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Volume 23 Number 1

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

November 9, 2007

Welcome Mindy!



Dustin and Kevin Fletcher show off Mindy, the new pony their family recently donated to the Seven Lakes Stables. [Story on page 14.]

Bonds pass, transfer tax fails

"Does Moore County need a new tax on real estate sales?" the County Board of Commissioners asked.

"No," the voters answered on Tuesday. Except the answer was more like "NO!!!"

More than three-quarters of the voters who cast ballots in Tuesday's election voted against a proposed 0.4 percent land transfer tax that the Commissioners had promised would be used first to pay for school construction projects and then to fund a new jail and county administration complex. Unofficial results from the Moore County Board of Elections show 12,467

votes against the transfer tax and only 3,688 in favor. The results will be confirmed at the official canvass on Tuesday, November 13.

With the school bonds approved and the transfer tax defeated, Moore Countians may have, in effect, voted themselves a property tax increase next year of at least five cents per hundred dollars of valuation.

"I'm disappointed," said Southsider Dave Kinney, a member of the Alternate Revenue Committee of The Summit, the group that originally proposed the new tax as a means to fund much-

(See "Election," p. 37)

Coker, Koos win seats in Foxfire

A four way race in Foxfire resulted in Village Council seats for Page Coker and Vic Koos.

Coker, with 226 votes, rang up more than double the number of votes of any of her rivals. Koos was the choice of 108 voters, while newcomer Kristy Williams attracted 98 votes and incumbent Councilman Gene Petrie pulled up the rear with 60 votes.

Coker said, "It was a very exciting day and I'm thrilled and honored." She attributed her success to a positive campaign and personal contact.

"I personally visited at least

ninety-five percent of the homes in Foxfire," said Coker, "and was invited into many of the homes so we could share our ideas about Foxfire."

Coker also said she encouraged everyone that she met that their vote would make a difference.

"One person makes a difference," said Coker.

Coker is passionate about positive campaigning and said that her campaign was about ideas and not personal attacks on anyone.

(See "Foxfire," p. 38)

Debate, no action on bylaws

Both Directors and landowners showed up Wednesday night primed to debate a bylaws revision that would prevent Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Treasurer Steve Hudson from running for reelection.

But it took some the the fight out of the crowd when President Don Truesdell opened the discussion with an announcement that the matter would be tabled until the December 12 Association meeting. "We're

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meeting 11/8

waiting for one more piece of information that hasn't come in yet," he said.

Despite the delay, each Board member and a number of landowners weighed in on the proposed amendment, which

would add to the eligibility requirements for nominees to the Board of Directors a qualification that nominees "are NOT a named plaintiff in litigation against the Association."

Hudson is a named plaintiff in a suit brought against the SLLA and Seven Lakes Country Club (See "SLLA" p. 36)

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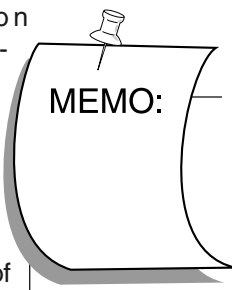
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SLLA seeks candidates for three board seats

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Nominating Committee is actively soliciting warm bodies for the annual SLLA Board of Directors election in March 2008. These souls must be calloused individuals who don't mind a little criticism,

laugh easily, and are dedicated to working with the best interests



Board Notes

Ed Nuti
Seven Lakes
Landowners Board

of the community in mind. Three seats are under consideration and we are seeking at

least that many candidates. You will be rewarded in kind with excellent working conditions, a bright and cordial group of colleagues, and with the knowledge that YOU can make a difference!

As this year's Chairman of the Nominating Committee, please seek counsel from whomever you wish, call me if that's easier, consider the commitment in time, etc. and let me know if you're brave enough to

run. You can reach me at 673-7565 or by email at cenuti@nc.rr.com.

One more thing; I need to hear from you by the end of November.

EMS needs your info!

The Seven Lakes EMS has published the Seven Lakes Telephone Directory as a community service for a number of years. Currently, the committee is trying to finalize the 2008 copy edition.

The committee would like all residents of Seven Lakes to have the opportunity to have their information included in the book. Since they do not have access to the database of

the telephone companies, the committee must depend upon residents to provide current information.

Residents may complete forms at the appropriate Landowners Offices. Information needs to be turned in as soon as possible, as preliminary work on the directory will be completed by November 15.

Thank you for your help.

Chapel Fund helps needy

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes South

The Chapel in the Pines commences their 19th year of holiday fundraising this month. Slanted towards needy adults, children, and seniors, the Chapel's community Christmas Fund encompasses much more than Christmas.

The money raised takes care of food vouchers and gifts for more than fifty area families in

West End and Jackson Springs and also includes the added holidays of Thanksgiving and Easter.

The Chapel works hand-in-hand with Moore County's Social Services Department to select appropriate recipients of the

Fund's offerings.

"The source of money for these endeavors is threefold: individual contributions, Seven Lakes area business people, and the Chapel's Benevolence Fund," said Alice Shaughnessy, the Benevolence Chairwoman.

"The latter, by the way, donates substantially from money raised at the annual rummage sale which was held in October."

Donors wishing to contribute may make out their checks to Chapel/Community Christmas Fund c/o Alice Shaughnessy, 3081 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 27376.

Get your event in The Times!

Got a great get-together? Serving up some savory stew? Need a volunteer of two?

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
Nov 21*	Nov 15*
Dec 7	Nov 30
Dec 21	Dec 14

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Board looks for action on fire hydrants

Dennis Brobst should be watching his mailbox for a letter from the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors.

The topic? Fire hydrants, and why Moore County Public Works has managed to install only three of those devices in Seven Lakes West in the past four years.

Brobst, a Westsider himself, is the County's Public Works Director, and, as such, he inherited an agreement that the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] struck with the county four years ago. The scheme was simple: SLWLA would buy the hydrants and the County would install them. That works out to a nearly 50-50 split of the costs.

But since the agreement was signed, the Westside has purchased eight hydrants and budgeted the purchase of three

noted that the county is short of staff to do the installations and said they had been told by county officials that no Seven Lakes fire hydrants are on Public Works' calendar.

SLWLA President Jim Haggard, both in the General Meeting and the October 30 Special Board Meeting,

expressed strong reservations about having the Association fund projects that are properly the responsibility of the county.

During the Special Meeting, Haggard suggested convening a meeting in which Westside residents could present their concerns directly to county officials.

But Ray MacKay, who, as Infrastructure Director, is the Association's point man on the fire hydrant issue, told Haggard "to date we have not told the county that what they are doing is not satisfactory. We wrote one letter to them to ask if their policy has changed." MacKay suggested the Board send Public Works a more pointed letter pointing out the failure of the county to live up to its end of the bargain.

"If it's our opinion that it is not our responsibility, then the Board needs to put ball in their court and then step back," MacKay said. "But I'm not sure we want all these infrastructure activities going on without our oversight,"

(See "West Side," p. 40)

West Side Landowners Meeting

10/30

more, but only three have been installed.

During the October 23 SLWLA General Meeting, residents of Owens Circle asked the Board to expedite fire hydrant installation by hiring an outside firm to do the installation work that the county had promised to do. They

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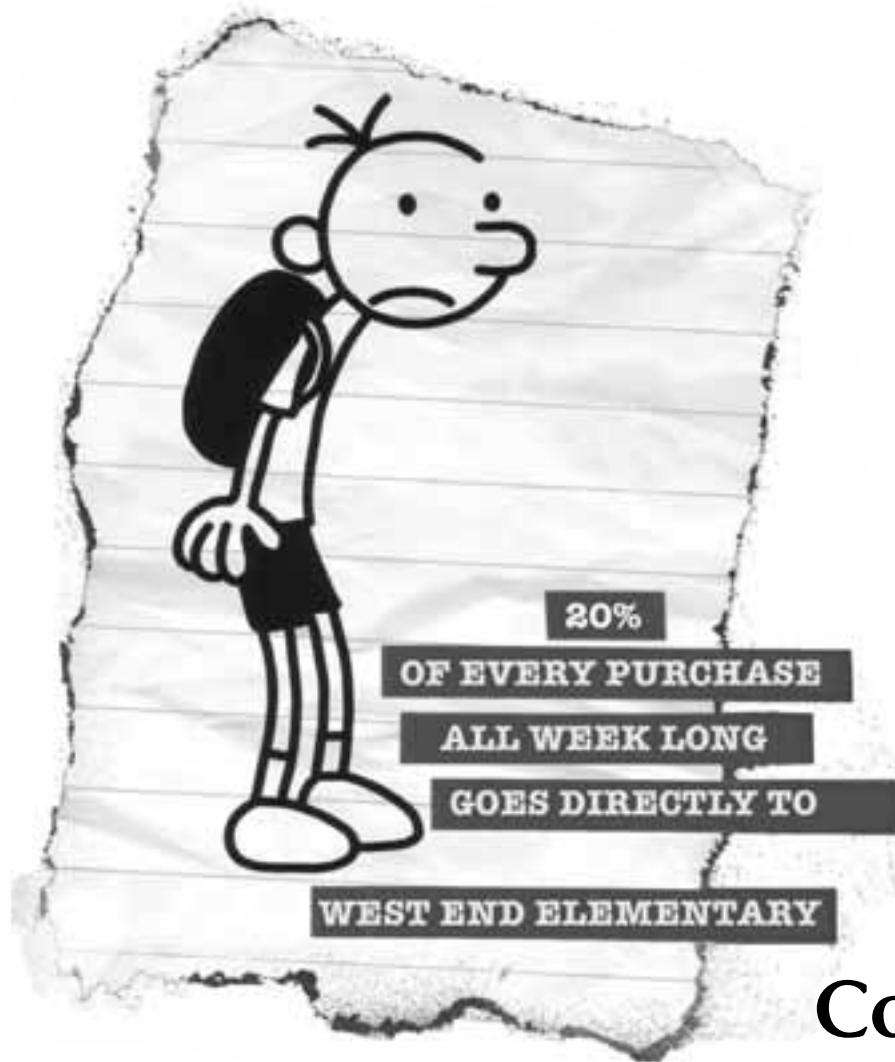
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Weymouth announces Holiday events

The Weymouth House in Southern Pines has several opportunities to enjoy the historic home during the Christmas season.

The Weymouth Christmas House Tour features floral demon-

strations and twenty-five beautifully decorated rooms. Tours will be held Thursday and Friday, November 29 - 30, and Saturday, December 1, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Tickets are available at Phoenix Fashions.

Carols at Weymouth will be held on Thursday, November 29, at 5:30 pm and 7:30pm, featuring a delightful evening filled with music. The event is free and open to the public.

Weymouth by Candlelight is an

evening tour of the Christmas House with wine, cheese, desserts, and music on Friday, November 30, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Admission is \$20.00; call 692-6261 for reservations.

Weymouth Children's Hour

will be held on Saturday, December 1, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am for ages 3 - 12. Cost is \$3.00; under three is no charge.

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Group proposes more Village cooperation

The Village Beautification Committee has an idea.

It's pretty simple: A number of Seven Lakes organizations are working in various ways to improve the Seven Lakes Business Village — The Business Guild, the Civic Group, Kiwanis, Lions, Women of Seven Lakes, Garden Club, and the Village Beautifiers themselves.

Here's the idea: Why not bring them all together?

Why not bring them all together in a coordinating committee that can hatch ideas, develop plans, coordinate activities, work together, and leverage everyone's efforts?

We could call it the "Community Services Committee." Each of the groups involved in improving Seven Lakes Village would send representatives — with maybe a few extra coming from the Business Guild, since they have the biggest stake in the Village. Maybe we could invite the local Landowners Associations to join in, as well.

The idea would not be to

replace any of the existing groups or their missions. The idea would be to bring all those groups and their missions together, on a regular basis, in an organized way, to share information, coordinate projects, combine forces, and help everyone pull together in more or less the same direction.

That's the idea. Terry Hunt, President of the Village Beautification Committee's Steering Committee, has been sharing the idea with groups around Seven Lakes for the past several weeks.

Last week, Hunt and Steering Committee member Angela Terry shared the idea with *The Times*.

They explained that the idea gradually evolved out of the Steering Committee's work with individual merchants, the Moore County Planning staff, and with all the groups that are working to improve the Village.

"It was working with Dollar General that did it," Hunt told *The Times*. The beautifiers wanted to landscape the area around

the new store, which was left pretty bare after the building went up. The problem they encountered was an absence of local decision-makers and a lack of response from the corporate office in Tennessee.

"It took us 6, 7, 8 months to get through to them," Hunt explained. And what finally did the trick was a letter signed by local businessman Ricky Harris, President of the Business Guild at the time, copied to county planners, commissioners, and state legislators.

"At that point we realized — wouldn't it have been nice to have a broadly-supported group behind us," Hunt said. "That whole project could have gotten done more quickly."

Other beautification projects offered the same lesson. The goal of planting more trees to enhance the somewhat bare appearance of the Business Village meant going door to door, merchant-by-merchant, explaining the concept again and again, for every tree that was planted.

When the group began to think about working with the the School of Design at NC State to develop an overall plan for improving the appearance of the Village, Hunt told *The Times*, they realized that there was no way such a project could succeed without the support of a broad-based coordinating group that could help develop — and advocate for — the effort.

"There is no elected governance in Seven Lakes Village," Hunt noted. "And we all know that there won't be for many years. We are not going to incorporate anytime soon. Can you

think of a town or village the size of ours that lacks a government?"

Given that lack, Hunt said, the Village needs "a broad-based, representative group" that includes both residents and business owners. "I think the merchants have had a heavy load in terms of trying to solve the problems in the village," Hunt told *The Times*. "I would think they would want to share this load with others."

A coordinated effort among Seven Lakes groups could also give the community more lever-

(See "Village," p. 41)

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Panel approves Brenner tract development

The Dormie Club Development at the intersection of Beulah Hill Church Road and NC Highway 73 received preliminary plat approval from the Moore County Subdivision Review Board [SRB] in a Tuesday, November 6 meeting.

The golf course development lies on more than one thousand acres — a parcel commonly called “the Brenner tract.” Developer MHK Ventures has already begun construction on the golf course, SRB members learned during the meeting. The Moore County Board of Commissioners approved in June a rezoning which set aside 377 acres for the golf course in a PC-Public and Conservation district.

The residential portion of the development will occupy 646 acres, which under current ordinances, could accommodate more than 650 homes, Planner Cris Armstrong told SRB members. The plat submitted by MHK includes only 218 residential lots, “a substantial difference in the density,” Armstrong said.

The Brenner tract lies in Small Area Planning Area A, which has been under a de facto development moratorium since early June.

Armstrong explained that the moratorium does not apply to the Dormie Club development because the developer submitted a proposed plat for the subdivision prior to the Commissioners’ call for a public hearing on the moratorium.

Dormie Club will include private streets maintained by a prop-

erty owners association. The North Carolina Department of Transportation [NCDOT] has given preliminary approval for two entrances into the community off Beulah Hill Church Road and another off Rubicon Road.

Engineer Fred Hobbs of Hobbs-Upchurch said the developer plans to utilize a privately maintained wastewater treatment plant rather than a separate septic system for each lot in the development. That “package plant” will be located on another property owned by MHK — the Monroe-Johnson tract that lies between NC Highway 211 and NC Highway 73. The wastewater from Dormie Club will be piped to the plant and the treated effluent will be piped back to Dormie Club for use in irrigating the golf course and common areas. Hobbs said the system would remove excess nitrogen from the effluent so as not to “green-up” the areas left with natural Sandhills vegetation.

Moore County Public Utilities will provide water to homes in the development. MHK will install a waterline from an existing county main near the intersection of NC Highway 15/501 and McCaskill Road.

Hobbs said that MHK may seek county permits to install individual septic systems to serve three or four cottages that may be built as model homes during the sales period. The golf course is expected to be open and ready for play before lot sales begin, and on-site septic may be

required for a small clubhouse, as well.

The planning staff recommended that several conditions be placed on approval of the preliminary plat, most dealing with various permits and engineering work to be accomplished before the final plat is signed.

Among those conditions are a

review of the plans by the Army Corps of Engineers and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Water Quality, because the property includes a number of wetlands and sits astride the headwaters of Nick’s Creek and Little River — important public water supply

resources. Hobbs said MHK’s strategy with regard to wetlands has been “avoidance.” Armstrong noted that low impact timber bridges are expected to be used for wetlands crossings. She flagged for special attention a number of lots that would appear to require the crossing of wet-

(See “Dormie Club” p. 39)

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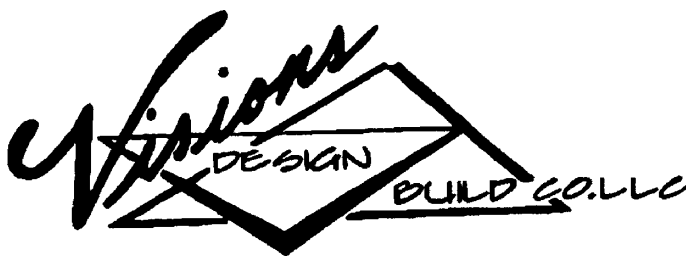
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Coffee Scene gets new owners, new look

It's not like they needed more work! The new owners of the Coffee Scene in Seven Lakes Village spend their days caring for the fragile older segment of the population at Quail Haven Village — a demanding job in anyone's book.

But Deb Bateman and Linda Ferguson told *The Times* that they are "community-oriented" folks who see their new business as something that "takes you away from the stresses of the day."

Since taking over the popular coffee shop, located just across from First Bank, they have relieved those stresses by completely redecorating the shop's interior. "We've been slowly renovating the shop," Bateman said, "adding new furniture and redecorating."

Bateman, who lives in Southern Pines, is a Nurse Practitioner and Director of Nursing Services at Quail Haven, a Continuing Care Retirement Community in Southern Pines. She is also part owner of Record and Data Storage Solutions. Ferguson is Social Services and Admissions Coordinator at Quail Haven, she lives in the West End area.

"We are both very people-oriented," Bateman told *The Times*, explaining why the pair were attracted to the Coffee Scene. "We're the type who go in a room and know everyone there by the time we leave."

"You meet a lot of neat people

running a coffee shop," Ferguson added. The new venture "has been a positive thing for both of us," she added.

The Coffee Scene offers four varieties of brewed coffee each day, a complete list of specialty coffee — espresso, latte, cappuccino — as well as an inventive menu of the sweet, flavored, frothy specialty drinks — hot and cold — that are the hallmark of a creative barista.

They also offer a selection of smoothies, using real fruit and yogurt to whip up the refreshing concoction. And, of course, they

offer a variety of baked goods for those who need a little nourishment with their refreshment.

Unlike most coffee shops, the Coffee Scene roasts its own coffee beans — and sells those special roasts to other coffee shops in the area and across the country. That means Coffee Scene customers can always count on freshly-roasted coffee, Bateman told *The Times*. Customers can buy the fresh-roasted beans — whole or ground — by the pound. The Scene even offers green coffee beans by the pound for those who like to do

their own roasting at home.

With the holidays rapidly approaching, Bateman and Ferguson have begun to offer coffee-focused gift baskets in the shop. Other plans for the future include hosting more community events — two book groups already use the shop for even meetings, and the owners are looking for additional groups and events to host. Renting the shop for parties and hosting coffee-tasting nights are other ideas they are exploring.

The Coffee Scene shares a building with the local bookstore — Bookshop by the Lakes — and Bateman and Ferguson say that was something that attracted them to the shop. "It's nice to be attached to a bookstore," Bateman told *The Times*. "People come in for coffee and then browse the bookshop — or read some of the newspapers and magazines we make available." The shop also offers free wireless internet for use by its customers.

(See "Coffee Scene" p. 39)



Linda Ferguson and Deb Bateman, new owners of the Coffee Scene in Seven Lakes Business Village.

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Breakfast at the White House with Carolyn Hart

by Mary Price
Seven Lakes West

Choose your friends wisely when you are young, and someday one of them could take you to breakfast at the White House.

When I was five, and she was three, Carolyn Hart ran across the busy street we lived on in Oklahoma City, snatched my blue tricycle, and rode it back across the street. That was the beginning of a life long friendship.

Carolyn Hart is now one of the premier mystery writers in the United States, having written thirty-nine books and helped to found a group called "Sisters in Crime." In May, I traveled to Washington to see her accept a lifetime achievement award from Malice Domestic.

Malice Domestic sponsors a big convention of mystery writers and mystery readers each year, and that group presents the Agatha Award for the best traditional mystery of the year, along with other awards. Carolyn has won the Agatha and other prestigious writing awards, including a nomination for the Pulitzer Prize for *Letter from Home*.

When Carolyn called to tell me she was one of the ten mystery writers invited to the National Book Festival in Washington DC, I was not surprised. When she asked if I could meet her

there to go to breakfast at the White House, I was definitely surprised.

The National Book Festival is

a Laura Bush idea which she brought with her from Texas, having started one there when she was First Lady of Texas.



Award-winning mystery writer Carolyn Hart and her childhood chum Westsider Mary Price enjoy the National Book Festival in Washington, DC.

The Festival is a joint venture with the Library of Congress, and this year seventy authors from different genres were invited to the event.

The National Mall is filled with large white pavilions, including an Authors Tent, which Bill and I had passes to enjoy.

Oh yes! In spite of the fact that he did not get to go to the breakfast, my husband Bill was well treated also, and Carolyn's escort, a lovely lady who does

reference work at the Library of Congress, made us feel very welcome.

The pavilions were set up for all of the seven book categories: Children; Fiction and Fantasy; Teens and Children; Mysteries and Thrillers; History and Biography; Home and Family and Poetry. In addition, there were several tents set up for children to provide them with entertainment.

(See "White House," p. 39)



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Women of Seven Lakes host 'The Bird Man'

by Jo Nicholas
Seven Lakes West

The Women of Seven Lakes met on Thursday, November 1, at West Side Park Community Center. After President Peggy McCallum welcomed all members and visitors, the group was entertained by Bill Kastern, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited.

Kastern has a love for birds and opened his store in Aberdeen about three years ago. He enthusiastically discussed all facets of "Creating Your Own Backyard Habitat," including the four elements required for designation as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation;

water sources, food, cover of shelter and places to raise young.

Throughout the discussion,



Bill Kastern

Kastern mentioned a variety of birds and displayed many slides depicting those birds. One fact he shared was that many people believe that goldfinches migrate away from our area. According to Kastern, they do not instead they simply change colors from yellow to a drab green for the winter.

Kastern also discussed the variety of foods necessary to attract birds to your habitat. Each species of birds have their own favorite food, such as goldfinches love thistle, woodpeckers like peanuts, etc. There are custom blends of seeds that can be used for a variety of birds such as those that feed on

the ground [doves and sparrows], those that feed at the feeder [hovering birds] and those that feed at feeders and on the ground such as cardinals.

Another topic discussed was about water sources, places for raising young birds, as well as displaying a variety of feeders for the birds. Kastern explained that in the winter birds need to have water present especially in the

morning after they have slept at night.

Each Women of Seven Lakes member was then presented with a small finch feeder to take home. Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, December 6 at 1:00 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. The meeting will host a Holiday Sing-a-long as well as the Brownson Memorial Handbell choir.

Literacy Council seeks tutors

The Moore County Literacy Council is a non profit organization dedicated to eradicating illiteracy in our county. According to national research, 13,000 Moore County adults [twenty-two percent of the entire county population] are functionally illiterate. They cannot perform basic life tasks like reading a newspaper, understanding a contract, or helping a child with homework.

The Literacy Council recently entered into an agreement with St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in Seven Lakes to use their facility as a tutoring location. Tutors are needed to assist at this

location. Please call Pam Giambelluca at 910 692-5954 or e-mail to pammclc@nc.rr.com.

A tutor since February 2004,

Literacy Council Director Don Truesdell says of his work, "This is by far the most rewarding activity in which I am involved."

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Pinecrest Players win big at play festival

On Friday, October 27, the Pinecrest Players theatre students of Pinecrest High School, led by director and Seven Lakes resident Adam W. Faw, participated in the North Carolina Theatre Conference play festival, a regional competition, hosted by Union Pines High School. The Players entered two productions, *Sleeping Walter* by Matt Buchanan, and *The Chronicles*

of *Jane: Book Seven* by Alan Haehnel.

Each show included the students from the honors theatre III/IV ensemble.

Seven Lakes residents Miranda Davis, Emily Kline, Jordan Kennedy, Kayla Fletcher, and Megan Dann are part of the ensemble. The other members of the cast and crew are Katie Ballenger, Tanya Bator, Brittney

Bigelow, Rebekah Boroughs, Lizzie Bradley, Brittney Brady, Jenn Carter, Scott Clark, Derick Cox, Seth Flagg, Madison Fry, Bradley Gibson, Matt Hazzard, Donovan Hines, Emily Hutto, Trevor Jones, Jack Markham, Alyssa Moore, Keira Morrison, Shauna Nixon, Lizzi Papp, Tara Paz, Katie Russell, Josh Warthen, Sullivan Williams, Kimie Unsworth, and Debbie Vu.

Pinecrest won multiple awards. The entire cast of *Jane* earned an honorable mention for ensemble acting. In theatre competition, ensemble acting is considered one of the most difficult styles, with all cast members on stage having to work in synch. Further awards included honorable mentions in acting for Rebekah Boroughs and Josh Warthen, and an excellence in directing award for Adam W. Faw. *Sleeping Walter* received high ranks for technical design. Senior Debbie Vu received the costume design award; the play also earned the set design award.

The highest of the honors, though, was a superior rating and the title of distinguished play for *The Chronicles of Jane*:

Book Seven. *Jane* was one of two plays from the festival to receive this honor, and will move on as one of sixteen schools in North Carolina to participate in the NCTC state play festival held this year at Fayetteville State University on November 15 and 16.

The Pinecrest Players are no stranger to this festival. Having earned top honors in 2004 and 2006, this marks the third time in four years that Pinecrest has advanced to state level competition. Both days at Union Pines were filled with spectacular performances by all high schools involved, and all of Pinecrest's students were thrilled simply to be sharing the stage with such

(See "Players," p. 39)



The Pinecrest Players in their award-winning production of *The Chronicles of Jane, Book Seven*.

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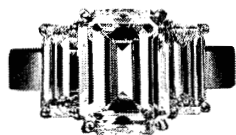
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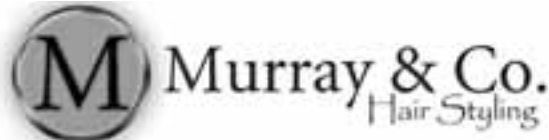
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Happy Holidays!

Fletchers donate pony to 7 Lakes Stables

The new 'oh-so-cute' black and white pony that you may have noticed grazing the Seven Lakes Stables meadow was recently donated by the Fletcher family of Seven Lakes North.

Rebecca Fletcher said she and husband, John, had purchased Mindy last Spring for their twin seven-year old sons, Kevin and Dustin, but that the pony was just not being ridden frequently enough.

"The boys were not riding her enough so we wanted to find a

home where lots of kids could enjoy her because she's such a sweet and safe pony for children."

Residents of Seven Lakes for eight years, the Fletchers live on a large property in the Ramapo section of the Northside, with their sons and daughters

Liana and Kayla, and three other horses.

"Mindy is a twenty-two year old Shetland pony," said Fletcher. "This Summer, Kevin rode her at a horse show in Southern Pines and won a blue ribbon!"

According to Fletcher, Mindy is about middle age as her breed

frequently lives to forty years of age.

"She's older but this makes her safer and calmer," said Fletcher. "She's just a nice little pony. And we are so happy that kids can enjoy her and we can still visit her too. This worked out really well for all of us."

Turkey Trot

Runners and walkers – the serious and the scenery-conscious, the very young and the young at heart – can get a healthy head start on the holidays with the 27th annual Turkey Trot on Saturday, November 17.

The USATF/RRTC-certified courses will begin at the FirstHealth Center for Health & Fitness-Pinehurst, located just off Highway 211, and wind through the picturesque residential district of the Village of Pinehurst before ending at the Center for Health & Fitness. Events include a Half-Marathon, One-Mile Fun Run, and 5K and 10K races for all ages.

Registration and packet pick-up will be held Friday, November 16, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and will continue at 7:00 am on race day.

The One-Mile Fun Run begins at 8:30 am, the Half-Marathon starts at 9:00 am, and the 5K and 10K races will get under way at 9:30 am. An awards ceremony will immediately follow the conclusion of the races.

Registration for the Turkey Trot is \$15 for the Fun Run, \$20 for the 5K and 10K races, and \$25 for the Half Marathon if received by November 14. Entries received after November 14 will cost an additional \$3. Children up to age six can participate in the Fun Run free of charge.

Register for the Turkey Trot by sending checks made payable to FirstHealth of the Carolinas to FirstHealth Center for Health & Fitness-Pinehurst Turkey Trot, 170 Memorial Drive, Pinehurst, N.C. 28374 or at www.active.com.



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Pinehurst Mortgage receives accreditation

Pinehurst Mortgage, LLC, has become one of the first North Carolina mortgage brokers to receive an endorsement from the North Carolina Commissioner of Banks for best practices and high ethics, reports owner Jerry Surface, a longtime resident of Seven Lakes North.

His company received the Accredited Broker designation from the NC Association of Mort-

gage Professionals [NCAMP]. This designation is granted for twelve months, with annual renewal requirements.

First announced in 2006, the new NCAMP North Carolina Accredited Broker Program requires applicant firms to stringently document internal programs and best practices which are reviewed and approved by a peer committee. Pinehurst Mort-

gage dedicated many hours to formally document meeting these requirements to become one of the first mortgage brokers in the state to be recognized in this pivotal program. Currently only three other mortgage brokers in the state have been accredited.

Surface said, "Since opening for business nearly five years ago, we have always simply adhered to fair and honest busi-

ness practices and offered excellent customer service. It is no accident that we do not have clients in mortgage products that started with low payments only to now be saddled with ever increasing monthly payments."

Surface continued, "Pinehurst Mortgage is very pleased and honored to be recognized by our peers and by the NC Com-

missioner of Banks for our standard of ethics and business practices."

"At a time of such turmoil in the mortgage industry," continued Surface, "it is good for prospective home buyers and real estate agents to have a way to identify those brokers who have met these standards."

Pinehurst Mortgage, LLC, is located in the Village of Pinehurst.



Jessica Silberhorn of Paws & Claws Pet Sitting Service attended Pet Sitters International's annual conference.

Paws & Claws attends conference

Jessica Silberhorn of Paws & Claws Pet Sitting was one of more than two hundred professional pet sitters and industry supporters to attend Pet Sitters International's 13th annual Quest for Excellence convention, held September 27 - 29, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Considered by many as the

professional pet-sitting industry's premier educational convention, Quest welcomed PSI members from thirty-eight states to the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis. This year's sessions educated attendees on such business topics as disaster preparedness, how to staff a business, and pet-care profes-

sionalism.

Paws & Claws Pet Sitting has served pets and their owners in the West End and Pinehurst areas for three years.

"Investing in new ideas and pet-care techniques is important to our clients and their cherished pets," said Silberhorn.

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Computer Club gets the real 'inside scoop'

by Betsy Mikula
Seven Lakes West

On Tuesday, October 9, Greg Prigg of Affordable Computer Solutions of Aberdeen NC was guest speaker. He and his partner, Buck Mims, are in the business of building and servicing computers and computer systems.

Prigg demonstrated hands-on activities in disassembling a computer. Some computer covers are very difficult to remove . . . but no, he has never used a hammer.

Members were shown the location of motherboard, battery, and other components. And were also shown how to remove and replace graphic cards, etc.

Prigg said he had never found

anything alive in a computer until the day before the club's meeting when he found a spider walking around the motherboard.



Greg Prigg

He stressed the need to demagnetize yourself before opening a computer. Prigg used a static free attachment while he worked inside the computer. His company walks you through the steps they are taking while repairing your computer, so that you may be able to handle some problems yourself before calling the next time.

The major problems that can arise with computer are: heat, dust, spyware, viruses. Prigg emphasized the need to keep computers cleaned and advised using compressed air to get the dust out of the inside. He suggests that this be done annually, if not more frequently. He recommended purchasing a repair kit which includes a non magnetized screwdriver at such places as Best Buy or newegg.com. Prigg next gave a very short demonstration of the new Operating System, Microsoft Vista. He feels that Vista is very user friendly, very easy to install, and he believes that Microsoft has outdone themselves.

Because there was not enough time to really get in-depth discussion of Vista, the Computer Club plans to devote an entire meeting to it in the next couple of months. Look for the announcement.

Al Nichols presented the monthly tip prior to the program. This was a list of keyboard shortcuts. If you email Al, he will send you the handout. His last tip was "As you wander thru life. . . whatever be your goal . . . keep your eye upon the doughnut and not the hole."

Five people received a free subscription to Smart Computing; The winners were: Marge Van Liedekerke, Bob Woolard, Lucille Leeman, Terry Shaffer, and Mary Hauck.

The club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 3:00 pm in the Game Room, adjacent to the SLLA office. Visitors are most welcome to attend a meeting and to meet fellow computer enthusiasts.

Give the 'Gift of Life' on November 14

Join your Seven Lakes neighbors and regular donors including Lindsey Auman, Leslie Champion, David Hale, and Brian & Kathy Pellerino on Wednesday, November 14, in the "Gift of Life."

The American Red Cross and Seven Lakes Kiwanis will host a blood drive from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

Donors are urged to register

for a suitable donation time by calling 673-4931. This will minimize waiting and maximize productivity.

Blood shortages remain severe and will be adversely affected by the many fires and floods nationwide. Donors must be in good health, over seventeen years and weigh at least 110 pounds. Remember to bring your donor card or a photo ID.

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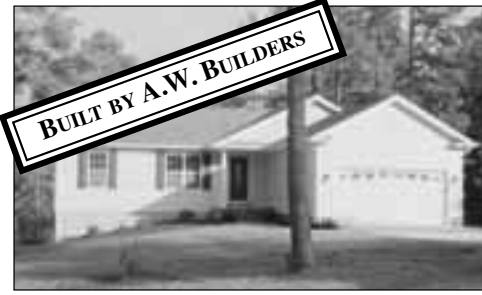
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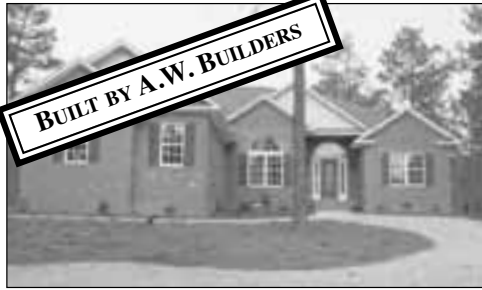
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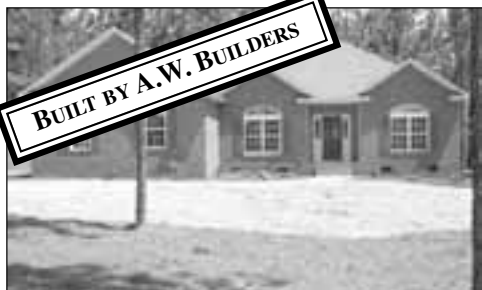
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In memory of . . .

Levi Cranford Hussey, 80, died Friday, October 12, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Hussey was a WW II Army veteran having served with the 82nd Airborne Division. He also worked for thirty years with U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was preceded in death by his wife, Artanse Britt Hussey.

He is survived by his sons, Terry Van Hussey of Louisville, Ky, Cranford Phillip Hussey of Bryant Station, TX, Steven Taylor Hussey of Arlington, VA; grandchildren, Ryan Taylor Hussey of Arlington, VA, Malloory Hussey Sigmundsson of Centerville, VA, Ann Bibb Hussey of Blacksburg, VA; brothers, Clarence Hussey and Grady Hussey both of Robbins, and a sister Daisy Dunn of Star.

A Memorial Service was conducted Sunday, October 14 at Smyrna Methodist Church in Robbins. Burial followed at a later date at the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Smyrna Methodist Church, 1924 Smyrna Church Rd. Robbins, NC 27325.

Arrangements were handled by Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines.

Lacy "Doll" Jackson, 69, of Eagle Springs, died Friday, October 19, at his residence.

Mr. Jackson was employed with T.H. Blue Trucking, Inc. and was a member of Zion Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Eagle Springs.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra Spencer Jackson; a daughter, Brenda Jackson, of Eagle Springs; a sister, Fran Lewis, of Southern Pines; two brothers, Bentley Jackson, of Pinehurst and William Jackson, of Eagle Springs.

A funeral service was held

Tuesday, October 23, at Zion Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, in Eagle Springs, with the Rev. Linda Brower officiating. Burial followed in Zion Grove Community Cemetery.

The family is being assisted by Simon Funeral Home of Southern Pines.

Barbara Brittain Brown, 82, of Worthington, Ohio, died October 20.

Mrs. Brown was born and raised in Akron and formerly resided in Granville, OH. She was a graduate of Akron City Hospital School of Nursing, class of 1946.

She was preceded in death by her husband Charles E. Brown, parents Herbert and Esther Brittain of Akron, and sister Jeanne Rittenour of Akron.

She is survived by her children, Sandy Sackmann of Seven Lakes, Leah Polis of Worthington, Don Crouse of Carpinteria, Calif, Dan Crouse of Salt Lake City, Utah; stepchildren Jeffrey Brown, Brian Brown, and Douglas Brown of Columbus, OH; five grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; sister Millie Robertson; brother Herb Brittain; as well as many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held October 23, at Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home in Worthington.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the Charles E. Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund, Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University of Charity Newsies.

Philip Ver Planck Johnson, 85, of Seven Lakes died on Friday, November 2, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Johnson was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. He was a son of the late Charles Herman and Vera Marguerite Ver Planck Johnson. He graduated from

Cornell University with a degree in Engineering and worked for many years in various aspects of the field, spending over twenty-five years with General Electric. He also worked as a civilian employee of the U.S. Navy.

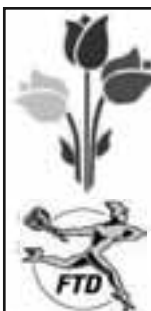
Mr. Johnson served in the Navy in World War II. He and his wife Jeanne were married in 1944. They retired to Seven Lakes in 1992.

In addition to his wife, Jeanne Copland Johnson, he is survived by his children: Pamela M. McNamara of Great Falls, VA; Elizabeth V. Dillon of York, PA; Eric P. Johnson of Vancouver, WA; and Philip C. Johnson of

Carmel Valley, CA; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A Mass of Celebration was held November 6 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pine-

hurst with the Father James Labosky officiating. In lieu of flowers the family requests that you make a donation to a charity of your choice.



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Help fill Holiday shoeboxes for the troops

Members of the Equestrian Team of St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinberg, NC, are preparing shoeboxes full of goodies to send to US troops in Iraq.

Last year, the team filled a horse trailer with shoeboxes with help from the Women of Seven Lakes who also packed individual boxes and sent them along with the students. The shoeboxes are sent with messages to our troops expressing that they

are missed and thanking them for their protection.

The team, under the direction of Coach Carla Wennberg, hope to fill a horse trailer full again this year.

The students will pack boxes at the Equestrian Center, load them, and deliver them to the Veteran's Center in Southern Pines.

From there, Bill and Sandi Carl, of Seven Lakes West, provide shipping assistance by delivering the horse trailer to

Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville, where the shoeboxes are loaded onto planes for delivery to Iraq.

Last year, many troops responded by sending thanks to the college and all the volunteers. They requested that boxes, this year, contain lollipops that they can in turn pass out to the Iraqi children.

Your donation of a shoebox filled with goodies to assist this

project is welcome. Darryl and Susan Marks of Phoenix Fashions are sponsoring a drop-off site at their shop in the Seven Lakes

Business Village.

For more information, please call Nancy Wennberg at 673-5727.

West End Methodist Men's Fundraiser

The WEUM Men will hold their annual Fund Raiser on Friday, November 16. The men will serve up their "infamous" homemade spaghetti in the Fellowship Hall, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Tickets for the event are \$7 per person and will be available at the door. All proceeds from the event will be donated to local church ministries.

Playground dedicated



Pat Weber, Susan Killmeyer, and Brenda Massimo of the Women of Seven Lakes cut the ribbon during the Dedication Ceremony of the new Sequoia Point Playground.



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- **Artists League of the Sandhills Exhibit & Sale** – 5 – 8 pm, 129 Exchange Street in Aberdeen. An Opening Weekend wine and cheese reception, featuring art including works of three Seven Lakes artists: Ann Campbell, Alice Ridenour and Barbara Sickenberger. Exhibit continues to December 15, and opening weekend events on Nov 10-11, from 10 – 4pm. Raffle tickets will be available for an original painting by Mary O'Malley.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- **Moore County Concert Band** – 2:00 pm, at the Carolina Hotel Grand Ballroom, Pinehurst Resort. 295-6811
- **Weymouth Woods: Nature's Dam Builder** – 3pm, Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines. Beavers play an important role in creating wetlands and providing habitat for a host of other animals. Join us for a short talk in the auditorium and then take a hike to see their work first hand. The hike will be about one and half miles round trip.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- **Veteran's Day Holiday** Moore County Schools – schools closed
- **NARFE Meeting** – 10:30 am, Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines. A representative from Blue

Cross/Blue Shield is the guest speaker. National Active & Retired Federal Employees [NARFE] Sandhills Chapter 1895 welcomes all Federal active employees, retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses to monthly meetings. Vilma



Geis-ert

215-5898, or George Sandoval 246-9881.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Work Session** – 8 am, West Side Park Community Center.
- **Foxfire Village Council Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Foxfire Town Hall.
- **Computer Club of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 3pm, SLLA Game Room. Featured speaker Lynn Beith, Director of Professional Development Programs, Continuing Education Department for Sandhills Community College will provide an up-to-date review of all SCC courses now offered online.
- **Pinecrest Players: The Chronicles of Jane Book Seven** – 7:00 pm, Pinecrest Auditorium. The Players will present a one night public performance of their award

winning play prior to November's state competition. Admission is free and this family-friendly show runs about forty minutes.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- **Seven Lakes Blood Drive** – 1 – 6 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Donors are urged to register for a suitable donation time by

calling 673-4931. This will minimize waiting and maximize productivity. Blood shortages remain severe and will be adversely affected by the many fires & floods nationwide. If you are in good health, over seventeen years and 110 pounds please plan to join "regulars" Lindsey Auman, Leslie Champion, David Hale, and Brian & Kathy Pellerino in the "Gift of Life." Bring your donor card or a photo ID.

What's When Calendar

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- **Seven Lakes Forum** – 9 am, West Side Park Community Center. Dr. Thomas Shea, MD, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Research Transplant Program at UNC- Chapel Hill will present The Impact of Stem Cell Research on the Quality of Life. The use of stem cells for research purposes, and for the curing of illness, is currently considered a controversial issue in terms of medical ethics. Dr. Shea will attempt to provide a better understanding of stem cells in his address.
- **Hungarian Brass Concert** – 6:30 pm, Seven Lakes Baptist Church. Hungary's foremost Christian brass group, come to hear spirituals, hymns, praise songs, and classical pieces played with much energy and enthusiasm! Information 673-4656.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- **Murder at Seven Lakes** – Seven Lakes Country Club. Written and directed by Sally Kindsvatter, the mystery dinner production will repeat on Saturday, November 17. Dinner all-inclusive pricing \$21.50 for members and \$26.50 for non-members. Call 673-1100.
- **WEUM Church Spaghetti Dinner** – 5 pm – 7 pm, Fellowship Hall of West End United Methodist Church. The Methodist Men will serve up their 'infamous' homemade spaghetti. Tickets cost \$7 each and may be purchased at the door. All proceeds will benefit local church ministries.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- **Holiday Fair** – 8 am – 4

Kiwanis Bingo

Jackpot \$400!

Nov. 13 • 7:30pm
North Clubhouse

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Project Linus celebrates the publication of their "Heartwarming Recipes," a hardback, tabbed collection of 250 tried and true recipes from the kitchens of Project Linus Seven Lakes Workshop Blanketeers and Featured Contributor Lucy Ingram.

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pm, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church on Seven Lakes Drive. There will be lots of arts and crafts to choose from as well as baked goods. Mark your calendars now so that you won't miss out on some unique items.

- **FirstHealth Turkey Trot** – 7 am, FirstHealth Center for Health & Fitness in Pinehurst, located just off Highway 211. Events include a Half-Marathon, One-Mile Fun Run, and 5K and 10K races for all ages. Registration for the Turkey Trot is \$15 for the Fun Run, \$20 for the 5K and 10K races, and \$25 for the Half Marathon if received by November 14. Under six years is no charge for the Fun Run. Send checks payable to FirstHealth of the Carolinas to FirstHealth Center for Health & Fitness-Pinehurst Turkey Trot, 170 Memorial Drive, Pinehurst, N.C. 28374 or online at www.active.com. Information 715-1843.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** – 4:00 pm, Temple Beth Shalom, Foxfire. Sponsored jointly by Temple Beth Shalom, The Congregational Church of Pinehurst, Jackson Springs

Presbyterian Church, & McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church. All are welcome into a setting in which various faith traditions may share their gratitude for the blessings of this nation and this world. Worshippers are asked to bring canned goods as their Thanksgiving Offering, which will be given to the Sandhills Coalition for Human Care.

- **WEMC Community Thanksgiving Service** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. The public is cordially invited to this community worship service.
- **Weymouth Woods: Nature's Colors** – 3pm, Sandhills Nature Preserve. Join a ranger in the auditorium to discuss how nature has developed several strategies for survival simply by using color.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- **The Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6:00 pm, in the Historic Courthouse, Carthage. Open to the public.
- **Moore County School Board of Education Business Meeting** – 7 pm, Schools Central Office in Carthage. Open to the public.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

- **League of Women Voters Luncheon & Meeting** – 11:30 am, The Paddock Restaurant at Longleaf Country Club. Review of LWV study: 'Do Moore County Voting Districts offer Equal Representation?' Luncheon cost is \$12; Reservations, Charlotte Gallagher 944-9611.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- **Moore County Schools** – Thanksgiving Holiday Break, schools closed November 21 - 23.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

- **Thanksgiving Day**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- **Weymouth Woods: Turkey Talk** – 3 pm, Sandhills Nature Preserve in Southern Pines. Benjamin Franklin proposed having the wild turkey as our national bird instead of the bald eagle. The program will

consist of a discussion of the history of the bird and an update on its current status.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- **Seven Lakes Massage, Optical Solutions and Murray & Co** – Christmas Open House, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. 980 Seven Lakes Drive (Seven Lakes Professional Park building). Join in the holiday cheer celebration with discounts, giveaways, and refreshments.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association General Meeting** – 7:30 pm, West Side Park Community Center.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- **Festival of Trees** – The Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst. Sandhills Children's Center celebrates its Eleventh Annual Festival of Trees from Wednesday November 28 to Sunday December 2. Daily admission is by donation and ticketed

events are \$75 before November 16. Information, contact Teresa Copper or Kathy Desmond 692- 3323.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- **Weymouth Christmas House Tour** – 10 am – 4 pm, Weymouth House, Southern Pines. Floral demonstrations & twenty-five beautifully decorated rooms. Refreshments. Tours Nov 30 - Dec 1. Advance tickets \$8; or \$10 at the door. Tickets available at The Country Bookshop, The Cook's Choice, Southern Pines, The Faded Rose, Pinehurst, Given Book Store, Olmsted Village, or Phoenix Fashions, Seven Lakes.
- **Carols at Weymouth** – 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Weymouth House in Southern Pines. A delightful evening filled with music, hosted by Steve, Brenda, and Kate Bouser. Refreshments will be served and the event is free and open to the public.



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Our list this year includes 51 families, from singles to a family of ten, including individuals from infants to 81 years of age.

If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet in the foyer of the Chapel. Gifts, wrapped and labeled, may be dropped off at the North Clubhouse on Friday, December 14, between 9:00 am and Noon. They will be delivered to needy families on Saturday, December 12.

The Chapel, and the families that we assist, will be grateful for your help.

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Acresage Lot 3EGelding Gap Lane, Carolina Equestrian	\$10,000
Arbor Creek Off Hoffman Road	.5-10 Acre lots	\$78,750 to \$235,0000

Danielson takes second in photo competition



Gisela Danielson's 'Unique Reflections'

Sandhills Photography Club had three judges for its most recent digital competition on October 8. Each picture submitted had to have water as the main subject. Points were awarded for each entry. To increase awareness of a good photograph, judges critiqued each winning photograph.

Class A winners were Brady Smith, first place with "Hawaiian Curl," Gisela Danielson of Seven Lakes West, 2nd place with water pouring from a clear pitcher and titled, "Unique Reflections." Third place winner was Jim McGill with "Keeping Cool." Two Class A honorable mentions were awarded: Seven Lakes South's Joan Herrmann won with "Grand Prismatic Spring" and Jim McGill won for "Frozen Water."

Class B winners were Marilyn Owen, first place with "Splooosh" showing an iceberg calving, and 2nd place went to her husband Joseph Owen for "Harbor Reflections." Judy Muller won third place for "The Lone Angler" and Honorable Mention for "Compo

Sunrise"

The next meeting of Sandhills photography club will be on November 12 at 7:00 at Christ Fellowship Church in Southern Pines. The program will feature George Butt of Seven Lakes West offering constructive com-

ments on member selected photos. Prospective members, regardless of background or skill, interested in photography, are invited to attend the meetings. Visit the website www.sandhillsp photographyclub.org for more information.

Festival of Trees

Sandhills Children's Center will be celebrating its Eleventh Annual Festival of Trees from Wednesday November 28 to Sunday December 2 at The Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst.

Daily admission is by donation and ticketed events are \$75 before November 16. For additional information, call Teresa Copper or Kathy Desmond at 692-3323 or visit the website at www.sandhillschildrenscenter.org.

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Neuropathy was topic at Kiwanis

On October 16, the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club hosted Jill Botnick Director Of Outpatient Rehab at FirstHealth. She gave an in depth description of all the various kinds of rehab therapy that is available through FirstHealth facilities. There are two facilities in Pinehurst, one in Raeford, one in Pembroke, one in Richmond, and one in Montgomery County at Montgomery Memorial Hospital.

Ms. Botnick, also spoke on

the subject of Peripheral Neuropathy. In her discussion, she pointed out that the FirstHealth facility on Avimore Drive has the equipment to perform Anodyne Therapy which has been helpful to some patients with Neuropathy.

Anodyne Therapy is especially helpful for patients with circulatory problems, but in conjunction with other therapy and exercise, it has proven helpful to some Neuropathy sufferers.



Jill Botnick, Dave Davies-Program Chairman, and Cristy Cates-Liaison with Outpatient Rehab

Mary Snead is 2007 Champ



Mary Snead

The Beaconettes of Beacon Ridge Country Club, members of the Nine-hole Ladies Golf League, held their annual championship tournament in a series of three day play in October.

Mary Snead captured the 2007 title with a low net score of seventy-one, including two best day scores. Marge Lambert won second place with a low net score of seventy-two.

The monthly Beaconette cup winner for September was Linda DeBrine. The October winner was Pat Blair.

The annual Christmas Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, December 13 at Beacon Ridge Country Club.

All members are cordially invited to attend.

— FAMILY FOCUS ON FITNESS! — MEET THE CONNORS!

Tony and Jan found themselves feeling unhealthy and unfit. Tony had started taking Blood Pressure Medicine and didn't like the way he felt. Jan found her clothes didn't fit anymore.

When they decided to do something about it, they included the kids: Drew, 13, and Lauren, 9. (And Tony's mother, too!)



They joined the club in June of this year, and, as of Oct. 29, Tony has lost 40 pounds, 21 inches (5.75 off his waist) and is off his Blood Pressure Medicine! Jan has lost 24 pounds, 20.75 inches (5 inches off her waist) and 3 sizes!

Their family workout —

- Weight training (free weights and machines) – 4x week
- Cardiovascular (Treadmill and Elliptical) – 5x week
- Swimming – 2x week

Tony is minister at Faith Baptist Church on Carthage Road.

Jan home schools their children along with her church responsibilities.

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Editorial

Why not?

Why not the transfer tax?

That's a question that Moore County Commissioners, the County Manager, and members of the Moore County Summit are asking themselves in the wake of the resounding defeat of the proposed Land Transfer Tax this Tuesday.

After all, Moore County voters overwhelmingly approved \$69.5 million in new county borrowing for the schools and community college — and the Transfer Tax was portrayed as the way to repay that debt, as well as fund some long-overdue county capital projects, like expanding the jail.

So folks at the County are scratching their heads and wondering what went wrong.

And they are not alone. The proposed transfer tax went down to defeat in a dozen-and-a-half other counties across the state.

What happened?

Proponents of the new tax were clearly outgunned. Having lost the fight against the new tax in Raleigh, Realtors® and homebuilders organized statewide to defeat the measure county by county.

They produced brochures and ads and yard signs and encouraged their members to write letters to the editor of their local newspaper. They even came up with that most critical weapon in the modern political arsenal: they "framed" the issue in a way calculated to worry voters, labeling the new levy "the home tax" — a strategy reminiscent of calling the estate tax "the death tax."

"The home tax" is a silly label, of course. After all, "the home tax" is a better name for the ad valorem property taxes we all pay on our homes now. But, silly or not, it worked.

Meanwhile, the pro-transfer-tax folks never got their act together — partly because they were hamstrung by state law. The primary advocates for the new tax — county commissioners and administrators — are prohibited from campaigning for ballot measures.

Moore County Commissioners and staff worried for weeks over a simple brochure explaining the new tax. And then the commissioners scolded the County Manager when he had the bright idea of inserting it in a newspaper being delivered to all the county's registered voters.

With the County's hands tied, the "For" campaign was limited to the efforts of a few individuals. There were plenty of anti-home-tax signs sprouting along Seven Lakes Drive; we don't recall seeing a single sign supporting the new transfer tax.

But signs aren't everything, and it may be a mistake for the advocates of the new tax to walk away murmuring, "If only we'd been better organized . . ." and vowing to fight again another day.

It might be better to listen to the voters. This was no small defeat for the Transfer Tax; it was a rout. Over three-quarters of voters said "No." That's not just yard signs talking.

And it's not just small-government activism either. The school and college bonds passed by big margins. If there had been a bond for a new jail and other county facilities, it might well have passed, too, like the bond passed in Charlotte that will allow the Mecklenburg County to buy land now for future uses.

The voters understand that the County needs to spend some money.

So what happened? We don't know, but here's an idea. The two primary taxes that currently fund local government — the property tax and the sales tax — are, more or less:

- **Broad-based** — Most everybody pays them.
- **Regular** — Once a year for the property tax; every time you buy something for the sales tax.
- **Predictable** — Property values are relatively stable over time, and, to the degree they change, they go up. Retail sales are more variable year to year, but reasonably predictable.
- **Progressive** — At least, taken together. The sales tax hits lower income folks harder, but the property tax balances that.
- **Well understood** — People in North Carolina have been paying these two taxes for a long time.
- **Locally controlled** — This is true for the property tax, at least, where the local officials — County Commissioners — set the rates.

The proposed transfer tax was poorly understood creature of Raleigh that would hit a small segment of the population (homesellers) irregularly (just when they decided to move) and create a revenue stream that floated up and down with the vagaries of the housing market (which is a bit soft at the moment).

Voters may have looked at the new tax and decided it wasn't engineered to their liking. Or maybe they looked at the \$3.2 million in revenue it would produce, realized that wasn't enough to prevent a property tax increase, and decided not to create yet another pocket for government to stick its hand into.

In either case, by voting for the school and college bonds, while turning down the Land Transfer Tax, voters have sent county leaders the message that they know there is work to be done, and they are willing to pay for it. Everyone knows that means a property tax increase.

As long as county leaders make it clear they are spending the public's money carefully, and watching the pennies diligently, they will likely find support for the property tax hike they will be forced to pass.

Truesdell clarifies agreement details

[The Times received the following note from Seven Lakes Landowners Association President Don Truesdell; it was published earlier on our website.]

FROM: Don Truesdell
DATE: October 27, 2007
TO: Greg Hankins

Subject:
Club, SLLA answer lawsuit

In your article, "Club, SLLA answer lawsuit," appearing on page 1 of your October 26, 2007, issue, you state, "In that compromise, signed by the Presidents of both organizations in July, the SLLA ceded to the Club the right to create its own covenants limiting the use of Club property to golf course operations, and to sell the existing five acre driving range for the purposes of residential development, provided the lots created in that development come under the South Side Covenants."

This sentence is a misstatement of fact.

The only item that was ceded to the Club was the right to create its own covenants. The only entity that can approve the sale of the existing five acre driving range are the members in good standing of the Seven Lakes Country Club. In order for this measure to carry it must be

approved by two-thirds of the voting members.

In fact, the agreement between the Seven Lakes Landowners Association and the Seven Lakes Country Club includes a provision (number 5) insuring that the voting members in good standing of the Seven Lakes Country Club will have an opportunity to vote on the sale.

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association has no authority over whether or not the Club can sell this parcel.

[Editor's note: The Times appreciates Mr. Truesdell's desire to help clarify for our readers a complex subject: the possible sale of the Seven Lakes Country Club driving range for residential development.

He finds in one of our sentences "a misstatement of fact." It is our business to report the news accurately; we are happy to correct our errors. In this case, there is no error.

What is at issue concerning the Club's driving range is not whether it can be sold, but whether it can be developed for residential purposes. The Agreement that the SLLA and SLCC signed reflects this, addressing not simply the sale of the driving range, but its sale "to a developer for residential purposes."

(See "Truesdell," p. 27)

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Truesdell

(Continued from page 26)

In our October 26 edition, we wrote that "the SLLA ceded to the Club the right . . . to sell the existing five acre driving range for the purposes of residential development." We could readily substitute for "ceded" any of its

synonyms: "relinquished, yielded, surrendered, waived, or abandoned."

The SLLA once took the position that it had jurisdiction over all Club property and, in particular, over the subdivision and residential development of its

driving range. With the signing of the Agreement, the SLLA Board abandoned that position, in return for an assurance that, if the range is sold to a developer, the SLLA would then gain jurisdiction over it. In the SLLA's recent response to the Shaw-Hudson

lawsuit, the Board yielded more ground, claiming that it does not and has not since the development company's bankruptcy had any jurisdiction over Club property.

Which of the Board's positions on this issue is correct is

not, at the moment, a matter of fact, but rather a matter before the court.

The Times appreciates Mr. Truesdell's clarification.

We stand by our report.]



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#6146 - View 3 Holes at BRCC - \$59,500

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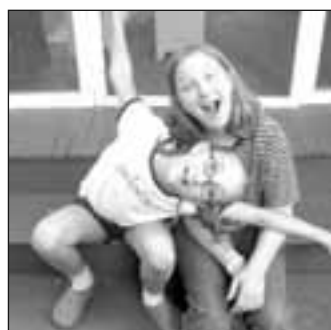
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Looking forward to Election Day 2008

My list of grievances is usually short. I don't like slow drivers in front of me when I'm in a hurry and fast drivers behind me when I'm not. I don't like cold water, cold air, or cold toes bumping me in the night. I don't like overly salted food, cauliflower, or cheap beer. And it drives me crazy when businesses intentionally, or unintentionally for that matter, misspell words on their signage.

But my biggest pet peeve is Election litter! You know what I mean: the explosion of roadway signs and mailbox clutter, the prerecorded phone call messages and, worst of all, the end-

less television and radio commercials which often are guilty of doing nothing more than garbling fact with fiction.

I often wonder if these distasteful practices are reasons why so many in our nation

choose not to vote. In any given election, only about a third of a population shows up at the polls. Who knows, maybe the other seventy percent is simply too

busy answering unsolicited phone calls, opening campaign mailings, and trying not to run over the mul-



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

titute of little "Vote for Me" road signs?

Luckily this Fall, with the presidential election still twelve months away, the annual assault

and insult to our lives was relatively minor. Out here on the Seven Lakes frontier, our ballot had only three questions answerable by blackening in little bubbles. I think I was in and out of the polls in about fifteen seconds. Okay, sixty seconds if you count the time I spent walking back and forth to my car.

Frankly, I was disappointed.

One of the things I enjoy most about small town living is how every minor activity becomes a major social event.

Going to the grocery store? Better brush your hair and take off your bedroom slippers because you know you'll see a friend or colleague. A trip to the dump or mailroom is an excellent opportunity to stop, smile, and chat up a neighbor. A walk along

the road always includes friendly waves and words from your fellow Lakers.

And a presidential election year at the polls? Now there is a guarantee of at least an hour's worth of entertainment and visiting while standing in line.

So next November when you are utterly disgusted with the candidate choices — or lack thereof — the negative campaigns, the ridiculous bloom of roadside advertisements, the political pundits, and the forest of trees that shows up in your mailbox one piece of paper at a time, remember this: I promise if you take the time to vote at the polls you will, at the very least, reminisce with one old friend and quite possibly meet a brand-new one.

Let's vote on Westside trail

To: Jim Haggard, President,
Seven Lakes West Landowner's Association

From: Pete Chase

Re: Loop the Lake

We now have two lists of names submitted to the Seven Lakes West Landowner's Association Board regarding the Loop the Lake proposal. Not surprising, one is in favor and the other in disfavor. The board has promised to revisit the question in December.

My concern is that the proponents of the project have presented a plan of the walkway that does not reflect many additional cost considerations. Depending upon which side of the road the walkway is constructed, I see the need for culverts, retaining walls, bridges or excessive fill, tree removal and the moving of utilities. Considering safety, how many times will the bicycle

riders and walkers be required to cross back and forth the roadway because of the need to avoid additional construction costs and problems?

The preliminary costs quoted for this project thus far indicate a major expense for the community. I suggest that a comprehensive plan be prepared for the entire route of the walkway with a firm cost obtained that would reflect all contingencies to be encountered. The

entire project should be embraced to avoid a piecemeal approach that could be abandoned as additional costs and difficulties are realized.

Considering the anticipated significant cost of Loop the Lake, I then suggest that a dues increase be proposed for the project which would allow an informed community to vote the project up or down.

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The marvelous human mind

The longer I live, the more the differences in people's beliefs, habits, or attitudes tend to fade from my consciousness. What rises to the surface is the clean, shining fact that we are all blessed with the potential for appreciating, acknowledging, and acting upon the similarities that exist between all of us.

Sometimes the smallest irk about someone's opinions seems to fester in us — for no good reason, often.

As is said, "It's easy to find fault, but not quite as natural to heap praise."

Let's look at ourselves in the bathroom mirror. Are we really that perfect? Even with that little blemish just below the right eye? And at parties, do we ask the right kind of questions to elicit sound and thoughtful, though abbreviated, dissertations?

Each of us has a storehouse of some level of philosophical thought derived from our journey

here on Earth. It's because we have watched, listened, looked for answers. Our opinions are accepted, or faintly pondered, or politely rejected.

You can disagree with a very

brains tuned up and refreshed for each day and find ourselves equipped with an open-mind to deal with whatever vicissitudes may appear on the horizon.

Yes, pause for reflection are the tonics that release us from the sometimes relentless and stressful pace of our society.

Happiness can be interrupted by a variety of circumstances. But the human psyche can somehow carry us through the vast

good friend. But nothing, like a little hurt or two, should ever override the depth of a basically sound relationship, one of the greatest gifts in the span of life.

Most of us are able to get our

majority of symptoms so that we can emerge and continue our journey backed by faith, well-imbedded in our souls.



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

Westside gate policy annoys

Dear Editor:

Are there any other Westsiders bothered by having to buy a \$15 bar code to use the right-side of the entrance gate?

We paid \$800 in dues but we have to line up behind all the workers and guests — who paid no dues — to get to our homes.

Since our dues pay for the guards, it would seem they could push a button to raise the gate once they see our window sticker.

May I suggest all dues paying residents be issued a bar code at no additional cost, or the guards be instructed to push the button to let us in when we drive up to the right gate.

Bruce Ashley
Seven Lakes West

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Chapel says thanks for support

Dear Editor:

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Jean Keating, Chairperson
Seven Lakes North

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By GARY C. KUNCE
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The Fraud Triangle – Business Sense

According to loss control experts, employee theft usually occurs when three key elements exist:

OPPORTUNITY - Even the most honest employee can be tempted to steal when he or she sees there are vulnerabilities in your system.

PRESSURE - Drug or alcohol dependency, gambling problems, divorce, serious illness and other economic pressures can lead to employee theft.

ATTITUDE - Some employees may think that the company "owes" them something and they have a right to take it. No matter how good you are to your employees, you will have some who feel they deserve more.

Keep a watchful eye on the following areas:

FORGING RECEIPTS - salespeople can charge a customer one sum, ring up a receipt for less, and pocket the difference

HIDING RECEIPTS - When bookkeeping is sloppy and little supervision exists,

employees can keep cash and receipts without raising an eyebrow.

POCKETING CHANGE - small sums of money, such as fees or petty cash, may not be missed at all.

PILFERING MERCHANDISE - goods your firm purchases may never even make it to the shelves.

OVERBILLING EXPENSES - managers with expense accounts may submit receipts twice and be reimbursed twice, or inflate actual expenses incurred.

FICTITIOUS PAYROLL - occasionally, personnel managers will authorize salary for fictitious workers then keep it for themselves.

PURCHASING FRAUD - employees sometimes declare themselves suppliers of nonexistent goods, and subsequently reimburse themselves handsomely.

Gary C. Kunce,
Vice-President
garykunce@fcignc.com



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League Study looks at county voting districts

Do the five Moore County voting districts allow equal representation for all citizens evenly? Is it time for Moore County to redistrict?

The Equal Representation-Redistricting Committee of the League of Women Voters of Moore County will report its findings and recommendations following a two-year study at the November luncheon meeting. The committee consists of Chair Carolyn Mealing, Jean Burbage, Barbara Farr, Linda Tableman, and O'Linda Williams. Both Mealing and Tableman are Seven Lakes residents.

The scope of the committee's study was limited to determining if there is a current need to redistrict the county's five current voting districts, and if it is so determined, to make appropriate

recommendations for change.

The Leagues of Women Voters work for equitable apportionment and redistricting of all elected governmental bodies. Behind the League position on apportionment is a conviction that a population standard is the most equitable way of assuring that each vote is of equal value in a democratic and representative system of government.

The November League luncheon meeting will be held Tuesday, November 20, at the Padlock Restaurant, in the Club at Longleaf. Registration starts at 11:30 am. Members of the public are always welcome, but reservations are required. Please call Charlotte Gallagher at 944-9611 no later than Friday, November 15 to reserve. The cost of the

lunch is \$12 inclusive.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Anyone, either male or female is welcome at League luncheon meetings; and both men and women may join the League.

The League of Women Voters of Moore County is known for its candidate forums, organizing or participating in three local debates this season, the Directory of Public Officials, and Civics 101 classes. For more information on League activities, please call President Jo Nicholas at 673-3064.

Artists League hosts sale

The Artists League of the Sandhills announce their 13th annual Art Exhibit & Sale will be held from November 9 to December 15. Raffle tickets will be available for an original painting by Mary O'Malley.

Participating Seven Lakes artists include Alice Ridenour, Ann Campbell, and Barbara Sickenberger.

A wine and cheese reception will be held Opening Weekend on Friday, November 9, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Opening Weekend continues on Saturday and Sunday, November 10 – 11, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The exhibit is located at The Artists League at 129 Exchange Street in Aberdeen.

Exhibit sponsors include Aldena Frye Custom Floral Design Studio, America's Carpet Gallery, First Bank, Kitchen Spaces, Inc. and Lyne's Furniture Gallery.

Memories: November

by Betty Stemmer

You are a wily old coot

Master November

Gently lounging before
you really begin to shine.

Planning and thought require
much effort,
and you, Dear November,
have a colorful past on which
to reflect.

School holidays, always exciting
and college breaks at Thanksgiving

certainly spread joy far and
wide.

Preparing Christmas lists
puts all of our heads in a whirl.
Snowflakes simply waiting
for their signal to twirl.

We thank you November
for varied days and mystical
nights,
but mostly for how you come to
visit us
with a certain taste of frost and
winter.

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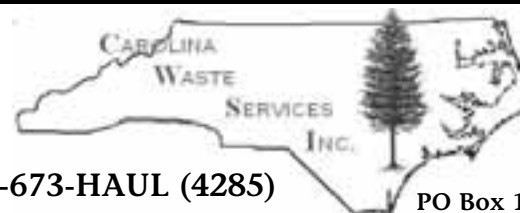
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Stem cell research is November Forum focus

Dr. Thomas Shea, MD, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Research Transplant Program at UNC- Chapel Hill is the featured speaker for the Seven Lakes Forum to be held on Thursday, November 15 beginning at 9:00 am.

The use of stem cells for research purposes, and for the curing of illness, is currently considered a controversial issue in terms of medical ethics. Their use is also questioned by fundamentalists. Dr. Shea will attempt to provide a better understanding of stem cells in his address entitled The Impact of Stem Cell Research on the Quality of Life.

The Forum will be held on the

upper level of the West Side Park Community Center. Refreshments will be available at



Dr. Thomas Shea

9:00 am, with the formal session beginning at 9:15 am. Participants should plan for about a two-hour session. All women and men from Seven Lakes, and their guests, are invited to attend.

The 'format' for the session follows:

- 9:00 am Refreshments
- 9:15 am Presentation of information
- 10:10 am Optional break, refreshments
- 10:20 am Speaker /participant dialogue

For further information, please contact Don Welch at 673-6701, or Bill Mamel at 673-8970.

The next Forum will be held on Thursday, January 17.

Seven Lakes Baptist hosts Hungarian brass

The Hungarian Brass is Hungary's foremost Christian brass group.

On Thursday, November 15, Seven Lakes Baptist Church invites you to attend a concert evening beginning at 6:30 pm. Come to hear spirituals, hymns, praise songs, and classical pieces played with much energy and enthusiasm!

Founded in 1991 they have played in many churches and concert halls in Hungary, Slovakia, Germany, and in the United States. In fact, The Hungarian Brass has made eleven tours

in Germany over the years giving more than 200 concerts there.

Despite the untimely death last year of co-founder and professional French horn player, Laszlo Gaal, the group continues to perform and serve.

Director and co-founder, Eric Murphy, serves as one of the trombonists and vocalist. Eric's wife, Lynne, accompanies the group at the piano. The present group is comprised of outstanding trumpet players includ-

ing Janos Hamori, Laszlo Bakai, and Tamas Csapo. Janos [John] is one of the top trumpet players in all of Hungary, a nation with a rich tradition in music. Trombonist Mark Alföldy-Boruss is new to the group and he is an outstanding musician.

The beautiful sounds from the French horn are played by Laszlo Gaal Jr.

All of these Hungarian musicians, save one, are in their early twenties.

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Phantom Warrior explores cost of heroism

Phantom Warrior
by Forrest Bryant Johnson

Review by Jeff Gibbons
Seven Lakes West

Phantom Warrior raises two questions: first, what is the property an individual possesses that allows him to perform the truly heroic; second, what does that heroic act cost the individual?

Author Forrest Bryant Johnson approached these questions through the character sketch of a hero, Private John McKinney, a twenty-two year old draftee who won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during a thirty-five minute fire fight on a sliver of sand in the Philippines in May, 1945.

The Medal of Honor Citation credits John McKinney with having single handedly killed forty Japanese infantry "... with devastating fire or clubbed them to death in hand-to-hand combat" and in so doing, saved the rest of his company. Eyewitnesses of the battle report the total number of Japanese John McKinney killed to be closer to one hundred. The reader gets to meet John McKinney, but doesn't find the answers to the questions *Phantom Warrior* raises.

To a military and history buff, the story of the American and Filipino defense of this small outpost against a Japanese force five times their size makes for great reading. However, *Phantom*

Warrior is not the story of this battle, but of John McKinney.

John McKinney, the *Phantom Warrior*, was an uneducated man from rural Georgia whom one would be hard pressed to describe as "simple." He never went past third grade in school.

He learned much of his field craft by hunting small game to help his family during the depression. He possessed an abiding love and respect for the life he witnessed around him. He was close to his family but never married.

He was a man of faith who studied the Bible but preferred not attend church. Decades after the war he expressed feelings of guilt about his actions that day, though his actions prevented

the annihilation of the outpost his company was manning. He regretted having to kill any of the Japanese. Until his retirement he supported himself as a farm hand for hire. He turned his back on the opportunity to have his story made into film.

Johnson places the reader side-by-side with John McKinney. One shares John McKinney's thoughts and feelings in a very immediate sense. What is more, the reader experiences this with John McKinney the young boy, the adolescent, the soldier slogging through the South Pacific and the soon-to-be hero single-handedly fighting off waves of Japanese infantry. The reader meets John McKinney, aged bachelor, slowing down, and

finally, so it seems, saying goodbye to his past.

That Johnson can weave this narrative so effectively is all the more impressive as the author never had the opportunity to meet his subject. John McKinney died several years before Mr. Johnson began work on the book. The history and insights were obtained from family, friends, fellow veterans of the battle and a myriad of written sources. Johnson's writing

style at times seems less polished than anticipated; whether this is an issue of skill or reflects editorial lapse is not clear.

But the theme of *Phantom Warrior* and the narrative itself more than compensate for these flaws.

Why title the book *Phantom Warrior*?

The book is well worth the read to answer that particular question.



Playground fundraiser

Recently opened for business, Hand-Me-Downs is a new children's consignment shop located near the West End Fire Department.

In support of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Recreation Committee's efforts to improve the playground at Northside Park, Hand-Me-Downs graciously agreed to host a distinct account with standard 50% of consignment

proceeds from donated items directed towards the playground fund. Store items included in this fundraising project may be identified by pink dots on the price tags. Consider donating your unwanted children's clothing or toys, that are still in good condition, to Hand-Me-Downs for resale and specify that you would like the proceeds contributed to the playground fund account.

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On stage with Sir Ian McKellen

The Raleigh newspaper recently wrote that people in Los Angeles are paying up to \$1,700 to see a performance by Sir Ian McKellen as King Lear at a theatre at UCLA.

Flashback — to the 1970's and wife Billie, son Jamie and I are at the Olney Theatre in Maryland for a Sunday matinee featuring Ian McKellen doing a one-man show of Shakespeare.

Just before the intermission he asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to

appear with him in a play by the Bard. Billie prodded us both, so Jamie and I raised our hands. He asked us to come backstage along with a dozen or

Mr. McKellen gave us our stage directions. We were to "star" in Henry V and play brave soldiers in Act IV at the battle of Agincourt

— soldiers not only brave, but dead. On a cue I've long since forgotten, we were to rise to our feet from our corpse-like positions, wooden prop swords in hand, and shout something like "Long

Live Harry on this St. Crispin's Day."

I just perused Act IV of the play and think the following pep talk by King Henry to his outnumbered men is a rouser:

"This story shall the good man teach his son; and Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by, From this day to the ending of the world, but we in it shall be remembered — We few, we happy few, we band of brothers*;

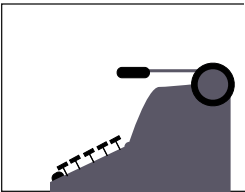
For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my broth-

er; be he ne'er so vile, This day shall gentle his condition:

And gentlemen in England now abed shall think themselves accursed they were not here, And hold their manhoods cheap while any speaks that fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."

Ta Da!

**and a tip o' the hat from Stephen Ambrose.*



Your Turn

Jim Kaufman
Seven Lakes South

so other stage-struck wannabes.

Clendenin will lead 'Light up a Life' music program

For an hour or so during the past couple of holiday seasons, Glenda Clendenin has put aside the hectic business of Moore County elections for the fellowship of the FirstHealth Hospice Foundation's "Light Up a Life" program.

Music provides a respite for the director of the Board of Elections, who has been a church music director for more than twenty-five years and a guest soloist at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines for even longer. The opportunity to sing a couple of sacred songs and lead "Light Up a Life" participants in traditional carols is special to Clendenin, an alto who also takes part in Hospice's annual spring memorial service.

"I have always had a particular interest in Hospice," she says. "I have had family members to use their wonderful services, and my mother had Hospice a couple of years ago. I think it is a wonderful organization that helps families through such trying times."

Clendenin will be in charge of the "Light Up a Life" music again this year. The sixteenth annual program is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, at 5:00 pm at FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care, which is located at the corner of Memorial Drive and Aviemore Drive in Pinehurst. A reception will follow the tree-lighting service.

The Light Up a Life program provides a special time of remembrance for families and friends who have lost a loved one as well as a special place of fellowship.

The lights on the trees will burn throughout the holiday season to memorialize and honor those who have been cared for through FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care.

Clendenin, who was pleased to be asked to participate in the program again this year, calls it an honor to sing at the "Light Up

a Life" service. "It is always so heartening to look out at those who are in attendance and see friends and neighbors who are there to remember their loved ones," she says.

For information on how you can dedicate a "Light Up a Life" light, call the FirstHealth Hospice Foundation at 695-7500.



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help choreograph the timing, financing and other details it takes to get all the pieces to fall into place. In other words, we'll act as the middleman.

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Book takes reader down a different rabbit hole

The Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor

Review by
Patrick Crawley

In this captivating tale, Frank Beddor gives us a totally new perspective on the mystical world of Wonderland as he retells the story of Alice Liddell, or Alyss Heart is his world.

This cunning new take on the classic that many of today's children watched, thanks to Disney, as they grew up has been totally rewritten into a tale of war and tragedy from the happy almost uncaring world of Carroll's Wonderland.

As the reader dives deeper into Beddor's new world the allusions to not just Wonderland but nineteenth century England

and the life of Lewis Carroll, draw the reader ever deeper into the story. Characters like the Mad Hatter and the White Rabbit have been turned into Alyss's counterparts and tutors, Hatter Madigan and Bibwit Harte.

Not only these characters, but the Queen of Hearts that we knew has been turned into the evil maniacal Queen Redd, who is bent on destroying White Imagination.

The Looking Glass Wars would

be a good book for middle to high school students who liked *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, or the movie rendition of it. The book's sequel *Seeing Redd* has already hit shelves and I will review that at a later date

along with the third book of the trilogy when that comes out.

The Looking Glass Wars is a captivating read and many will enjoy the new perspective of Alice Liddell and her adventures down the rabbit hole.



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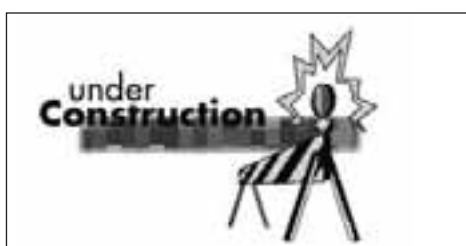
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Temple Beth Shalom to host interfaith service



Temple Beth Shalom, in Foxfire Village.

Temple is center of area's Jewish life

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Built in 2002, Temple Beth Shalom, located in the Village of Foxfire, is the center for Jewish life in the Sandhills. Many observances and celebrations take place there throughout the year including traditional Sabbath services on the third Friday of each month, an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, High Holidays services, and a Holocaust Remembrance lecture.

Lowell Simon, President of The Sandhills Jewish Congregation and resident of Seven Lakes, said visitors are always welcome at the Temple.

"Most people know very little about the Jewish faith," said Simon, "but are fascinated by it and have never been in a Temple."

He continued, "Last year we had a huge turnout — standing room only — for our Holocaust Memorial lecture. We brought in speakers from Appalachian State where there is a very strong Jewish Studies Program."

Simon said the Sandhills congregation is extremely fortunate to have Rabbi Floyd L. Herman

lead their services.

"In Judaism there is no intermediary between you and God, you don't need a Rabbi but we are so thankful for him," said Simon.

Rabbi Herman conducts the monthly services as well as oversees the children's and adult education programs.

"We have a Hebrew school for children with approximately forty kids," said Simon. "Classes are generally held once a week plus we have a formal curriculum to teach history, culture, prayers, and the Torah."

"We also have adult Torah classes one Saturday morning each month," said Simon. "and recently held a Bat-Mitvah for eight adult women, in their sixties and seventies, who had never had the opportunity when they were young."

Explaining that there are three branches within Judaism — reform, conservative, and orthodox, Simon said the Sandhills Jewish Congregation is a reform congregation with members of all three branches as well as many mixed couples of Jewish and non-Jewish partners.

Four congregations in the Foxfire area are joining hands and hearts and voices in a Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday, November 18, at 4:00 pm at Temple Beth Shalom at the corner of Hoffman and Jackson Springs roads in Foxfire.

This is the second annual gathering sponsored jointly by Temple Beth Shalom, Congregational Church of Pinehurst, Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, and McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church. Representatives from the four congregations designed the service

to invite the community into a setting in which various faith traditions share their gratitude for the blessings of this nation and this world.

Using familiar hymns of the church and synagogue, sharing words from the Psalms and the prophets, praying in Hebrew and English, and incorporating other elements of the various faith traditions will offer worshippers an opportunity to share their faith and give their thanks.

Everyone is welcome, and participants are asked to come early to enjoy getting to know your

neighbors and linger after the service for refreshments. Worshippers are asked to bring canned goods as their Thanksgiving Offering, which will be given to the Sandhills Coalition for Human Care.

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

[SLCC] that is aimed at stopping a residential development proposed for the Club's five-acre driving range. His current term of office will expire at the Annual Meeting in March. So, if he can't qualify as a nominee, Hudson will be effectively forced off the Board.

Addressing the proposed bylaws change, the seven SLLA Directors split four to three on the question, with Truesdell, Laura Douglass, Ed Nuti, and Randy Zielsdorf apparently in favor of the idea, and Hudson, Michael Florence, and Donna Stephan opposed.

Taking the floor first, Hudson said Truesdell and Nuti had "cooked up a scheme" to push through the bylaws amendment when they knew he would be out of town. The original vote on the matter was scheduled for the October 27 SLLA Meeting, one that Hudson had announced he would not attend. That vote was delayed Florence objected that the ten-day notice required for changes to the bylaws had not been given.

Hudson said the proposal was discriminatory and prejudiced — and attempted to take from the landowners their right to elect whomever they see fit to the Board.

"I had not made up my mind about running for another term — until now," Hudson said. "I will be a candidate for reelection and will let landowners decide at the ballot box." He then passed a letter stating his intent to run down the table to Nuti, who is chairing the Nominating Committee.

Michael Florence compared the attempt to exclude Hudson to the old "Jim Crow" laws that were used to deprive African Americans of their voting rights. Quoting the First Amendment to the US Constitution, Florence suggested the bylaws change was an attempt to deprive Hudson of his right to free speech. "If the US Congress can't do it, then neither should we," he said.

Echoing the idea that the Board was discriminating against Hudson, Donna Stephan said she was concerned that "we are opening Pandora's Box here." "Looking ahead to next year, will we have people saying 'I don't want any Catholics on this

Board?" she asked

Noting that Hudson, Florence, and Stephan had all raised the issue of discrimination, Laura Douglass said the real issue is whether Hudson's participation in the lawsuit against the association constitutes a conflict of interest. She argued that every Board member has disagreements with others on the Board, but, despite that, the Board must function as a team. Noting that the suit would go one without Hudson's participation, she asked that he remove his name from the list of plaintiffs in order to vacate the conflict of interest.

"I don't have a problem with someone bringing a suit against the Association," Randy Zielsdorf said. "That is their right. As a Board member, though, it is a conflict of interest. As a Board member, I don't want to have to be looking over my shoulder every time there is a disagreement on the Board."

Ed Nuti said "there must always be a recognition that the decision of the Board, duly elected by the residents to represent them in all matters, is final." Noting that unanimous deci-

sions are rare, Nuti said there are always Directors who disagree with the majority's decision. "This is where Steve made his mistake: in not accepting the decision of the Board and moving forward," Nuti added.

"It is simply and strictly a conflict of interest," President Don Truesdell said in a very brief statement. "It is difficult to serve two masters."

Reminding landowners of the rules of courtesy that apply to public comment in Association meetings, Truesdell opened the floor for input.

Chuck Leach, who with his wife Jane is a plaintiff in the lawsuit with Hudson, said Hudson, in joining the suit, was exercising his right "to have the courts resolve a dispute involving restrictive covenants."

"It's up to the the landowners to determine if he is reelected," Leach said. "It is not your duty to change the bylaws and take voting rights away from landowners."

Charlie Oliver reminded the Board that a previous Board had attempted — in a closed meeting — to remove Hudson as

Treasurer after he made a pointed report critical of the financial management of the Association. "I think this is a follow-up to that attempt," Oliver said.

Ron Erskine told the Board that the state legislature passed an amendment to the Planned Community Act last year that prevents an executive board from making unilateral changes to the eligibility requirements for directors. But the law only applies to associations formed after January 1, 1999. The lawsuit of which Hudson is a part could easily become a class action suit involving hundreds of Seven Lakes landowners, Erskine said. Would the Board then use the proposed bylaw change to exclude them all as Board

nominees? Erskine said he was starting a petition in support of Hudson's right to run again and invited those in attendance to sign it.

Bob Stephan said he found Hudson "not only tall in stature, but a tall person in honesty and intellect and strong person on the Board. Why did he do this? Because a majority of four flipped-flopped like a turtle that rolls over" when they voted not to oppose the residential development of the driving range.

Charles Stephenson, who a described himself as a neighbor and friend of Hudson, told the Board they were wrong to be considering the bylaws amendment. He said Truesdell should

(See "SLLA," p. 38)

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Election

(Continued from front page)

needed county capital projects. "The Realtors® ran a very expensive but effective campaign. Now we'll have to wait and see how big an increase to our property tax comes and when," said Kinney.

Colin McKenzie, chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners, echoed Kinney's sentiments, "We couldn't advertise or spend any money [supporting the tax]. Now an increase in the property tax is the only way to pay for the school and college improvements."

Last year, forty-eight North Carolina counties raised property taxes. In Moore County, property taxes were not raised but property valuations have seen substantial increases over the past few years.

Statewide problems with schools overcrowding, outdated facilities, and the need to generate additional county revenue, led the state legislature, in July, to agree to let individual counties have the opportunity to place an increase on sales tax by a quarter of a cent or a tax on land transfers on their ballots. Eleven counties, including Moore, responded by placing a Land Transfer tax on the ballot with eleven other NC counties placing the sales tax option on their ballot. Five counties choose to include both on their ballot with the final decision of which option to employ, if passed, given to their Commissioners.

In all twenty-seven North Carolina counties held referendums on higher land transfer taxes, sales taxes, or both. Of the sixteen counties considering the Land Transfer Tax, all voted it down, often in similar three-to-one lopsided results as seen here in Moore County.

The Board of Elections won't have figures on voter turnout available for several days, but it appears that more than half — and perhaps as many as sixty percent — of the county's 28,000 registered voters cast ballots in Tuesday's election. With no national or statewide offices on the ballot, turnout may have been boosted by hotly contested municipal elections in Pinehurst and Southern Pines.

School bonds approved

Despite voters overwhelming

rejection of the proposed Land Transfer Tax, Moore County residents showed widespread support for the education bonds. Seventy percent voted for \$54 million in education bonds to support Moore County Public Schools capital projects and sixty-two percent voted for the \$15.5 million Sandhills Community College bonds.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser said, "All of us in

Moore County Schools can feel proud of the community we serve and the wonderful support we receive from not only parents, but all of the others in the community who believe in the value of quality schools." She continued, "So many civic groups, organizations and individuals 'went to bat' for us on this much-needed referendum, and we certainly thank them from the bottom of

(See "Election," p. 38)

Seven Lakes results parallel county tally

Seventy-two percent of Seven Lakes voters said no to the proposed transfer tax, compared to 77 percent for the county as a whole. Seventy-five percent supported the bonds for Moore County Schools, while

67 percent supported the college bonds.

Seven Lakes has just under 3,500 registered voters. It appears from the vote tallies that a bit more than one-third cast ballots on Tuesday.

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Thank you to all who have supported the League during 2007 to foster pets and volunteer your time.

More volunteers are always welcome.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday season.

SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 36)

have recused himself from any negotiations concerning the driving range, because he served on

the Country Club Board when the issue arose.

Truesdell replied that he had resigned from the SLCC Board

in November of 2006 and noted that Director Stephan is also a Club member.

After the public had its say,

Director Douglass asked Hudson to explain how his participation in the suit was not a conflict of interest. Hudson replied that based his action on two 7-0 votes the Board had cast against compromising with the Club on the driving range issue.

Director Stephan got in the final word on the subject, which generated some applause from the landowners in attendance: "I feel very strongly that we are going off in a lot of unnecessary tangents. Steve was elected by the landowners — it is the right of the landowners

whether they will vote him in again. It's you people for whom he is working and working hard."

Other Business

In other business the Board:

- Approved a new Blue Cross Blue Shield employee health insurance package that will save the Association \$25,000 annually and offer the staff better benefits.
- Learning that Security Forces, Inc. is seeking a three percent increase in their contract to provide the SLLA with gate guards.

Election

(Continued from page 37)

our hearts."

The approved schools bond will fund Phase I of the district's Master Facilities Plan which includes a new middle school in the area between Carthage and Cameron and a new elementary school along the Route 211 corridor which will ease overcrowding at both West End Elementary and Pinehurst Elementary.

Phase I projects also include classroom additions at Highfalls Elementary, Robbins Elementary, Westmoore Elementary, and Sandhills Farm Life. Sewer and/or water connections will be installed at Highfalls Elementary, Cameron Elementary and Westmoore Elementary. Also included in the

plan are improvements to athletic facilities at all middle and high schools.

Purser said planning has already been underway in order to have the two new schools open for the 2009-2010 school

year.

"We're on a very aggressive schedule to meet our 2009 opening date goal. That's why much activity has already been taking place and is continuing as of this day."

Foxfire

(Continued from front page)


"This is where we have to start — at the grassroots level — so we can get our government back for the people. Negative campaigning has to stop."

Coker concluded, "I'm committed to continuing to work diligently to enhance the ambience of our village and to meet the needs of our residents. That's

my pledge to the citizens."

Running unopposed, Mayor George Erickson and incumbent Councilman Ed Lauer won 200 and 209 votes, respectively.

With approximately 550 registered voters in Foxfire Village, it appears that roughly half of eligible voters cast ballots.

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White House

(Continued from page 10)

One pavilion was dedicated to the states, where all fifty states had a booth. The children, and others including me, all had a map, and we got it stamped at each booth where we learned about the state and its authors.

The invited authors each were scheduled to speak in their pavilions, and we enjoyed hearing mystery authors Brian Haig, Stephen L. Carter, and, of course,

Carolyn Hart. David Baldacci, Daniel Silva, Stephen Hunter, Deborah Crombie, Lisa Scottoline, David Ignatius, and J. A. Jance, were the other invited mystery writers.

A few of the other well-known authors present were Joyce Carol Oates, Jodi Picoult, Michael Beschloss, Ken Burns & Geoffrey Ward, Diane Ackerman, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Doro Bush Koch, Judith Martin [Miss Manners],

Jeff Shaara, Patricia MacLachlan, and N. Scott Momaday,

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Coffee Scene

(Continued from page 9)

tomers.

"People can come in the Coffee Scene and just relax," Ferguson added. "We have groups of friends who come in together to socialize for an hour. Other

folks will come in, grab a corner table, and have a small business meeting."

Though neither owner works the shop full time, "we're in the shop very frequently," Bateman said. "We've really enjoyed get-

ting to know the customers," Ferguson added.

The Coffee Scene is located at 4309 Seven Lakes Plaza, just across from First Bank in the Seven Lakes Business Village. The shop is open Monday – Friday 6:00 am – 5:00 pm and Saturdays 7:00 am – 1:00 am. The phone number is 673-4200.

Dormie Club

(Continued from page 8)

lands during home construction.

The Subdivision Review Board unanimously approved the preliminary plat, with the recommended conditions. Unless substantial changes are necessary, the final plat can be approved by the planning staff.

Hobbs indicated that many months of engineering work and infrastructure construction will be required before the development reaches a point at which lots can be sold.

Players

(Continued from page 12)

groups. North Moore High School, led by director Clay Gaitskill, participated in the festival for the first time. Union Pines High School, led by director Judy Osborne, performed a wonderful production of Shakespeare's The Tempest, and recieved the ensemble acting award for the festival.

For anyone interested in see-

ing The Chronicles of Jane: Book Seven before the ensemble travels to the state festival, the Pinecrest Players will hold a public performance on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 pm at the Pinecrest Auditorium. Admission is free, and show lasts about forty minutes. And don't worry parents, the show is family friendly.



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West Side

(Continued from front page)
he added.

"As a Board we should decide what type of control we want," Environment Director Mary Ann Fewkes said. "We don't want to step out of it totally. We need to come up with a plan. We need to let the county know that we are paying taxes and not getting what we need for our tax dollars."

"When we want control, we have responsibility," Haggard said.

"We took that on four years ago," MacKay responded.

Community Manager Tony Robertson then told Board members that he had had some preliminary discussions with the County Manager and the Public Works Director, neither of whom were in their current posts when the Association and the County sealed the deal on fire hydrants.

"Neither the Public Work Director nor the County Manager were aware of the problem," Robertson said. "We need to get Ray to sit down and bring them up to speed. If we give them that information, it will be a big step toward getting it done."

After more discussion, the Board agreed that MacKay, with the assistance of Legal Director Hugh Beckwith, would prepare a letter to the county outlining the prior agreement and the lack of progress in getting hydrants installed. Even after agreeing on that plan of action, however, it remained unclear whether Board members had reached consensus on whether Association funds should be used to purchase the hydrants.

Management Company

Also during the October 30 special session, the SLWLA Board decided to have the Personnel Committee continue to its exploration of community management companies. Committee Chairman Ron Sickenberger had briefed the Board during its October 9 Work Session on the services and cost structure of one management company. With the retirement of Community Manager Robertson anticipated sometime next year, the Board is investigating the pros and cons of using a management company rather than hiring personnel directly.

Haggard said the investigation raises the broader issue of

whether the way the Board itself functions will need to change as the community continues to add residents. Westside Board members do not just set policy, Haggard noted, but does a lot of the hands-on work of keeping the community running. If that continues to be the policy as the community grows, Haggard said,

"we will have to have Board members who are going to have to set aside their life to serve on the Board."

"I don't know how this community is going to govern going into the future," Haggard said, "but I am pretty sure that the structure of the board is going to do this, the board is going to do that" is

not going to hack it for many more years. When Ray [MacKay] leaves the Board, what happens when he is not there and the person who comes into his slot is not capable of doing what Ray has been doing?"

After some discussion, Board members agreed to have the Personnel Committee continue

to explore the option of employing a community management company.

Gateway II

Pinehurst Realtor and Developer Ron Myers briefed the Board on his plans for a development on a thirteen acre parcel.
(See Gateway,"p. 41)

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Illustration from Lilly's Big Day by Kevin Henkes ©2006 Kevin Henkes

Village

(Continued from page 7)

age at the county level, Hunt said, when planning, zoning, or other issues impact Seven Lakes. But the idea is coordination, not control. "The furtherist thing from our mind is to get into who controls what," she said.

In presenting the idea to local groups, Hunt has described a coordination committee that would include a representatives from the Civic Group, Lions,

Kiwanis, Women of Seven Lakes, Garden Club, and Village Beautification Committee. Those six members would be joined by six representatives of the Business Guild and ex officio members from the two Seven Lakes landowners associations.

But Hunt is quick to say that this is just one possibility for organizing the group. "Nothing is cast in stone," she told *The Times*. She has presented the idea to

meetings of the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, to the Women of Seven Lakes, and addressed it briefly in a Business Guild meeting. All of the groups have been contacted by mail concerning the idea.

Steering Committee member Angela Terry told *The Times* that the presentations have generated bit expressions of support and questions about how a coordinating committee would really

work.

"Peggy McCallum [President of the Women of Seven Lakes] suggested bringing all the groups together in a meeting in January to discuss the idea," Terry said.

Hunt said she hopes to organize that meeting, perhaps bringing in a trained facilitator to help the group brainstorm and work through possibilities for the proposed committee.

"In the process of bringing out

this information, we have had lots of questions and suggestions," Hunt told *The Times*. "We never meant this proposal to cover the waterfront. It was never meant to be the final word."

"As I see it, it is not meant to intrude on the normal missions or operations of any of the organizations. All the groups would continue to function just as they do. This would simply bring the groups together. It could be a way to create a lot of understanding among people."

"The way I see it, why not give it a chance? If it doesn't work in a year or eighteen months, you can walk away."

"But if it does work, think of the possibilities!"

Gateway II

(Continued from page 40)

cel just inside the back gate — updating a presentation he had made to the full Association last year.

Myers said the land is currently platted for twelve individual homesites. But he is proposing instead a cluster development that will put twelve maintenance-free patio homes on the site, leaving the bulk of the property in open space. Myers said his Lighthouse Trace development in Aberdeen had attracted well over 100 visitors from Seven Lakes, leading to the conclusion that there is a market for similar homes here.

All exterior maintenance on the homes and grounds is handled by a property owners association and covered by a maintenance fee that is paid in addition to regular homeowners dues. Legal Director Hugh Beckwith said the Association would likely prefer not to create a separate association for the area. It could be handled under an arrangement like The Pinnacle, where homeowners pay the SLWLA an additional fee to handle maintenance.

Myers said the homesites would consume only 7.5 to 8 acres of the parcel, leaving a substantial greenspace that could be used for a park.

The Lighthouse Trace homes are, in effect, high-end duplexes, combining two residences in one building — something that may not be allowed under current West Side covenants. Director Mary Anne Fewkes suggested that Myers consider separating the duplexes into free-standing units on smaller lots, which could avoid the need to change the covenants —

something that requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all Westside property owners. Myers said he would be happy to redraw the plans to reflect that suggestion if the Board agreed.

President Haggard asked about stormwater runoff issues. Myers said The Hayter Firm,

which prepared the site plan for the project, assured him that the cluster development would create less runoff than more traditional development of the twelve currently-platted lots. "By keeping construction on the hill, you would be eliminating runoff," he said.

The Board agreed to invite Myers to present the concept to the community during the November 27 SLWLA General Meeting.



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Seven Lakes Times
November 9, 2007

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FOR RENT OR SALE ENJOY THE SUPER BOWL IN SUNNY ST. THOMAS, USVI – Sat., Feb 2 thru Sat., Feb 16, 2008. Watch the game and partake in endless snorkeling, scuba diving, shopping, sightseeing, etc. Blue Beard's Castle. Rent both weeks for \$1000 per week or buy both for \$5000 total. Two weeks every year. 910-673-5247. *2tc 11/9*

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OFFICE SPACE – second floor rentals start at \$125.00 per month and up, water and electric included. Lease and security required. Call 673-4800.

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2 HOUSES FOR RENT OR SALE – \$900 & \$950 per month. One in Seven Lakes North; other is on Holly Grove School Road. Call 673-1108 or 673-1403.

FOR SALE LOTS

BEACON RIDGE GOLF COURSE – Lot No. 3, “The commons” septic approved, \$45,000. Call 919-603-6193. *4tc 10/26*

LAKE AUMAN WATER FRONT LOT 3455 – on Baker Circle. Offering great views and opportunity to build your dream home! Asking \$489,000. Call Lisa @ Stephanie Hill Real Estate Services – 910-215-8400.

SEVEN LAKES WEST – Double lot 0.96 acre. 215/217 Longleaf Dr. Walking distance to BR Clubhouse. Nice pines. New perc. \$79,000. 910-673-2344.

FSBO LAKE AUMAN WATER-FRONT LOT BEACON RIDGE – Lot #3250 Lawrence Overlook. Cleared. 231 ft. of bulkhead, 2 docks. septic installed for 4BR, includes professional architectural plans. Call 910-638-0984. *tfn*

SEVEN LAKES WEST – Combination water front, water view lots for sale 3156 & 4107. \$285,000. Great view from both lots. Call Fred at The Property Center 910-673-1724 or 1-800-334-7869. *tfn 9/29*

BOATS FOR SALE

02 CRESTLINER PONTOON – 20 ft., 40 HP 4 stroke Yamaha eng. low hrs. exc. cond. Call 673-2388. *2tp\$ 11/9*

TURN YOUR USED BOAT INTO CASH – People are looking to purchase good condition used boats. Let us connect you to the prospective buyers. Call Jeff at 910-673-1440 or Lynn at 910-690-8695.

1999 SWEETWATER PONTOON – 18ft., Honda 40HP four stroke engine, fish depth finder. Price \$5900. Contact 673-8273. *2tp\$ 11/9*

BOATS FOR SALE – Need a boat? Choplin's Got It! Ski-Wakeboard-Deck-Pontoon-Bass and Saltwater Boats. Full service to Seven Lakes area only a few minutes away. Choplin Marine in Sanford. Call 919-776-1004 or www.choplinboats.com

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Golf Front **\$59,500**

TBD Beacon Ridge Drive, Seven Lakes West
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THE NEWS HAS BEEN focusing on the difficulties in the subprime mortgage market and more recently on "jumbo" loans. However, borrowers with good credit scores, good jobs, and a down payment, still have ready access to 30-year "conforming" loans — those funded through banks and mortgage brokerages by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the giant federally chartered companies that fund the bulk of the nation's mortgages.

The large inventory of homes for sale right now gives buyers more to choose from and a greater capacity for negotiation. This inventory in-

cludes new homes left over from the housing expansion over the last few years and the home resale market.

Builders have cut back in producing new homes due to the problems with the subprime mortgage market and are working down their present inventories.

David Seiders, chief economist of the National Association of Home Builders, expects that new-home sales will stabilize by the end of this year, and housing starts will start to grow again by mid-2008. He felt that in spite of the present difficulty in the subprime mortgage market, the overall economy will continue "... to

be supportive of housing..." and that "...interest rates in government-related components of the mortgage market will remain favorable on a historical basis."

Real estate still remains one of the best performing and consistent long-term investments. The many housing choices available and low interest rates make it a positive time to be the buyer.

For a free consultation to discuss which type of mortgage loan will work best for you, call **Victoria Spannaus at Wachovia Mortgage Corp. at (800) 741-7813 or 910-692-6225.**