"I think young families who live in Seven Lakes actually are very fortunate. We have lots of infrastructure that is designed for young families, if they take advantage of it. We could expand on what we already have and have botany and natural history programs for the trails."

"We have a great community with people that have various skills. We could also provide a volunteer mentoring program," Shaughnessy concluded.

"I think one of the priorities for Seven Lakes West is that we need to accommodate our seniors."

— Candidate John Shaughnessy

Ash Wednesday Service

The community is welcome to begin the celebration of Lent at the Chapel in the Pines on Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 10 am.

The Ash Wednesday service invites all people to center themselves in Christ, to connect with the Church, to repent of their sins, and to receive God's forgiveness.

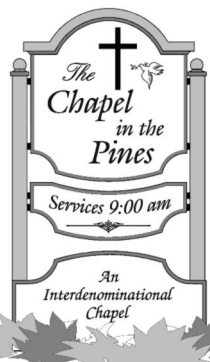
Ashes have long been a symbolic way to worship

God.

As the ashes are used to place the sign of the cross on each person's forehead, all will be asked to remember that they are mortal and that their lives, here on earth and in the time to come, are a gift from God.

The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines is located at 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

Come & Worship with Us!



February 8th
"Violence Lingers Within"
(Jonah 3:10-4:11)

February 15th - Transfiguration Sunday
"In Transition"
(Mark 9:2-9)

Rev. Paul James
Chapel Minister

Rev. Fran Stark
Associate Minister

910-673-2156
citp10@centurylink.net

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Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines was founded in 1976
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Bernadette York: Listening to the members

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Bernadette York is tenacious. Applying up to be a candidate for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors was not as easy as York expected.

After the required interview with the SLWLA Nominating Committee, York failed to win their recommendation. Undeterred, she organized a signature drive and won a slot on the ballot as a petition candidate.

"I am a good listener," York said. "I had the opportunity to talk with a lot of members when I was out collecting signatures."

"I think we should bring back the Advocacy Committee," York said, referring to the Landowners Advocacy Committee established by then Treasurer Dale Erickson in 2013 and eventually disbanded.

"I served on the Committee and found it an important tool to better understanding our community. It provided members the opportunity to express their views and for the Board to gain valuable insight in prioritizing projects. I want to be a voice for the community."

York believes that better understanding of members' interests will increase vol-

unteerism.

"If we are prioritizing the members' interests, then they will be excited to volunteer," she said. "The members can do things that are good for the community — fun things that don't require a vote."

"I think communication is key. I want to get us all together."

— Candidate Bernadette York

York is a mother and grandmother.

"I love seeing the children getting off the school busses," she said. "I think it's great. It's where our future lies. We should do more for our young folks. We also need to remember our seniors and veterans. I want everyone to be comfortable and happy to be here."

"Organizing group activities doesn't have to be expensive," she added. "We could have a community vegetable garden, and a community shredding and recycling day."

"We could build a fenced-in area for a dog park. It might curb members that let the dogs off their leashes. You can hope," York said laughing.

York said she would be happy chairing any committee. But if she could pick it would be Lake & Dams or Architectural Review.

"I live on the lake, and I

have a vested interest with what goes on the lake — how we can keep it clean, fed, and protected," she said.

York worked for 24 years as a project manager and corporate trainer for Hewlett Packard.

York said. "We have seniors that are retired and on a fixed income and we also have some younger families that are barely making it."

"We need to be very careful about prioritizing our projects with our income," she said. "There could be improvement on our back gate. If it is affordable, we also need automated gates for our dam so that emergency vehicles can cross. That is something very important to us that live near the dam. It would afford life-

saving minutes if there was an emergency."

"I think communication is key," York told *The Times*. "I want to get us all together."

"We live in a golfing community. Golf is part of our history. However, golf is not as popular as it once was once. At some point, our community might also like to have bike paths, trails, and leash parks. It seem to be what younger families are looking for."

7 Lakes Garden Club

Seven Lakes Garden Club will meet on Thursday, February 12 at 2 pm, Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes Drive.

The theme for the meeting is 'Get Ready Spring.' The guest speaker is Harry Neely.

He will discuss how to successfully grow healthy plants from seeds.

Door Prize and free raffle. Bring your enthusiasm, questions, and neighbors. Novice to experts all are welcome.

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- Recurrent Depression
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- Sleep Disturbances

This is an eight-week program held on Mondays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The program includes an initial individual assessment, group therapy, classroom materials, follow-up assessment and a one-day workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 18. Space is limited.

Medicare and most major insurance companies cover group sessions. Our admissions personnel will verify your health insurance coverage and discuss rates and payment options with you. Payment is expected at the time of service unless other arrangements have been made.

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Elizabeth Manley, MSN, R.N., C.S., Clinical Coordinator

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West Pine Middle collects Jeans for Teens

Karen Meyer's 7th grade Language Arts Class at West Pine Middle is collecting jeans for Teens for Jeans, a national campaign in partnership with Aéropostale and DoSomething.org, the largest not-for-profit organization for young people and social change.

Teens for Jeans encourages young people across the country to run a jean drive in their school or community to help provide clothing for youth experiencing homelessness.

Over a million young people experience homelessness in the United States every year and one of the most requested items that young people in homeless shelters ask for is a pair of jeans.

In the past seven years, young people across the country have collected over 4.3 million pairs of jeans through Teens for Jeans. This year, the top collecting high school, middle school, elementary school, and college will each win a \$5,000 school grant.

In addition to the school grant, the school that collects the most jeans will win a private school concert by pop band The Vamps and Aéropostale t-shirts for the entire school.

Members of the community can support the West Pine Middle drive by dropping off their gently used denim jeans at any of the following locations from Tuesday, January 26 to Sunday, February 15:

First Baptist Church of Pinehurst, 7373 NC Highway 211, Pinehurst;
Grace Church in Seven Lakes Plaza, Seven Lakes;
Lowe's Foods Store, 266

Central Park Avenue, Pinehurst;

Sandhills' Bowling Center, 1680 NC Highway 5,

Aberdeen;

Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes;

Seven Lakes West Community Center, Seven Lakes West, Seven Lakes.

For more information,

please visit Teens for Jeans.com or contact Karen Meyer at 910-673-1464 and kmeyer@ncmcs.org



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160 CARDINAL LN
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104 RUNNING BROOK LN
Lake Sequoia Waterfront
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119 FAWNWOOD DR
Gorgeous 3 BR / 2BA
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109 W DEVONSHIRE AVE
Golf Front 3BR/2BA
\$225,000



112 GLEN COVE LANE
Beautiful 4BR/3BA
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101 ROLLING HILL CT
4BR/2.5 BA Family Home
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116 EAST DEVONSHIRE
3BR/2BA - Golf Front
\$199,000



106 DOGWOOD LN
3BR/2BA Move In Ready
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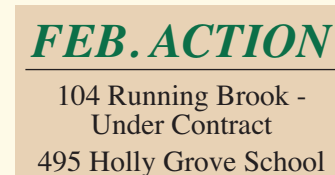
154 E DEVONSHIRE
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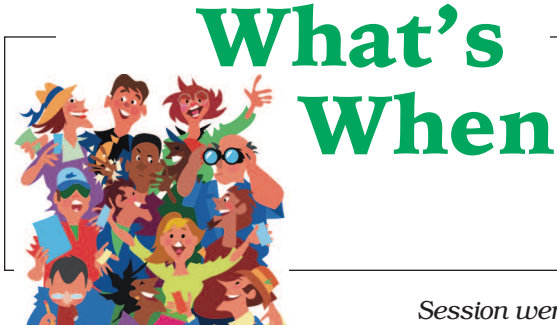
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- **"Marvelous Mammals"** (For Wee Ones) – 10 am, What do squirrels, deer, and bobcats all have in common? Book reading, play games, and make a craft. Activities geared towards 3 to 5 year-olds. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 692-2167, weymouthwoods@ncdenr.gov
- **"Pursuing Your Best Life"** – 11 am - 12 pm. Please join for a discussion to learn a new topic each month to help create a happy, more fulfilled life. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **"Expressions in Layers"** – reception 5 to 7 pm, in the gallery. Exhibition presented by award winning artists: Linda Drott, Lynn Goldhammer, and Pat Haligan. Artists League of the Sandhills, Aberdeen.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast** – 7 am until 11 am, West End Elementary School cafeteria. \$8 per plate, proceeds benefit West End Elementary School. Tickets 910-987-4664.
- **Outreach for the Soul** – 10 am, Middle Cross Baptist Church Student Ministries invites the community to their "Free Bowl of Soup" at 440 Lucas Road, West End. Share soup, sandwich, and the Savior. For questions call 910-690-8270 or 910-949-2626.
- **SALT Membership Mixer** – 1-3 pm, Benefit for The Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT). Southern Pines Brewing Company, 565 Air Tool Drive, Southern Pines. Bring a friend. Cash bar and a food truck. RSVP: development@sandhills-landtrust.org or (910) 695-4323.
- **Paint for the Pantry** – 2 to 4 pm, West End United Methodist Church, in the Fellowship Hall. Come out and help with this fundraiser. Proceeds benefit the WEUMC Food Pantry. No skills needed, enjoy the

laughter, and refreshments. Go home with a completed "Snowman" painting. Cost \$35 per person. Elizabeth Anne Batchelor at (910)400-5300.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 11 am service. 275 Knox Lane, West End.
- **West End United Methodist Church Explorers** – 5 pm – 6:30 pm, for children grades K-5. Time of learning, crafts and activities, eating dinner with the youth from 6 – 6:30 pm. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End.
- **West End Presbyterian Church Youth Group** – (6th grade – 12th grade) 6 pm to 8 pm.
- **West End United Methodist Church Youth Group** – 6 – 7:30 pm in the Youth Room at the church. Youth in 6th – 12th grades. West End United Methodist Church.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Musical guest: *Chris Jones and the Night Drivers*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- **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.

- **Moore County Board of Education Regular Meeting** – Central Office, 6 pm - Closed Session, 7 pm - Open Session*

** Notice: Open session may begin before 7:00 pm if Closed Session takes less than the allotted time. If Open*

Session were to begin before 7 pm, Item II. Pledge, Inspiration, Moment of Silence and Recognitions would not occur until 7 pm or later.

- **Sandhills Photography Club** – 7 pm, a member's competition showcasing Winter. Hannah Theater Center at The O'Neal School, 3300 Airport Rd, Southern Pines. Guests welcome. Info: Sandhills Photography Club

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30, meeting begins at 12:05, Seven Lakes Country Club Restaurant. Visitors are always welcome.
- **Trivia Tuesday at Sandhills Winery** – 6 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Foxfire Village Council Work Session** – 6:30 pm. Foxfire Village Hall.
- **Covenant Preparatory School Open House** – 7 pm, serving K-12th grades. School will host an open house on campus. Visit www.covenantprep.com for details.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- **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.
- **"War Zone – World War**



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- **II off the North Carolina Coast** – Kevin Duffus will present a captivating view of WWII attacks off North Carolina's Outer Banks to the English Speaking Union. Meetings held at the Pinehurst Country Club, 6 pm, Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres; 7 pm, Dinner, (costs \$46/person, inclusive of tax and service charge). Membership open to the public. Hope Price (910)-692-7727 or Hopewp@aol.com
- **AWANA Youth Group** – 6:30 to 8 pm, Hankins Family Life Center. Children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

Need a Friend?



Calling all Orange tabby fans! Big Baby came to the Animal Center when his owners could no longer care for him. He is an extra large cat with a personality to match. Big Baby is 7 years old, already neutered and ready to meet his new family! To meet Big Baby visit the Moore County Animal Center at 5235 Highway 15/501 in Carthage.



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- **Lincoln's Birthday**
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Fellowship, devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **New Game "Mexican Train"** – 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 2 pm, Chapel in the Pines. Harry Neely will discuss how to successfully grow healthy plants from seeds. Door Prize and free raffle. All are welcome.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Ballroom Dancing** – 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, Free instructions in this 6-week program. Classes will continue every other week for 6 sessions. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- **Singing Valentines start Today** – Surprise your Valentine with a singing Valentine by a quartet from the Golf Capital Chorus. \$50 includes chocolates, rose and a song. Contact Dick Curl, 910-215-9796 or dickcurl@nc.rr.com
- **Everyone Love's Volunteers Fair** – 1 pm - 3 pm. Be the first to learn of the upcoming local fundraisers. Meet representatives from

Moore County non-profit agencies. Moore County Department of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.

- **Chapel in the Pines Valentine Outreach Party** – 2 pm, in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. Everyone welcome, especially those living in the community who are alone or shut-in. New Horizons Band provide music. For transportation, call 673-2156, 9 am and 1 pm.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- **Valentines' Day**
- **West End United Methodist Men's Breakfast** – 8 am, the men will meet and enjoy a home-cooked breakfast and a time of fellowship. Brief devotional and discussion of projects to assist both the church and the community.
- **Sandhills Community College Valentine's Day Concert** – 3 pm, Free and open to the public, at Owens Auditorium.
- **Singing Valentine** – Surprise your Valentine with a singing Valentine by a quartet from the Golf Capital Chorus. \$50 includes chocolates, rose and a song. Dick Curl, 910-215-9796 or dickcurl@nc.rr.com

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 11 am service. 275 Knox Lane, West End.
- **Weymouth Special Concert** – 3 pm, Anthony Dean Griffey will perform. Admission \$40 for members and \$50 for nonmembers. Post concert reception. 555 East Connecticut Avenue, Southern Pines, (910) 692-6261.
- **West End United Methodist Church Explorers** – 5 pm – 6:30 pm, for children grades K-5. Learning, crafts and activities, dinner with the youth from 6 – 6:30 pm. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 NC Highway 73, West End, 673-1371.
- **West End Presbyterian Church Youth Group** – (6th grade – 12th grade) from 6 pm to 8 pm.
- **West End United Methodist Church Youth Group** – 6 – 7:30 pm in the Youth Room at the church. Open to all youth in 6th – 12th grades.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Musical guest: *Brooks Williams, Hiroya Tsukamoto*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- **President's Day**
- **Moore County Schools Concept High School Community Forum** – 6 - 7:30 pm at Union Pines High School. MCS staff will provide a brief overview of the current draft of the academic plan and seek feedback from the audience. Audience participants are encouraged to ask questions and offer suggestions.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

- **Zumba Class** – 10:30 to 11:30 am, *free* class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Crime Prevention Presentation** – 10:30 am and 1:30 pm, "How Not to Be a Victim of Crime & Violence in the Workplace" Moore County Dept. of Aging, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trou-

bled, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.

- **League of Women Voters** – 11:30 am, luncheon meeting. Guest speakers, Moore County Schools: Anna Stevens, Specialist for English as a Second Language Support, and Marisol Rivera, social worker. Table on the Green Restaurant, 2205 Midland Drive. Reservations, Charlotte, 910-944-9611, \$13. Public welcome.
- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch 11:30, meeting at 12:05, Seven Lakes Country Club Restaurant. Visitors welcome.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:30 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **McDonalds Chapel Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** – 5:30 pm - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall. Public invited. Cost \$6 per person, \$3 for children ages three and under. Proceeds benefit Linden Lodge. McDonalds Chapel, 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen, 692-5094.
- **Trivia Tuesday at Sandhills Winery** – 6 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com



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In memory of . . .

Allen H. Stoecker, 94, formerly of Seven Lakes, died January 27 of natural causes at Webster-at-Rye in Rye, New Hampshire.

Mr. Stoecker was the only son of Henry (Harry) Dewey and Evelyn Allen Stoecker of Wycoff, NJ.

As a boy he played baseball with the Wycoff Rookies and later at Ramsey High School. He graduated from Pace University where he majored in Accounting.

Mr. Stoecker served in the Marines during World War II and was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone where he met and married his wife, Helen Louise Geiger.

Prior to retiring to Seven Lakes, the family made their home in Basking Ridge, NJ, where they raised their three daughters.

A well respected businessman, Mr. Stoecker enjoyed a successful career at Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company in Newark, NJ, from which he retired as Vice President for Public Affairs in 1985.

During his career, he also served on the United States President's Private Industry Council under Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan to advance job opportunities in the business sector for disadvantaged citizens. He also served as the President of the National Association for the Prevention of Blindness.

Mr. Stoecker was an active member of the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, enjoyed playing the piano and playing golf with friends at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Louise Geiger Stoecker.

Survivors include his daughters, Lindsay (Mark Josephs, Rye, NH); Laurie (Vic Spigener, Thomasville, GA and Portsmouth, NH); and Leigh Stoecker (Doug Sector, West Newbury, MA); his cousin, Alan Pearson, of New York City and CT; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

A memorial service honoring Mr. Stoecker's life is

scheduled later in the summer at Rye Central Cemetery in Rye, NH. Memorial donations in his memory may be made to: The Rannie Webster Foundation, Webster-at-Rye, 795 Washington Road, Rye, NH 03870.

Doyle Bearden, 88, formerly of Seven Lakes, died Sunday, January 25, in Greenville, SC.

He was born in Hickory Flat, GA, son to the late Wallace and Daisy Bearden. Mr. Bearden served in the United States Navy.

Mr. Bearden was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Wally Bearden and sister, Ruby Virginia Solin.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn Rose (nee Kemble) Bearden; son, Mark Doyle Bearden; daughter, Cheryl Ruth Hawkins; sister, Dorothy Young; three grandchildren, Daniel Hawkins and his wife Laura, Kara,

and Meghan Hawkins.

Funeral services were held Saturday, January 31 at Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes. Burial followed at Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made in his name to: Christ Fellowship Church, 1425 Midland Road, Southern Pines, NC 28387.

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

Mildred Elizabeth Thompson Luck, 85, died Wednesday, January 21, at her home in West End.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, January 25, at Middle Cross Baptist Church where she was a member. Rev. Jim Strickland, Rev. David Reynolds and Rev. Robin Hardison officiated. Burial followed at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Luck was born in Jackson Springs and was

the daughter to the late Lonnie Jones Thompson and Ethel Lee Britt Thompson.

She enjoyed talking with people, researching family history, reading, and traveling.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Teresa Anne McKenzie; son, Larry Randall Luck; her sisters, Mary Evellen, and twins Lela Maxine and Lula Pauline Thompson; her sister, Ruth Robertson; brothers, Lonnie James "LJ" Carlton, and Glenn Thompson, and sister-in-law Vernie Reid.

Survivors include her husband of sixty-eight years, Lonnie Monroe Luck of the

home; daughters, Judith Muller and husband John; Pat Blake and husband Parks; son, Andy Luck and wife Tricia; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; sister Jessie Mae Kellis; son-in-law, Larry McKenzie and daughter-in-law, Debbie Luck; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, PO Box 25489, Raleigh, NC 29611 or Middle Cross Baptist Church, PO Box 757, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

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League focuses on County's immigrants

The League of Women Voters of Moore County's February 17 program will feature Anna Stevens, Curriculum Specialist for English as a Second Language, World Languages, Arts Education, and School Librarians for Moore County Schools.

Stevens will give an overview of the immigrant population in Moore County and the challenges they face.

This topic is part of an ongoing study by the League on immigration that includes education, poverty, housing, literacy, agriculture, homelessness and health care.

League programs have been designed to hear from experts in these fields, and Anna Stevens is well qualified to address many of these areas, but especially those dealing with school children and how they are impacted by these issues.

Stevens has an interesting background that makes her uniquely qualified for her job.

When she was five months old, her missionary parents moved to Brazil where she grew up in Brazilian schools while her mother home schooled her to learn English. Stevens returned to the States to go to college.

She received a Masters in Elementary Education from Clemson University and has spent over thirty years in education teaching pre-K to 6th graders in SC, FL, NC and Brazil. Fifteen years ago, she began teaching English as a Second Language in

Moore County Schools.

In addition to her already substantial role with Moore County Schools, Stevens also coordinates parental involvement and education for Hispanic parents.

Marisol Rivera, Moore County Schools Social Worker, will also attend the meeting and be available for questions. The League meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at Table on the

Green at 11:30 am.

The public is invited to attend. Make reservations for lunch and the meeting by calling Charlotte Gallagher at 910 944-9611 or by email at owegeecoach@gmail.com

A check for \$13 is the preferred method of payment made to LWVMC and brought to the luncheon. Cancellations must be made by February 15 or you will be charged.



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County over-funded airport by \$500,000+

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Since 2008, Moore County has provided the Moore County Airport with more than \$500,000 in sales tax rebates that should not have gone to the airport.

That news came to light during the Tuesday, February 3 regular meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, as County Manager Wayne Vest introduced the need to renew or replace the County's management contract with the Moore County Airport Authority.

The County owns the airport; the Authority manages and operates it under contract with the county. The current agreement expired on June 30 of last year.

The airport is not primarily taxpayer-funded, but instead operates like a business. It derives operating revenue from fuel sales, hangar rental, and other aviation-related activities. Many of its capital projects are funded through grants from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The County does provide funding to the airport through a tax rebate arrangement.

The county collects property taxes on the private aircraft that are based at the airport. Those taxes are returned to the airport.

The county collects sales tax on the sale of fuel at the

airport and returns that sales tax revenue to the airport — and that is where the \$500,000 error occurred.

The current airport management contract calls for the county to reimburse the airport for the local sales tax it generates. But the county has, since the agreement took effect in 2008, instead given the airport both the local sales tax revenue and the state sales tax revenue collected on its fuel sales.

Sales tax reimbursement miscalculated

North Carolina's 6.75 percent sales tax currently includes a 4.75 percent state sales tax and a 2 percent local sales tax. Sales taxes are collected by business and remitted to the state, which keeps its share and sends the 2 percent to local governments.

The county should have been remitting to the airport the portion of that 2 percent share that was generated by airport operations. Instead, it remitted the full 6.75 percent.

The difference is substantial. In 2013, the local 2 percent share of airport sales tax revenue would have amounted to \$30,403. But the full 6.75 percent amounted to \$102,611 — a \$72,208 difference.

To further complicate the matter, the 2 percent local share of sales tax revenues is split among the county

and its municipalities. About one-third of the money goes to the towns. So, in 2013, the county would have received only \$20,314 in airport related sales tax revenues.

In 2014, the overpayment to the airport was nearly \$60,000.

Commissioner Randy Saunders told *The Times* that a citizen, digging into the minutiae of airport finances, had found the error. Exact figures on the amount the county had overpaid were not available at the meeting, but Saunders said it amounted to more than \$500,000.

"For six years, I have told the public something I

believed to be very truthful and accurate, and that was that no property tax money or subsidy was going to the airport," Chairman Nick Picerno said during the meeting. "That only the personal property taxes on the airplanes and the sales tax that they collected was going to the

airport. That was what I believed."

During the meeting, no one suggested asking the Airport Authority to repay the tax revenue remitted in error.

However, both Picerno and Saunders made clear that the error would have to be

(See "Airport," p. 21)



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Incentives

(Continued from front page)

erty taxes created by the project. The incentive steps down by ten percent each year for the next six years, ranging from 80 percent in Year 2 to 40 percent in Year 7.

For projects valued at less than \$3 million, the incentive begins at 80 percent of property taxes created in Year 1 and steps down to 40 percent in Year 5.

Companies must meet a variety of criteria in order to qualify for the incentive. They must

- Create a minimum of ten net new full time jobs — 35 hours a week or more.
- Cover at least fifty percent of the cost of employer-provided health insurance for those employees.
- Pay those employees a wage that is equal to or greater than the average full time wage in the County.

- Maintain those jobs for at least six months.

The company can have no serious outstanding issues with the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources or the Federal Occupation Health and Safety Administration.

The new business or business expansion must remain in place after the grant has expired — at least 150 percent of the term of the grant.

Projects that fail to meet the criteria may be required to repay any grant fund they have received.

Partners in Progress CEO Corso noted that the existence of the guidelines do not prevent him from bringing the Board other requests from businesses that do not quite fit within them.

The Board approved the guidelines unanimously, though Chairman Picerno reiterated his belief that giving

taxpayer dollars to businesses is the wrong approach.

"I don't like giving taxpayer money, getting in a bidding war," he said. "I think that's wrong, but that's what's being done."

Partners in Progress Quarterly Report

Earlier in the meeting, Corso provided the Commissioners with an update on Partners in Progress activity. Among the projects that Corso highlighted were:

- Assembling a bundle of state and local incentives aimed at helping Reliance Packaging remain in Aberdeen, rather than relocating in order to expand.
- Hosting state economic development officials in visits to ten Moore County companies.
- Working with the Ransdell Family, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Town of Aberdeen to

mount a study of the feasibility of creating a regional sports park on sixty acres the family would donate for the purpose.

- Continued work on the Heart of Carolina Mega-Park, with the goal of mounting a major marketing effort with state officials this year.
- Applying for two state

grants from the Golden Leaf fund: a \$1.2 million proposal to expand the robotics and machining curriculum at Sandhills Community College, and \$262,000 to help fund a food distribution hub in Richmond County that would serve farmers and institutions in Moore, Lee, and Richmond Counties.

Airport

(Continued from page 20)

corrected going forward — a correction that will cost the airport \$50,000 or more each year in lost revenue.

Ideas about how to fill that deficit were very preliminary, at best.

"We are about to take \$50,000 of their revenue away. Do we let them figure out how to make it up, or do we find some source other than property taxes?" Picerno

asked. He suggested that a conversation with the tourism-related businesses that benefit from the airport might be in order.

In the past, the Convention and Visitors Bureau has agreed to divert some of its dedicated revenue stream from lodging taxes to airport projects.

Picerno and Saunders both noted that the airport, over the past several years, has

built a substantial fund balance that now totals more than \$1 million.

Further conversations about the issue are likely.

Chapel Valentine Party

The Chapel in the Pines will hold their Valentine Outreach Party on Friday, February 13 at 2 pm, in the Chapel Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is welcome to come, especially those living in the community who are

alone or shut-in.

The New Horizons Band in the Pines will provide music for everyone's enjoyment.

For information or if transportation is needed, call the Chapel at 673-2156,



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OPINION

Gas prices: It's a free market, shop around!

Dear Editor:

I have been living in Moore County for almost 20 years and have owned and operated gas station/convenience stores for more than 30 years. From 2002 to 2006, I was the Managing Partner of Fuelmate which owned three BP stations in Moore County as well as two in Sanford.

For 15 years prior to that, I served on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Association of Convenience Stores, including stints as President and Chairman. Over 30 years in the business I have come to know 100's of convenience store operators and spent time with them in both professional and social situations.

During my time in Moore

County, I got to know virtually all of the operators in the area, including the McNeill's (with the exception of The Pantry/Kangaroo stores, which are publicly held).

In 2006, I sold Fuelmate to The Pantry and have not been directly involved in the business since then. I have continued to consult within the industry on both local and regional levels, yet still have not seen a single instance of price collusion between otherwise competing businesses.

Having spent so much time with local operators I can say with 100% confidence that there has not been any collusion resulting in higher gas prices for the county. We have been together at count-

less business meetings as well as parties and conventions, where some of us probably even drank too much.

I think all of us were keenly aware that any discussion about gas price was strictly off limits and we respected each other's integrity enough to never broach the subject. I can say with personal certainty that the operators who serve our county are above reproach when it comes to business ethics.

Gasoline is an unusual commodity. I don't know of any other business that puts its prices on 20 foot tall, back-lit signs that consumers and competitors can see from a long way off. Consumers can decide whether or not to purchase from any of

them. Apple iphones, Titleist golf balls and roast beef sandwiches seem to be the same price everywhere I go. But I don't know it until I enter the store.

In a Free Market system consumers have choices about where to buy goods. They can chose to support one business and not another for any reason at all.

The foundation of it is choice. Choice for an industry to charge what the market will bear and choice for the market to decide what has value and what does not. Gas stations in any geographic area have to determine what the value of convenience is for their customers. Consumers have to determine how far they are willing to

drive (and how much money they are willing to spend) to find cheaper alternatives. If the average fill-up is 15 gallons and the price difference is 25 cents, the cost is about the same.

So if there is no price colluding, no price gouging and certainly nothing close to a monopoly in our county then all this talk on the part of politicians and others is just positioning and publicity seeking.

If anyone truly wants to force lower gas prices onto free market entities they have to be willing to put in the effort and buy elsewhere.

The choice is truly yours.

Lowell Simon

Westside speed traps are a truly bad idea

Dear Editor:

"Hold onto your Hats Cowboys!"

The spy posse is in town, watching your driving with their hand held radar guns. This operation is paid to C.A.S. by us. This is so Mickey Mouse – it's embarrassing to our fellow neighbors and friends. This will cost you \$50 a crack for a violation of the outdated road covenants.

Our Landowners Associa-

tion paid big money to rebuild a portion of Longleaf Drive, including new grass sod, but couldn't include road bumps to control the 35 mph speed limit.

Does our board realize how many illegal construction trailers enter our streets? These trailers enter our gates without stop lights, turn signals, mud flaps, no fenders and no license plates.

Most of these trucks and trailers only pull off the road

halfway without setting out road warning cones.

All of the above are legal road codes set by the state of North Carolina, but we are only concerned about the old 35 mph speed limit.

Now we can get a better picture why home sales and new construction is at such a low pace. I realize professional police officers can operate traffic radar equipment because they have weeks in training, also this includes

proper usage within the law.

Now visualize this – no road cones for the truck, no red blinking caution lights and a radar operator without a traffic warning vest, but let us remember, 35 mph is the major factor.

On a particular afternoon, a CAS truck sat near the shoulder of Longleaf Drive with a woman weaving in the wind trying to aim a traffic radar device at passing cars. She stood by the road without a visible safety vest.

The upcoming Landowners dues increase is another fac-

tor why our members and the board have become farther and farther apart.

Young families and new retirees are not going to be attracted to the rising cost of this area called Seven Lakes West.

It's a fact, just talk to a real estate agent. The new road spy tactic's will not make for happy homeowners. There is a better way – wake up Seven Lakes West Landowners Association.

Allan R. Terrutti
Seven Lakes West

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Letters to the
Editor

Your letters
welcome!

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached. We reserve the right to edit letters.

We prefer to receive letters via email at mail@sevenlakes-times.net, but we also accept letters delivered by the US Postal Service, or left in our drop box at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, The Executive Center.

Seven Lakes Chapel donates to Food Pantry

For more than twenty years, the Food Pantry of the West End United Methodist Church has served the hungry in the West End, Seven Lakes, Jackson Springs, and Eagle Springs area.

Frank Feggeler, Director of the Food Pantry, said that every other Wednesday two hundred and twenty-two families are provided with the additional nourishment that they need through the food pantry ministry.

During Advent this past year, the congregation of the Chapel in the Pines, accepted a Christmas challenge to help feed local families. Reverend

Fran Stark, Associate Pastor for Outreach Ministries, said that through the Chapel's White Christmas Program thirty-five families in the West End and Robbins area received vouchers to purchase food during the holidays.

Seeing the increased need for food in the community JoAn Moses, President of the Board of Directors of the Chapel, suggested that fifty percent of the offering taken at the Christmas Eve Service of Carols, Candles, and Communion be donated to the West End United Methodist Church to assist with the food pantry ministry.

Reverend Paul James and members of the Chapel's Benevolence Team presented a check to Frank Feggeler.

Reverend James said the Chapel intends to make this an ongoing program and he hopes the donation will grow each year as more and more

people realize the special offering on Christmas Eve will go to help local people in need through the West End Methodist Food Pantry.

"The congregation of the West End Methodist Church and their pastor, Preacher Won, are doing a great job

serving the people of the area through their food pantry."

"What we need to do is support this great ministry at West End Methodist Church with our financial gifts, volunteer hours, and prayers," said Reverend James.



Reverend Paul James presents a check from Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines to Frank Feggeler, Director of the Food Pantry at West End United Methodist Church

WEPC Ash Wednesday Service

West End Presbyterian will hold their Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, February 18, at 7 pm in the church sanctuary. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, which leads to the celebration of Easter.

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Chromebook day at West Pine Middle School

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



West Pine Middle School students were excited to pick up their new Chromebook laptop computers at an extended Informational Open House for parents and students on Tuesday, January 27.

Moore County Schools is distributing 3,400 laptop computers to students at West Pine Middle, Southern Middle, and Pinecrest High School, as Phase Three of the district's Digital Learning Initiative is rolled out. The goal is to put a laptop or tablet in the hands of every

MCS student.

It was a long day for staff and teachers, who arrived early and stayed late to accommodate parents' work schedules.

Assistant Principal Jeni Wiley was happy to put in the long hours. "The Chromebook is one of many classroom tools that will enhance learning and teaching," Wiley said.

Guidance Counselor Cassidy St. Clair agreed: "I think it is really exciting to help students move into the technological world while learning good digital citizenship."

Seventh grader Anthony Martin proudly showed off his Chromebook. "In a lot of

ways they are better than a textbook," he said. "They make it more exciting and easier to search and find material."

For siblings, good citizenship often begins with sharing, but that doesn't mean it's always fun.

Twin sixth graders Elizabeth Mae and Jane Lee Smotherly are happy they each get their own Chromebook.

Brothers Jesse and Ryan Massey share the Smotherlys' sentiment.

"It's nice to have my own," Jesse said. "I think these Chromebooks will help us with our digital learning and internet experience."

"I think we are in good shape, and it's going to be useful," Ryan added.

Courtney Pearson, sixth grade Language Arts Teacher, has been lucky enough to teach all the Massey children, including older sister Victoria, now in ninth grade.

"They are all sharp students and have an awesome family," Pearson said. The Chromebooks will provide a convenient on hand resource for her classroom. "Typically, I would have to book the computer lab if we needed to do online research. It's a great resource to have these in the classroom," she said.



Ryan & Jesse Massey try out their new Chromebooks, with Teacher Courtney Pearson and Victoria Massey



Guidance Counselor Cassidy St. Clair with Anthony Martin and Assistant Principal Jeni Wiley

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School Board

(Continued from page 6)

The General Assembly changed the state teacher allotment formulas in the 2013-2014 school year, in effect reducing the number of teachers by seven percent, Griffin explained. Under the old formula, Moore County would have picked up an additional twenty-one state-allotted teachers — better, but still short of the actual need.

Spring Break after Easter?

Eighty-seven percent of MCS staff would prefer a school calendar for next year that places Spring Break after Easter, rather than before, MCS Advisor for Community Relations Dr. Amber Rach told school board members.

Staff members were asked to register their preference for one of two draft 2015-2016 calendars, with the only difference between the two whether Spring Break was positioned before or after Easter.

Public comment will be solicited on the “after-Easter” version, which will be posted on the MCS website, and the calendar will be presented to the Parent Advisory Council. The school board will be asked to approve both the traditional and year-round calendars in March.

Twenty-two new high school courses

Moore County high school students will have twenty-two new courses added to the menu of academic options in the 2015-2016 school year — all of them part of the Career and Technical Education curriculum.

Associate Superintendent Dr. Kathy Kennedy presented those courses, along with the entire high school course guide, to the School Board during the February 2 meeting.

The new courses include offerings in animal science, health science, business, automotive service, cabinet-making, and apparel and textile production. Thirteen of the new offerings are honors-level courses.

Kennedy said the instruc-

tional design department has been in conversations with Montgomery Community College in order to provide additional options for North Moore students who might prefer to travel to Troy than to Sandhills Community College for college-level classes.

Discovery Streaming contract renewal

Kennedy briefed the board on renewal of the \$54,490 one-year contract with the Discovery Educational Streaming service, which offers a range of multimedia content for use in classrooms.

She explained that the service provides video clips and video segments — for example, how a lever works or how to do a math problem. Audio, images, writing

prompts, skill builders, games, and an interactive atlas are among the offerings.

Kennedy said MCS teachers and students had accessed the service 95,473 times last year, compared to 80,680 times the previous year.

Speeding up policy approval

Changes to MCS policies must be approved twice, in two separate readings before the Board. Traditionally, those two readings have occurred at two separate monthly meetings.

On the recommendation of the policy committee, board members agreed that the first reading of proposed policy changes could occur during the monthly work session, with final approval during

the regular monthly meeting, typically one week later.

Other business

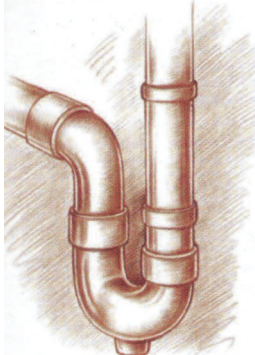
Other item presented during the Board's Monday, February 2 meeting included:

- Budget Director Griffin presented an amended budget resolution for the current year, to be approved at the board's Monday, February 9 meeting, with relatively minor changes.
- Griffin noted that enrollment in Moore County charter schools has increased twenty percent, which result in an estimated \$150,000 increase in the amount of County funding that MCS must

pass through to the charters.

- Griffin presented a recommendation that the board renew its contract with the accounting firm Dixon Hughes Goodman for the FY2015 audit, at a cost of \$44,000.
- Associate Superintendent Dr. Eric Porter and Griffin presented a recommended \$32,000 contract with Pinehurst Surgical Clinic to provide athletic trainer services for Pinecrest High School. Porter explained that a staff member who previously provided those services had left the district.

(See “School board,” p. 26)



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FAMILY MEDICINE

Temple

(Continued from page 5)

of Racine's email, Temple told *The Times* if a non-member is not suitable to vote on assessing fines, then he is not suitable to vote on things like a dues increase.

Temple noted that the five-member Finance Committee split three-to-two on whether to recommend a FY2016 dues increase to the Board.

"Had I voted the other way," Temple said, "no dues increase would have gone to the Board."

Racine told *The Times* that the Judicial Committee is unique, because its action have an immediate effect on members. Fines imposed by

the Judicial Committee take effect immediately, without prior review by the board, though a member can appeal Judicial decisions to the Board.

"The finance committee makes a decision and it goes to the Board," Racine said, "the judicial is never reviewed by the Board."

Though he didn't identify the Temples by name, During his Open Meeting remarks, Racine did proffer and olive branch: "I would like to renew our friendship and hope that they would continue to support SLLA with their time, talents, and knowledge. We need everyone working

together to make this the first class community we all desire and deserve."

Can renters serve?

Whether the incoming Board will take up the matter of non-member service on Judicial and other committees is not clear.

Also not clear is the actual number of homes that are rented in the community.

Community Manager Ray Sohl told *The Times* that "no community of this size has an accurate handle on that," both because landlords are not always good about communicating with the Association and because it is hard

to track shorter term rentals.

Sohl estimated that eight to nine percent of the homes in Seven Lakes North and South are rental properties — and the amount of revenue

the Association has collected from the administrative fees paid by renters suggest that estimate is correct.

School Board

(Continued from page 25)

- Operations Director John Birath presented a recommended twenty five cent increase in school lunch fees for next year, which will raise the cost to \$2.25 at elementary and middle schools and \$2.50 at the high schools.
- Associate Superintendent Dr. Lisa Troutman presented a request that the fee for the childcare program at Vass/Lakeview Elementary be increased by \$20, to a new total of \$500 per month. She noted that a large percentage of

the children enrolled in that program are the children of MCS employees.

- Dr. Porter presented a new \$5 annual fee for middle school students who par-

ticipate in Art, Drama, Band, Chorus, and Orchestra.



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Presbyterian Chili Lunch

West End Presbyterian Church is offering a chili lunch this Sunday, February 8 following the morning worship service.

The chili lunch will be hosted by the Board of Deacons. Participants are asked to bring a side dish. The lunch will be in the church's large fellowship building, the Crawford Center.

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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.

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Sheriff

(Continued from page 3)

cost would have totaled \$243,247, with the county picking up thirty percent in year two, fifty percent in year three, and the entire amount in year four. In addition, as equipment and vehicles needed to be replaced, the county would have been responsible for one hundred percent of that cost.

Sheriff Godfrey said the grant would help his office address speeding problems in unincorporated areas of the county, including Seven Lakes.

Conway said the traffic enforcement team would also focus on school zones at Union Pines and North Moore High Schools, as well as Crains Creek Middle School.

Under the terms of the grant, the officers would conduct seatbelt and DWI check points, as well as offering driver education programs in the high schools.

Conway presented a second alternative that would have started with a two-officer team and then added two more in the second or third year of the program. While that option met with approval from Commissioner Otis Ritter and Randy Saunders, ultimately, the uncertainty surrounding property tax revenues after the revaluation trumped other concerns.

Narcotics grant application approved

The Commissioners unanimously approved, during the special meeting, the Sheriff's request to file an application for a Governor's Crime Commission Grant in the

amount of \$172,103 to hire and equip a Drug Diversion Investigator.

The state would pick up seventy-five percent of that cost; the county's share would amount to just under \$25,000 in the first year. If the year one grant is successful, the Sheriff's office will file for a salary and benefits-only grant in the second year, with a total value of \$72,126. The county share of that would amount to just over \$18,000.

One aspect of the proposal that made it more palatable to Commissioners was that the county share of the cost would be paid for by using

drug forfeiture funds, lessening the impact on the county budget.

Chief Deputy Jerrell Seawell explained that the abuse of prescription medications is a growing problem nationwide — and in Moore County. While the current narcotics division of the Sheriff's Office has been actively working on the problem since 2004, Seawell said, existing narcotics officers must also deal with cases involving "street drugs."

Having a full-time officer dedicated to drug diversion would "greatly increase enforcement in the area of prescription pills," he said.

Seawell said the drug diversion investigator would work to enhance the network of pharmacists, health care providers, and others who assist the sheriff's office in identifying possible prescription pill abuses, as well as enhancing educational efforts around the problem.

Chairman Picerno, who is the longest serving of the current Commissioners, said that, as the county has grown, the number of positions in the Sheriff's Department, aside from the detention center, has "been pretty

static."

"This is one way we could add a position in the Sheriff's Department and phase it in with help from the state," he said.

"Coming from the court system, I understand your need," Commissioner Catherine Graham said. "It touches every family — not just the downtrodden but all the way up the spectrum."

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Paint for the Pantry

West End United Methodist Church will be hosting a "Paint for the Pantry" event on Saturday, February 7, from 2 pm - 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

All proceeds minus supplies will benefit the WEUMC Food Pantry.

No skills need, please just come and enjoy the laugh-

ter, the fun and the refreshments with your friends. Participants will go home with a completed "Snowman" painting. Cost to attend is \$35 per person (includes supplies and light refreshments).

To register contact Elizabeth Anne Batchelor at (910)400-5300.

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Foxfire

want that."

After discussion, the Board agreed to set the four-person price at \$200, holding onto the \$50 fee for each additional family member.

The cost of a resident season pass for a single individual will rise from \$60 to \$80.

Last year, season passes were not available to non-residents. Frusco proposed bringing that option back with the same \$500 four-person pricetag it had when last offered. Additional non-resident family members would pay \$75.

Council members justified the higher price for non-residents because they do not pay Village property taxes. The pool is not self-supporting and requires tax dollars to stay in operation.

Ten-visit punch cards, which are available only to residents and are typically used for extended-family members and other houseguests, will rise from \$25 to \$30, the Council decided.

And the one-day pass will double in price, from \$5 to \$10, except for children under five years of age.

Worker's Comp Policy

Also during the January 22 Work Session, Councilwomen Frusco passed out a draft "Worker's Compensation and Light Duty Policy" that lays out the support the Village will provide to an employee injured on the job.

Noting that the Village has not had a written policy in the past, Frusco said, "I tried not to make it like a big municipality, but we need to have something in place so that employees know what they have to do."

Frusco asked the rest of the Council to read and reflect

on the policy, noting that there are several key decisions to be made, including whether to voluntarily comply with the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act and what benefits to offer injured employees eligible for Worker's Compensation while they are unable to work.

Council members will likely discuss the draft policy in a future work session.

Budget Schedule Set

During the Work Session, Council members worked through a schedule of work sessions and public meetings for preparation of the FY2016 budget.

Preliminary departmental

budgets will be discussed in the March 26 Work Session, with a final draft to be nailed down in the April 30 Work Session.

Public Meetings to solicit citizen input on the draft budget will be held on May 5 and 12. The formal Public Hearing on the budget is expected during the June 9 regular council meeting, with a vote to take place during that meeting or a special meeting later in the month.

Other Business

In other business during the Thursday, January 22 Foxfire Village Council Work Session:

(See "Foxfire," p. 29)

SLLA meeting

(Continued from page 4)

mailhouse lighting has been upgraded. "These lights are controlled by sensors," he said. "When you enter the lights will go on and remain on approximately three minutes or as long as people are in mailhouse. The outside light is to remain on from dusk to dawn to illuminate the area."

- A surprise state inspection of the Northside dams found no problems. "Our dams are in good condition," Hill reported.

Other business

In other business during the Wednesday, January 28 SLLA Open Meeting:

- President Racine announced that a Seven Lakes Boy Scout who is working on his Eagle Badge had inquired whether there might be an appropriate project within the community. "I think it would be a great way to get our children involved in our community," Racine said.
- Without mentioning any names, both Sackman and Lakes & Dams Director Dave Hill thanked a volunteer who had resigned from both the Finance Committee and the Lakes and Dams Committee for many years. Subsequent events [See story on page 5.] made it clear that they were speaking of George

Temple. "He has served for many years and has given valuable advice to our community we will miss him," Sackman said.

- With one empty seat on the SLLA Board, a Chairman is needed for ARB. Racine will serve as chair

until the Annual Meeting elections. Racine thanked Committee Member Jane Leach for her time shepherding the group since Director Bill Hirsh resigned in October of last year.



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Country Club

(Continued from front page)

Serenoa Golf Club and Rolling Green Golf Club in Sarasota, FL, and West Ridge Golf Club in McKinney, TX, which is part of the greater Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Whittemore resides in Florida; Galloway, in Texas.

New Manager, Superintendent

Galloway said they plan some exciting upgrades to the clubhouse, the course and the marketing effort — some of which he is not quite ready to share with the public.

But changes have already been made and others are in the works.

Seven Lakes Country Club has a new General Manager, Jay Iskow, who Galloway described as “a big, good-looking guy who plays great golf and brings plenty of expe-

rience to the job.”

Iskow had previously worked under Whittemore and most recently managed a private club in the Buffalo, NY area.

“He’s excited to be coming to the Sandhills,” Galloway said.

Popular SLCC Superintendent Scotty Clawson has accepted a position in Cary, moving closer to his wife’s place of employment, leaving a vacancy that has been filled with Kyle Brown. Galloway said Brown was previously superintendent for three of the Pinehurst Resort courses.

“We were sad that Scotty is leaving,” Galloway said, “but were happy to have such a good choice in Kyle.”

The team is also interviewing a new chef for the SLCC dining room. Galloway will be making the trip up from

Texas for a food tasting the week of February 2.

“We will be changing the whole bar out,” he added. “I enjoy searching for great wines and beers.”

Though a number of marketing plans aren’t quite ready for publication, Galloway said, one enhancement that will be tackled right away is rehabilitation of the course’s cart paths.

Praise for First Bank

A deed filed with the Moore County Register of Deeds places a value of \$1,017,000 on the transaction. Club President Ronnie Hann told *The Times* in December that no equity was being returned to member owners as part of the sale.

Galloway didn’t disclose the financial details of the sale, but he was effusive in his praise of First Bank,

which held the previous mortgage on the club and was instrumental in financing the purchase.

“First Bank bent over backwards to make this happen,” Galloway said. “The deal could not have happened

without their cooperation.”

“First Bank was the heart of getting this deal done,” Galloway said, “and at heart they really had a vision of what is for the long term good of the community.”

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church will host their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 17, 5:30 pm – 7 pm, in the church Fellowship Hall.

The public is invited to enjoy pancakes, sausages, and fried apples, with a choice of beverages, during the celebration preparatory to the beginning of Lent. Mardi Gras decorations and

music will provide a festive backdrop as church members flip pancakes and toss in some blueberries and chocolate chips, too. The cost is \$6 per person, \$3 for children ages three and under.

All proceeds will benefit Linden Lodge, a group home for residents with mental illnesses. 1374 Foxfire Road. Please call Jill McCloy at 692-5094 for information.

Foxfire

(Continued from page 28)

- The Council discussed the best approach to handling the removal of small shrubs and trees along the South Shamrock dam that are

obstructing the view. Councilman Vic Koos said he would locate the most recent engineers inspection report for the dam before taking action.

- Councilwoman Frusco reported that the Village’s audited FY2014 financials had received a “clean report” from the auditing firm.

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

AFFORDABLE PRESSURE WASHING – Window Cleaning, Painting, Roof Stain Removal & Gutter Cleaning. I am a 7 Lks S Resident & Have 17 years Of Experience. Call Or Email Brian Today For Your Free Estimate. Fully Insured, References Provided. brianleake06@gmail.com. 910-585-8174.

PINEHILLS MOBILE VETERINARY SERVICES – Full Service Veterinary Care for Equine and Small Animals. Serving Moore County and surrounding areas. Call 910-975-2405 pinehillsvet@yahoo.com

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BOATS FOR SALE

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Gorgeous lakefront home w/wide water views!
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French country farmhouse on 3 acres
4 BR / 3.5 BA
600 Broken Ridge Trail



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105 Tucker Court



Foxfire \$278,000
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Custom home on wooded cul-de-sac
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Lovely home with spacious living areas!
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106 Somerset Lane



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Lovely updated home on cul-de-sac
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110 Fox Run Court



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