

Members ask for compromise on SLLA lifeguards

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA], during the Thursday, January 14 Open Meeting asked their Board of Directors to consider a compromise, rather than eliminating lifeguards entirely for the upcoming swim season.

But Board members gave little indication that they would consider having lifeguards at the pool for part of the day or season, while using an electronic access system to allow "swim at your own risk" at other times.

On the other hand, when it came time to vote, the Board did not vote to eliminate lifeguards, as was expected, but rather to remove the rule that requires lifeguards be present whenever the pool is in use.

The agenda item read "Elimination of Lifeguards for 2016 Swimming Pool Season." And, during their Thursday, December 10 Work Session that was exactly the action the Seven Lakes

Landowners Board of Directors referred to the Thursday, January 14 Open Meeting.

But, after considerable input from members attending that Open Meeting, the motion offered by President Chuck Leach was not to eliminate lifeguards, but rather to eliminate a sentence in the rules and regulations (9.1.1) that required the presence of a lifeguard for any use of the pool.

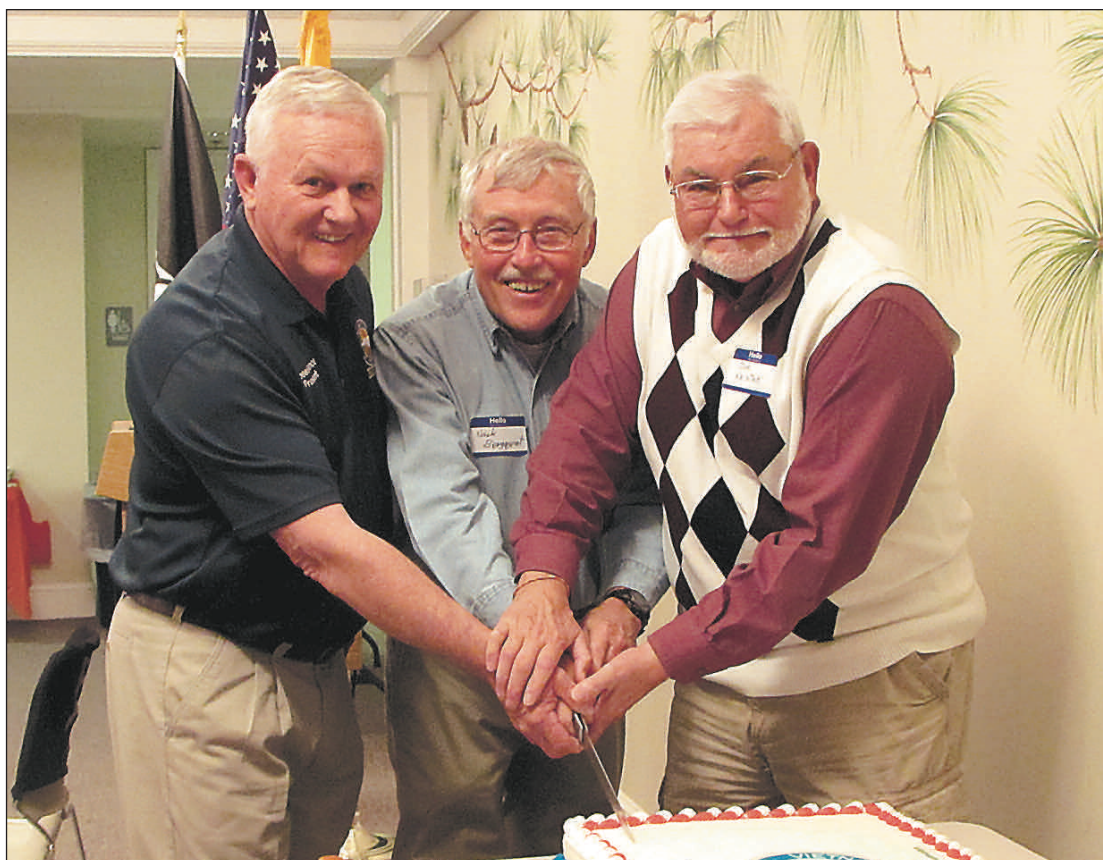
Leach did not explain why he changed the motion, which was eventually approved in a 5-0 vote, with Director Greg Lishawa abstaining for personal reasons.

After the meeting, Leach told *The Times* that the Board will lay out its plan for managing the pool without lifeguards — something it has not done to date — likely in February.

Security cameras instead of lifeguards

The basic outlines of that plan were clear from a Powerpoint presentation that Leach shared during the Open Meeting: the elimination (See "SLLA," p. 19)

VVA 966 Celebrates 10 Years



Vietnam Veterans of American State President Rossie Nance cuts the tenth anniversary cake with current Chapter 966 President Jack Bergquist and Chapter 966 founding President and former State President Joe Kristek [See story on page 11.]

School Board moves to cut costs, top level staff

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



In a cost cutting move, the Moore County Board of Education, during their Monday, January 11 regular meeting, agreed to eliminate year-round school and reorganize the central office staff. Overall savings of roughly \$700,000 are expected.

For the past several years, the Board has relied on a large fund balance to soften the blow of state funding cuts. Moore County Schools stashed away additional federal funding provided in the

years immediately following the 2008-2009 recession, lifting its rainy day fund to more than \$12 million in FY2012.

But the fund has been tapped for roughly \$2 million each year since and is now approaching the minimum level necessary to manage day-to-day cash flow. So, the District can no longer rely on fund balance to supplement other funding sources. Instead, the administration and School Board will need to find \$2 million to \$3 million in operational savings over the next two years.

Year-Round Eliminated

MCS expects to save \$400,000 per year by eliminating the year-round option that has been offered at four elementary schools: Pinehurst, West Pine, and Southern Pines Primary and Elementary. Those schools have offered families the option of choosing either the year-round calendar or the traditional calendar, with the traditional extended Summer vacation.

A survey of families served by those schools — as well as by Aberdeen Elementary and Primary, which send a

(See "Schools," p. 28)

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, Jan 29	Fri, Feb 5
Fri, Feb 12	Fri, Feb 19
Fri, Feb 26	Fri, March 4
Fri, March 11	Fri, March 18
Thu, March 24	Fri, April 1
Fri, April 8	Fri, April 15
Fri, April 22	Fri, April 29
Fri, May 6	Fri, May 13
Fri, May 20	Fri, May 27
Fri, June 3	Fri, June 10
Fri, June 17	Fri, June 24
Thu, June 30	Fri, July 8
Fri, July 15	Fri, July 22
Fri, July 29	Fri, Aug 5
Fri, Aug 12	Fri, Aug 19
Fri, Aug 26	Fri, Sept 2
Fri, Sept 9	Fri, Sept 16
Fri, Sept 23	Fri, Sept 30
Fri, Oct 7	Fri, Oct 14
Fri, Oct 21	Fri, Oct 28
Fri, Nov 4	Fri, Nov 11
Thu, Nov 17	Fri, Nov 25
Fri, Dec 2	Fri, Dec 9
Fri, Dec 16	Fri, Dec 23
Thu, Dec 29	Fri, Jan 6

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

Woman's Exchange opens

On Tuesday, February 2, the Sandhills Woman's Exchange will reopen at 10 am. In keeping with Ground Hog Day, the cabin theme and lunch specials will reflect this yearly event.

Ground Hog Day cookies and ornaments will be available in the gift shop.

On Thursday, February 11, at 10:30 am, a Luncheon Lecture by Laurie Bogart Wiles will be featured at the 1810 historical cabin.

Wiles will discuss vintage costume jewelry designed by 20th century luminaries

such as couture designers Coco Chanel, Elsa Schiaparelli, and Hattie Carnegie; surreal artist Salvador Dali, and Joseff of Hollywood, who created most of the jewelry worn in the greatest movies of the twentieth century. Tickets for the program and lunch are \$25. Seating is limited, reserve at seat by calling 910-295-4677.

Sandhills Woman's Exchange open Tuesdays through Saturdays for the Spring season from 10 am to 3 pm. Lunch served from 11:30 am to 2 pm.

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Learn about the 1/4 cent sales tax

Invest In Moore Kids will sponsor a Community Information Forum on February 2 at 6:30 pm at Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College.

The event will include an overview of the plans for the Advance Career Center for high school students and elementary schools, proposed 1/4 cent sales tax increase, and question and

answer session. Voter information and onsite registration will also be available.

Invest In Moore Kids is a non-partisan group of community leaders, educators, business owners, residents and parents working together to support the proposed 1/4 cent sales tax increase which will appear on the March 15, 2016 ballot.

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Foxfire hires new part-time police officer

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The newest member of the Foxfire Village police Department, Officer Jim Childers, was introduced to the members of the Village Council during their first meeting of the new year, on Tuesday, January 12.

Police Chief Chad Shue said Childers brings the department six years of law enforcement experience, having worked with police departments in both Taylortown and Vass. He will serve Foxfire Village on a part-time basis.

With the election of Mick McCue as Mayor, his former Public Safety responsibilities will pass to Vic Koos, while newly-elected Council Member Don Boito will take on Streets and Parks, once handled by Koos.

Leslie Frusco will continue to handle Finance, and Jon Sedlak will continue to have responsibility for the Water Department.

Zoning Administrator

Village Clerk Lisa Kivett, who also serves as the Village's Zoning Administrator, reported that eight homes are currently under construction or beginning construction: seven in the Village proper and one in the extra-territorial jurisdiction. Construction is expected to begin soon on a duplex on Fox Tail Lane.

Kivett said a permit for one single family resident was issued in December, as well as certificates of occupancy for two homes.

A burning permit was issued for an eleven acre parcel.

A permit for an accessory building was denied because construction had already begun and the concrete slab encroached on the required setback. The owner is correcting the error.

Finance

Councilwoman Frusco reported that the village had \$1.74 million on hand as of December 31 in its general

fund, with \$447,000 of that in restricted funds. The Water Department had \$697,000,



New Foxfire Police Officer
Jim Childers

of which \$161,000 is restricted to use for new wells.

As of December 31, 91 percent of taxes due had been collected, Frusco reported, but that percentage had jumped to 97 percent by the time of the Council meeting. Deputy Finance Officer Sharon Sanchez will be sending out notices to those who haven't yet paid.

Payments on the Village's two bank loans were made in July, the Woodland Circle payment of just under \$175,000 will be made in April.

Frusco said there seems to be a misconception afoot among Villagers that the Woodland Circle loan pay-

ments are interest-only payments. In fact, she explained, of the \$175,000 due this year, \$126,000 will be applied against the principal due.

"We have been making principal payments — significant principal payments — since 2012," she said. "We are diligently paying off that loan, in accordance with the terms of that loan."

Public Safety

Councilman Koos said Public Safety is "right on schedule" with budget.

He praised Chief Shue's efforts to control costs, for example, by obtaining three patrol rifles, two bulletproof

(See "Foxfire," p. 27)

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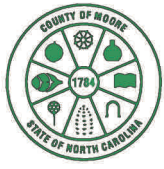
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Commissioners table rezoning requests

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Two rezoning requests were tabled by the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, January 19 regular meeting: one that would be the first step in placing a solar farm on property along NC Highway 211 across from the West Pine Schools, and another that would have doubled the allowable density on a property near Whispering Pines that is being evaluated as a possible site for a new Area 1 Elementary School

Solar Farm on NC 211

No commissioner expressed any particular reservations about rezoning sixty-five acres owned by McDonald Family Farms from RA-40 to RA-Rural Agricultural, but Randy Saunders said he would like more time to consider the matter and moved to table it. That motion was supported unanimously.

The property in question is part of an 89.44 acre parcel that lies on the South Side of NC Highway 211 across from Archie Road. The Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway lies between most of the property and the highway, with access provided by a single driveway cut and easement across the tracks.

Brian Quinlan, of Pine Valley Solar, LLC said that would make residential development of the property difficult if not impossible. The overall tract already contains a sand mine that was the subject of a conditional use rezoning in 2014. A seven acre strip that lies between NC Highway 211 and the railroad tracks was rezoned B-2 Highway Commercial District, also in 2014.

Though the intent of the rezoning is to use a portion of the property for a solar farm, the question before the commissioners is whether any use allowable under RA zoning would be acceptable on the acreage. The uses permitted by right in the RA and

RA-40 districts are, in fact identical.

However, RA zoning does provide for some conditional uses — that is, uses that require a further level of approval by the Board of Commissioners — that are not allowed in RA-40, including animal training facilities, flea markets, a sawmill, a veterinary clinic, salvage yards, mining, cemeteries, and solar farms, among others.

Saunders motion was to table the matter to the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners, scheduled for February 2.

Wildlife Club opposes Area 1 rezoning

The second rezoning request tabled during the meeting ran into a wall of opposition from the Moore County Wildlife Conservation Club [MCWCC] which owns

a large tract on Camp Easter Road that includes rifle, shotgun, pistol, and archery ranges.

The property to be rezoned is 108 acres of undeveloped land that stretches from Camp Easter to Airport Road between Whispering Pines and Lakeview. The land immediately around it is primarily undeveloped farmland.

The request by Camp Easter Management, LLC was to rezone the property from the current RA-40 to RA-20. The same uses are permitted in each district; the only difference is that RA-40 allows only one home per acre, while RA-20 allows two — double the density.

An interesting wrinkle in the situation is that Moore County Schools is evaluating a 25-acre site within the 108 acre parcel as a possible location for a new 850-capacity

Area 1 elementary school, to relieve overcrowding at Sandhills Farm Life and Vass-Lakeview Elementary Schools.

Local attorney Marsh Smith, MCWCC Board Member David Prest, and club member Mary Ann Fenway asked the Commissioner to deny the request.

The presence of more than one thousand acres of farm and forestland sandwiched between the more developed towns and villages made it a "rural and agricultural heritage area," Smith said, reminding the Board that the County's first Land Use Plan had as its number one objective preserving the rural and agricultural character of the county.

Smith argued that bringing sewer service to the area to serve a denser residential development would inevitably invite more residential development, forever changing the

character of the area.

Prest said the development would pose a threat to the club's existence by inviting more development and more residents, who would ultimately complain about the noise of gunfire coming from the club.

All three club members cautioned the Board that the tract to be rezoned is in a watershed that the state has designated "HWQ" for high quality water. Under state rules, they said, that limits development to one home per acre. Koontz pointed out that adopting certain stormwater control practices can allow twice that density under state rules.

Prest argued that residential development in a rural area inevitably costs the county more in infrastructure improvements than it gains in taxes — an argument that

(See "Commissioners," p. 18)



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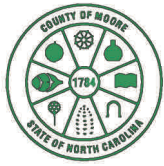
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Commissioners upbeat on school construction

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County's Board of Commissioner appears comfortable with their ability to finance the construction of four new public schools over then next four years — despite the fact that an analysis from their financial consultant shows a cash shortfall at some point during the course of the projects.

During their Thursday, January 8 Winter Summit, the Commissioners received an updated financial analysis from Davenport & Company that presented options for funding the \$111.4 million cost of constructing the new Advanced Career Center High School, a new elementary school near Whispering Pines, and new elementary schools in Aberdeen and Southern Pines.

The county has four sources of funds to pay for the projects:

- Approximately \$22 million that the County has saved over the past few years, anticipating the need for new

schools and other capital projects.

- Cash freed up as payments on existing school bond debt decreases, which will generate an additional \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million per year beginning in 2018.

- Excess cash made available each year as County tax revenues exceed expenses. Davenport estimated this at \$3 million per year.

- The proceeds from a proposed .25 percent increase in the local sales tax rate, which voters will be asked to approve during the March 15 primary election. The Commissioner have passed a resolution pledging to devote all of those funds to school construction.

Davenport ran those revenue streams through a variety of scenarios, varying the amount of existing capital reserves the County would spend up front and the timing and term of loans that will be necessary to cover the total cost. The result was a half-dozen scenarios, numbered 1A through 3B

County Manager Wayne Vest told the Commissioners that the staff had "honed in

on Scenario 2B as striking a good balance."

That scenario has the County spending its existing capital reserve before borrowing, and then seeking one or more fifteen year loans as cash is needed to pay for construction. Assuming a 3.25 percent interest rate, the County would end up paying \$22 million in interest on the \$85 million it would need to borrow.

That scenario also shows the County short about \$8.7 million in cash to pay for debt service.

But Vest noted a number of ways that it may be possible to cut some construction costs, and he pointed out

that the Davenport assumptions are in some cases conservative.

For example, the current site that Moore County Schools has targeted for a new Area 1 elementary school near Whispering Pines requires a lengthy run to connect to County water and sewer service — with an estimated price tag of \$1.6 million. Vest suggested that cost might be pulled out and financed through the public utilities fund.

"And that would put water and sewer into an area of the county that currently has no sewer and a very small water line," Commissioner Randy Saunders said.

Vest noted that Davenport assumed that the County will generate \$3 million in excess cash for capital projects each year, but, in fact, the county has generated significantly more than that each year for the past several years.

Davenport also assumed a level-principal loan structure for the fifteen year loan, based on known preferences of the Local Government Commission, the state body that oversees local government finances. That type of loan requires larger payments early in the amortization cycle.

But Davenport's Ted Cole
(See "Finance," p. 13)

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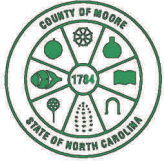


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Board gives thumbs down to NC 211 rezoning

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



A rezoning request in support of a proposed solar farm off NC Highway 211 near Pinewild received a thumbs-down from the Moore County Planning Board during their Thursday, January 7 regular meeting.

The request will now move to the Board of Commissioners for a public hearing and final decision.

Pinesage Solar Farm, LLC submitted the request, seeking to rezone a 53 acre parcel currently zoned RA-5 Residential & Agricultural and B-2 Highway Commercial to RA-Rural Agricultural.

The property lies a quarter mile north of NC Highway 211 and was carved out of two adjacent McDonald Family Farms properties that total more than 166 acres.

It is located roughly across

from Pinewild, with the First Baptist Church of Pinehurst nearby.

The property served as a temporary construction site and borrow pit during the recent NC Department of Transportation widening of NC 211. Motorists who drove along NC 211 during the construction will recall seeing heavy equipment operating well off to the north.

Other nearby neighbors of the parcel include a portion of the proposed Pine Forest golf resort and subdivision, as well as the Sonlight Independent Church, which fronts on NC 211 to the north of the project area.

Sonlight Pastor George Ingram asked the Board to deny the request, arguing that solar farms are unsightly.

"We are run over here in Moore County will solar farms and cellphone towers," he said.

Pinesage's Brian Quinlan

said he had hosted a community meeting at First Baptist Church and found the forty area residents who attended generally in support of the solar farm.

Though Pinesage made clear its intention to place a solar farm on the property, the proposed solar facility was not at issue before the Planning Board. The question was whether the uses allowed under RA Rural Agricultural zoning were appropriate for the property.

The uses permitted by right RA are the same as those in RA-40, however, RA zoning provides for a variety of conditional uses — requiring specific approval from the Commissioners — including animal training facilities, flea markets, a sawmill, a veterinary clinic, salvage yards, mining, cemeteries, and solar farms, among others.

Quinlan said the property is somewhat stranded, lying well off NC 211 and split by

a major power distribution line. As a result, he said, it is ill-suited for residential or retail development.

A major artery

As the Board began its deliberations, Planning Director Debra Ensminger noted a number of times that NC Highway 211 is a major entryway into the County.

"That's a huge growth corridor," Planning Board Member Joe Garrison said. "We have to consider, if we allow a rezoning, when you open the door, sometimes things come in that you don't like."

"When you look at the Pinehurst area, in which direction can they grow?" Buck Mims added.

"When you think about RA, RA is Rural Agricultural," Ensminger said. "Taylortown is very close. On the other side you've got the ETJ of Pinehurst. That's a major vein. It's not in the middle the County."

"It was zoned the way it is zoned now for good reason, based on the fact that it is a main artery," Garrison said. "I kind of go by the philosophy, if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

"If you zone it RA, then you cut out retail on one of the most heavily traveled roads in the County," Mims said.

"It is a good ways off NC 211," Gene Horne replied. "You can put a lot of retail in the area on NC 211."

Ultimately, Mims made the motion encouraging the Board of Commissioners to deny the rezoning request, which was approved unanimously.

"My concern is that we have a very robust area out there in growth," Mims said. "I am pro solar farms. I think they are a good things and should be allowed. But this close to the robust area that we have is the concern I have here. I

(See "Planning," p. 13)



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Gary Brown honors grandfather's legacy

by Janna Ptak
Times Reporter

Gary Brown began playing the piano when he was just four years old. His inspiration was his grandfather on his mother's side, Robert Murphy.

On Saturday, January 30, at 6:00pm the doors of the Pinecrest Auditorium will open for a solo concert —

Brown's first and an opportunity to celebrate his grandfather's life.

As soon as Brown could walk to the piano, he showed interest and was taught by his grandfather — who played regularly at the Pinehurst Resort. By the time he was in second grade, Brown knew he wanted to be a pianist. As he grew, he expanded his

musical talents to include drums and trumpet.

At age fourteen, Brown asked Murphy if he could play alongside him at the Resort, playing the drums while Murphy tinkled the ivories of the grand piano.

Brown is now the primary pianist at the Resort and has been there for more than ten years. He continues the work

of his grandfather, who passed away several years ago.

Murphy was not only a jazz pianist, but also a piano tuner serving Moore County and the surrounding area. He played at the Pinehurst Resort for over thirty years before leaving his work to Brown.

Murphy always called Brown his "Little Prodigy."

When Murphy grew ill, Brown began taking up Murphy's work, picking up where he left off. He would visit Murphy's customers and tune their pianos, then bring Murphy the checks. It was a sign that Murphy no longer needed to worry about his customers, because Brown would continue to leave a legacy and carry on his work.

Since then, Brown has been walking in his grandfather's shoes. Out of Murphy's twelve grandchildren, Brown is the only one playing at the Resort

and tuning pianos as the older man did. He continues to live out the legacy of his grandfather and keep the family business alive.

Brown's mother is also a piano technician, and the family has its own business: Murphy's Music Service.

Brown plays jazz standards in an elegant and soothing style that harkens to Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, and Frank Sinatra.

This relaxing genre is perfect for the work Brown does: playing at the Resort, corporate events, private home luncheons and dinners, and playing for couples who want to surprise one another with a romantic lunch.

Many homes have pianos, but that doesn't necessarily mean the owner knows how to play. Brown can not only tune that piano, but also provide a private concert for a birthday, anniversary, or

(See "Piano man," p. 15)



Pianist Gary Brown shows off his stuff at Pinehurst Resort

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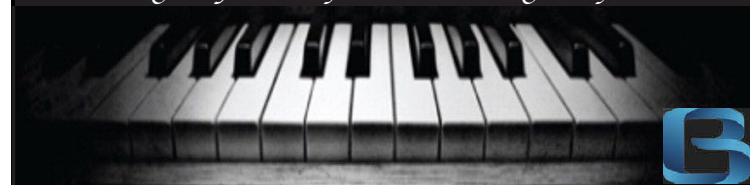
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Diamonds in the Ruff Fundraiser

The Farley Foundation will be hosting their 'Diamonds in the Ruff' fundraiser on Saturday, February 13, at 6 pm at Forest Creek Club-house.

Ticket are \$125 per person that include dinner, open bar, live music and a silent auction.

All net proceeds will benefit The Farley Foundation with

its mission of eliminating euthanasia of adoptable animals in Moore County.

Anyone interested in attending or donating an item to the silent auction

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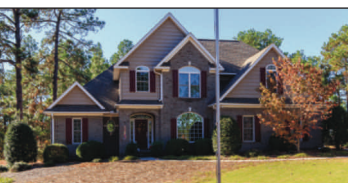
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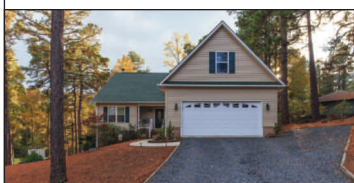
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In memory of . . .

George F. Stahl, Jr., 86, of Seven Lakes, died at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Friday, January 15, after a brief illness, surrounded by family.

Mr. Stahl was a man of many talents and interests. He enjoyed golf, fishing, bocce, cooking, camping, entertaining, playing games, and spending time with his family and friends. From winning the "Family Swim Trophy" many times in Mountain Lakes, NJ, to decorating his boat for the Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade on Lake Sequoia.

He will be remembered for his kindness, humor, and generosity – and also for his homemade pickles, scones, rye bread, turkey soup, pate and the blueberry pancakes he made during memorable camping trips.

He was so proud of his four children and rarely missed any of their games while they were growing up. He enjoyed his grandchildren and had great hope for the future of their children. He lived a full life and was loved and will be missed by all who knew him.

George was a loving and devoted husband, father,

grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend. He shared more than sixty years of his journey with his wife and best friend, Ruth Lees Stahl.

No formal service is planned at this time.

Vincent "Vinnie" Peter Ulrich, 72, of Seven Lakes, died Sunday, January 10, after a battle with cancer.

Mr. Ulrich was born in Poughkeepsie, NY. It was in this city near the Hudson River that he developed his love for being near the water and an appreciation for great food, namely bagels and pastries. In NYC, he built many lasting friendships and met the love of his life, Susan Page. He and Susan were married in October of 1968.

Mr. Ulrich served in the U.S. Navy before pursuing a career in change management at IBM; a job that would eventually lead him to Raleigh, NC. He later lived in Swansboro and most recently called Seven Lakes home.

In Raleigh, he served his community and church in many ways; soccer coach, Sunday school teacher, and church mentor. He gave freely

and with an open heart in any job required no matter how large or small.

Mr. Ulrich had a passion for life. His world travels and experiences provided him with many stories to share,

and he was never happier than when he had a captive audience.

He is survived by his loving wife Susan; two children, his brother, two sisters, six grandchildren, a large extend-

ed family and many close friends.

A memorial service will be held at 3 pm, Saturday, January 23 at the Sanford Chapel.

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Temple stages Doubt

The Temple Theatre will present *Doubt: A Parable*, sponsored by Lee West. The show runs from January 22 to January 31. There will be an Opening Night celebration on the Friday, January 22 featuring hors d'oeuvres from The Steele Pig.

Doubt was written by American playwright, John Patrick Shanley. He says, "I've set my story in 1964, when not just me, but the whole world seemed to be going through some kind of vast puberty. The old ways were still dominant in behavior, dress, morality, and world view, but what had been organic expression had become a dead mask."

Temple Theatre's Artistic Director, Peggy Taphorn, leads a cast featuring the esteemed Lynda Clark as Sister Aloysius alongside Temple newcomers, Gus Allen, Alason Little, and Theresa McGuirk.

During its two week run, the show times for *Doubt: A Parable* are Thursdays at 2 pm, Fridays at 2 pm & 8 pm, Saturdays at 8 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm. Single show tickets are \$25. Group rates are available, and there are discounts for military personnel and Lee County school employees. For tickets or information, call the Box Office at 919-774-4155 or visit templeshows.com

West End Pres hires Interim Pastor Love

by Ann Chase

West End Presbyterian Church

On Monday, January 11 the congregation of the West End Presbyterian Church welcomed Rev. Jane Love to serve as their Interim Pastor.

Since the retirement of Rev. Larry Lyon last June, the Interim Search Committee has worked tirelessly to find an interim pastor to assist the church through their period of transition.

Rev. Love feels passionately called to working in interim ministry as she enjoys working with churches as they journey to the next phase of their ministry. She identifies some of her gifts as a person who has skills as a communicator, a strategist and a visionary as well as a bridge builder. Rev. Love most recently served as an Interim Pastor in the Greenville area and prior to that in churches in Roanoke Rapids, Willow Springs, Raleigh and Edenton.

Rev. Love's academic background is varied and extensive with interests in both English Literature and Theology. In her work in English and Literature, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Drama from Pfeiffer University, a Masters of Arts in English from NC State University and studied in the Doctoral Program in Literature at Louisiana State University. She felt a call to ministry after graduating from Pfeiffer University and began studying Theology earning a Masters of Theological Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Following completion of the Masters of Arts degree she went on to earn a Masters of Divinity at Southeastern Baptist Theological University.

Rev. Love is meeting with ministry team leaders to learn about the programs of the church.

A part of the process of searching for the next called pastor is the writing of a mission study. A team was appointed by the Session in November 2015 and has had some preliminary meetings. This study will also involve

the congregation through surveys, interviews and group discussions.

Rev. Love will work closely with the Mission Study Team as they identify needs and

resources of the congregation and beyond and define the qualities and skills of the

next called pastor. This Mission Study Report will then (See "Love," p. 27)



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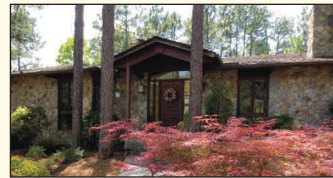
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Alexandra & Veronica Whelan

VAA Chapter 966 celebrates 10th Anniversary

by Janna Ptak
Times Reporter

Vietnam Veterans of America [VVA] Chapter 966 celebrated its tenth anniversary on Monday January 11.

VVA is composed of veterans of the Vietnam War. Together, they hold fundraisers to assist veterans, active duty military, and their families. They also lobby Congress in an effort to bring medical attention to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

[PTSD] and a chemical called "Agent Orange" which was used during the war, causing side effects not only in veterans, but also their children.

The members also enjoy socializing with one another in the Veteran's parade or while playing golf.

Chapter 966 was founded in 2006 by Joe Kristek, who was President of the chapter for four years before becoming VVA State President.

Since the chapter was

founded ten years ago, it has raised more than \$50,000 for causes, individuals, and families it supports.

More than sixty folks turned out for anniversary celebration, including veterans and their spouses — six of whom were at the group's first meeting. The group cur-

rently has ninety-four members, and they meet once a month at the Seven Lakes West Community Center.

The Chapter has had five presidents since being founded: Joe Kristek, Don Sass, Mike Pusillo, Chuck Spelman, and Jack Bergquist.

During the ceremony, cur-

rent President Jack Bergquist received a copy of the original charter for the chapter.

Rossie Nance, state VVA President for four years, attended and spoke at the event, explaining his reaction when he first returned home from Vietnam.

(See "VVA," p. 26)



Sue Huguen & Kim Hand enjoy the anniversary celebration



Chapter 966 Presidents: Joe Kristek, Don Sass, Mike Pusillo, Chuck Spelman and Jack Bergquist

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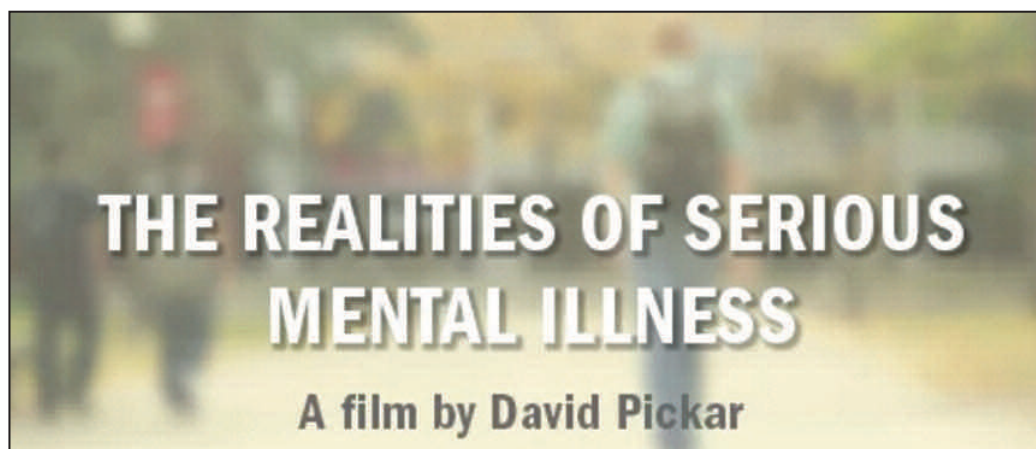


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Women of 7 Lakes have busy Winter season

by Joyce Friert

Women of Seven Lakes

The "Breakfast With Santa" fundraiser held at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse on December 5, by the Women of Seven Lakes was a great success. Children and adults enjoyed hot pancakes and sausage.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus took time out of their busy schedule to visit and listen to the children's Christmas wishes. Many thanks go to all the volunteers who made this

event possible. Proceeds from the event were donated to a local food bank and other local charities.

A special thank you goes to Mr. and Mrs. Claus for donating their time to this worthy cause, and also to Girl Scout Leader Jamie Wesner and Girl Scouts Aniyah Jackson and Hope Wesner who did a wonderful job cleaning tables and putting away the tables and chairs.

The Women of Seven Lakes January 7 meeting featured

Clare Ruggles, Executive Director of Northern Moore Family Resource Center. Ruggles discussed the HOPE Academy, a preschool for 3- and 4-year old children which will be located in Robbins. The Academy will prepare the children for kindergarten, assuring they will have the same knowledge base and skills as their peers from other more affluent Moore County communities, and will also give their parents skills they need to support their children's education.

The Women of Seven Lakes February meeting will be their annual Winter Luncheon and Card Party. This event will be Thursday, February 4, at 11:30 am, at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

The luncheon will be catered by 7 Central Bistro with sandwich wraps (Club, Turkey and Chicken Salad), pasta salad, dessert and drinks. The cost of the lunch will be \$10. Participants can sign up for lunch only, or they can come for lunch and stay after to play cards or games, so get a group together and join in with the fun.

Call Lee Connelly, 673-2521, to sign up, and for more information.



Clare Ruggles, Executive Director of Northern Moore Family Resource Center

During the February luncheon, Sandy Bachofner, will speak to everyone about the mental and physical benefits of essential oils. Bachofner and her husband became acquainted with Young Living Essential Oils last summer after he was diagnosed cancer and started his treatment. Bachofner's goal is to educate people about the four types, or grades, of essential oils and explain the differences, and share the benefits from using the oils.

The public is invited to attend any of the Women of Seven Lakes monthly meetings. Refreshments served after each meeting. If anyone is interested in joining the Women of Seven Lakes, call Lee Connelly, 673-2521



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Museum hosts 15th Annual Civil War Quiz Bowl

Are you a fan of game shows but can't travel to Hollywood to be part of a "live studio audience?"

Consider attending the Museum of the Cape Fear's 15th Annual Civil War Quiz Bowl on Thursday January 28, starting at 7 pm. Join as a contestant or spectator in the Pate Room of the Headquarters Library.

The quiz bowl is like a game show. Contestants who are asked questions by host, Jim Greathouse, who founded the program fifteen years ago.

Contestants choose from one of 14 categories. They are asked a question from that category. If they answer correctly, of course they remain in the game. If they

answer incorrectly they receive a strike. Three strikes and they're out. Winners are chosen among the last contestants remaining in two age groups: 16 and under for the youth category, and 17 and up as the adult category.

Their prize? A gift card to spend on more Civil War books.

"For the last two years the number of contestants has been less than our maximum allowance of 20. I meet many people who seem to want to participate but are hesitant to do so," related Leisa Greathouse, curator of education.

"For those who need more time to think about it, they can still sign up at the door.

We will continue to accept contestants as space permits."

If you are interested in being a contestant you can call the museum at 910/486-1330 to register, or, for the first time, people can register online at <http://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov/Events>.

Spectators are welcome.

Planning

(Continued from page 6)

don't think that's consistent with what we are doing with that part of our County.

The Board of Commissioners is expected to hold a public hearing on the rezoning request during their February 16 regular meeting.

Cellular facilities not happening

Later in the meeting, Member Aaron McNeill asked Ensminger for an update on the many cellular telephone towers that the Board approved in 2014 and 2015 for North Moore, most of them American Tower projects for AT&T.

Ensminger said three of the permitted towers had been built and had received their certificates of occupancy, but none yet have antennas. She added that some the property owners leasing space for the towers have complained that their property taxes increased more than the lease payments being made by the tower company.

At least two other sites have seen no activity at all — even filing for a construction permit. The conditional use permits have expired on some of the sites.

She added that the County

has "reached out" to American Tower and AT&T. The County does have the right, under the ordinance, to

remove inoperable towers, utilizing a bond that was posted by the tower company. Ensminger said she expected

a prompt answer from the cellular companies.

Finance

(Continued from page 5)

told the Commissioners that it may be possible to obtain terms that are a better fit with the County's cash flow.

"I think it's actually pretty good news," Chairman Nick Picerno said of Davenport's presentation. "You can begin to fund it right now, and by the time you get to the fourth

project, four years out, you just find a way to whittle back to what we need, and you can make it happen."

Should voters fail to approve the proposed quarter percent increase in sales taxes, however, that would deal the County's plans a significant setback, by taking away a key revenue source



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Sheriff offers Moore County Citizen's Academy

Moore County Sheriff Neil Godfrey announced that the first Session of the Moore County Sheriff's Office Citizen's Academy will be held from March 1 through April 12.

The Citizen's Academy is a seven week interactive program designed for citizens throughout Moore County to participate in and to learn more about the daily duties and functions of the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies.

The Citizen's Academy will begin on Tuesday, March 1 and will meet each Tuesday

night from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center. A graduation ceremony will be held on April 12.

Participants will be exposed to the many different aspects of the Sheriff's Office and the criminal justice system. They will hear presentations from the Sheriff, the District Attorney, Patrol Division, Criminal and Narcotics Division representatives, agents with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and others.

They will tour the Sheriff's Office, the Detention Center, the Magistrate's Office, and

the 911 Communication Center, participate and learn about crime scene processing, Sheriff's Patrol and Emergency Equipment, participate in training with the Firearms Training Simulator and much more.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have no criminal record and be in reasonably good health to take the walking tours.

Interested individuals may pick up applications at the Moore County Sheriff's Office during regular business hours or go to the Moore County Sheriff's Office web

page at www.moorecountync.gov and print off an application.

Completed applications may be submitted by mail

or in person at the Sheriff's Office.

Applications must be completed and returned by Monday, February 8.

Chapel Valentine's Party

The Chapel will hold their annual Valentine's Day Party celebration on Friday, February 12, at 2 pm, at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. The Chapel invites everyone to come, especially those living in

the community that are alone or shut-in.

The New Horizons Band in the Pines will provide music for everyone to enjoy.

For information or if transportation is needed contact Fran Stark at 673-5493.

Van Horne @ Kiwanis



The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club hosted retired Marine Corp Colonel Dick Van Horne. He gave a very informative and inspiring talk on his thirty year career in the service of his country.

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Piano man

(Continued from page 7)

special event. For homes without a piano, he is able to bring his keyboard to play and make a memorable day.

Brown especially loves playing at the Pinehurst Resort.

He told *The Times* that he is living his dream, and he enjoys meeting people from all over the world. He expresses himself through his music, not only providing a service, but also creating memories.

His music is becoming a part of the history of Pinehurst.

"I'm living my dream, but I never know what the future may hold," Brown said.

In the future, Brown hopes to travel and share his talent and story with people, inspiring them to follow their dreams. He hopes to play at nursing homes, retirement communities, and schools as well as travel internationally.

Although Brown is continuing the work of his grandfather, he still puts his own spin on his work. In addition to writing his own compositions, he has taught himself to play the piano and trumpet simultaneously. This involves him playing chords on the piano with his left hand while playing melodies on the trumpet with his right hand. This intricate style of playing will be demonstrated at his concert.

Brown has played the trumpet since the sixth grade, and is excited to fuse together two instruments he loves in a single performance.

He is thrilled to be able to fulfill his dreams while honoring his grandfather. In fact, one of his original works is entitled "Glorious Morning"

in honor of Murphy and the Easter morning on which he died.

In this song, Brown recaps everything Murphy taught him, in addition to how he felt that morning when Murphy passed away and how thankful he is for the life his grandfather led.

"Seeing him enjoy his life and doing what he did well . . . He helped me to embrace the gift he saw within me," Brown said.

Brown looks forward to honoring his grandfather at the concert on January 30. He will be accompanied by his uncle, Paul Murphy, who

plays with him in Murphy's Band at least once a year.

"I'm having the concert for people grandpa was able to bless," Brown said. "I'm creating an event for people to come and celebrate his life with me."

The concert takes place at the Robert E. Lee Auditorium at Pinecrest High School from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Tickets cost \$25 per person.

To find out more about Gary Brown, check out his website at garywbrownjr.com.

For piano tuning and private bookings, call Gary Brown at 910-315-1362.

Chocolate Festival

Chocolate lovers are invited to the third biennial Chocolate Festival held at Pinehurst United Methodist Church, 4111 Airport Road, Pinehurst, on Saturday, February 6, from 10 am to 3 pm.

One of the highlights of this benefit is a cupcake competition for amateur bakers in the community.

There are two judging categories – Best Tasting Cupcake and Best Decorated Cupcake. The only requirement is that they must use chocolate in the cupcake, the frosting or both. Deadline information and entry forms are available on the festival website: www.pinehurstchocolatefestival.webs.com

Another popular feature

is the chocolate demonstrations by Martin Brunner, Baking & Pastry Coordinator at Sandhills Community College and owner of The Bakehouse & Café in Aberdeen, along with some students. This year's topic is "the mystery of chocolate mousses unveiled."

The festival includes homemade chocolate baked goods and confections, a gift boutique, silent auction, and cocoa café lunch.

This festival will benefit Communities in Schools of Moore County, Habitat for Humanity of the NC Sandhills, Northern Moore Family Resource Center (Hope Academy Preschool) and other United Methodist Women projects.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

- **"Reiki II"** – 8 am - 1 pm, Kitty Fehr, a Reiki Master teaches this continuation of Reiki I. Reiki a Japanese type of Healing Arts that is becoming more popular across the country. Cost \$50 per person, must have completed the Reiki I class. Class limit, call to reserve your seat. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15-501 (2 miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle). Call 215-0900 to reserve.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise – Youth**, 7:30 pm, A retired orchestra conductor is on holiday with his daughter and his film director best friend in the Alps when he receives an invitation from Queen Elizabeth II to perform for Prince Philip's birthday. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 9:30 am - 12 pm, Children's Sabbath Ages 3 - Grade 5.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise – Youth**, 2:30 & 7:30 pm, A retired orchestra conductor is on holiday with his daughter and his film director best friend in the Alps when he receives an invitation from Queen Elizabeth II to perform for Prince Philip's birthday. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Little Roy Lewis and Lizzie Long Concert** – 7 pm, at James H. Garner Conference Center, 210 Burnette Street, Troy. Reserved seating \$20, general admission \$15. Tickets: 704-985-6987. Sponsored by West Montgomery Lions Club.

SUNDAY JANUARY 24

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – Rosary 8:15 am, 9 am Mass. Mexican food and drinks available after Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd., Biscoe, 910-974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am worship service, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – Sun-

day School, 9:45 am, Worship Services, 8:30 am or 11:00 am. Everyone welcome, child care available

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145

learn the skills to recognize native tree. Weather permitting, go for a short walk to test your skills. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

- **West End Presbyterian Church Youth** – 6 pm, middle school and high school students. West End Presbyterian Church, 275 Knox Lane, West End.

- **West End United Methodist Church Explorers** – dinner with youth 6 – 6:30 pm, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Children grades K-5. Time of learning, crafts and activities before eating. Children's ministry, through scripture, crafts, games. West End United Methodist Church, West End.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise – Youth**, 7:30 pm, A retired orchestra conductor is on holiday with his daughter and his film director best friend in the Alps when he receives an invitation from Queen Elizabeth II to perform for Prince Philip's birthday. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

- **WEWO Nature Book Club** – 9 am, Calling all bookworms. Join the group for a meeting of Weymouth

Woods' Nature Book Club as they discuss January's book, *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Read as much of the book as you are able and come to either meeting ready to discuss. A copy of *Silent Spring* is available for reading in the lounge area of the visitor's center all month long. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.

- **"Memory Monday: Buyer Beware: Fads & Trends in Memory Products"** – 4 pm - 5 pm. Presenter Taeh A. Ward, Ph.D., Clinical Neuropsychologist from Pinehurst Neuropsychology. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15-501 (2 miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle). Call 215-0900 to reserve.

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

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, join the group as Nell Allen, Associate Curator of Conservation and Research for the North Carolina Zoological Park, discusses the zoo's role in animal and native habitat conservation. Visitors and families welcome! Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd, Southern Pines. Call 910-692-2167 visit online at www.sandhillsnature.org

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & troubled, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Reverend Carol Burgess. All are welcome.

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch at 11:30 am, meeting at 12:05 pm. *New meeting location, Fellowship Hall of the Chapel in the Pines. Visitors are welcome.

- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Tuesday Tutoring Crawford Center.

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, meeting, West Side Park Community Center.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, Rosary; 9:30 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd, Biscoe 910-974-3051.

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.



Seven Lakes Drive.

- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 10 am Sunday School - Ages 3 - adult, 11 am Worship, child care provided.

- **Bolshoi Ballet at the Sunrise** – *The Taming of the Shrew*, 1 pm. Doors open at 12:15 pm. (Part of the Met Opera HD Live Series). Many suitors dream of marrying the lovely and docile Bianca, including Luciento. However, her father will not let anyone marry her before her elder sister, the ill-tempered shrew Katharina, is herself married. French choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Winter Tree Id** – 3 pm, No leaves needed. Buds, leaf scars and stems are all the group will need to identify hardwood trees. Join a ranger in the auditorium at the Visitor Center to



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- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 2:30 - 5 pm, WOW Program for K - 5th grade.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 6:30 pm, Handbell Choir Rehearsal; 7:30 pm, Chancel Choir Rehearsal.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise – Youth**, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines .

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Game Room.
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal \$5.
- **Business Networking Mixer** 5 – 7:30 pm, The Country Club of North Carolina, 1600 Morganton Road, Pinehurst. An opportunity to connect and network with business owners and professionals. Rob McVay, 910-295-1431.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 6:30 pm, meeting at Foxfire Village Hall.
- **Candidates' Forum** – 6-9 pm, Moore Tea Citizens host candidates ahead of the March 15 Primary Election. Pinehurst Village Hall.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise – Youth**, 7:30 pm Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

- **"Pursuing Your Best Life"** – 11 am - 12 pm, Lynne Drinkwater, Program Coordinator and Esther Zolman, Fitness Coordinator introduce a new topic. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15-501 (2 miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle). Call 215-0900 to reserve.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

- **Pruning Workshop at SCC** – 10 am until Noon, conducted by Moore County Extension Agent Taylor Williams. Participants will learn pruning basics and then go outside into the Gardens where Williams will give hands-on demonstrations. Program will be held at the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens Ball Visitors Center at the Sandhills Community College. There is no cost for the Workshop, but reservations are necessary. Call 910-695-3882.
- **Met Opera at the Sunrise – Puccini's Turandot**, 1 pm. Doors open: 12:15 pm. (Part of the Met Opera HD Live Series) Nina Stemme, takes on the title role of the proud princess of legendary China. Tenor Marco Berti is Calaf, the brave prince who sings "Nessun dorma" and wins her hand. Conducted by Paolo Carignani. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – Rosary 8:15 am, 9 am Mass. Mexican food and drinks available after Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd., Biscoe, 910-974-3051.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am worship service, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – Sunday School, 9:45 am, Worship Services, 8:30 am or 11:00 am. Everyone welcome, child care available
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

• **West End Presbyterian Church** – 10 am Sunday School - Ages 3 - adult, 11 am Worship, child care provided.

• **Paint Hill Hike** – 3 pm, Come explore a different section of Weymouth Woods, the Paint Hill tract, on a 1.5 mile hike. Group will be looking for rare plants, such as the Sandhills pyxie-moss. Meet at the visitor center and carpool over to the other site. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

• **West End Presbyterian Church Youth** – 6 pm, middle school and high school students. West End Presbyterian Church, 275 Knox Lane, West End.

• **West End United Methodist Church Explorers** – dinner with youth 6 – 6:30 pm, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Children grades K-5. Time of learning, crafts and activities before eating. West End United Methodist Church, West End.

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• **West End Presbyterian Church** – 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Tuesday Tutoring Crawford Center.

• **Invest In Moore Kids Community Information Forum** – 6:30 pm, Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. Event will include an overview of the plans for the Advance Career Center for high school students an elementary schools, proposed 1/4 cent sales tax increase, with a question and answer session. Voter information and onsite registration will also be available.

• **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, Rosary; 9:30 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd, Biscoe 910-974-3051.

• **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

• **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal \$5.

• **Women of Seven Lakes Annual Winter Luncheon and Card Party** – 11:30 am, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Luncheon catered by 7 Central Bistro. Cost \$10. Participants sign up for lunch only, or they can come for lunch and stay after to play cards or games. Sandy Bachofner, will speak to everyone about the mental and physical benefits of essential oils. Call Lee Connelly, 673-2521, to sign up, or more information. Public invited. Refreshments served.

• **Business Networking Mixer** 5 – 7:30 pm, The Country Club of North Carolina, 1600 Morganton Road, Pinehurst. An opportunity to connect and network with business owners and professionals. Rob McVay, 910-295-1431.

• **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

• **Foxfire Village Council** – 6:30 pm, meeting at Foxfire Village Hall.

• **Candidates' Forum** – 6-9 pm, Moore Tea Citizens host candidates ahead of the March 15 Primary Election. Pinehurst Village Hall.

• **Sunflix at the Sunrise – Youth**, 7:30 pm Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

• **"Pursuing Your Best Life"** – 11 am - 12 pm, Lynne Drinkwater, Program Coordinator and Esther Zolman, Fitness Coordinator introduce a new topic. Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 Hwy 15-501 (2 miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle). Call 215-0900 to reserve.



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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, Rosary; 9:30 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd, Biscoe 910-974-3051.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 4)

didn't appear to sit well with the Commissioners. Saunders pointed out that water and sewer ratepayers, not taxpayers, pay for water and sewer improvements.

Also not well received by the Commissioners was an attempt by Smith to identify the owner of the property and to tie him to an infrastructure grant provided a few years ago to Atex Technologies, an Aberdeen employer.

Smith's hint of impropriety brought a rebuke from Chairman Nick Picerno, who said, "I did not really care for trying to vilify somebody for making money in America . . . The American dream used to be work hard, play by the rules, and be self-sustaining."

Poultry farm adjoins property

Pam Ring, whose family owns a commercial poultry operation on an adjacent property, expressed concern that any residential development of the property would inevitably result in complaints about the dust, feathers, noise, and smell coming from her farm. And increasing the density of development would only exacerbate the problem.

Representing the developer, Bob Koontz argued that the additional density makes sense, given the proximity to Whispering Pines, Vass, Lakeview, and Southern Pines. It will be expensive to bring County sewer service to the site, he said, and building more homes on the site will help defray that cost. Moore County Schools [MCS]

has estimated that it will cost just over \$1 million to bring sewer service to the site.

Koontz said any development of the property, because it is in a HQW watershed, would be closely overseen by state environmental officials.

Commissioner Saunders, who served for a number of years on the Whispering Pines Village Council, pointed out that all of Whispering Pines lies within that same watershed, and developers are able to build subdivisions in compliance with state rules.

He also noted that his home is closer to the MCWCC than the proposed development.

"I don't know that I have ever heard gunshots," he said "I don't see it as an issue."

With that, the Board voted unanimously to table the matter until its next meeting.

Resolutions aimed at legislators

The Commissioner unanimously approved a resolution targeted broadly at the NC General Assembly and, in particular, at the three members of the Moore County delegation to Raleigh: Senator Jerry Tillman and Represen-

tatives Jamie Boles and Allen McNeill.

The first part of the resolution asked legislators to explain why Moore County was not included among seventy-nine counties that received an additional share of sales tax revenue from the state, in a compromise hammered out during budget negotiations.

Legislators from rural counties had pressed during the General Assembly's last session for a complete overhaul of the sales tax distribution system, one that would determine each county's share of sale tax receipts based on population rather than the taxes actually collected in that county.

Instead, the legislature expanded the sales tax to include a variety of services, like auto and appliance repair, and plans to divide the additional revenue gleaned from that expansion among 79 counties of the state's 100 counties. Moore County is not among them, though Randolph County, Senator Tillman's home county, is.

"Moore County requests an answer as to why Moore

County's sales tax revenue resulting from this plan, is being distributed to 79 other counties, while Moore County receives 0 dollars," the resolution reads.

The second area on which the Commissioners are seeking action is the passage of Senate Bill 605, which would revise Article 46 of the General Statutes to allow counties, with voter approval, to collect an additional half-cent in sales taxes.

Currently, Article 46 provides for only an additional one-quarter cent; it is that additional sales tax that Moore County voters will be asked to approve during the March Primary Election.

Other business

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

- Approved three requests from Moore County Schools to use NC Education Lottery funds to undertake due diligence investigation of sites for an Area 1 Elementary School, a Southern Pines Elementary School, and the Advanced Career Center High

School. The total request was for \$320,000

- Authorized an application seeking \$100,000 from the NC Housing Finance Agency under its FY2016 Urgent Repair Program. If the grant is approved, the funds will be used to repair the homes of elderly or disabled residents.

- Approved a revised Public Safety Ordinance.

- Reappointed Buck Mims to the Planning Board and tabled an additional appointment, at the request of Commissioner Graham.

- Reappointed Ashvin Patel as a trustee for the Whispering Pines Fire and Rescue Firefighters Relief Fund.

- Tabled an appointment to the Board of Health.

- Appointed Angela Zumwalt and Barb Ross to the Animal Operations Advisory Board as interim members through the end of February.

- Reviewed the FY 2017 Community Services Block Grant application for Sandhills Community Action Program, which offers programs aimed at helping low-income residents improve their chances of getting a job.

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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from front page)

of lifeguards combined with access control via an electronic card entry system and surveillance through an unmonitored security camera system.

Leach said this would allow the pool to be open longer each day, and for a longer overall season, than is the case when lifeguards are employed. He said the new system would allow a pool season of 2,064 hours, compared to 722 hours using the current system with lifeguards.

During his presentation, Leach consistently referred to conclusions the Board had reached and decisions the Board had made, despite the fact that no public votes have been taken on those matters.

He said the Board is attempting to "provide additional family time at the pool for all community members."

He said that goal originated with feedback from the membership: "Those who wanted to swim laps before work. Those who wanted to use the pool after work. A whole group of ladies who wanted to continue with water aerobics longer in the season. And many who felt this amenity was not being used nearly enough justify the \$100,000 recently invested to refurbish this pool."

"This Board responded to what Richard Nixon referred to as 'the Silent Majority,'" Leach said.

He said the Board had considered a number of options for managing the pool, including providing additional lifeguards in order to lengthen pool hours, using attendants instead of lifeguards, using a combination of both on a split schedule, or using an electronic access system without lifeguard or attendants.

Leach said hiring enough lifeguards to cover the expanded hours of pool operation the Board desires — May 1 to September 30 from 6:30 am to 9:00 pm — would cost every SLLA member household \$32 in additional dues.

He did not provide cost

estimates for any of the other options.

He did say the Board had ruled out running a split schedule — that is, providing lifeguards for part of the schedule while relying on either attendants or an electronic access system for the remainder of the schedule.

Leach said such an arrangement "sends a mixed message," and suggested the Association's liability would be increased if lifeguards "walked off" at 4:00 pm and a child was injured at 4:05 pm.

Public comment favors lifeguards

During the public discussion of Leach's motion, one member suggested that the pool could simply be closed for fifteen minutes when the lifeguard shift ended, removing all patrons from the pool area, before reopening ten or fifteen minutes later on a "swim at your own risk" basis.

There was considerable public discussion during the meeting, both during the formal public comment period and later, as the lifeguard issue was debated.

Ten members in all spoke to the lifeguard issues, with only one, Recreation Committee member Bob Miller, in favor of eliminating lifeguards. Miller noted that most of the lifeguards hired are students, who return to school before the end of August, leaving plenty of 90 degree days when the pool cannot be utilized by members.

The remaining speakers, during public comment, all urged the Board to retain lifeguards.

Laura Douglass suggested that, if there is a problem obtaining competent lifeguards, the Board might consider paying a more competitive wage. She urged the Board to consider having lifeguards at least part of the time.

Martin King, a retired resident with a deep background in competitive swimming, told the Board that any problems with the lifeguards in the past is a management

issue that they should be able to handle "without it getting in the newspaper."

"Hire the lifeguards or close the pool," he said.

Hope Strayer said the community was much more accepting of children when she moved to Seven Lakes eleven years ago, providing Summer camp and other opportunities that are no longer available. "Do we want to be a community or a corporation?" she asked.

Rod Ansley said it is important for the community to allow "children of responsible ages to have the freedom to come to the pool by themselves. It helps them develop confidence."

"We are definitely changing our demographic," Amy Rozycki, said, "and we need to change with that by increas-

ing our amenities, to bring in families with children, rather than decreasing our amenities and increasing our dues."

"When was the last accident at the pool?" Todd Galford asked. "I've never heard of anyone being hurt at the pool."

(See "SLLA," p. 20)

Only one candidate for three SLLA Board seats

Incumbent Director Sandy Sackmann is so far the only candidate for the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors.

Nominations Chairman Bob Racine announced the one person slate of candidates during the Thursday, January 14 Open Meeting.

Two other seats on the Board will come open in March, when the terms of

President Chuck Leach and former Recreation Director Mary Farley expire. Leach has decided not to stand for re-election.

Members interested in running for one of those seats have until the Board's January 28 Work Session to make their intentions known by contacting the Landowners Office or Director Racine.

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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 19)

pool." He spoke in support of retaining lifeguards and the diving boards.

Ed Hill said he learned to swim in the Seven Lakes pool as a child, eventually attending NC State University on a swimming scholarship. He returned to Seven Lakes and managed the pool in 2009, offering swim lessons all day long, starting the Seven Lakes Stingrays swim team, and coming in \$8,500 under budget. Hill not only urged the Board to retain the lifeguards, he volunteered to manage them.

"I want to keep the lifeguards," John Craig said, urging the Board to delay action until they gathered more input from the community.

Greg Hankins [speaking as a landowner rather than as Editor of The Times] told the Board that they had failed to present the membership with a fully formed alternative to lifeguards, and reminded them that nothing stands in the way of having lifeguards for a portion of the day and season, while opening the pool without guards at other times.

Later in the meeting, after Leach made his motion to eliminate the rule that restricts pool use to times when lifeguards are present, most of those who spoke in favor of retaining lifeguards urged the Board to accept a compromise position, employing lifeguards for part of the day during part of the season.

"I think you are doing a disservice to this community by not compromising and by not having lifeguards from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm or 10:00 am until 5:00pm," Rozycki said.

In fact, that sort of split schedule was part of a recommendation approved by the Recreation Committee. Racine said he hoped that the Board would consider all the issues surrounding the management of the pool for 2016 as a package rather than piecemeal.

"While I don't believe we have to have a Town Hall Meeting for every decision, I do believe we have to have information," Racine said. "And I got information tonight that I didn't even know about — and I'm Chairman of the Recreation Committee."

Racine noted that the Board has not yet approved the purchase of the electronic access system or the security cameras planned for the pool area.

"What happens if the security system doesn't go through," Racine said. "We should require the option then of saying we require lifeguards We have to have some supervision."

One diving board eliminated

Having brought the lifeguard issue to a vote, the Board moved quickly to a vote on eliminating the higher of the two diving boards at the Northside pool.

That motion passed five to one, with Director Mark Widman opposed.

Manager's Report

Interim Community Manager Jeff Allen reported that the engineering firm S&ME has certified that Riley Paving met the conditions its contract with the Association. However, a small portion on East Devonshire was overlooked and will be repaved when weather allows.

Two new pump motors
(See "SLLA," p. 21)

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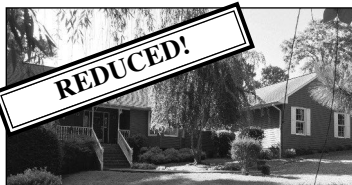
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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 20)

were to be installed at the pool the day following the Open Meeting, Allen said.

Ample rainfall has revealed a variety of drainage issues, he said, adding that the Association has a written policy that drainage issues are the responsibility of the landowner. "In almost no case will the Association install drainage on private property," he added.

Committee reports

President. Leach reported that the Board has been interviewing candidates for Community Manager and has narrowed the search to two finalists.

Treasurer. Gyure reported that the suit of last year's financial statements is complete and the final report is in hand. He said he and Allen have been working on a draft budget, which will go now to the Finance Committee

and then to the Board. It must be submitted to the membership no later than sixty days prior to the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, March 20.

ARB. Director Sandy Packman reported that fees have been paid for four new homes; construction is expected to begin soon. Meanwhile two homes have recently been completed, one is nearly nearly complete, and another is well underway. The committee approved a variety of other projects, ranging from new decks and a sun room to a split rail fence and a raised bed garden.

Standards/Judicial. Racine reported that, now that the holiday season is over, the Community Standards Committee is swinging back into action, looking for rules violations that need to be corrected. The Judicial Committee will meet before months' end and will have

at least three cases to hear.

Security. Director Lishawa said the Halloween Party at Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire and Rescue was a big success — more than 100 children were fingerprinted. The Sheriff's Office has a new solar-powered speed monitoring device that can be used to help officers decide which areas need radar enforcement. The high level of traffic fatalities in Moore County has caught the attention of the State Highway Patrol, which plans additional enforcement in the County.

Lakes & Dams. Director Widman said early this year the Association will run a "conference room pilot" of what would be required to respond to a dam failure disaster. Five of the SLLA's dams are rated high hazard by the state. Foster Lake & Pond Management will be making a presentation to the committee on fish management.

The state dam safety officer recently inspected Little Juniper Dam and found no major issues.

Other business

In other business during the January 13 SLLA Open Meeting the Board of Directors:

- Approved spending up to \$13,500 to stripe the newly-repaved roadways in Seven Lakes North and South. Striping will include a solid yellow line down the center of the roadway and solid white lines at either shoulder.

- Approved a list of fifteen capital projects, in a five-to-one vote, with Racine opposed, ranging from the purchase of a dump trailer to redoing the North Clubhouse kitchen, that will now move to the Finance Committee for budgeting. Racine said he could not vote for the package of projects without detailed costs on all of

them.

- Approved revisions to several sections of the rules and regulations, including Sections 2, 3, 7, & 12.

- Ratified an email vote to authorized an additional expenditure of \$1,382 for the replacement of the Edgewater Drive culvert. Community Manager Allen explained that an additional fifty feet of culvert had been added.

- Authorized the Association's collections attorney to proceed with foreclosure on eleven properties at a cost of \$22,760, and to proceed with title searches — a precursor to foreclosure — on sixteen additional properties.

- Authorized management to move forward working with the County on a swap of land near the stables and the water tower. Allen explained that the County is willing to swap nearly on-half acre for a "tiny piece."



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Around we go again

We are now well within the New Year, jogging our minds to write 2016 on our checks and correspondence.

Newspaper columnists like to forecast what the New Year might bring forth, but most of them don't check their accuracy when the year comes to an end.

I've also heard some radio and TV preachers trying to prophesy what to expect in 2016, and many of them sound like the Old Testament prophets of doom.

The threat of terrorism is greater than it has ever been in our nation. Migration of Middle East refugees, many of whom are seeking asylum in the United States, generates added pressure on our already stressed-out re-

sources. Since many of these migrants are Muslim, and a few may have had ties to ISIS, calls go out to bar all Muslim immigrants from entering the country.

Another threat, less terrorizing but potentially more destructive in the long term, is the process of global warming. But when the preachers talk about this phenomenon, they usually say that God is in charge of the world, and He will keep us all safe from melting glaciers and rising ocean waters.

We don't have to worry about climate change, they say, but we must fear terrorism. God will control the

Outside the Box

Harry Bronkar

weather, but not the terrorists! God will take care of the climate, but can't—or won't—wipe out the terrorist threats.

Overall, however, we are advised simply to trust God,

since he controls the future. Oh, really? Was God in control in 2015, in Paris, or San Bernardino, or Charleston? Yes, I know you aren't supposed to ask questions like that. It suggests that you doubt the power and purpose of God. As the old gospel hymn says, just "trust and obey, for there's no other way. . ."

But I prefer not to be a religious ostrich, with my head in the sand, hoping that when I raise my head God will have made all the bad things go away. When, throughout history, has it ever worked that way?

God does not control human events using miraculous, supernatural activity. Throughout the years God

has worked through individuals who have opened their lives to God's spirit, and has changed the world with them. I suspect that God will use the same process in 2016.

Keep praying with your eyes open, and you might be surprised at some of the people God uses to turn the world in the direction of peace and justice. Could one of these people be you? Or me?

Let's all of us try to make this a truly happy new year.

Harry Bronkar is a Baptist Minister enjoying retirement in Seven Lakes North. You can reach him at hbronkar@gmail.com

Stand up – speak up – get involved

At our Thursday, January 14 Seven Lakes Landowners Association (SLLA) Open Meeting, I was impressed by the folks that showed an interest in lifeguards and diving boards.

I was not impressed by the fact that we had only one candidate to nominate for the three vacancies on the board.

While seeking candidates to sign up for the three vacan-

cies on the board, I am often told that they don't have the large number of hours they hear about, nor can they attend a 'morning' meeting.

As a five year member of the board, I serve as chairman of three committees, serve on another committee and now head of the director's search committee.

At no time do I find it necessary to spend 10-12 hours per week on SLLA business

nor do these activities interfere with my home life or my nearly daily visits with my grandchildren, as the majority of my activities can be handled from home by my computer and phone, and better utilization of my free time.

I find it exciting to be involved and hopefully contribute to the activities and future of SLLA. It gives additional purpose to my life and permits me to contribute my

expertise and ideas to board considerations.

The board decides if their meetings are during the day

on portions of the deck. I worked continuously to prevent the \$100,00.00+ renovation of the pool deck. There was opposition to my stand, and I sought a third term to prevent this extravagant and unnecessary expenditure.

I consider it worth a couple of

or evening. Work sessions were held evenings when I first joined the board. If you work, you can vote for all evening meetings and attend.

Why do I continue to serve? So that I can have a say in how the \$1.5 Million Budget is being spent.

Example: \$200,000: had been proposed for pool and deck repairs. \$95,000 to refurbish the pool and \$100,000+ to tear up the pool deck, replace it with pavers, and plant trees, shrubs and grass

hours weekly to prevent this type of unnecessary expenditure.

How your dues are spent and whether a dues increase is needed should prompt you to get involved.

January 28th is the deadline to placed on the ballot. Please become involved, contact the SLLA office or me (Bob Racine) directly to become part of the SLLA Board of Directors nominations.

Your Turn

Bob Racine, Director
Seven Lakes Landowners

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Thanks from the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club

As we move into the year 2016, the Seven Lakes Kiwanis have many things to be thankful.

The leadership and members of the Seven Lakes Kiwanis would like to thank the community of Seven Lakes for its support and participation in our projects throughout 2015.

The Kiwanis Mission statement: "To assist Kiwanis International in serving the children of the world."

We certainly support Kiwanis International, but we focus our efforts in Moore County, specifically supporting the children in the Seven Lakes and Robbins communities.

We take this mission to heart in every endeavor we undertake throughout the community.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis accomplishments for 2015 included:

- Beginning with Weekly meetings at the Chapel in The Pines Activity Center each Tuesday at 11:30, where Seven Lakes Kiwanis come together in fellowship, to hear a local speaker enlighten everyone on a wide variety of subjects and plan projects.
- Annual Pancake Breakfast held at West End Elementary cafeteria each February. (The 33rd Breakfast will be held February 6, from 7 am to 11 am.)
- Kiwanis Highway Cleaning project on Hwy 211 that

is ongoing throughout the year.

- Supporting the North Moore High School Key Club, helping the young people learn about citizenship and "service to their fellow man."
- Supported Teachers, Staff and Students at West End Elementary School through the "Traffic Kids" kids program and the many donations to support the growth of the library with thousands of dollars donated for the purchase of new books.
- Supported Moore County "Action Kids" Chapter, a Kiwanis Chapter for the mentally challenged individuals that we co-support.
- Kiwanis Bingo held at the North Clubhouse the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month.
- Pumpkin Patch sale the SL Kiwanis held for the first time in 2015. The community embraced this project by purchasing over 500 pumpkins and 400 mums and generating additional funds enabling the group to broaden our outreach to even more children based organizations.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis

participates in the weekly Backpack Pals program conducted by the local branch of the Food Bank of Central

kin Patch.

I cannot thank the community enough for its financial and volunteer support of the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis are

excited about 2016, when they plan to grow bigger, donate more and help to build the community into a better place to live and develop the children into Great Citizens.



Your Turn

George Norman, President
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

and Eastern NC by delivering weekend meals to children in need at West End Elementary and Elise Middle School in Robbins.

In 2015, Seven Lakes Kiwanis members also donated over 4,000 volunteer hours of hours raising and distributing over \$10,000 to the local children's organization.

I want to thank each member for their untiring effort, the forty plus speakers that have shared their stories, history and enlightenment with the group.

And specifically, I want to thank Leigh Ann McClendon, Principal of West End Elementary for her continued support and partnership and David Zmiewsky, Manager of First Bank, Seven Lakes Branch for providing the excellent area for our Pump-

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Northside pool: Protect or punish?

When it comes to kids and swimming pools, should the objective be to protect, or to punish?

There are many ways to think about the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board's well-intentioned but ill-informed and misguided drive to eliminate lifeguard service at the Northside swimming pool.

But comments by Board members during the January Open Meeting revealed a new angle.

The Board is replacing its responsibility to protect children and adults who use the pool with a determination to punish them, should they misbehave.

Rather than staffing the pool with responsible lifeguards who could save the life of someone who literally gets in over their head, the Board proposes to replace those trained lifeguards with ever watchful cameras.

Yet the video feed from those cameras will be watched by no one; it will simply be recorded for use in future punishment or prosecution.

The cameras aren't intended to alert anyone to an emergency, but rather to provide evidence for disciplinary action or even prosecution.

We're moving from "protect" to "punish."

"What if the security system isn't approved?" Director Bob Racine asked. "We'll have to have some type of supervision."

So, in the Big Brother world the SLLA Board would create, rather than provide real time admonishment from someone

also trained to save a life, instead we will have a regime in which complaints about misbehavior result in a review of the tape, followed by a temporary suspension of pool privileges.

Isn't that lovely? George Orwell couldn't have made this up.

Pool management = Phenomenal cost?

In other ironies, President Chuck Leach remarked during the same Open Meeting that there exist pool management companies that will provide lifeguards — presumably fully insured — to save local management the time and trouble of handling that task on their own.

"I don't know the exact cost," Leach said, "but I can tell you from all indication and the little bit of looking into that we did, that is another phenomenal cost, because they are also going to want to sell you the chemicals. Presently, we get a very good price on our chemicals."

This statement came from the President of an Association that outsources its administrative management, its security services, and its landscaping.

The Board seems to believe it saving money by outsourcing those functions. One wonders why pool management didn't warrant more than "a little looking into it," particularly given that Interim Community Manager Jeff Allen, who has managed many communities with pools, has never managed a community where that function that was handled in-house.

More study — and conversation — needed

A few members of the SLLA Board of Directors have been working on the idea of replacing lifeguards with cameras and a card entry system for

months now.

Naturally, they think they have a pretty good handle on the whole plan, and it's natural that they get a bit defensive when pushed on it by Association members.

Unfortunately, the directors involved in this planning process have done all of their work

behind closed doors. And nothing exposes the holes in your plan like a little sunshine.

The Board needs to lay out the whole plan, soup to nuts, with costs, policies, and procedures, at its earliest opportunity.

Then the Directors need to sit back and watch the people they represent tear it apart, so that, together, they can reach a compromise that serves the entire community.

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins, Editor



Christine Donna Beth Dr. Pete Stacey Harriet Windy



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The teams will compete against lacrosse leagues in the surrounding area. No prior experience required.

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offers training by qualified coaches, that develop knowledge, skill, and teamwork.

The season will begin in February with practice, and will end in May. If parents are interested in their child participating the team, visit www.sandhillshawk-lacrosse.com website.

Thanks from Dr. Pete McKay

Dear Friends:

September 19 and 20 was this year's Tour to Tanglewood, the bicycling event whose main purpose is to raise money to support those with Multiple Sclerosis.

The benefits of the event goes way past the main mission. For some it is a neat cycling event that in itself provides a great time for participants. For others it's as

meaningful as a personal physical and mental challenge. Many from the event get satisfaction for feeling that they are doing something that benefits others.

For me it is all of that and much more. It is a great time for my family. We get to have a nice weekend together, get to renew friendships and often get to learn an important lesson in life. The life

lesson with which I became impressed was – the virtue of trying.

Throughout my experience at this event I have met many people that have Multiple Sclerosis. This character of trying has been shown to me with Multiple Sclerosis patients. Now with my wife, Mary, having become a person with Multiple Sclerosis, I see how important it is for

her to keep trying with her life in all ways possible. Mary continues to do all she can for us as a family, for her patients at the hospital and those she works with.

Life is demanding enough in a normal situation. When faced with any challenge such as Multiple Sclerosis or any number of other challenges that can be dealt to us in life's game of cards, those that exceed in spite of that challenge – try.

It makes me proud to have tried the Tanglewood event. I wanted to 'Thank You' the whole community for helping me in the effort by your own trying represented in your donations.

The money donated is all

used by the Multiple Sclerosis Society in many ways. It directly helps those with Multiple Sclerosis in needs, advocacy, and education for their families. The Multiple Sclerosis Society is the largest contributor to Multiple Sclerosis research worldwide. None of this would be possible without your continued generosity.

This year was made even more special to me through everyone's generosity – I was fifth in fundraising among all Tour to Tanglewood participants.

Thank you to everyone for helping to make this possible!

With deepest gratitude,
Dr. Pete McKay, D.D.S.

West End needs facelift

Dear Friends of Seven Lakes North, South, West, McLendon Hills, and West End:

We live in a wonderful community with great people, beautiful Lakes and two outstanding golf courses.

One of our biggest drawbacks are the abandoned Stanley Factory and the concrete movie theater on NC Hwy 211 in West End.

They have been vacant for too many years despite efforts to sell. We don't know what or who inhabits them, but along with Health, Scenic, Safety and Crime potential

– they are hazards.

Let's brainstorm and band together!

We need to contact our elected civic leader, Nick Picerno, (npicerno@embarqmail.com); the owner of the Stanley Factory, JR Square LLC, (P.O. Box 733, Pinehurst, NC 28370); and owners of the theater building, Fred and Carol Monroe (375 Azalea Rd., Southern Pines, NC 28387) and ask them for

their help.

We need to remove these abandoned buildings.

In the case of the Stanley Factory, maybe replace it with Long Leaf Pines for a West End Park. Possibly the bricks could be reused for paths. We need action!

If anyone has better ideas, let's hear them.

Thank you.

Mary B. Hauck
Seven Lakes West

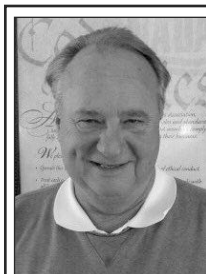
Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis will host their 33rd Pancake-Sausage Breakfast on Saturday, February 6 at West End Elementary School cafeteria from 7 am to 11 am.

Tickets are available at \$8 each from any Kiwanis member, the Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe, Quality Care Pharmacy, Lakeside Barber Shop and Sandhills Winery. They will also be raffling off a 48" flat screen TV.

Tickets will be available at the door the day of the breakfast.

Proceeds from the annual breakfast will be benefit the West End Elementary School library and several local charities that support the children of Moore County.



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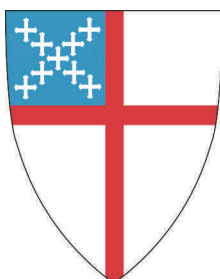
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More information needed on lifeguards

To SLLA Board of Directors:

The Northside swimming pool lifeguard issue as reported in *The Times* of December 25 raises serious questions affecting all Seven Lakes Landowners from a liability aspect, regardless of their use of the pool or not.

We would like to hear more detailed input from CAS and

from those who have researched the problem, as outlined below.

- How many of the 55 CAS managed communities that have swimming pools are similar to Seven Lakes Landowners Association in size and character?
- Similarity of the five having lifeguards to Seven Lakes

Landowners Association?

- Comparison of insurance and operating issues at some of the 50 CAS communities having no lifeguards with the five which do.
- Employment of responsible lifeguards is a management responsibility. Repeated tardiness and no-shows

should not be tolerated.

- If lifeguards are distracted by their cell phones, should not theirs be prohibited from the poolside area.
- Suggestion to eliminate lifeguards could enable expansion of pool operation to from May 1 to September 30. Would this be desirable? Advisable? Effect on

school children? Parents? Insurance and liability?

In sum, we urge the Board to delay a decision on the lifeguard issue until the February 11 Open Meeting, when the questions raised have hopefully been answered.

Hal and Marge Blake
Seven Lakes South

VVA

(Continued from page 11)

"I hid from myself," he said. "[Then] I started talking with Vietnam veterans and working with them."

Nance met Kristek in 2005 and got "pulled into his little web." Shortly after Chapter 966 was born.

"Chapters are very important in the community," Bergquist said.

One member contracted ALS and was forced to be in a wheelchair. Chapter 966 was able to raise enough funds to build a ramp for his home.

After partnering with the Knights of Columbus at Sacred Heart Church, Chapter 966 raised \$2,400 this year for charities through the "Veteran's Angel Tree." During this fundraiser, angels were taken off a tree and checks were sent to the Chapter to support veterans and active military families with financial needs.

The Chapter has provided food cards and dining certificates at Thanksgiving and

Christmas to the Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion, Fort Bragg and to Veterans in need.

They have sponsored quarterly Bingo for patients at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville.

They support the Navy Junior ROTC program at Union Pines High School, including the award of a \$500 scholarship to a graduating cadet.

The VVA provides funding for Fisher House at Ft. Bragg and support the local efforts of Military Missions in Action.

They maintain a local retired flag box and participated in "Retired Flag" ceremonies with local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

There are more than twenty VVA chapters in North Carolina alone, and the members hope to start a new chapter in Morganton in the near future.

The Tenth Anniversary was celebrated with a cake cutting ceremony in which Rossie Nance, Jack Bergquist, and

Joe Kristek participated in cutting the cake.

Chapter 966 would like to thank the community for being supportive in their fundraising events as they continue to serve those who have served their country.

They urge the community to continue to be involved during such events as well as attend national remembrances such as Veterans Day (November 11), Memorial Day (May 30), and POW/MIA Day (third Friday in September). Memorial Day and POW/MIA Day ceremonies are held at the Veteran's Memorial in Carthage.

VVA Chapter 966 welcomes new members join in their

"brotherhood" of Vietnam era Veterans. Life membership is offered at \$100 per person.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 10.

For more information or if interested in joining Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 966, contact Jack Bergquist at jackvva@nc.rr.com or Daniel Conrad at visions-byconrad@gmail.com.

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Foxfire

(Continued from page 3)

vests, and a \$3,000 radar unit at no cost to the Village.

Koos noted that the Village's K9 officer was recently seriously injured. Rehabilitation costs would have been significant, but Shue took on the rehabilitation task.

"We have these dedicated officers so that we are able to keep public safety at a high standards and also keep it within budget," Koos said.

Water Department

Councilman Sedlak reported that the Village used 500,000 gallons less water in 2015 than in 2014.

The Water Department has been working through the process prescribed by the state to ensure that there is no lead contamination in the

Village water supply. All tests have so far come back negative.

Additional testing was required when the routine testing of two older homes with copper pipes revealed elevated lead levels. However, Sedlak explained, those homes had been sitting vacant for some time, and should not have been candidates for testing.

When water sits in copper pipes for a long period of time, lead from the solder used to secure the joints can leach into the water in the pipes, producing an erroneously high lead reading.

No lead has been found elsewhere in the system.

Streets

Councilman Boito said he had met with the local rep-

resentative of the NC Department of Transportation, who said the state agency would try to provide additional signage and, possibly, some fill, to improve safety around a large hole that has opened up just off the road surface at the intersection of Tie Road and Foxfire Road.

A large pothole on Sunset will be patched as soon as the contractor accumulates enough similar small jobs to add it to his schedule.

Boito said he is working on filling some washed out areas on the trails at Village Green Park.

Mayor's report.

Mayor McCue said the Council's January 28 Work

Session would include discussions of the Village-owned acreage on Woodland Circle, a proposal on managing the Village's fund balance, the

FY2015 finance audit, preparation of the FY 2017 budget, and issues raised in the Council's November 2015 planning retreat.

Chapel makes Medical Equipment available

Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines has medical equipment available to loan to the residents of the community.

There is no charge to borrow the items for a period of time while recuperating.

The Chapel's equipment

loan list includes – wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, shower and toilet chairs and more.

Please call Reverend Fran Stark at 673-5493 to see the items that are available or make arrangements for pick-up.

Love

(Continued from page 10)

be used by an appointed Pastor Nominating Committee in their work to call a pastor.

West End Presbyterian Church is glad that Rev. Jane Love answered the call to serve as the Interim Pastor as she carries out pastoral duties and guides the church

through the process of issuing a call to the person who will lead the church in the future.

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Schools

(Continued from front page)

a number of transfer students to Southern Pines to take advantage of the year-round option — found that two-thirds preferred the traditional calendar. Support for year-round was strongest at Southern Pines Elementary, where just over half preferred that calendar.

School Board members had already reviewed the data and discussed the options during the December 9 Work Session; the final vote on December 16 seemed like a foregone conclusion.

Board Member Libby Carter asked whether the district had enough students interested in the year-round calendar to fill a school.

Interim Curriculum Director Dr. Ed Pruden replied that there were in fact enough students to create a year-round-only magnet. However, he said, that comes with its own problems.

For example, if Southern Pines Primary and Elementary were converted to year-round magnet schools, the district would have to decide how to deal with students in the Southern Pines attendance district who prefer a traditional calendar.

"The issues with doing that," Pruden said, "would include displacing the fifty-three percent who prefer the traditional schedule at the school, finding places at all the nearby elementary schools for all the displaced students, and transporting them at district expense, since we have displaced them

against their preference."

"So it was deemed not worth the additional expense and disruption to several school communities."

Too much support to end year-round option?

Laura Lang was the only member of the Board to vote against Vice Chairman Ed Dennison's motion to offer only the traditional calendar at all schools.

"I think, given that we are talking about fifty percent of our staff and forty percent of all parents," Lang said, "that I don't think we gathered enough information on how we might have a year-round track continue in our district, other than in dual enrollment."

Once you do away with year-round, Lang said, it will be difficult to ever bring it back.

"I hate to see us go ahead and eliminate it now before we have done enough homework to see how we might keep year-round going in our district. I think the numbers are still too strong for people who want the program for us to eliminate it."

Lang said she thought more information could have been gleaned from the surveys of families and staff if additional questions had been asked in the surveys.

Board Member Stacey Caldwell said the decision "has weighed heavily on my heart."

She said she would prefer that the district continue to offer both calendars, "but that is not financially feasi-

ble."

Helena Wallin-Miller, who has two children enrolled in year-round school, said she was alerted by news reports two years ago that the program might be in jeopardy. That led her to research the MCS budget, meet with the finance office and with state legislators, and help organize Parents for Moore to advocate for additional school funding.

"I do not, as a parent, want this choice to go away," she said. "But as a Board member, I need to think about the entire community and all the families in all twenty-three schools. I need to think about equity. Are we doing the same things in this part of the County, in the southern part, that we are doing in the northern part and the central part?"

Wallin-Miller said she could not ignore the chance to save \$400,000 in operational costs.

"This is just one proposed cut of two, tonight," she said. "And there will probably be more, based on what is coming. Our fund balance is now very low, and this should be of grave concern to us all."

Chairman Bruce Cunningham said some research he had undertaken revealed that, of 2300 elementary schools in the state, only 104 have a year-round calendar, and only four — all in Moore County — operate two separate.

New math for parents

The way math is taught now is not the way math was taught twenty years ago — so it can be a struggle for parents to help their elementary school students with homework.

West End Elementary hopes to help with a couple of Math Nights.

The goal is to provide parents with tools they can use to help their students at home.

On Tuesday, February 2, parents of K-2 students are

invited to attend a Math Night at the school; for Grades 2-5, the date is Thursday, February 4.

The hour long math sessions begin at 6:00 pm, but come at 5:30 pm and snag a hot dog before class begins.

You can also find resources on the Moore County Schools website in the Math section of the Curriculum and Instructional Support Department at www.ncmcs.org/Page/7127

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Schools

(Continued from page 28)

arate calendars in a single school.

After the seven-to-one vote to approve Dennison's motion, the Board voted unanimously to approve a one-time waiver to the transfer policy, aimed at smoothing the transition for families currently enrolled in the year-round program.

Students who have transferred from their home school to another school in order to enroll in year-round school will be able to remain at the transfer school through the remainder of their elementary school career.

The move to traditional calendar only will take effect at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year.

The Board also gave final approval to the school calendar for 2016-2017, positioning Spring Break after Easter and making Election Day a teacher work day.

Central Office reorganization

In a second move to cut costs during their Monday, January 11 regular meeting, the School Board approved reorganization of the Central Office staff recommended by Superintendent Dr. Bob Grimesey.

The new organizational chart removes the currently vacant Deputy Superintendent position and collapses three Associate Superintendent positions into two.

Those two administrators, the Chief Officer and Executive Officer for Academic and Student Services will oversee everything from curriculum to technology, federal programs to school nurses.

Board Member Lang expressed concern that the reshuffle might result in some members of the Central Office team receiving salary increases, even though those have been nearly non-existent for school-level employees.

Because the district currently has two interim appointments in the associate superintendent positions, Grimesey said, no one will lose their job because of the reorganization.

Board Member Pam Thompson said she believes the reorganization "comes at a great time."

"I believe there is still mind-set with some of our teaching staff and the community that we are top-heavy here in the Central Office," Thompson said. "I believe our employees and our community will appreciate the fact that we are looking at every opportunity to save money and to be frugal with our dollars."

New math

Math instruction isn't what it used to be, with collaboration and problem-solving replacing individual memorization. The Board heard a

presentation from Michelle Gray, Specialist for PreK-12 Mathematics, Becky Oldham, Lead Math Coach, and Dr. Katherine Warwick, a teacher at Sandhills Farm Life Elementary School, that aimed to bring them up to speed on how math instruction has changed.

Research-based changes in the way math is taught has students working together, sharing the various strategies that they have used to solve problems. The result is students who are better prepared for college and the workplace, because businesses are looking for people who can think creatively and work collaboratively.

"Mathematically proficient" no longer means being able to memorize formulas, but instead being able to understand the problem.

Adjusting to this new approach to math can be a challenge, so elementary schools have begun hosting "Math Nights," where parents can get a taste of what their children are learning and learn how to help their children with homework.

West End Elementary School will host a Math Night for Grades K-2 parents on Tuesday, February 2 and for Grade 3-5 parents on February 4. Both sessions begin at 6:00 pm.

Resolution approved

Board members unanimously supported a resolution urging the Department of the Army to restore funding for the "Army Youth Program in Your Neighborhood," a program that provides after school support for children of military families who live off-base.

The program has provided \$150,000 annually to support more than 2,400 students at six schools: Crain's Creek, New Century, Southern, and West Pine Middle Schools, as well as Pinecrest and Union Pines High Schools.

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Seven Lakes Times
January 22, 2016

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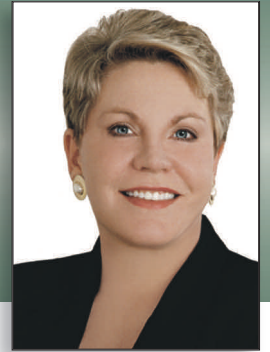
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