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December 7, 2007

Dam repairs strain Westside budget

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Though members of the Finance Committee have been busily sharpening their knives and trimming the fat from the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Budget for Fiscal year 2008-2009, necessary repairs to the Lake Auman dam make a dues increase or special assessment inevitable. The question is, how best to share the burden of those costs?

That was the message delivered by Treasurer Kathy Kirst and President Jim Haggard at the Tuesday, November 27 SLWLA General Meeting. Kirst detailed the expense side of the draft budget, while Haggard handled

the revenue question.

The Board is working with an estimated cost of \$300,000 for repairs aimed at stopping seepage through the top several feet of the dam's core. The work is expected to begin next fall.

Expenses

With that major capital expense on the horizon, Kirst said, the Board and Finance Committee — which includes Kirst and former SLWLA Treasurers George Ellis and Lois Rocco — was looking for every opportunity to trim the 2008-2009 operating and capital budget. A nip here and a tuck there brought in a total expense budget — before the dam repair — that, at \$1,058,886,

(See "Westside" p. 37)

Five to seek seats on SLLA Board

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Director Ed Nuti's Nominating Committee has identified five individuals to run for three open spots on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors. Nuti announced during the Wednesday, December 5 Board work session.

"I would have hoped for two or three times that number," he added, encouraging any other resident landowners interested in running to contact him by

Monday, December 10.

The five candidates who have so far thrown their name into the ring are incumbent Directors Nuti, Michael Florence, and Steve Hudson, along with Gary Caulk and Bud Shaver. Shaver's last run for office was for the North Carolina House seat currently occupied by Joe Boylan.

Nuti noted that Hudson's named had been accepted provisionally, pending the outcome of a Board vote, scheduled for

(See "SLLA," p. 36)

Ho-Ho-Ho!



A spirited crowd turned out Tuesday night for the Annual Tree Lighting sponsored by the Seven Lakes - West End Area Business Guild — including this shy young man and his bearded friend.

Commissioners re-elect Colin McKenzie Chairman

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Despite a year-old agreement that would have put Tim Lea in his chair, Colin McKenzie was reelected Chairman of the Moore County Board of Commissioners in a three to two vote held during the Commissioner's December 3 meeting. Commissioners

Jimmy Melton and Larry Caddell supported McKenzie's reelection, and those three Commissioners then elected Melton to replace Larry Caddell as Vice Chair.

McKenzie's reelection apparently contravened an informal agreement among the members of the Board. Commis-

sioner Morgan opened the officer elections by nominating Commissioner Lea to serve as Chairman, saying she was doing so because of an agreement reached by the Commissioners after the November 2006 election.

"Last year we met as a group

(See "Commissioners," p. 39)

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In this issue

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|------------|
| Foxfire Council | 2 | League of Women Voters | 11 | Opinion | 26 |
| Schools | 4 | Obituaries | 15 | Letters to the Editor | 26, 27, 29 |
| Burglary Arrests | 3 | What's When | 20 | Laura's Learning Curve | 28 |
| FibroMont Power Plant | 6 | Lucy's Kitchen | 30 | Classifieds | 42 |

Erickson re-elected Foxfire Village Mayor

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter
George Erickson was reelected Mayor by unanimous vote

during the Foxfire Village Council Organizational Meeting held on Wednesday, December 5. The council appointed Page Coker as Public Safety Director, Victor Koos as Streets Director, and Ed Lauer will continue to serve as Water Director.

Councilman Wally Peckitt was reelected Mayor Pro Tem and continues as Director of Finance. Mayor Erickson said, "I am looking forward to the challenges of the next two years. Hopefully Foxfire will continue to grow and, with the public's support, we will maintain the type of community that we all enjoy living in."



The Foxfire Village Council — George Erickson, Wally Peckitt, Ed Lauer, Page Coker, and Vic Koos.

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|----------------------|-------------|
| Issue | Deadline |
| Dec 21 | Dec 14 |
| January 11 | January 4 |
| January 25 | January 18 |
| February 8 | February 1 |
| February 22 | February 15 |
| March 7 | February 29 |
| March 21 | March 14 |
| April 4 | March 28 |

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Three Lakers arrested in Westside burglaries

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Investigators with the Moore County Sheriff's Department have begun to roll up an alleged burglary ring, arresting three young Northsiders on charges stemming from two burglaries reported in Seven Lakes West.

The young men charged include: Blake Ralph Hanson, 19, of 103 Pinedell Court; Daniel Wescott Widman, 20, of 155 Firetree Lane; and Daniel Adam Johnson, 19, of 105 Dogwood Trail. Hanson was arrested on November 21; Widman, on November 29; and Johnson, on December 4.

All were charged with two counts of first degree burglary, one count of felony larceny, and one count of possession of stolen goods.



Blake Ralph Hanson



Daniel Wescott Widman



Daniel Adam Johnson

The alleged burglaries occurred on the night of October 10, at the Jefferson McBride residence at 123 Longleaf Drive and the Gregory Lookabaugh residence at 101 Pinnacle Court. The Lookabaughs reported the theft of a Titleist golf bag and clubs, a range finder, a Gore-Tex jacket and other golf related items. The McBride residence was entered, but, apparently, nothing was removed from the home, Captain Jeff Medlin of the Sheriff's office told *The Times*.

Investigators believe the alleged perpetrators parked behind Peking Wok in the Seven Lakes

Plaza Shopping Center and walked into the Pinnacle area of Seven Lakes West.

Medlin told *The Times* that the investigation is continuing, with a possibility that these suspects may be linked to other break-ins in the same area, and a possibility that other individuals may be linked to the October break-ins.

Two homes in the areas were entered on the night of November 21, according to incident reports provided by the Sheriff's Office. Nothing was apparently taken from the Arthur Snow residence at 114 Pinnacle Court,

though damage to a door was estimated at \$400. But cut stones valued at more than \$7,000 were removed from the Rob Jon Moore residence at 110 Longleaf Court, along with sports memorabilia and other items. Thieves made off with more than \$10,000 in goods in that incident.

Medlin said the November 21 break-ins indicate a need for better communication between

residents, the Sheriff's Department, and security personnel manning the Seven Lakes West entry gate.

A neighbor apparently observed perpetrators entering the Snow residence, noticing their flashlight beams, and called the gate — rather than the Sheriff's Office — to report it. Gate personnel then called the Sheriff's

(See "Arrests" p. 4)



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Lorna Clack will lead Board of Education

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A lifetime of service in public education is what Dr. Lorna Clack, the newly installed Chair of the Moore County Schools [MCS] Board of Education, brings to the position. At the monthly meeting held on Tuesday, December 4, Clack and Vice-Chair J. Dale Frye were unanimously voted into office by acclamation.

Clack thanked the board for their vote of confidence saying, "I hope to live up to the trust and honor bestowed on me and for the wisdom to know what is right and courage to do what is

right."

Most recently serving as Vice-Chair under Bruce Cunningham, Jr., this marks the beginning of Clack's fourth year on the board. She began her career teaching in Charlotte, later working in Moore County for many years as a teacher, director of instruction and last, as principal at Carthage Elementary.

"I've done almost every job in the school system," said Clack. "I am excited about the opportunities we provide to our students, employees, and parents here in Moore County."

New Vice-Chair Frye echoed her enthusiasm and said, "I am



Moore County Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser with newly-elected Board of Education Chair Lorna Clack and Vice Chair J. Dale Frye.

looking forward to serving with Dr. Clack. She will offer good leadership as we provide a great education for children in Moore County and even later as they endeavor to become good citizens."

Retiring Chair Cunningham thanked the board and central office staff for all their hard work over the last year. He also spoke to the strong support achieved throughout the county.

"The commissioners have shown their support in more ways than just the budget and referendum," said Cunningham. "They've created a partnership with us that benefits the students of Moore. I also thank the public, I feel they are behind us in what we do."

Arrests

(Continued from page 3)

Office and reported a possible prowler.

"A prowler report is a whole lot different than an illegal entry in terms of how we handle it," Medline said. An officer dispatched to the scene spotted suspects fleeing into the woods and gave chase, but was unable to apprehend them.

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association has scheduled a meeting on security issues for residents of the Pin-

nacle and Beacon Ridge Lakeview Homes Neighborhood for Monday, December 10, at 6:30 pm in the West Side Park Community Center. Medlin said representatives of the Sheriff's Office will be in attendance.

Hanson and Widman had their first court appearances on Monday; Johnson's is scheduled for Thursday, December 13. Hanson's bond had been set at \$100,000 secured; Widman's at \$10,000 unsecured; and Johnson's, at \$5,000 unsecured..



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School Board honors Seven Lakes volunteers

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Each month, the Board of Education honors outstanding volunteers for their dedication to school children in Moore County. In November, Gretchen Born-

horst of Seven Lakes North and Nell Judge of Seven Lakes West were both recognized for their efforts.

Bornhorst has been a school volunteer for ten years. As President of the West Pine Middle

School PTA, she coordinates fundraisers and an Incentive Day for students, schedules school socials, provides for treats and luncheons to thank the teachers throughout the year, and has increased membership

in the PTA.

"I felt very humbled to receive the award," said Bornhorst, "because I look at it as this is just what parents should be involved in. I was almost embarrassed because there are so many awe-

some parents out there also helping." She concluded, "To me it's not hard work, I have a good time doing it."

Judge has a much longer association with education as a speech pathologist in Connecticut schools for twenty-eight years.

She has volunteered at West End Elementary for eight years and works closely with West End's speech pathologist and the kindergarten teachers.

Evident by her years of skilled service, Judge cares greatly about making a difference in the lives of children.

State looks to meet global competition

The North Carolina Board of Education has adopted a new mission to educate globally competitive students with rigorous and relevant curriculum in technology, arts, and language, led by twenty-first century professionals, Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser told members of the Moore County School Board during their Tuesday, December 3 regular meeting.

Students will be taught how to be healthy and responsible in learning environments that are inclusive, accessible, nurturing,

with caring adults, to develop a culture of learning that empowers and prepares for lifelong learning.

In recent months, the MCS Board has also heard recommendations from experts, Dr. Willard Daggett, founder and president of the International Center for Leadership, and Dr. David Warlick of The Landmark Project.

"We have got to change," said Purser noting that teachers today are working under a model developed during the Industrial Age.

Purser said a task force will begin work in January to redesign secondary education in Moore County, to shift from isolated competitive programs to an integrated system.

"We will examine existing programs to harvest features that are of value, and will involve princi-

pals, students, teachers, parents, the business and community, and Higher Education representatives."

Purser said task force recommendations will be implemented by the 2009-2010 school year.

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FibroMont: Making megawatts from manure

by Laura Douglass,
Times Reporter

In describing FibroMont, the poultry litter-fueled power plant proposed for construction in the Piedmont area of North Carolina, as "a good fit for Robbins," newly elected Mayor Theron Bell was but one of dozens of supporters present at a recent Open House meeting, sponsored by Fibrowatt, the parent corporation that will build and operate the FibroMont power plant, held on Thursday, November 29.

Similar meetings were held near the other potential sites; Stanly County, and Biscoe in Montgomery County. In addition to the Piedmont plant, Fibrowatt intends to construct two more plants in North Carolina, one in the eastern portion and one in the mountainous western portion of the state.

Describing this alternative power as "green energy," Bell said that recent legislation demands power companies contribute a portion of their wattage from green or alternative sources.

"We're hoping to be selected for the central portion. [In Robbins] Jobs have left. People live here but work in other places," said Bell. "We've had to reinvent ourselves like most small mill towns."

During the two-year construction process, Fibrowatt anticipates work will provide for several hundred jobs, and once operational, will employ one

hundred full-time positions; thirty on site, sixty in litter transportation, and ten at a fertilizer plant.

FibroMont will be a fifty-megawatt power plant that uses more than 500,000 tons of poultry litter annually, as well as other biomass. The energy generated by the plant will produce enough electricity to serve approximately 40,000 homes.

Biomass is defined as any organic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis, including animal waste and bedding, dedicated energy crops, agricultural by-products, crop residues, wood and wood wastes, and grasses. Due to the high concentration of poultry industry in North Carolina, Fibrowatt does not expect that it will need to use significant amounts of biomass sources other than poultry litter.

Burning poultry litter is an alternative to fossil-fueled electricity generation, and biomass can be used as a clean-burning fuel, operates on a nearly continuous basis, and, according to Fibrowatt, can complement contributions made by intermittent renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.

Once poultry litter is combusted, a nutrient-rich ash by-product is produced. This ash is recovered for processing and sold as a fertilizer. The concentrated fertilizer is in a form well-suited for crop uptake.

Poultry litter can be spread over crops as fertilizer but Fibrowatt contends their power plant will eliminate stockpiles of surplus litter and the over-application of litter to crops, which will protect local water quality and control offensive odors.

While concerns over the types of biomass to be burned, air emissions, and at what levels pollutants may be dispersed into the atmosphere by the incineration process have been discussed and critiqued by various environmental groups, here in Moore County, Fibrowatt has been well-received.

"We are environmentally responsible and we want to demonstrate those credentials," said Fibrowatt CEO and Founder Rupert Fraser.

"Some environmental groups scrutinize our operations and

we welcome that. We want to be held accountable."

"I would much rather say don't listen to me but go talk to your own people who have seen, smelled, and tested what we have done," said Fraser. "I want to be known by our deed and not our words."

One such local person with a firsthand account has offered his stamp of approval. Harry

Huberth, an alternate member of Moore County Planning Board, Director of the Sandhills Area Land Trust [SALT], former president of MooreFORCE [Moore For a Clean Environment], and a former chairman of Keep Moore County Beautiful, traveled to England to see a Fibrowatt plant with a local delegation of interested parties.

(See "FibroMont" p. 35)

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS! — AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU & YOURS

Robbins residents welcome new power plant

by Laura Douglass,
Times Reporter

Wallace Edwards, a resident of Robbins for forty-two years, and the father of former U.S. Senator and Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards, was among those in attendance at a FibroMont Open House in Robbins on November 29.

"It's been a bad change for Robbins [the mill closings], so I really hope we get it," Edwards told *The Times*.

Expressing his concern for the town, Edwards continued, "Robbins is my home and I have no desire to live anywhere else. We've got some things going on with some new businesses

which are good for the town economy, but we still have some empty plants around here. I hope they build here."

Lifelong Robbins residents Eula Holt and Lillie Dunlap agreed. "We want the town to grow more," said Holt. "We've seen it fall and we'd like to see it grow back up. I've read some [literature distributed by Fibrowatt] and it sounds remarkable! This would be a big benefit for us."

"I drive by the spot they are looking at building twice a week," said Dunlap, "and I would love to see it." She continued, "We need more places of business in Robbins to lower our taxes and there's no reason for young people to stay."

Chris Ivey, the owner of Dominoes Pizza in Robbins which opened its doors in June, said, "I'm all for growth and its [Fibrowatt] such a unique process. Everything is enclosed, everything is reused, and there is no waste. Even the ash is turned into something useful!"

Also attending the Open House with Ivey was Rickey Beane, supervisor of Dominoes. "I'm interested in the renewable energy to see how it works and to stand by Robbins. I see no downfall to this business and would like

to see this technology in other areas around the country."

Robbins natives, Sammy Gilmore and R.L. Tew, both now residents of Seven Lakes agreed that Fibrowatt would be a welcome addition to the town.

"I want to see something good happen here," said Gilmore. "This was a great place to live when I was growing up but all the textile is gone and now there's no reason for kids to stay around. There's no jobs. This is still a great town but we're just having some hard times now."

Tew, a resident of Seven Lakes

North, said, "I would like to see Robbins what it was twenty years ago. At one time, this area was one of the biggest manufacturers and employers in Moore County." He continued, "Robbins is a friendly town with a lot of good people."

Pastor Kenneth McNeill of First Baptist Church in Robbins framed the town's widespread support for the power plant saying "Our church has been praying for over four years that we would have economic revival. It has started with Situs and now is continuing with Fibrowatt."



Fibrowatt CEO Rupert Fraser with Robbins Mayor Theron Bell at the November 29 FibroMont Open House.

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Vicky Strider enjoys her Robbins homecoming

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

After twenty-one years of quality work and dedication to the community of Seven Lakes, Vicky Strider decided that her energy and financial skills were needed closer to her original home and accepted a position as Director of Finance for Robbins, her hometown.

Robbins, once a thriving manufacturing and mill town, was hard hit during the 1990's as one plant after another shut down operations.

"I miss the people and the daily contact with Seven Lakes," said Strider, "but as far as the job is concerned I miss the fact that Seven Lakes is sitting on money and Robbins struggles on

a weekly basis."

Brought to tears over describing her affection for Robbins and desire to see the town regain an economic foothold, she continued, "It's heartbreaking, because I worry, 'How can it survive?'"

However, Strider's commitment to seeing Robbins not only survive but thrive is a goal shared by many throughout Moore County including the Board of Commissioners, Partners in Progress, and Chamber of Commerce.

In particular, Strider emphasized the recent addition of a new Division of Motor Vehicles [DMV] office as a progressive step towards an improved economy. The office, located inside City Hall, offers vehicle registration and license plate renewal at a location more convenient for residents in both the northern and western reaches of Moore County, including West End and Seven Lakes.

"From the Seven Lakes traffic light to the one in Robbins is fifteen miles," said Strider. "And unlike driving down to Aberdeen

[the only other DMV in Moore County], the trip to Robbins has no traffic. It's just a nice country drive."

Strider said town officials hope this new service will draw more traffic and visitors to Robbins who will, in turn, perhaps choose to stay a bit longer for shopping or refreshment.

"Spending just twenty or thirty dollars, such a tiny amount, would mean so much to the businesses," said Strider. "Folks may not realize what a comparable purchase here can mean and how much further your dollar goes in Robbins."

A Northside resident since 1992, Strider was born and raised in Robbins and said that the majority of her family, including her parents, are still living there.

"Basically all of my family is here and both my brother and my cousin own their own businesses here; an auto repair shop and a fitness center."

While she intends to keep her home in Seven Lakes as a rental, Strider has moved back to her

second house in Robbins. A graduate of North Moore High School, she attended Sandhills Community College obtaining a degree in accounting.

"It's neat, my old teacher is here, my principal too," said Strider. "Many of the older folks come in and it's fun to see them after so many years." Strider continued, "Many of my classmates are still here and they are shocked that I've returned to Robbins," said Strider.

In addition to the DMV office, Robbins offers several well-established businesses as well as new ones that Strider says she hope will spurn more growth. The downtown shopping district includes pottery shops, a greenhouse nursery "which is outstanding," according to Strider, a dress shop, a popular new coffee shop, restaurants, and an embroidery and sewing shop.

Other local industry includes a company that manufactures off-road type vehicles for the U.S. Army with a second smaller operation that builds civilian

(See "Vicky Strider," p. 34)



Vicky Strider

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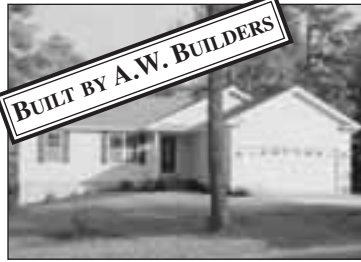
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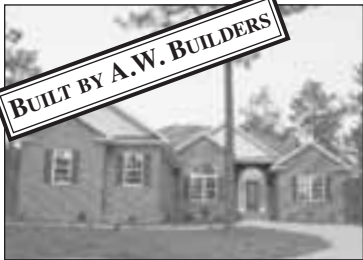
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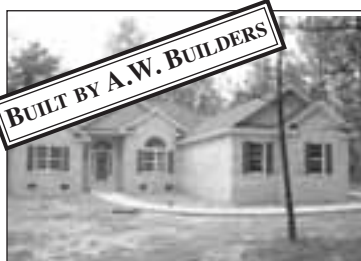
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Mocha Mamas serves coffee sunny-side-up

by Laura Douglass,
Times Reporter

A shared love of the beach and the desire to own their business inspired friends Tina Owens and Lynda Michael to open Mocha Mamas, a new seaside-themed coffee shop in Seven

Lakes. Located in the Food Lion plaza, Mocha Mamas serves coffee in regular and special flavored varieties, along with teas, bagels, shortbread cookies, muffins, and other treats. The sunny-hued walls, spacious room, large gathering tables,

and themed décor lend to the casual, welcoming atmosphere.

"We painted the room yellow to be fun," said Michael. "Many coffee shops are a bit dark and we wanted ours to be a bright and happy atmosphere."

Owens agreed, "This is such a friendly community and we wanted to have a business here that would provide a place for people to relax and where they could enjoy being with their friends."

Even the littlest customers are welcomed with a well-stocked kid's corner complete with table, crayons, and coloring books.

Mocha Mamas opened its doors in October 2007, and Owens and Michael credit their success and many of their business ideas to suggestions and input from their customers.

"We've come up with all kinds of stuff because they wanted us too," said Owens as she described several novel ideas including recognizing their most frequent customer each month with a gift certificate and the

honorary title of Mocha Mama King and Queen. The shop also hosted a visit from Santa in early December and plans to hold a luau party in the Spring.

"We're having a great time," said Owens. "We have several regular groups that come in like our 'debating team,' she said, referring to the mixed group of men and women who frequent the shop each morning at 8:30 am.

"A whole lot of conversation happens here," laughed Owens.

Michael's said that she and Owens make a special effort to remember each customer and their beverage preferences from their very first visit.

"We can see them pull up outside and will have their drink ready on the counter as they walk in," said Michael.

"Plus we offer high quality coffee at a reasonable price," said Owens explaining that their coffee comes from beans grown in Italy. "Once you come in once,

(See "Mocha Mamas" p. 33)



Lynda Michael & Tina Owens of Mocha Mamas

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Bob Bierbaum

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Do County's voting districts measure up?

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

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

A Fair Representation Committee, composed of Moore County League of Women Voters members Jean Burbage, Barbara Farr, Linda Tableman, O'Linda Williams, and Chair Carolyn Mealing, were tasked to answer these questions. Concluding a two-year study of the county voting districts, the committee presented their report and recommendations on Tuesday, November 20.

The scope of the 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.

In Moore County, the five county commissioner voting districts were established in 1965 as residency districts. Counties with representative districts are required to redistrict every ten years, according to population data gathering by the U.S. Census. There is no similar requirement for residency districts regardless of voting district population inequalities, therefore redistricting in Moore County is

currently "left to political whim," according to the report.

The League holds the position that equitable apportionment and redistricting, as determined through population standards, is the most equitable way of assuring that each vote is of equal value in a democratic and representative system of government.

In their analysis of the ideal district population, that is the total population of the county divided by the number of voting districts, the report confirmed that all five districts vary from the ideal by more than five percent. [Ideal population calculations for each district were based on the 1990 census at 11,806; and 2000 census at 14,954]

Seven Lakes and most of the West End voting precincts fall under the county's District II, which also includes all of Pinehurst. Using a computer modeling program provided by the NC

Legislative Office in Raleigh, the Fair Representation Committee proposed the population discrepancy could be minimized by redistricting the Seven Lakes communities into District III, which includes the rural, northern portions of Moore County.

Mealing noted that once this change was made "the districts immediately became more equal." However, minor adjustments to other districts would still be necessary.

A complete report and recommendation for action will be presented by Mealing and her committee to the Moore County Board of Commissioners in the near future.

"We expect there may be political posturing but what happens after that, who knows?" said Mealing.

A member asked if the committee had taken into account the future developments, and increased population, expected

in Moore County's Small Planning Area A.

Mealing responded that redistricting and population surveys could only accommodate the current population of any given area, not anticipated growth.

Committee member Barbara Farr pointed out that if Moore County were to establish voting districts as representative, each area would automatically be reevaluated after every census which "would take the politics out of it" and adjust for growth.

Mealing said that the last time the state of North Carolina redistricted, it was at the behest of the League of Women Voters.

"It just shows you how entrenched power becomes and the difficulty in making change," said Mealing. She continued, "Within the League, we as a group should work on this [redistricting], it is the most important thing under our committees."

(See "League," p. 33)



Barbara Farr, Chair Carolyn Mealing, and Jean Burbage of the Fair Representation Committee of the Moore County Chapter of the League of Women Voters



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Group wants defibrillators throughout county

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in the United States. As many as 1,000

people a day die, according to Dr. Robin Cummings, making it the most common cause of death.

"The heartbeat becomes chaotic and rapid," explained

Cummings. "CPR alone [cardiopulmonary resuscitation], may not restart the heart. Defibrillation within a few minutes is the only way to effectively treat cardiac arrest."

Since time is the critical factor, Cummings said he and his committee, Heartsafe Moore County, are trying to approach the problem at the grassroots level "out in the community where the event occurs."

The average response time for EMS in Moore County is thirteen minutes. "It's a big county and it just takes time," said Cummings.

By placing Automated External Defibrillator [AED] machines at key locations, Cummings said convenient access and use of the device can improve the chance for survival fifty to eighty percent.

A small, battery operated enclosed unit, the AED uses voice and written instructions for use – with directions geared for a fourth grade level.

"It's safe," said Cummings, "and it won't shock unless the person needs it."

Heartsafe Moore County are offering the machines, which include a formal education program and basic first aid course,

at a reduced price of \$1,500. AED's may be purchased by individuals and organizations, and also schools, churches, golf courses, and businesses.

"Our goal is to establish a public access AED program throughout the county," said Cummings. Several civic organizations and non-profits have already purchased units for placement in the public schools.



Buddy Spong, Executive Director of Moore County Chapter of the American Red Cross, displays an AED.

Christmas at the Bryant House

Step back in time with the Friends of the Bryant House and the Moore County Historical Association at the Bryant House and McLendon Cabin at 3361 Mount Carmel Road, just west of Carthage. On Saturday and Sunday, December 15 – 16, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, tour two historic houses decorated in the traditional manner of the 1700 and 1800s. Refreshments and musicians will provide holiday cheer. Admission is free. For more information call 692-2051 or visit www.moorehistory.com.



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Searching for theatrical angels in the Sandhills

by Jordan Rhodes
Seven Lakes North

Ever since we've had our invitation to bring *PAPA: "the man, the myth, the legend"*, a new play about the life and loves of Ernest Hemingway, to Broadway, I've wondered how many people that live in this area, love theatre and the arts, and have the financial means to support such an effort, have ever dreamed or thought about being a "producer" of a Broadway play.

How many people have ever

thought they could be involved in such a project — a Broadway play! Why, they cost millions of dollars and mostly lose the money! Not true. For the past two years, the theatrical investment with the best percentage of return, has been the Broadway production.

Over the past two years, with our numerous trips to Broadway meetings, we've learned how they put these productions together. The Broadway producers don't just find one, two or

three individuals to raise their budgets of \$3 million, \$5 million, or \$10 million. No, they put together groups! 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 people as "producers" of these productions. It made me think if the NY theatrical crowd could do that, then why couldn't it be done in this part of the country!

If you could bring together a group of people, up to fifty in number, that would like to hear or discover how they could be part of a Broadway show for as little as a \$25,000 investment, a Broadway play that doesn't cost millions of dollars, but only needs \$1,250,000 to open on Broadway, and they were interested in the arts, the theatre and could easily afford the risk — if they could learn about it, hear what it's all about, why wouldn't they do it?

If the risk was low enough and the rewards high enough, why not take the chance? When you think of all the functions that people pay high dollars to attend — and when it's over there's not much to show for your evening, except possibly, your invitation.

Compare one of those functions to attending the opening night on Broadway of "your" play. The opportunity to attend the gala celebrity cocktail reception and be a part of the "meet and greet." Being able to invited your friends or business associates to attend "your" Broadway play, and not just on Broadway but when "your" show tours the country and you can invite friends from those cities to attend "your" Broadway play.

For some people, that alone

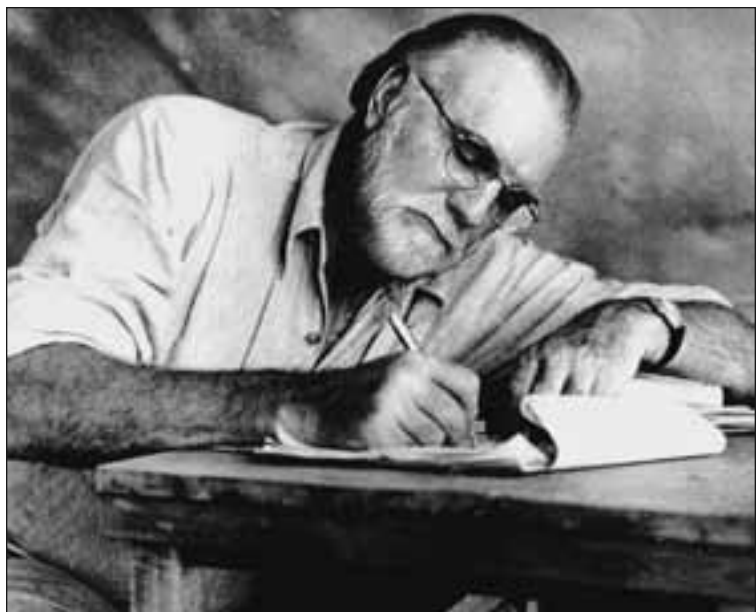
would be worth the investment.

Now, some of you may have heard about *PAPA* when we performed it almost two years ago as a benefit for the Arts Council of Moore County. If not, ask around; those that saw it, still remember it.

If you are interested in learning more, contact me: Jordan Rhodes @ 910-673-1537 or visit the web site to read the press reviews and comments, www.hemingwayonstage.com.

I'll guarantee you'll have more fun, excitement, enjoyment, receive a sense of gratification and satisfaction far beyond anything you've ever felt from attending a high dollar black tie or political fund raising function.

So, lets see if there are any *Theatrical Angels In The Sandhills*.



Jordan Rhodes as Ernest Hemingway

This Holiday Season...

"Be an Angel for the Animals"



Sandhills Animal Rescue League will be placing a Special Pet "Angel Tree" in the foyer at FirstBank in Seven Lakes. On the tree are ornaments for you to pick from and take with you. Each ornament has a monetary amount written on a ticket at the back. Simply choose your ornament and return the entire ticket with your monetary donation in the self addressed stamped envelope to Sandhills Animal Rescue League.

There will also be donation boxes at the Teller windows if you would like to make an anonymous donation, or you may pickup one of the League's envelopes and mail your "Angel" donation instead. All donations are tax deductible.

The pets at Sandhills Animal Rescue League wish everyone a safe, happy "howliday" season, and appreciate every "Angel" who has given in any way this past year.



Please join us for a

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, December 11, 6–8pm

Join us for a piping hot cup of holiday cheer and seasonal refreshments — on the house for our Open House.

Help us wrap some great Scholastic books to be given to help brighten the Holiday Season for needy families.

We look forward to seeing you!

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Christmas at Shaw House

Step back in time to hounds, horns, and hoofbeats as the Moore County Historical Association honors the Moore County Hounds and equestrian community at its annual holiday open house held daily Thursday through Sunday, December 6 – 9, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Special events include a family photo opportunity in a historic carriage, a chance to meet the Moore County Hounds and members of the hunt on Saturday and Sunday from 3 to 4 pm, a loom weaving demonstration Thursday through Sunday by Valerie Laszlo — a featured artist at the Campbell House Galleries, and complimentary tours of three historic houses decorated in the traditional manner of the 1800s.

In addition, there will be a photo presentation of life in the Sandhills in the early 1900s and a video program of the Moore County Hounds.

Musicians and free refreshments will provide holiday cheer.

Admission is free and the gift and book shop will be open.

The Shaw House is located at the corner of SW Broad Street & Morganton Road in Southern Pines. For more information call 692-2051 or visit www.moorehistory.com for special event times.

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DML

Chief Campbell graduates program



Mayor George Erickson and new Public Safety Director Page Coker congratulate Foxfire Village Police Chief Mike Campbell.

by Carl Munro
Foxfire Village

After a qualification interview, Foxfire Village Police Chief Mike Campbell was accepted into and recently graduated from the North Carolina Justice Academy Management Development Program.

The Management Development Program is a rigorous program requiring each participant to spend one week a month away from home going to class during the day and then involved in individual or team work during the evening.

Between weeks there is also significant time spent preparing for the next week's classes. Each applicant is required to make both mental and physical growth over the period of training.

Chief Campbell was recommended for this training by former Chief Rick Rhyne and Councilman Carl Munro in 2006.

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In memory of . . .

Joseph George Delasi, 93, of Seven Lakes South, died Monday, November 19, at his home. Mr. Delasi entered the U.S. Army on May 14, 1941, serving in World War II in the 35th Armored Regiment, the 4th

Armored Division and the 774th Tank Battalion. He received his honorable discharge on November 8, 1944.

He retired in 1981, in Brooklyn, NY, after more than forty years of employment in the banking

industry. He was a senior vice president of a Brooklyn Branch Bank for Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company.

Mr. Delasi and his wife moved to Seven Lakes in 1981, and were longtime members of

Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Pinehurst.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, John Delasi and Don Delasi.

Survivors included his wife Angelina Galtieri Delasi; a son

Dennis Delasi of San Antonio, Texas; a daughter, Joanne Bid-dix of Richmond, Va.; four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 1, at Sacred
(Continued on page 16)



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NEW LAKEVIEW CONSTRUCTION HOME - This one has it all - hardwood floors, solid surface counter tops, open plan and tile floors with nice Carolina Room.
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SOUTHSIDE GEM - Super home across street from SLCC #8. Unique floor plan with Carolina rm, nice kitchen (pantry tile countertops), & good size BRs. Very large corner lot (1.5 lots) ready for pool, etc. . . **Asking \$249,000**



NEW CONSTRUCTION - 7 Lakes South near bus stop. Lots of very nice upgrades in this 3 BR (split plan) with separate office. Cathedral ceilings, hardwood & tile, rear porch, front porch, & stainless steel appliances. . . **\$242,000**



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#2396 - 4th Hole - \$35,000
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#1014 - Great Investment with Good Perc - \$25,750
#1015 - Private with Good Perc - \$26,500
#196 - Reduced/ Dbl Lots - \$27,000
#215/220 - Reduced! - \$28,500
#1004/05 - Two/wet - \$6,900
#2543 - Large/Level - \$23,000
#2574R - Lake View - \$28,000
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DECEMBER ACTION

113 Winsford Circle -
Under Contract

113 Sandham Court-
New Listing

In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 15)

Heart Roman Catholic Church in Pinehurst. Burial followed at Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Community Home Care and Hospice, 685 South Bennett St., Southern Pines, NC 28387.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

George M. Parr Jr., 83, died Wednesday, November 21, at his home in Seven Lakes South.

He was the son of George and Theresa Ahern Parr, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Air Corp [15th Air Force] during World War II. After leaving active duty, Mr. Parr attended Seton Hall University, graduating in 1950. He joined General Electric in 1951 and worked in sales for the GE Lamp Division for thirty-four years.

He and his wife retired to Seven Lakes in 1991 and he was active in community activities and organizations, including the Lions Club and the Seven Lakes Aeromodelers.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dawn M. Parr.

Mr. Parr is survived by his son, Gregory D. Parr of Kettering, OH; his sister Helen May of

Titusville, NJ, and three grandchildren

Memorial services were held Saturday, December 1, at the Chapel in the Pines. The Rev. Dr. Don Welch and Rev. Pam Hudson officiated.

Memorials may be made to FirstHealth Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374 or the Chapel in the Pines, Benevolent Fund, 2125 Seven Lakes South, Seven Lakes, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes served the family.

David Spencer, 63, of Eagle Springs, died Friday, November 30, at his residence.

Mr. Spencer was a son of the late Rev. O.C. and Callie Spencer, of Zion Grove Eagle Springs community.

Funeral services were held Thursday, December 6, at Zion Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Eagle Springs. The Rev. Linda Brower and Bishop Ricky Smith officiated.

McLendon Funeral Home of Ellerbe handled the arrangements.

John Henry Malloy, 83, of Eagle Springs, died Monday,

December 3, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Malloy is survived by a daughter, Shirley Horton of West End; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 3:00 pm Sunday, December 9, at Holly Grove Baptist Church in Eagle Springs, with Bishop R. Smith officiating. Interment will follow in Eagle Springs Community Cemetery.

Bostic Funeral Services of Candor is assisting the family.

Tommy Lee Thomas, 61 of West End died Tuesday December 4, at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill.

Funeral services will be held today, Friday December 7, at 2:00 pm at Middle Cross Baptist Church. The Rev. David Reynolds will officiate. Burial will follow in West End Cemetery with military honors.

Mr. Thomas was born in Ocean City, CA to the late Hughie and Leora Dailey Thomas.


He was a Vietnam veteran serving in the US Army, a paramedic with Moore County EMS, a volunteer with the West End Fire and Rescue, a member of the North Carolina EMS and Rescue Association, and a member of the Elberta Masonic Lodge #654 in West End.

He is survived by his wife Vick-

ie Muse Thomas, a son Robert L. Thomas of Wagram; a daughter Kelsey P. Thomas of the home; brothers Floyd Thomas of Boise, ID, Gary Thomas of West End, Jimmy Thomas of Hoffman; a sister Betty Graves of West End, and a grandson.

Memorial contributions may be made to West End Fire & Rescue PO Box 596, West End, NC 27376 or Middle Cross Baptist Church 440 Lucas Rd., West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.



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Sailing Club completes fifteenth season

by Frank Krohn
Seven Lakes North

The Seven Lakes Sailing Club has completed its fifteenth year [more or less as early records are missing!] of operation.

The Club was formed in the early 1900's to manage sailboat races, propagate water safety information, conduct how-to-sail classes, and facilitate the opportunity to know one's neighbors better by scheduling regular social get-togethers.

Early races were held only on Lake Sequoia because Lake Auman was still being filled. When Lake Auman became full, races were held on both lakes, and continue to this very day. BYOB social events are held

throughout the summer at both Sequoia Point and Johnson Point. A popular event recently has been a lobster feast, held at Johnson Point, featuring Maine lobsters, clams, steak for the landlubbers, and all the fixin's.

This year's sailing season was completed in October and the annual awards dinner was held on November 10 at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Racing awards along with some other "fun" awards were presented at that time.

The Club welcomes any one interested in sailing, or wanting to learn to sail, to join them. Current members range from novice to very experienced, and there is no lack of enjoyment

from anyone. Interested people should contact Barb McElroy,

Secretary, on the North & South sides at 687- 0183, or Mary Anne

Fewkes, Commodore, on the West side at 673-4659.



Seven Lakes Sailing Club skippers who competed on Lake Sequoia, in the final race of the year, for the Sequoia Cup were treated to a cookout hosted by Paul Kirst, winner of last year's race.

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**Sandhills Community College
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Saturday, January 5, 2008

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 per person

**Buy your tickets at the following locations
or call (910) 695-7500**

Sears in Aberdeen • Gentlemen's Corner in Pinehurst
The Country Book Store in Southern Pines • Bill Smith Ford/Southern Pines
The Clothes Horse • The Foundation of FirstHealth

Vets' Day baby honored

For a second year, the Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 966 honored the first baby born on Veteran's Day, at the Womack Army Medical Center.

girl, was born to Patricia Ann Gilliland and Jonathan Hardison. Army E-4 Gilliland is attached to the 43rd Operations Support Squadron [OSS].

Baby Jalyn was presented with a certificate from Chapter

966, a check to purchase a fifty dollar U.S. Savings Bond, a U.S. flag along with a certificate stating the flag had flown over the nation's Capitol Building. The flag was provided by U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole.



Joe Kristek, Chapter President; Jim Schrum, Chapter Director; Patricia Gilliland holding baby Jalyn, Jonathan Hardison and several relatives; and Col. Terry Waters, WAMC Commander.

Meet Joan Medlicott



Join us at the Bookshop
Friday, December 14

1:45 - 3:00 pm

And meet the best-selling
author of the
Ladies of
Covington
series.



Ms. Medlicott will be
signing her just-released
novel *Come Walk with Me*.
We look forward to seeing you.



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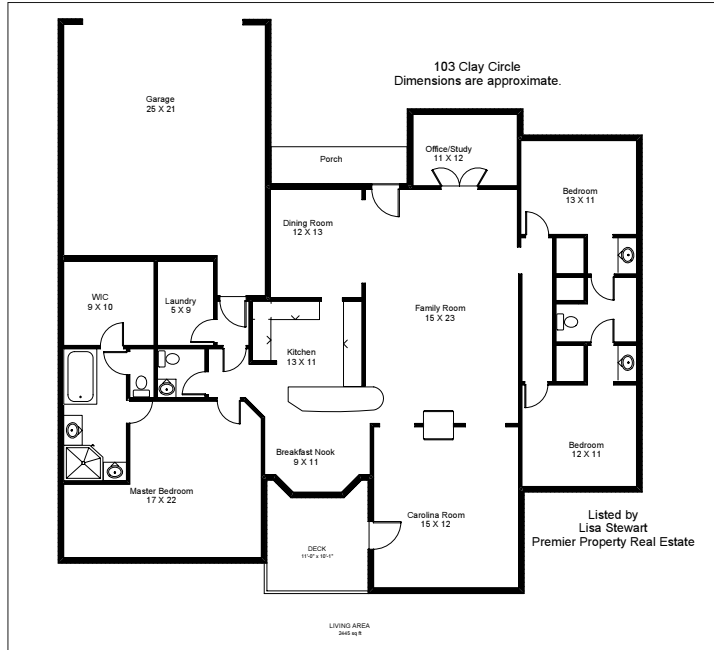


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Happy Holidays Seven Lakes!



Women of 7 Lakes Luncheon raises \$3,000

by Betsy Oliver Mikula
Women of Seven Lakes

The Women of Seven Lakes held their Annual Fall Luncheon, Fashion Show & Card party on November 8 at the West Side Park Community Center. Thanks to the following members who helped make the luncheon a great success:

Chairpersons Jo An Moses & Laurie Werner; Reservations, Ginger Finney; Raffle, Tinkie Petterson; Decorations, Sandi Keyser; Publicity/Program, Betsy Mikula; Models, Jo An Moses; Servers, provided by Goldie's Gourmet; Kitchen Supervisor, Alice Ridenour; Setup, Carmela Chase.

Fashions were by Phoenix Fashions and the commentator for the affair was Susan Marks. The models were Dottie Boothe, Laura Douglass, Jane Hodge, Susan Killmeyer, Joanne Lentz, Pat Truesdell, and Pat Weber.

Goldie's Gourmet catered the luncheon of Chinese chicken salad, lemon poppy seed muffins, and cheese cake with raspberry sauce.

Tinkie Petterson did a superlative job in obtaining donations for raffle prizes. Many thanks to the following donors who so generously donated items for the raffle: 7 Lakes Massage & Body Therapy, 9th of September, Blue Monkey, Bookshop by the Lakes, Carolina Car Care, Charmelle-Eva Huston, Curves, D&D Hair Designs, DirectTV, Eastwood Florist & Gifts, Goldie's Gourmet, Heavenly Pines, Indigo's, JuBilee Custom Screen Printing, Kevin's Fruit Stand, Lakeside Barber, Master Kleen, Medleyanna's, Mike's Tire &

Auto, Mocha Mama's, Morgan Hair Designs, Murray & Company, Nail Boutique, Nardo's, New Life Floors, Optical Solutions, Pastimes, Phoenix Fashions, Pinehurst Patio, Plaza Video, Quality Care Pharmacy, Dr. Richard Pasko, Ribbon Gift Albums, Salon 7, Seven Lakes Hardware, Seven Lakes Health & Fitness, Seven Lakes Kennels, Seven Lakes Marine, Seven Laakes Friendly Mart, Seven Lakes Country Club, Sleep Well Furniture & Mattress, Southern Grace, Tab's Bags, The Coffee Scene, The Outlet—Pine Apparel, and Tracy's Carpet.

Close to \$3000 was raised to help fund the many philanthropic endeavors of the Women of Seven Lakes.



JoAn Moses

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Come See Our New Selection of Candles, Christmas Floral Arrangements, Christmas Wreaths, Ornaments, Santas, Snowmen and Many New Gift Ideas

Kiwanis Xmas Décor Contest

The Kiwanis annual Christmas decoration contest will award \$65 prizes for the best lawn or lakefront displays in the community. Prizes will be given for each Seven Lakes area; North, South, and West. Judges will survey the decorations during the week-ends of December 14 – 16, and December 21 – 23.

Let the decorating begin!

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Sandhills Pediatrics expands to Seven Lakes.



Sandhills Pediatrics, Inc.

steps toward a healthy future

To better meet the needs of the Sandhills' families, Sandhills Pediatrics, Inc. announces the opening of their **Seven Lakes satellite office**. The office will be staffed by a rotation of your trusted Southern Pines' Pediatric physicians. Both the Southern Pines and Seven Lakes facilities will continue to provide excellence in Pediatric care. We are here for you each step of the way. The Seven Lakes office is open from **8-5, Monday through Friday**.

To make an appointment please call **(910) 673.1600**.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

- **Seven Lakes Scrapbook Club Crop** – 6:30 pm – 11 pm, West Side Park Community Center. No fee for this crop, come and work on your albums. Bring your Christmas list with you as Creative Memories specials and supplies will be available. Call Tracy Stromberg 673-5839.
- **Christmas at the Shaw House** – 1 pm – 4 pm, corner of SW Broad Street & Morganton Road, Southern Pines. Step back in time to hounds, horns, and hoofbeats as the Moore County Historical Association honors the Moore County Hounds and equestrian community at its annual holiday open house. Musicians and free refreshments will provide holiday cheer. Admission is free and the gift and book shop will be open. Event continues through Sunday, December 9. Information 692-2051.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

- **SLWLA Kids Christmas Party** – 3 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Join Santa and his elves for a fun-filled afternoon of Gingerbread Men decorating, crafts, face painting,

and refreshments. Karen Milligan 673-3304.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

- **NARFE Monthly Meeting** – 11 am, Days Inn in Southern Pines.



National Active & Retired Federal Employees [NARFE] Sandhills Chapter 1895 quarterly "Eating Meeting." Entertainment provided by The Bluegrass Tarheels Band. Chapter 1895 welcomes all Federal, including USPS, active employees, retirees, spouses, and surviving spouses to monthly meetings. Information available contact: Vilma Geisert 215-5898, or George Sandoval 246-9881.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Work Session** – 8:00 am, West Side Park Community Center. A General Meeting will not be held this month.

- **Computer Club of Seven Lakes** – 3:00 pm, Game Room. Featured speaker, Jim Davis, a valued club member and an expert on this month's

topic: Tips on Recording CDs and DVDs.

- **Coffee Scene Open House and Bookshop**

Wrapping – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Come and enjoy holiday refreshments at the Scene and wrap a book or two for kids in need at the Bookshop.

- **Foxfire Village Council Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association General meeting** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to the public.
- **Literacy Tutor Orientation** – 1:00 – 2:00 pm, 575 SE Broad St., Southern Pines. Do you have two hours a

week to volunteer as a literacy tutor? The Moore County Literacy Council will offer an hour long orientation session for community members interested in participating.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

- **Author event at Bookshop by the Lakes** – 1:45 – 3:00 pm, at the Bookshop. **Meet Joan Medlicott**, a North Carolina author who has written a series of novels about the famed *Ladies of Covington*. Ms. Medlicott's new book *Come Walk With Me* will be available at the signing along with her Covington series. All purchased books will be available to be signed. Drop by and say hello and enjoy a cookie at the Bookshop.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

- **(EAA) Experimental Aircraft Association** – Chapter 1220 – 9:00 am, at the Pic-n-Pig Restaurant on Gilliam-McConnell Airport Road. Open to people of all ages interested in aviation. Informal programs, quarterly, social events, sponsors of

aviation activities for youth. Questions: 673-1723.

- **SLCC Christmas Party** – 5:30 pm cocktails, 6:30 pm dinner, Seven Lakes Country Club. Golf Capital Chorus will entertain, dinner is buffet-style with turkey & roast beef carving stations, scalloped potatoes, asparagus with red pepper Hollandaise sauce, salad, rolls, and red velvet cake. All-inclusive price for members is \$25, or \$30 for non-members. 673-1100.
- **Christmas at the Bryant House** – 1 pm – 4 pm, 3361 Mount Carmel Road, just west of Carthage. Step back in time with the Friends of the Bryant House and the Moore County Historical Association at the Bryant House and McLendon Cabin. Tour both historic houses decorated in the traditional manner of the 1700 and 1800s. Refreshments & music provided. Admission free. Information 692-2051.
- **Pinecrest Choral: Out of the Orient Crystal Skies** – 7:00 pm, Robert E. Lee Auditorium at Pinecrest

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Hartsell. "Lum" as he was known would have been tending to the vast peach orchards instead of the fairways you see today. Lum was our great grandfather and was the foreman for the Manice Farm which incorporated much of the area we know as Foxfire today. Lum also served the area as a Blacksmith and Community Veterinarian. Lum's great grandchildren Jason, wife Tamela, and Vann Joyce are your neighbors and are still serving the Foxfire Community by operating your closest independently owned pharmacy. Lum passed down values of hard work, loyalty, and caring for the community like family. We hope you come join our family today!



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High School. Conducted by James Brown with accompaniment by Mari Jo Brown, choral performance repeats on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 pm. A silent auction will be held to raise funds for the Spring Tour to Chicago. Tickets \$6 adults, \$4 students and seniors.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

- **A Ceremony of Candles – A Cantata for Advent & Christmas** – 8:30 am and 11:00 am, West End United Methodist Church. The church choir will perform the cantata, written by Joseph Martin. The music is filled with the wonder and light of Christmas.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners meeting** – 6:00 pm, Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- **SLLA Children's Christmas Party** – 7:00 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Enjoy refreshments with Santa Claus, plus games and fun crafts including reindeer feed and peanut butter pine cones.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **Christmas Eve**

- **Candlelight Service** – 8:00 pm, West End United Methodist Church.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

- **Christmas Day**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

- **Kwanzaa**
- **Seven Lakes Christmas Day Camp** – 9 am – 3 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. A special three-day day camp for children. Bring your own lunch and snack and plan for plenty of games, crafts, and fun activities. Cost is \$10 per day, per child. Pre-registration or drop-in. Chad Beane 673-4931.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

- **New Year's Eve**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

- **New Year's Day**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

- **Artie Shaw Orchestra** – 7:30 pm, Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College. Emerson Cole and the FirstHealth Hospice Foundation present the Big Band sounds of Artie Shaw Orchestra featuring Dick Johnson. Tickets \$15, and available at Sears in Aberdeen; Gentleman's Corner, Pinehurst; Clothes

Horse, Country Book Shop or Bill Smith Ford in Southern Pines; and the Foundation of FirstHealth in Turnberry Woods. Information 695-7500.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

- **Silent Auction & Raffle** – 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Elliot's on Linden. The Sandhills Jewish Congregation invites the community to attend a silent auction and raffle featuring a wine and beer tasting and delicious hor d'oeuvres. Auction items include a catered cocktail party for twenty, a private suite for twelve at the San Francisco Giants, designer evening gown; golf; restaurant meals; and more. Information 246-0964.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

- **Newcomers Open House** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes Country Club. Women of Seven Lakes sponsor an open house featuring many

organizations and groups in the area, their activities, and volunteer opportunities. All Seven Lakers, new and old, are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. If you wish to participate and your organization has not been contacted, call Jo at 673-3604.

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Our 2007 Holiday Light Show Spectacular Benefiting the Moore Humane Society and Animal Advocates of Moore County

Children of all ages will be delighted by the excitement and energy of a winter wonderland of magnificent lights of brilliant colors choreographed to a tremendously uplifting musical score. The show is presented at the Carolina Equestrian Village in Carthage, North Carolina.

Show Schedule:

Saturday, December 1, 2007 - Saturday, January 5, 2008

Show Times:

Friday and Saturday: 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Sunday through Thursday: 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Directions:

From Pinehurst, drive north on Beulah Hill Church Road/NC-1210 for approximately 11 miles until you reach Fire Tower Road/NC-1270. You can only turn left on Fire Tower Road. Follow Fire Tower Road for about 2 miles. Carolina Equestrian Village will be on the left. The entrance has holiday lighting and looks like an old fashioned covered bridge. Please drive through the open gate directly to the right of this entrance and follow Equestrian Lane which is a gravel road for about 3/4 mile. Make a slight right at Palomino Road and follow it to 158 Palomino Road. Park where directed.

Note: This is a walk-thru event. Be prepared for cold weather and dress appropriately. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Because this is an equestrian community, there are no street lights. Bring flashlights to help you walk to the event but be sure to turn them off once you arrive.

For More Information Including Directions From Other Locations and Event and Weather Updates Including Cancellations Due to Weather, Visit Our Website at www.lightsofdelight.com

This is a Free Event but you are encouraged to support our participating non-profit organizations:



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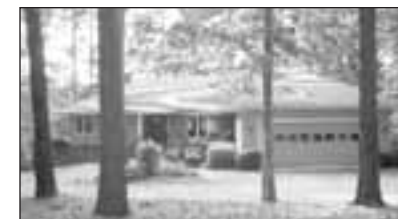
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| 106 Brendell Court |7 Lakes West (Cul-de-sac) |\$65,000 |
| 159 Swaringen Drive |7 Lakes West (Lake View) |\$69,000 |
| 148 Otter Drive |7 Lakes West (Lake View) |\$69,000 |
| 111 Beacon Ridge Drive | ...7 Lakes West (Golf Front) |\$69,000 |
| 124 Vanore Road |7 Lakes West (Lake View) |\$69,000 |
| 130 Vanore Road |7 Lakes West (Lake View) |\$69,000 |
| 101 Pittman Drive |7 Lakes West (Lake View) |\$96,000 |
| 55 Morgan Trail |7 Lakes West |\$155,000 |
| Carriage Park Drive | . <i>Quiet wooded street with 3/4+ acre lots</i> |\$75,000 |
| | Lot #'s 8001, 8002, 8003, 8004, 8027, 8028, 8029, 8036, 8037, 8038, 8039 | |
| Carriage Park Drive | .. <i>Quiet wooded street with 1+ acre lots</i> |\$85,000 |
| | Lot #'s 8031, 8035 | |
| Acreage Lot 3E | <i>Gelding Gap Lane, Carolina Equestrian</i> |\$10,000 |
| Arbor Creek Off Hoffman Road | ..5-10 Acre lots |\$78,750 to \$235,0000 |

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New state trail will follow Deep River

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Kayakers, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts have reason to cheer in Moore County. A bill passed by the North Carolina General Assembly, and signed by Governor Mike Easley, has opened the door for greater recreational opportunities along the Deep River waterway, as well as provided a new economic opportunity for small businesses at targeted locations along the Deep River, including the Town of Robbins.

The Deep River State Trail will be a network of conservation lands and recreation amenities stretching along the river corridor from its headwaters in Guilford County through Randolph, Chatham, and Moore counties to the confluence of the Deep and Haw rivers in Lee County.

Along the river's edge, scenic bluffs and rock outcrops alternate with high quality floodplain forests, and the river is considered nationally significant for its biological resources including a globally rare species of fish [Cape Fear shiner] and mussel [Atlantic pigtoe].

According to Richard Perritt, Executive Director of Sandhills Area Land Trust, this state park initiative was developed using a different model.

"By that I mean they are identifying critical areas along the Deep River that would serve as public recreational areas from a canoe/kayak and paddle way, and hiking trail," said Perritt, "and looking for businesses that would support this industry."

Perritt explained that instead of creating a long, linear state park this new model would instead develop 'nodes,' where in many park amenities and recreation services would be

privately-operated and located at specific points along the river.

"In developing nodes along the Deep River, from the Sandhills Area Land Trust perspective, it would make sense to put one in Robbins as the Deep River is a part of the immediate geography of that area," said Perritt.

A native of North Carolina,

Perritt is an environmental geographer by training and holds a Ph.D. in Geography from Clark University. He has authored many articles and reports on watershed and river basin planning and served as president, project director, and a board member of community development and environmental non-

profits in Alabama, Georgia, and Maine.

"The Land trust is working with landowners and the state park system to identify preliminary areas that would fit this model of using local businesses as part of the state park system facilities," said Perritt.

Noting that this model has

been used to some extent in development along the Haw River, especially in Chatham County, Perritt said, "This is a new initiative for Moore County and the Sandhills. It is an important land and water area that would be protected in Moore County but could also point to an exciting small business opportunity."



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Things are hopping at Seven Lakes Tennis

by Barb Horan
Seven Lakes Tennis

Lot's of "good stuff" is going on out at the Seven Lakes Country Club Tennis Center. It's time for "winter tennis"—what better way to keep warm than to run around outside in the fresh, crisp air getting lots of exercise, especially with a bunch of friends!

That's exactly what the Tennis Center is doing. With a new affordable Access Card program in place, the courts are full of action lately. After a busy summer and the Ladies Super Senior team becoming the North Carolina State Champions in their division, tennis interest is really growing.

A series of group lessons for children has recently been completed and there is a junior clinic program for young teenagers that has been in place for several months. These boys and girls are getting ready to try to compete with their school teams. A couple of these young players are already on local school teams but continue with the clinics with Tennis Professional Bruce Adams to fine tune their skills.

Several times a year the Tennis Center holds mixed doubles round robins followed by a member social, the next one is scheduled for mid January. A Ladies Christmas luncheon is on the calendar for December 12. A monthly "Super Supper" at the SLCC is usually well attended by the tennis players; the next one is called "Get into the Christmas Spirit" and will be held on Wednesday, December 19.

Coach Adams is also conducting afternoon clinics for adults. Every Monday and Tuesday afternoon from 2:15 pm to 3:15 pm, several local players participate in these clinics. The cost is only \$5 per session. You do not have to be a member to participate in the clinics. There is a schedule available as to what each clinic is going to stress and you can call the Tennis Center at 673-1096 for further information.

In late January it will be time to look into the start of the USTA competitive season. Seven Lakes Country Club had two ladies teams competing last season and will possibly add one more teams at a slightly higher level.

You do not have to be a competitive player to play with the SLCC tennis program. There are a lot of non-competitive players also doing "their thing" and just have fun and getting some great exercise. Not everyone

likes to compete and we have a place for everyone.

Recently completed was a new program called "Mom's Night Out Tennis Clinic." These young moms were taught the basic skills of tennis in a fun atmos-

phere and it was a super success! A program we will definitely do again!

So if it's competitive playing, non-competitive playing, clinics, kid's tennis, men's tennis...give us a call. I am sure we can find

you a spot that will fit your needs. You can reach the Tennis Center by calling 673-1096. You'll be glad you did!!

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Let's stop neglecting our infrastructure.

Donna Stephan's November 21 article in *The Times* was right on the mark. Clearly she is looking beyond today. Andy Grove, founder of Intel, was looking beyond today when he observed, "If you don't think about the future, you won't have one."

During our seventeen years in Seven Lakes, most, if not all SLLA boards of directors have not thought much about the future of our wonderful community having neglected our aging infrastructure.

Why? Because the aging process is generally slow and so goes unnoticed? Because it takes money from an increase in annual dues that might not be approved by the members of SLLA?

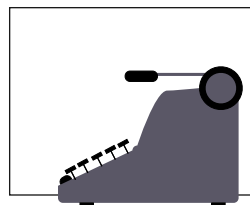
Because they haven't given thought to a special assessment or to a bank loan? Because members are apathetic, don't understand and don't care?

Most likely it's all of the above and a few more you, the reader, can think of at your leisure.

I want to write about just two of the things that make up infrastructure. One is our lakes which, as Ms Stephan wrote, are [one of] our greatest assets — but only to the extent the integrity of the dams is assured with regularly scheduled inspections and immediate correction of noted problems. It should not be necessary to wait for the State to mandate repairs.

And only to the extent the lakes, ponds, and streams are not

fouled by failed nearby septic systems (private or common area). Annually we are asked to report when our septic tanks were last pumped out.



Your Turn

Dave Kinney
Seven Lakes South

We are not asked to report repair work on our septic system. The Association does have selected lakes tested for E-coli and other "bad things" on a regular basis.

It is not unreasonable to require — yes, require — all septic tanks to be pumped out and the system inspected on a regular basis: more frequently for older systems, more frequently for homes with four or more residents, more frequently for tanks or drain fields within 100 feet of a lake, pond, or stream.

Maintaining the physical integrity of our dams and the biological integrity of our lakes, ponds, and streams are the best ways to ensure they never become financial liabilities.

Now I want to write about our roads. I don't know if any have been repaved but it really doesn't matter. The fact is they are deplorable.

It's true potholes and deteriorated edges aren't widespread. It's also true their appearance reflects years of neglect [except

for the black toothpaste band-aiding]. It's also true worn out striping, absent striping, and severely faded stop signs raise issues of safety.

The roads need attention sooner rather than later.

A few years ago, I recommended — and the Board at the time

approved — depositing all money from the sale of Association-owned lots into an account to be used only for road repairs. I do wonder how much is in that special account today?

There are other infrastructure issues. Lakes and roads, as discussed here, are sufficient to frame the problem. The current Board depending, as Ms Stephan

wrote, on how they want to be remembered can either continue to neglect our valued assets or it can be pro-active and plan to begin correcting the many problems.

As Ms Stephan pointed out, there isn't carry-over of one Board's programs to the succeeding Board. Perhaps candidates for a new Board should be queried on whether they intend to continue the previous Board's programs or whether they feel obliged to take a different position?

Repairing and protecting our valued assets takes money — lots of money. That means a substantial increase in annual dues, a special assessment and/or taking out a loan. The latter, taking out a loan, would show positive results the soonest. The former, increased dues

and/or an assessment could be restricted to paying off the loan.

I sense a bit of "déjà vu" in writing this. The Small Planning Area A Steering Committee stepped back and asked of themselves, "What is needed to improve the future of our residents?" We came up with growth management, preserving the natural resources we value, and to plan the infrastructure needs to accomplish the first two.

In the case of the future of Seven Lakes North and South, the primary issue is infrastructure. The means of managing growth and preserving our natural resources are pretty much in place.

Yes, Seven Lakes is aging. It is not dying...yet. Continued neglect has serious consequences. It will diminish the

(See "Kinney," p. 27)

Please, mind your cats

Dear Editor:

My wife and I have recently had a problem with two free-roaming cats trespassing on our property on Wertz Drive, Seven Lakes West, and harassing our three house cats.

Two of these incidents occurred in the hours just before dawn, when a calico cat appeared on the front porch and patio. On another occasion, in mid-morning a black cat with a white-tipped tail approached the screened porch while our cats were on it. Our cats interpreted these "visits" as invasions of their turf, and flew into a frenzy in a futile effort to get at the intruders. Then our cats turned on one another, exhibiting what animal behaviorists call "misdirected aggression."

These incidents not only disturb our peace, they also threaten our cats' physical and emotional well-being. It is patently unfair for pet owners to permit their animals to trespass on the property of others. It is also unfair that we should lose sleep, risk injury to our cats, and have

to restrict our cats' use of the porch because of someone else's thoughtlessness.

The two cats that have been troubling us do not have collars and do not seem feral. Of course, they might be strays, but more likely they belong to people living on the West side. Asking around the neighborhood, we have not yet been able to determine who owns these cats.

If by chance their owners happen to read this letter, we ask that they stop allowing their animals to roam.

If we continue to be troubled by these unwelcome cats, we will have no choice but to trap them humanely and turn them over to the animal control authorities.

Tom and Tina Harper
Seven Lakes West

Thanks from Mike and Teresa

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As many of you know, Mike from Mike's Tire and Auto was involved in a motorcycle accident on November 15 in front of Master Kleen.

We would like to thank everyone for their telephone calls, food, flowers, visits, and prayers. It really means a lot to us that so many people care. Mike had several injuries, but he is recovering at home.

Words cannot express the appreciation that we have for everyone.

We would like for everyone to know that services at Mike's Tire and Auto will be the same, nothing will change.

Again, we thank everyone in the community for your prayers and concern.

Thanks,
Mike and Teresa Salyer
Mike's Tire & Auto

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Leach's letter misrepresented the facts

I feel compelled to respond to Mr. Leach's letter that appeared on page 26 of the November 21, 2007, issue of *The Seven Lakes Times*. He is talking about the proposed change to our by-laws that will not allow a named plaintiff, such as Mr. Hudson, from running for office.

This issue is not a matter of discrimination but rather a conflict of interest. This is the opinion written by Henry Jones, Esquire, the author of the Planned Community Act and House Bill 1541 dated October 18, 2007. "I received your e-mail requesting a clarified opinion on candidate qualification. In my opinion, a member who is a Plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Association has such a significant con-

flict of interest, I do not see how he could serve on the Board. Having represented Associations for twenty-five years including times when such Associations were involved in litigation against members and others, I think that the member's interest in litigation would so influence the Director's vision and decisions, on virtually any and all subjects, I do not see how he could serve on the Board and be a Plaintiff at the same time."

Mr. Leach stated: "If you decide to tread into these sacred waters, you must ask yourself where this path can lead. Although unlikely, perhaps a board member of the future might be controversial in other areas such as religion, sexual orientation,

socio-economic status, ethnicity, political views, etc. The list could go on and on."

Our covenants, by-laws, and rules and regulations are only valid if they are legally enforceable. For any resident or board member [as espoused

absurd. Mr. Leach's comments are an insult to the intelligence of all Seven Lakers.

He further states: "After all, it has only been a few short months since your sitting president, while a sitting member of this board, became involved in a citizens group that worked outside the mandate of the board."

Yes that is true. I was an active participant in the Concerned Citizens Council. What Mr. Leach fails to mention, is that at no time did I publicly criticize any board mem-

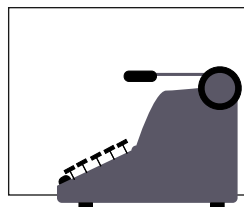
ber or the company police. The issue was whether or not Seven Lakes should maintain a company police department. I worked within the system and finally convinced the board to conduct a binding referendum. Suing the board was never an option.

Mr. Leach further states: "Of course, those recent past efforts were undercover in nature, so the message to the citizens of Seven Lakes is be secretive about it." This statement is simply not true. On numerous occasions my views were publicly expressed in *The Seven Lakes Times*.

It is not helpful to the Seven Lakes Community when such critical facts are misrepresented.

Your Turn

Don Truesdell
Seven Lakes
Landowners Assoc.



by one of the Association's Director at the working session of November 7, 2007] to even consider these types of changes is

Kinney

(Continued from page 26)

value of all of our homes. It won't attract folks such as those who settled here in the 80's and 90's.

It is really a matter of will on the part of Association members and the Board of Directors. And where there's a will, there's a way to not just maintain, but to improve what really matters, a

high quality of life.

Donna, you have stated the problem very well. Now look at it as an opportunity — the opportunity to address a long-neglected issue.

It's frustrating I know, but as Winston Churchill once said "Never, never . . . never give up."



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Ah Christmas! Innocence, tinsel, & lingerie

"Is that a Christmas card?" asked my five year old with great anticipation as it is her job to set out for display all such incoming holiday greetings. Amusingly enough, the card in question was not from family or friend, but was instead an advertisement from a global lingerie distributor — one with very few secrets from what I can tell. Darling hubby had

is simply no substitute for kids when sharing the joys of tree-trimming, present wrapping, or better yet unwrapping, and all the other little pieces and parts that makes each Christmas season so special.

I should come clean and admit that as a single adult I would hang a tree-shaped piece of green construction paper and

call it good.

What a Grinch! Of course, I blamed my meddling some housecats as my handy

excuse. They spent plenty of quality playtime suspended from the curtains, I saw no need to add another climbing structure to the room: especially one with tinsel, lights, and other alluring feline delicacies.

One year my decorating resolve weakened and I was rewarded for my effort with months of vacuuming pine needles out of the shag rug and one whopper of a vet bill. Yup, you guessed it. The world's stupidest cat — truly no exaggeration — stripped the tree of a silken thread-wrapped ball, enjoyed her own private holiday feast, and was promptly rushed to the hospital for major abdominal surgery.

Alas, now that I have more kids than cats in my house, I was forced to embrace all man-

ner of yuletide cheer and can honestly say that I am no longer the Scrooge of my youth.

Just recently, I was utterly charmed when my son announced that he had "this whole Santa Claus thing all figured out." In perfectly reasonable seven-year old logic he opined that Santa knew if you'd

been bad or good because God passed along that information. He came to this conclusion, he said, by reciting for me the opening prayer read each week at our church, which states "Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid..."

Surely no sticks and coal would

ever be placed in the stocking of a child so precious. Nope, this year it's more like a heap of Legos for him and oodles of glitter pens and fancy paper for my daughter.

Now if I could just find that phone number for my, um, friend, Victoria: I could finish my shopping!



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

thoughtfully placed the card in question in a position of prominence on our kitchen counter so I wouldn't inadvertently overlook the enclosed coupon. Enough said.

Trying to maintain some measure of dignity, I informed my impressionable daughter that no, this was not a card that needed to be displayed in our living room. But, as usual, my undernourished proper side was overwhelmed by my all-too-healthy wicked side and I couldn't resist asking if she thought we should send out a similar card.

"Oh no, Mommy, you can't do that! She's showing her belly button," protested my wise little angel.

Ah, the blessing of celebrating another December in the company of such innocence. There

Pinecrest choirs host concert Dec. 15 & 16

The Pinecrest Choral Program presents *Out of the Orient Crystal Skies* with James Brown conducting and accompanist Mari Jo Brown, on Saturday, December 15 at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 pm.

Both concerts will be held at Robert E. Lee Auditorium



at Pinecrest High School. Ticket prices are \$6 for adults, and \$4 for students and seniors.



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Cooperation in the Village — a great idea

Dear Editor:

With great interest I read the article in *The Seven Lakes Times*, "Group proposes more Village cooperation." After reading and digesting the article, I have come to the conclusion that the information has merit, worth, and value.

The fact that a group of concerned citizens is willing to take its time to organize, research, and develop a proposal to help further enhance the Seven Lakes Village Businesses is impressive. It appears from what I have been reading that this group, the Village Beautification Com-

mittee, has the interest and is willing to branch out and work with the Business Guild, as well as all other businesses and organizations in the Seven Lakes community. I can see this as a means to create more unity and harmony. It seems to me that everyone should be willing to give the proposal a try.

This proposed Community Service Committee and the Business Guild in the village have similar philosophies and thoughts. I am reminded of the statement that is written in the Seven Lakes Area Business Guild's pamphlet, "It is the Business Guild's hope

that through partnership and cooperation with the various landowners associations, civic groups, charitable and service organizations, and other community members, we can continue to make Seven Lakes a community we can all be proud to say is "Our Home."

As a citizen of Seven Lakes for many years, I hope that all the organizations that have been mentioned in the article will seriously consider what this proposal can do for our community.

As stated in one of the article's paragraphs, "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."

Isn't this what working together is all about?

If you, the residents, have not

read the article in *The Seven Lakes Times* [November 9 issue, page 7], please do so. The entire article has much information and something to really think about. I am excited about the proposal. My hope is that this proposal will become a reality. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

Barbara Horney
Seven Lakes West

Time to Light up the Lakes

by Frank Krohn

Seven Lakes North

Everyone knows that the holiday season is once again upon us. One of the things that this time of year brings to us is necessity to dig out all of ones lighted displays and get them installed at the edge of any lake on which you might live. Sorry, that means that anyone not living on a lake doesn't get that pleasure!

Our effort to have a lighted display at every house on a lake continues with new enthusiasm because each year we have made progress, albeit minor progress the last two years, and the lakes have reflected the joy

of the season.

For newcomers, or those who haven't participated in the past, the project is quite simple--if you are a lakeside owner try to put some kind of lighted arrangement at the lakeside in front of your property. Many kinds of Christmas tree displays have been used in the past along with other things such as a lighted golfer, a large wreath, and one year, even a Star of David.

With the mild weather we've been having, this is an ideal time to put out the displays in preparation for "Lighting Up The Lakes."

Both Lake Sequoia and Lake Auman will have their usual boat

tours scheduled to view the lights, usually around December 12. These events have grown in popularity because of the increase in the number of lights on the lakes and also the good food and drink that is supplied after the tour. More details will be available in the near future regarding the nights for the tours.

Good luck with your displays and Happy Holidays to everyone!

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Guild says thanks, but not right now

Dear Editor:

The Seven Lakes Area Business Guild Board of Directors met recently and reviewed the proposal by the Village Beautification Committee to unite the various non-profit and volunteer service organizations into a

"coordinating committee."

After some discussion, it was decided that we not support the proposal at this time.

Les Murray
President Seven Lakes
Area Business Guild



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Basic cookie dough and six variations

It's time for Christmas cookies. My back doesn't want to cooperate with baking several days, so to cut down on the work, I am going to use this method this year. With the basic recipe, you can make any four of the six kinds. Or you can increase the basic recipe by — and make all of them. Good luck and Merry Christmas.

In case you missed the Project Linus Cookbook, we still have copies, and Bookshop by the Lakes has them available for purchase as well.

Basic Cookie Dough

Ingredients

2 sticks soft butter
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup white sugar
7 1/2 cups plain flour
4 large eggs
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup milk
1 Tablespoon vanilla flavoring

Beat butter, add sugars, and beat well. Add eggs, one at a time. Combine dry ingredients. Add alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour. Stir in vanilla.

As I said above, this makes four of the following:

Apricot Cookies

2/3 cup apricot preserves
1/4 of the basic cookie dough
1 3/4 tbsp sifted powdered sugar
2 Tbsp extra butter, soft
1/2 cup sliced almonds

Knead two Tbsp preserves into dough. Shape into one inch balls. Place on cookie sheet. Flatten to 1/4 inch. Bake at 350 degrees for ten to twelve minutes. Combine remaining preserves, powdered sugar, and butter. Spread on cookies and sprinkle with almonds

Pinwheels

1/4 of the basic cookie dough
1 square unsweetened chocolate, melted

Divide cookie dough in half. Mix chocolate in one half. Roll each portion in 12"x5" rectangle. Press chocolate dough on white dough with rolling pin. Roll up jellyroll fashion, starting with long side. Cover. Chill at least an

hour. Cut into 1/4 slices. Bake at 350 degrees for ten to twelve minutes.

Date Bars

8 oz. chopped dates
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup hot water
1 Tbsp lemon juice

from Lucy's
Kitchen

Lucy Ingram
Seven Lakes South

Combine these four ingredients in saucepan. Bring to boil. Cook on low heat four to five minutes until thick. Cool. Press 2/3 of the basic cookie dough into 13"x9" greased pan. Spread date mixture over dough. Crumble

remaining dough over date mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for twenty-five minutes. Cool and cut into bars.

Peanut Butter Shortbread

2/3 cup peanut butter (I prefer crunchy)
1/4 basic cookie dough
36 Hershey chocolate kisses

Knead peanut butter into dough. Shape into 1 inch balls. Place on baking sheet. Press thumb in center of each. Put a chocolate kiss in hole. Bake at 350 degrees for twelve minutes.

Spice Thins

1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 of the basic cookie dough
2 squares vanilla candy coating
Extra cinnamon

Knead spices into dough.

Shape dough into 1 inch balls. Place on greased baking pan. Dip fork in flour and flatten balls to 1/4 inch. Bake at 350 degrees for ten minutes. Drizzle candy coating over cookies and sprinkle with cinnamon.

Almond Brickle Treats

1 package almond-brickle chips (If you can't find these, substitute another flavor)
1/4 basic cookie dough
12 oz. bag chocolate chips
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Mix chips with cookie dough. Press into 15"x10" greased pan. Bake at 350 degrees for fourteen minutes. Cover with chocolate chips. Cover with aluminum foil. Let stand ten minutes. Take foil off and spread chocolate on cookies. Sprinkle with nuts. Cut into 1x2 inch bars.

Happy Holidays and baking for the Season.



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Kiwanians honor Terrific Kids at WEE

by Frank Krohn

Seven Lakes Kiwanis

The Terrific Kids program, in conjunction with elementary schools and Kiwanis Clubs in various areas around the country, is designed to encourage

and recognize academic achievement and social adjustment at the elementary level.

The recipients are chosen by their teachers for each grading period and are recognized with diplomas at a school-wide pro-

gram where the recipients receive their diploma and have their pictures taken.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club is an enthusiastic supporter and participant in this program in concert with the West

End Elementary School. A group of Terrific Kids recognized during the first grading period of this academic year, received certificates on November 8.

The Terrific Kids are: First row; Nicholas Mabe, Jeremiah Anderson, Ella Kate Gilliam, Regan Styers, Sophia Vicera, Jordan Schrodt, Sabrina Chambers

Second row; Keith Alvarez, Katie Bachman, Sophie Romaine, Hannah Florence, Alicia Cox, Bradley Dick, Trequan

Smith, Robert Capps, Kylie McLaughlin, McKenzie Wagler, Pierce Strayer

Third row; Chloe Hoffman, Julia Horton, Connor Paszko, Harold Hill, Nereida Cruz, Pa Bounthanom, Hunter Goodwin, Dustin Kennedy

Fourth row; Jessica Ramirez, Nicholas Nance, Sabrae Locklear, Dy'Avion Brower, Chelsey Givens, Andrew Jones, Isaiah Hinson, Sierra McInnis, Hunter Williams.



West End Elementary Terrific Kids

Silent Auction and Raffle, Wine and Beer Tasting

The Sandhills Jewish Congregation wishes to invite the community to attend a silent auction and raffle event and a wine and beer tasting with delicious hor d'oeuvres at Elliot's on Linden on Wednesday, January 16 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

There is a great breadth and scope of items, including a catered cocktail party for twenty; a private suite for twelve at the San Francisco Giants baseball Stadium [to attend a game of your choice]; a lovely designer silk evening gown; golf; restaurant meals; and a beautiful four-poster bamboo king size bed! A time-share in Orlando near Disney World is available too. There is also a raffle for a 2 BR, 2-1/2 Bath house for a week in Oriental, NC.

Call Kathy at 246-0964 or email kempk39@aol.com. Check our website for more information and photos of the auction items including the vacation destinations at: <http://www.sandhillsjewish.org>.



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WEAR AND TEAR

The phrase, "normal wear and tear," can be a heart-rendering one.

A tenant will normally find it in the very small print of the standard lease in relation to the security deposit.

In general, the security will be returned at the end of the lease period less payment of damages — normal wear and tear is that physical deterioration which occurs with the normal use of property, without negligence, carelessness, accident or abuse.

The tenant is not responsible for normal wear and tear.

An important element in determining wear and tear is the length of the tenant's residency.

If an apartment had been inhabited by the same renter for three years, it may be reasonable to expect that the walls need to be painted and the carpeting needs to be cleaned.

A missing refrigerator door or gaping hole in the wall from an ax-throwing contest would clearly be construed as damages.

• • •

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West End 49ers are undefeated

The Seven Lakes-West End 49ers, a member of the Optimist 10-11-12 Tackle Football program, finished with a perfect 8-0 season. The final win was a come-from-behind victory in the championship round of the league playoffs. The 49ers single wing offense averaged thirty points a game while yielding only twelve.

The Sandhills Optimist Football program in only its third year of existence, has grown to over 300 players ranging in age from six to twelve years. With the renewed interest in local football in Moore County, it is expected that the program will continue to expand.

ue to expand.

The 49ers are: ; Left to right; first row, Cody Artman, Nick Castro-Giavanni, Daniel Ritchie, Jackson Maples, Conley Lomax, Chuck Hensley. Second row; Dylan Leija, Alex Adams, Will Morris, Zack Strickland, David Ivey, Brett Stewart, Reid Howell. Third row; Tanner Haley, Jeffery Carroll, Jacob Green, Daniel Harman, Jack Geshel, Dalton Bullard. Not pictured; Zack Strehle and Thomas McNeill. Back row; Coaches Dave Petrie, Dave Stewart, Monty Leija, Mike Bullard. Not pictured; Coach Tom Morris.



The West End 49ers

American Red Cross December Blood Drives

The American Red Cross is entering the Fall and Winter seasons still suffering from the blood shortage that has plagued the community throughout the Summer.

Currently there are five blood types at critically low levels—types O positive, O negative, B positive, B negative and A negative.

A healthy blood supply is vital—important:

- Patients need approximately 1,600 units [pints] of blood and blood products each day in our region.
- There is no substitute for blood. Patients depend on the generosity of volunteer blood donors.
- Blood and blood products are used to treat accident victims, cancer patients and patients undergoing surgery.
- Donating blood requires a small investment of time, but has a tremendous impact on the lives of patients and their families.

The Moore County Chapter of the American Red Cross has scheduled the following Blood Drives in December:

Friday, December 7, 11 am – 3:30 pm. St. Joseph of the Pines Health Center. Appointment 246-1139

Thursday, December 13, 9 am – 1:30 pm. Moore County

Agricultural Building in Carthage. Appointment 947-3471.

Thursday, December 13, 2 pm – 6:30 pm. First Baptist Church in Robbins. Appointment 948-3471.

Friday, December 14, 1:30 pm

– 6 pm. Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst. Appointment 692-8571.

Monday, December 17, 1:30 pm – 6 pm. First Baptist Church in Southern Pines. Appointment 692-8571.

Wednesday, December 19, 10 am – 3 pm. First Health Moore

Regional Hospital Conference Room. Appointment 715-1478.

There is no longer an upper age limit. Donors must be at

least seventeen years old and weigh 110 pounds.

To reach a Donor Counselor, call 866-562-7156.

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John 3:16, 17

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Troops express gratitude for shoeboxes



Members of the St. Andrews Equestrian Team and Seven Lakes Supporters.

The Equestrian Team of St. Andrews Presbyterian College received a very special recognition from some of the troops in Iraq, for the hundreds of shoe boxes received last holiday season. A flag flown at a camp in Iraq, along with a certificate, was presented to some of the individuals involved in last year's efforts.

After a community supper at the VFW in Southern Pines, Louise Eckersley, VFW Representative, presented the flag to Coach Carla Wennberg, students K'hill Lesemann and Ann Neal Thompson, and Sandi Carl, the liaison between the school group and the VFW. Lesemann

suggested raising the flag at St. Andrews, taking a picture of the event, and sending a copy back to Iraq to show their appreciation.

Shoe boxes collected for this holiday season are scheduled to arrive in Iraq and Afghanistan in time for Christmas.

USPS Holiday Mailing Advice

To ensure holiday delivery of packages and cards to domestic addresses, West End Postmaster Harold Jones, suggests mail be sent no later than Thursday, December 20. International and Military mail should be postmarked no later than December 11, for most APO and overseas addresses.

You can also beat the last minute rush and avoid long lines by sending your mail before these dates.

League

(Continued from page 11)

Mealing and committee member Linda Tableman are residents of Seven Lakes West, as is Moore County League President Jo Nicholas.

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, call Jo Nicholas at 673-3064.

Mocha Mamas

(Continued from page 10)

we know you'll come back again and again."

While customers have provided plenty of ideas and support, these fledgling business owners also credit their families with helping them succeed.

"We owe a lot to our husbands [Ernie Owens and David Michael] and my mother Carolyn Fowler," said Owens. "She was just being a mom and was always ready to go and come spend her time over here along with my mother-in-law, Sarah Harris, helping us to get started."

Michael's said her father and stepmother, Bill and Lynda Parke, have also been a great support for them.

Mocha Mamas is open Monday through Friday from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. The shop is available for special events and offers gift certificates in any amount. Mocha Mamas can be reached at 673-3040.

"Come on over," said Owens, "and meet the most important

people in the world – our customers!"



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Vicky Strider

(Continued from page 8)

vehicles designed for hunting uses. Robbins is also home to a branch of Situs, a servicing company for Wall Street.

According to Sherri McNeill, a Situs employee and the wife of Pastor Kenneth McNeill of First

Baptist Church in Robbins, the company is based in Houston, Texas, and has locations in New York, London, Tokyo, and Little Rock, Arkansas. Situs handles bank loans to larger lenders.

"It's amazing what we do here dealing with a lot of insider infor-

mation. We know what is going down because we do the loan work," said McNeill. "It's very exciting to work with big names and dealings, people that we would never have connections with here in Robbins."

Strider concluded, "We're very

excited to see new businesses especially like Fibrowatt [see related story]. What is going to help us more than anything is getting any business to come here, small or large," said Strider. "And we need the traffic to keep these few businesses alive."

"Once folks get to come over here and utilize the services, they often come back and get acquainted," said Strider.

"So come up to Robbins to see what's going on here," she stressed, "and please drop by my office and say hello!"

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FibroMont

(Continued from page 6)

"I am comfortable with their technology and our state's monitoring practices," said Huberth referring to environmental concerns regarding emissions. "In my experience the state is on top of that stuff." He continued, "As far as the disposal of biomass and poultry litter from the county, it'll be a plus and even more so if they [FibroMont] get a market for their ash by-product."

Huberth acknowledged that the proposed plant would necessitate a large industrial site, "That is just the nature of the machine, but I think that they have selected a good location."

Massive power plants were not what CEO Fraser said his father had in mind when he developed poultry litter-fueled technology. He explained that his father was inspired to try burning litter in 1988, while working in the Scottish Whiskey business.

"In the 1980's, the oil price went through floor and made his prices uncompetitive," said Fraser. "He decided to try burning poultry litter and it worked!"

Fraser said the opportunity to expand the process into power plant applications came after Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher deregulated the energy industry.

Fibrowatt's first plant, built in England in 1992, has been operating for fifteen years. The company constructed two additional plants in England, and then at locations in Scotland and Japan. The first poultry litter-fueled plant in the United States, was built by Fibrowatt in Benson, Minnesota, and became operational in Spring 2007.

Noting that in North Carolina

alone there are more chickens than in the whole of the United Kingdom, Fraser said the locations of proposed plants in the United States as well as specifically in the Piedmont of North Carolina, were determined by the density of poultry operations and farms.

According to Fraser, the final location of FibroMont hinges on several factors including physical characteristics of the site, access and electrical service to the site, as well as on relationships with locals, communities, and power companies. He said a decision will be announced by the end of the year or by January 2008.

While those in attendance at the Robbins Open House meeting have little control over the major financial decisions to be made between Fibrowatt and

the power companies, there was nothing but positive comments regarding the company's relationship with the public.

"I'm cheering and hoping that they will find favor with us as they are making their decisions," said Moore County Commissioner Cynthia Morgan, representative of District III which includes Robbins. "We'd love to have them come to our community and be a part of northern Moore County. We've lost jobs and this would bring jobs and be a win-win." She continued, "This is a clean industry and does not harm the environment and if there is anything we can do at the

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Pet parents may also select a Gift Tag from the Wish Tree and make their gift at the checkout counter. Funds from this gift will be divided among the rescue groups who participate in the Aberdeen PetSmart programs, including Sandhills Animal Rescue League.

Donations Welcome

Sandhills Animal Rescue League welcomes all tax deductible donations for the holiday. We would welcome donations of paper towels, rawhide chews, cat toys, metal food bowls, water buckets, or gently used linens and bedding — and dog and cat beds old or new.

Thank You!

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.

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

next Wednesday, on a bylaws revision that would make Hudson ineligible to serve as a Director because he is a named plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Association.

The election of Directors is finalized at the Annual Meeting in March.

Bylaws Revision

Michael Florence raised questions about whether the bylaws change that would remove Hudson's eligibility violated a recent amendment of the North Carolina Planned Community Act that prohibits the executive Board of an Association from unilaterally changing the eligibility requirements.

Apparently referring to an opinion from one of the Association's attorneys that the provisions of the Act do not apply to the SLLA, Florence said, "Opinions are like noses; everybody has one."

President Don Truesdell assured Florence that the provision in question applies only to Associations that were formed after January 1, 1999 or that have elected through a vote of their membership to be governed by the provisions of the Planned Community Act.

Truesdell said there was a simple process that would bring the SLLA under the Act — namely, holding a referendum and winning the support of two-thirds of all landowners, roughly one thousand affirmative votes.

Florence asked that the vote on the bylaws amendment be delayed; Truesdell said it would take place as scheduled on December 12.

Email voting

Director Hudson then took the floor to ask that the Board consider eliminating a provision in the bylaws that allows Directors to vote via email on a matter that has been fully discussed in earlier meetings.

"I feel that email voting is not correct for the Board," Hudson said, adding that "it contributed to the situation we now find ourselves in with the driving range issue." The vote in which Directors decided to sign a controversial agreement with Seven Lakes Country Club regarding the residential development of the Club's driving range was conducted largely via email.

Director Nuti, who headed a committee that rewrote the bylaws last year, said the email voting provision was intended to be used for emergency situations.

Director Laura Douglass noted that both she and Hudson had recently voted via email not because there was an emergency, but simply because they were scheduled to be out of town when a particular item was to be voted on. She suggested making it explicit in the bylaws that email votes were for emergencies only. Director Florence echoed those sentiments.

Director Randy Zielsdorf said email votes should be rare, but added that he expected other Directors would find themselves in need of using an email vote when they could not be present for a vote on an important issue.

"I don't like email voting under any circumstance," Director Donna Stephan said, though

she admitted that it may be necessary in cases of emergency.

President Truesdell, on the other hand, spoke strongly in favor of email votes. "I go to too many meetings already," Truesdell said. To have a special meeting every time the board needs to make a decision is unworkable, he added. "I think as long as a matter has been fully discussed and there are no outstanding no questions, then email votes are needed."

At that point in the discussion, Community Manager Dalton Fulcher noted that ten days notice is required for proposed revisions to the bylaws, and the next Board meeting is only a week away. So any action on the matter could not be taken until late January.

Truesdell asked Nuti to work on rewording the email voting provisions so that new language could be considered at the January meeting.

Tractor trailers

Hudson then asked the Board to revisit a section of the rules and regulations, approved earlier in the year, that prohibits overnight parking of trailer tractors in Seven Lakes North and South.

After an emotional debate that stretched on for weeks, the Board implemented the tractor ban, but grandfathered in any resident truck owner operators who were members in good standing as of July 25.

Hudson noted that that language only applied to two resi-

(See "SLLA," p. 37)

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Westside budget

(Continued from front page)

is more than \$82,000 lower than the current year's budget.

Cuts were made in a number of areas, including 2.9 percent in Administration and 8.4 percent in Administration Support — the latter reflecting hard work by members of the insurance com-

mittee to find ways to cut premiums, Kirst explained.

Among the increases, Kirst said the security budget is projected to be up 20 percent, reflecting the addition of a roving patrol. Maintenance and landscaping budgets will increase because of the higher cost of gas and oil. An

increase is also expected in the cost of picking up roadside litter in the community.

Capital expenditure in 2008-2009, aside from the dam repair, \$51,000 for boundary fencing along Currie Mill Road and behind the West Side Park complex. Total capital expenditures,

not including the dam, are projected to be \$88,500.

Kirst noted that the budget, as proposed, will add nothing to the SLWLA reserve accounts, which she said was one of the Finance Committee's goals for this year.

Revenue options

Picking up on Kirst's point about reserves, President Haggard began his discussion of revenue options by noting that the community's reserves have decreased by \$300,000 since 2002. "And our infrastructure is not getting any better over time," Haggard added.

He also noted that in the past seven years, SLWLA members have seen a total of \$135 in dues increases: \$100 to fund the construction of West Side Park, and another \$35 last year. Repaving the community's 24

miles of roads, at today's costs, would set the Association back \$2.5 – \$3.0 million, Haggard said. "That doesn't mean we are going to do it or do it all at once, but, sooner or later, they will have to be repaved," he said.

Haggard's point appeared to be that the immediate \$300,000 cost of repairing the dam is not the only challenge facing the community — and not the only thing that needs to be considered when examining options for bringing in more revenue.

One option for addressing the dam repair is to simply assess the membership for the cost. However, that option is complicated by the agreement that merged all of the Westside property owners associations into the SLWLA.

When the agreement was signed in 2003, members of the Pinnacle and Beacon Ridge

(See "Westside," p. 38)

SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 37)

dents at the time. One has since moved away and the other is not currently driving a truck.

Hudson asked that the grandfather clause be removed, leaving in place a simple ban on overnight parking of big trucks.

The ensuing debate revealed a diversity of opinion among Board members not only about Hudson's proposal, but also about the number of individuals grandfathered in by the language adopted earlier this year.

Director Nuti suggested that as many as five truck drivers who reside in the community could qualify under the grandfather clause to park their rigs in the community overnight. Truesdell insisted that only those who met the criteria of the grandfather clause on the date the rule was enacted would qualify — and further insisted that only the trucker who has since left the community met those criteria.

In effect, then, Truesdell asserted, there is a de facto complete ban on the overnight parking of big rigs on the North and South Sides. However, he argued against changing the language in the rules and regulations, saying it served as a record of how the Board resolved the issue, should questions arise in the future about who was or was not grandfathered under the rule.

Ultimately, Truesdell ended the debate on the matter by asking each Board member whether they wanted to reopen the issue. Douglass, Zielsdorf, Nuti, and Truesdell all said no. "That's it. It's not going to be reopened. Case closed," Truesdell said.

Other Business

In other business, the Board:

- Heard from Hannah Florence and Hannah and Gillian Munro that funds are needed to bet-

ter maintain the stables. The young ladies offered to have bake sales and lemonade stands to help raise money for repairs.

- Learned that Fulcher had promoted Debbie Caulk to fill the position recently vacated by Vicky Strider and would fill Caulk's position with Brenda Massimo, working three days per week, and Alice McPheeters, working two days per week. Massimo has already started work in the office.
- Heard a suggestion from Douglass that annual dues packets include an check-off form

that would allow landowners to contribute money above and beyond their dues payments and designate the projects on which those funds would be spent.

- Learned that Truesdell will ask the Board to increase the amount budgeted for dam maintenance from \$60,000 to \$100,000 to cover work needed to begin a proactive program of dam maintenance.
- Heard from Douglass that the Women of Seven Lakes had purchased new holiday decorations for the North Clubhouse, gates, and stables.

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Westside meeting

Associations were paying lower annual dues than members of the Westside and Morganwood associations. A schedule of increase for the former over the past few years have been gradually bringing them into parity with the latter. Under that scheme parity would have been reached in Fiscal year 2008-2009, but last years \$35 dues increase put off parity until Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

The agreement also prevents the levying of any special assessments until parity is reached.

So, one option for covering the cost of the dam repair is to simply raise dues on the former Westside/Morganwood members by about 20 percent. Dues for the former Beacon Ridge and Pinnacle members would increase under the maximum allowed by the agreement: twelve percent or less, depending on the lot, until parity is achieved.

Haggard said this option has the advantage of not only paying for the dam repair, but also raising dues in years going forward, which could help the community rebuild its reserves. The disadvantage is that it places more of the immediate burden of the dam repair cost on one group of landowners.

Another option, developed by SLWLA Legal Director Hugh Beckwith, takes the novel approach of cutting SLWLA dues by \$35, which will bring them into parity with Beacon Ridge and

Pinnacles dues in the coming fiscal year, permitting the Board to ask for a special assessment within the terms of the 2003 agreement. The advantage is an equal sharing of the burden, Haggard said. The disadvantage is that this option does not address the long-term need for building reserves.

Haggard presents a third option in the December edition of the SLWLA Newsletter, which would involve either dipping into existing reserves or borrowing money to repair the dam, putting off any dues increase or special assessment until parity is reached in FY 2009-2010. The advantage of this approach is that the actual cost of the dam repair will be known before an assessment. The disadvantage is that it could deplete the SLWLA reserves, as well as further delay the much-needed rebuilding of the reserves.

Under SLWLA bylaws, the membership votes to approve or deny each year's budget at the annual meeting. Any special assessment must also be approved by the membership.

Both Kirst and Haggard noted that there is substantial time to mull over and discuss the budget and revenue options before the Annual Meeting in March. They encouraged landowners to study the issues and share their thinking with Board members.

Other Business

Aside from Kirst and Haggard's presentation on the budget for the upcoming year, during the November 27 General Meeting, Westsiders:

- Heard a presentation from developer Ron Myers, of Village Properties in Pinehurst, who would like to build twelve patio homes on a parcel that lies adjacent to the exit road at the back gate. The bulk of the 13-acre parcel would be given to SLWLA for use as a park or open space. Maintenance of the grounds and exteriors would be handled by a maintenance association — or through a special maintenance fee paid to SLWLA. The approximately 2,000 square foot units would have stone and hardiplank exteriors and be expected to sell in the \$275,000 to \$300,000 range.
- Heard a letter, read by Community Manager Tony Robertson, from Rob and Brenda Jon Moore of 110 Longleaf Court near the Pinnacle, who described a break-in at their home and urged the Board to deal more effectively with security in the community — and, in particular, in the area in back of the Seven Lakes Plaza Shopping Center. President Haggard said he felt security issues require a multi-layered approach that begins with the individual homeowner and includes the immediate

neighborhood, the Association, and the county Sheriff's Office. A meeting for members of the Pinnacle and and Beacon Ridge Lakeview Homes neighborhoods has been scheduled for December 10 at 6:30 pm in the West Side Park Community Center to discuss security issues.

- Heard from Environment Director Mary Anne Fewkes that members of the Loop the Lake Committee, including Tim and Sherri Niewald, as well as Rick Jingle and daughter Cassie, Jeff Barnhart, and John Blake, helped build a trail from the Johnson Point parking lot to the playground area, so that families won't have to walk in the road to reach the Point.
- Heard from Fewkes that the Annual Holiday boat parade is

scheduled for December 16, starting at 5:00 pm at Pine Knoll Island.

- Heard a report from Kathy Kirst on the completed audit of SLWLA financial records by Busbee and Company of Southern Pines. The auditors made a number of suggestions for process improvements that are being implemented. Copies of the audit are available in the Community Center for review by landowners.
- Heard that George Jenner will be stepping down as chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee in order to focus on development of the community database. Robert Brooks and Bud Sales will take over as co-chairs of the committee.



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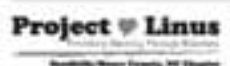
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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

before we were sworn in," Morgan said, referring to Caddell, Melton, and herself, who were elected in 2006. After Monday night's meeting, Morgan confirmed that all five of the current members of the Board attended the meeting. She said the group had agreed that the Chairmanship would rotate each year and that Tim Lea would be elected Chairman for 2008.

After Morgan nominated Lea for the post, there was a long pause with no second. Finally, Lea himself seconded her motion, saying he did so to make clear how current members of the Board honor their commitments. The motion was quickly defeated with only Morgan and Lea voting in favor.

Caddell then nominated McKenzie, with a second from Melton. After McKenzie's election, Caddell nominated Melton as Vice Chair, and McKenzie seconded. Lea offered a substitute motion nominating Morgan as Vice Chair, but that motion died for lack of a second. Melton was then elected to the post.

"Thank you all for making me the Chairman again," McKenzie said once the elections were concluded. "I hope it is the right thing to do. I understand Cindy's comment earlier on her motion. I'm sorry that there is some disappointment but we are going to go ahead and do what we think is right."

The five sitting commissioners have often unanimously supported key initiatives. They all supported the inclusion of a \$69.5 million education bond package and a land transfer tax on this November's ballot. All five recently voted for a substantial rewrite of the county's subdivision ordinance. All have

expressed a concern that county infrastructure needs have been neglected for too long and have expressed a willingness to raise taxes, if necessary, to remedy the resulting problems.

Yet Lea has often found himself at odds with his fellow Commissioners — for example, over the cost of a 21-acre tract of land in Carthage that the County recently purchased as the site of a new government center, public safety building, and jail. Lea and Caddell, in particular, have had some testy exchanges over the past year.

"We now have a three-two split on this Board," Lea told reporters after Monday night's meeting. However, Morgan insisted that she had no problem with McKenzie's leadership of the Board, but nominated Lea strictly to honor what she felt was a firm commitment made last year.

Government Center

Commissioners were presented with the rough draft of a layout for a new county government center, presented by architects from the firm LS3P Boney, which hopes to win the design contract for the project.

The \$24 million project includes a 52,000 square foot building to house county administrative offices, a 44,000 square foot public safety building, and more than 350 parking spaces. A new jail is also expected to be built on the 21-acre site, which lies between Dowd Road and McNeill Streets, downhill from the Historic Courthouse in the center of Carthage. The cost of that facility is not included in the current \$24 million estimate or the design contract that LS3P Boney is seeking.

The architects met with representatives of each county

department — including the Sheriff's office — in order to assess the county's needs for space. Both Commissioners Lea and Caddell expressed a concern that the project be designed to accommodate the growth in county staff expected over the next five or ten years — or perhaps an even longer timeframe.

Caddell asked whether the proposed two-story administrative building could be built in a way that would facilitate adding a third floor later. When the architects said that would be impractical, Caddell asked whether it might be better to build a three

story-building, even if the top floor were left unused for several years. Architect Katherine Peele said the firm had done just that in a recent project at NC State University — and had found university departments ready to use the third floor by the time construction was completed.

Lea asked whether greater economies could be realized by combining the administrative facility and public safety facility in a single building, or combining the public safety offices and the jail. The architects explained that state regulations place much stricter — and much more expen-

sive — building codes on the jail and public safety facility. For example, they estimated a construction costs of \$162 per square foot for the administrative building, but \$230 for the public safety facility. Requirements for bullet proof glass, intrusion detection systems, and other high tickets items drive up the price of buildings that house law enforcement, they explained.

If the public safety and administrative facilities were combined, the entire structure may have to meet the stricter and more expensive codes, potentially wiping out any savings. (See "Government Center," p. 40)

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Government Center

(Continued from page 39)

ing out any savings. Even stricter and more expensive codes governing the construction of the jail may create the same disincentive to combine it and the public safety facility.

The architectural team explained that they had attempted to work with the natural slope of the land in developing a layout for the site, directing drainage down the slope to a catch basin or pond at its lowest point. The layout also leaves open a large tract that could accommodate an additional 50,000 square foot building and associated parking.

Noting that the Board has seen the projected cost of Public Works projects escalate 40 percent over the course of a year or two, Commissioner Lea asked what sort of inflation had been built into the \$24 million estimated cost of the project. Peele replied that construction could begin in approximately twelve months, and so the team had built in an eight percent inflation factor. She noted that a recent downturn in residential construction appears to have eased the upward pressure on commercial construction costs.

The Commissioners are

expected to discuss the project in more detail at a retreat planned for January 10 and 11, including whether to award the design contract to LS3P Boney. Commissioner Lea asked that the presentations and discussion at that time include alternatives for funding the project.

Lucas Road Complaint

Seven Lakes West resident Deb Boley presented the Commissioners with a petition signed by 55 Westsiders asking that the County act to remedy a nuisance situation on Lucas Road. The Boleys live on Finch Gate, which backs up to the Lucas Road area. Ms. Boley said one Lucas Road family, living in a condemned home that lacks both public water and electricity, have a junkyard on their property and have eighteen dogs chained to various junked cars and equipment.

The barking of the dogs disturbs the Boleys and their neighbors at all hours of the day and night, she said, noting that she was also concerned about the welfare of the animals. Calls to County Animal Control have brought action but no resolution to the problem Boley said.

Noting that the Commission-

ers are moving toward reforming the County's animal ordinance, Boley said, "The reason we are here is that we hope the laws will be updated. We wanted you all to be aware of the situation."

She said that she and her neighbors were also concerned about guns being fired in the area. Calls to the Sheriff's Office about that problem produced no relief because the activity was taking place in the county, outside the boundaries of any municipality, she said.

Late in the meeting, during the the time set aside for Commissioner comments, Commissioner Melton, who has taken on the task of updating the animal welfare ordinances, said he had driven down Lucas Road to assess the situation, after hearing about the concerns of the Boleys and their neighbors.

"I would encourage every commissioner to run down that road," Melton said. "You would not believe the things exist in the United States that are on that road. We will have to address this problem when we do the ani-

mal ordinance, but that is not the only thing that needs to be addressed down that road. You should make a point to ride that road."

On Tuesday, Area A Steering Committee Chairman Dave Kinney told *The Times* that the members of that committee had in fact taken the trip down Lucas Road, and, partly as a result of that trip, had added to their recommendations the development of a county nuisance ordinance.

Persistent Drought

Public Works Director Dennis Brobst told the Commissioners that the drought that has stalked the state through the summer shows little sign of abating. Noting that many have drawn parallels between this past summer and 2002, when some towns ran out of water, Brobst said the better comparison is to 1998 — the first year of a four-year drought that led to the severe water shortages in 2002.

In 2002, Brobst noted, a dry summer came to an end when the rains started in October and

continued steadily until March of 2003. This fall has seen no such relief. "In November we had a whopping 0.55 inches of rainfall for the month," Brobst said.

Utility Operations Manager Ben Vaughn told the Commissioners that water conservation efforts have been working. Both Pinehurst and Seven Lakes customers have met or beat their target 30% reduction in water use every day during November, Vaughn said. "It took going to Stage III Water Conservation — eliminating all outside watering — to meet that goal," he added.

Asked whether Public Works could provide an estimate of the number of days of water available — a measurement that many cities in the region have been using — Vaughn said that calculation is simpler in systems that depend on above-ground reservoirs, rather than the groundwater that makes up the bulk of Moore County's supply.

Vaughn said that the groundwater level dropped ten feet dur-

(See "Water," p. 41)

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Water

(Continued from page 40)

ing the 2002 drought and that began to reduce the base flow of groundwater into creeks and streams. In October, the groundwater level dropped to three feet below normal, which triggered the move to Stage 3 mandatory water conservation.

"We have drawn down three feet, which is thirty percent of our water supply," Brobst said. The aquifer rebounded a bit in October, and was only down 2.2 feet when a reading was taken in early November. But the December reading showed the groundwater level down 2.6 feet.

Sewage spill

Brobst told Commissioner that a series of meetings with a Public Works contractor had put in place safeguards that should prevent any repeat of a sewage spill that dumped more than one million gallons of wastewater from the county's treatment system into McDeed's Creek.

The spill was caused when

the contractor failed to adequately maintain a series of temporary bypass pumps that are being used while a Southern Pines lift station is being replaced. The contractor locked a gate, preventing a delivery of fuel oil to power the pumps, according to the County.

Brobst said it was the largest spill he had been involved with in his career. Both county and state officials responded quickly, setting up sampling on McDeed's Creek above and below the spill. Brobst said a station where the creek enters Crystal Lake never recorded fecal coliform levels that exceeded the state standard for swimming in the water.

Commissioner McKenzie asked Brobst whether the county would be fined by the state as a result of the spill. Brobst replied that a fine was possible, but would be the responsibility of the contractor.

Other business

In other business Monday night the Commissioners:

- Approved \$15,000 in funding to assist in the relocation of BRS Fabrications to Aberdeen. The company produces whole-airplane parachute systems and is expected to employ 30-50 workers at above-market rates.
- Approved an amendment to an agreement between the county and Southern Flooring that will allow a Florida precision tool company to relocate to Robbins, constructing a new plant on six acres of the Southern Floorcovering site, which was purchased from the Moore County Economic Development Corporation. The new company is expected to hire five employees.
- Awarded a contract to Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates for the design and grant administration of a revitalization project that will bring county water and other improvements to

sixteen homes in the Addor community.

- Adopted a Bond Reimbursement Resolution that will allow the county to repay itself from the proceeds of school and college bonds for any initial capital expenses that must be paid for with county funds before the bonds are issued.
- Approved a new Vehicle Fleet Policy for county-owned vehicles to bring the county's policies into compliance with IRS regulations.
- Approved an amendment to the contract for the county's employee health clinic that will allow it to be staffed forty hours a week, two days a week by doctors and three days by medical practitioners. This amends an on-going contract that ends in June. Commissioner Lea asked the County Manager to make sure a number of bids are obtained for the renewal of the contract in July.
- Heard from the county man-

ager that Moore County is likely to benefit from federal grants aimed at preserving farmland in the area surrounding the Fort Bragg complex, where major expansions are planned in the next few years. County Extension Agent Craven Hudson told the Board that his office has already received funding for a new agent who will focus on helping local farmers develop a market for their produce at the military bases. Ultimately, the project may involve grants that would allow the county to participate in the purchase or lease of development rights, in order to preserve farmland in the county.

- Heard from the County Manager that the engineering firm McGill and Associates will present on December 13 an executive summary of a comprehensive study of the county's water needs and potential sources of water.

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SEVEN LAKES WEST — great 3BD/2BA brick home in charming Seven Lakes West neighborhood. Association fee includes all grounds keeping. Offered at \$232,000. Call **Hagan & Hagan GMAC Real Estate** 910-585-2087.

GENTLEMAN'S HORSE FARM — located in Carthage, NC. 8.5 acres, beautiful contemporary home w/open floor plan, 3BR, 3.5BA, fenced pasture, barn,

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KAYAKER'S DREAM — www.greatrentals.com Harker's Island, NC "Picture Perfect"

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BEACON RIDGE WOODED WATERFRONT LOT — great views. \$379,000 nego. 919-235-5706 or 910-673-1011. *2tc 12/7*

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.

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

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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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CLASSIFIEDS

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New Construction, Move in Ready. Four bedroom, 2.5 bath, AND bonus room. Open floor plan and high ceilings throughout. Hardwoods, tile, & granite. Level lot & screened porch.



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Golf Front **\$59,500**

TBD Beacon Ridge Drive,
Seven Lakes West
Fabulous Golf Front **\$63,000**

121 Harwich, Seven Lakes South
Golf Front **\$69,900**

Lot 4 Foxfire Road
Beautiful 10 acre tract of land with lots of trees. Sandy Run Creek runs through the rear portion of the property **\$222,000**



5 CUMMINGS CT, FOXFIRE • \$239,000

Excellent Value! This 3Bd/2Ba home with bonus rm has curb appeal & a stylish interior. Hardwoods, tile, crown molding, chair railing, 9 foot ceilings, fireplace, under counter lighting & much more. Large, level lot with irrigation!



13 WILDWOOD LN, FOXFIRE • \$365,000

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BUYERS SHOULD IDEALLY save up to 20 percent or more of the price they intend to pay for their first home.

The risk of putting down less than 20% with many mortgages brings the possibility of higher rates and private mortgage insurance, which can add significantly to your monthly bill.

The less you put down, the higher your loan balance becomes and your monthly payment becomes too burdensome. As a rule of thumb, your monthly mortgage payment should not exceed 25%-30% of your current household gross monthly income.

Set up a separate account for your "house" account. Don't intermingle it with other savings, so you can keep track of how you are doing. Also, don't put this money into risky securities.

The temptation to make a "big bundle" should always be outweighed by your commitment to save a "little bundle".

Access FFA: Friends, Family and Associates. Nearly 23 percent of first down payments come as "gifts" or "loans" from relatives and friends, according to a recent survey by the National Association of Realtors. And, clean up your credit history.

Before approaching lenders, first-time buyers should give themselves the financial equivalent of a complete physical exam. Check your credit score and credit reports with the three major bureaus and fix any errors. Pay down any credit card debt.

These simple guidelines will help you plan and save for your first home.

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.**