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July 24, 2009

Afghanistan briefing



Sgt. Clint Mack of the 82nd Airborne, shown here with his father-in-law, Kiwanian Sammy Gilmore, recently gave Seven Lakes Kiwanis an update on the war in Afghanistan. [See story on page 2.]

Building vote splits board

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

In a contentious 3-2 vote, Moore County's Board of Commissioners decided Monday night that a new county administration building will be located on the 21-acre "Grimm Property" in downtown Carthage, a site that will also be used for a new jail and public safety building.

ing.

The vote came late in the lengthy July 20 regular meeting of the Board, on a motion by Commissioner Jimmy Melton, seconded by Commissioner Larry Caddell and supported by Chairman Nick Picerno.

Commissioner Tim Lea reacted strongly to Melton's motion: "You can sit here and put your

head in the sand and act like that somewhere down the road, if we increase the need to have a detention center that can house up to 500 or 550 prisoners, that we're not going to need to have a court system that can process that kind of flow. Or we can look at it through realistic common-sense eyes and take the politics (See "Commissioners," p. 16)

Reward offered in Auman boat theft

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] is offering a reward of \$1,400 or more for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those who stole Paul Parks pontoon boat late Tuesday Night, July 14, and rammed it into Joseph Mike's bulkhead [See related story on page 3.]

The Board of Directors approved the reward in a special emergency meeting held on Monday morning, July 20. President Ron Shepard opened the discussion with two suggested responses to the incident: offering a reward to help identify the

perpetrators and reinstituting a program of hiring off-duty Sheriff's officers to patrol the community on a part-time basis.

On a motion from Director Ed Silberhorn, the Board committed \$1,000 in Association resources to a reward fund; later in the meeting, four landowners each committed another \$100 to swell the pot. Additional contributions are welcome and may be made by contacting the Westside landowners office.

The Board on Monday also approved using a portion of the Security budget allocated for a Compliance/Security officer to hire off-duty Sheriff's officers to (See "Reward," p. 24)

Dam repair cost exceeds \$500,000

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

An additional ten thousand square feet of slurry required to complete repairs at Lake Auman Dam increased the total cost of the project by \$68,175, Director Mick Herdrich reported during the Tuesday, July 14 Work Session of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors. That total included a negotiated reduction of \$6,600 in equipment costs.

"The slurry wall was a lot longer and deeper than anticipated," Herdrich said.

ated," Herdrich said.

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the additional expense using monies drawn from the Association's Contingency Fund.

The slurry wall is a 1,300 foot barrier that will prevent water from passing through the upper portion of the dam. Stretching across the middle of the earthen structure, the average wall depth is twenty-two feet, but it drops down as low as forty feet in one section.

Anticipated repairs to the dam (See "Westside," p. 22)

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Sgt. Mack briefs Kiwanians on Afghanistan

by Frank Krohn

Seven Lakes Kiwanis

On July 14, the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club was introduced to a very impressive member of the Armed Forces.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376, faxed to 910-673-0210, or e-mailed to mail@sevenlakes-times.net.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
August 7	July 31
August 21	August 14
Sept. 4	August 28
Sept. 18	Sept. 11
October 2	Sept. 25
October 16	October 9
October 30	October 23
Nov. 13	Nov. 6
Nov. 24*	Nov. 19*
Dec. 11	Dec. 4
Dec. 22*	Dec. 17*

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

SFC Clint Mack of the 82nd Airborne, the son-in-law of Kiwanis members Sammy and Becky Gilmore, and now stationed at Ft. Bragg, spoke to the Club about Afghanistan and his experiences while on duty there.

After showing a short video of actual military operations in Afghanistan, Sgt. Mack proceeded to give a short history of the country, its people and its politics. Its history has been fraught with warfare for many centuries, both from within (tribal warfare) and from many external sources.

These conflicts have substantially reduced the ability of the country to govern and sustain itself. Although water is plentiful, there is very little running water, and most water comes from wells. 80% of its GDP is from opium while the country meets only 30-40% of its food needs.

Sgt. Mack outlined the political turmoil since the Soviets took charge in 1978, their defeat in 1987, and the series of events that led to the rise of the Taliban and its counterinsurgency efforts. The Taliban, its religious fanati-

cism, and desire to rid the Country of all infidels is what the US are fighting there now. Unfortunately, the struggle has fallen into the same pattern as we have been facing in Iraq, namely hit and run warfare using IED's and suicide attacks on both the native population as well as the opposing military. Finding the enemy is the toughest job. Once found, rooting them out is easier and almost 100% successful.

Today's fight is two-fold, both portions important. We must continue to destroy the attempts by the Taliban to rule the Country while successfully winning

the minds and hearts of the general population. Sgt. Mack feels that progress is being made in both areas, albeit painfully slow.

Americans need to be supportive of the efforts going on there and trust that the counter insurgency will be conquered, and that the people will overcome their historical tribal differences and develop a strong national government that will develop the country for its natives, and reject the outside influences of forces like Al Qaeda.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes CC.

Pinecrest High School Freshman Orientation

Pinecrest High School will host its freshman orientation on Thursday, July 30, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The orientation is primarily for the students, but parents are welcome to attend.

The day is divided into 25-minute sessions covering the following areas:

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Detective expects arrests in boat theft

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The Moore County Sheriff's Office is investigating the theft of a pontoon boat on Lake Auman that resulted in significant property damage, an incident that prompted the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] to offer a reward of \$1,400 or more for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators. [See related story on page 1.]

Moore County Sheriff's investigator Detective Kip Dennis told *The Times* on Tuesday that the incident involved serious crimes, including felony larceny. He also said he is optimistic about being able to make arrests in the case.

According to an incident report filed by Sheriff's Officer Jonathan Cole, he and Detective Joshua Craven were called to the Paul Parks residence at 151 Baker Circle early on the morning of Wednesday, July 15, on a complaint of a stolen pontoon boat. Parks told the officers that his boat had been moored to his

pier the previous night, but was missing on Wednesday morning.

While interviewing Mr. Parks, the officers learned that Parks' boat had been found by Joseph Mike, at 143 Baker Circle, at 6:00 am that morning. With its motor still running and in gear, the boat was pressed against Mike's pier.

Mike said the operators had apparently jumped from the boat after heading it toward his bulkhead. Mike told *The Times* that the impact damaged both pontoons, which will require an estimated \$10,000 or more in repairs. The boat rammed Mike's bulkhead, breaking an irrigation line, causing water to undermine the structure. The action from the propeller, with the boat stuck up against the dock, also eroded sand from under the bulkhead, further undermining it. In all the landowner estimated the incident had done \$2,500 or more in damage to his bulkhead and pier.

While officers consulted with Mike, Robert Strehle of 104

Lewis Point approached in his boat. He informed the officers that he had seen something floating in the lake that morning and had gone out to retrieve it. He found "five kayaks, three paddles, eight life vests, and several tubes and floats," according to Officer Cole's report.

After being photographed, the items were taken to the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] office so they could be claimed by their owners.

SLWLA personnel were able to identify the kayaks based on their registration stickers and contact the owners. Officer Cole's report indicates that one of the kayaks was claimed by Bill Reaves of 110 Douglas Drive.

President Shepard told *The Times* that this incident went well beyond petty vandalism. "My feeling was that this has escalated to some pretty serious stuff," Shepard said. "Who knows what could have happened if that boat had hit another boat or a kayaker?"

"This is really malicious stuff," Shepard added, noting that it involved substantial property damage and "could have created a life-threatening situation." The Board met in emergency session on Monday, July 20 to discuss an appropriate response.

Detective Dennis encouraged anyone with any information about the incident — no matter how seemingly insignificant — to contact him at the Moore County Sheriff's Office at 910-947-2931.

"People hear things and sometimes think it wouldn't be helpful," Dennis told *The Times*. "But it

can be important when you put that piece together with other things we know."

"The big thing we want to put across," he added, "is that, occasionally, [in Seven Lakes West] we run into the tendency to believe . . . to not want to say anything, because they don't want to give a bad impression of the area. But this kind of thing happens everywhere, and we want people to come forward regardless."

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134 Smathers Dr.	SL West	\$55,000
239 Longleaf Dr.	SL West	\$55,000
148 Otter Drive	SL West	\$65,000
105 Edwards Ct.	SL West	\$74,000
Carriage Park Drive	Quiet wooded street with 3/4 acre lots	\$75,000
Lot #'s 8003, 8004, 8027, 8028, 8029, 8036, 8037, 8038, 8039		
124 Andrews Dr.	SL West	\$84,900
Carriage Park Drive	Quiet wooded street with 1+ acre lots	\$85,000
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156 Swaringen Drive	SL West (Water Front)	\$370,000

Pricetag doubles for dam monitoring system

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

A system designed to monitor the health of Northside dams by measuring water levels inside the structure will have a higher than expected price tag. Fulcher reported that seventeen new piezometers will cost \$29,000 -- nearly double the \$15,000 estimate, reported Community Manager Dalton Fulcher during the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Work Session on Monday, July 13.

But even with that unanticipated expense, total Lakes & Dams expenditures would still be expected to come in under budget.

When Director Gary Caulk asked why the bid for the work had come in so much higher than expected, Fulcher said the original estimate had simply been a "guesstimate" derived from information provided by the engineering firm S&ME.

The work involves drilling one-or-two-inch diameter tubes — like a well — into the core of

the dam at various spots, using casing where appropriate and capping off the tubes to keep them clean. This allows an electrical device to be lowered into each tube that will signal when it contacts water.

Seven Lakes Landowners Association Meeting

7/13

Fulcher said piezometers have already been installed in Echo Dam. The seventeen new ones will be installed in the dams at Sequoia, Longleaf, Timber, Big Juniper, and Little Juniper. Fulcher told *The Times* they are not necessary at Ramapo and Dogwood.

Following Monday's Work Session, the Board conducted a Special Open Meeting and unanimously approved the \$29,000 piezometer contract, as well as \$12,000 for grass seeding on several of the dams.

Gypsy Pooches Cause Headaches

You've probably seen them -- at least most Northsiders have: two large and very friendly dogs who've adopted Seven Lakes North and particularly Sequoia Point as their own. Unfortunately, they aren't invited guests and make a mess whenever they come.

"Over half of the loose dog complaints we receive are these same two dogs," Fulcher reported. "They come in from outside Seven Lakes. We pick them up and call Animal Control. That's all we can do."

Fulcher noted that local law enforcement had not been of much help.

"I've been threatened by the Sheriff to be put in jail for holding them. He said that we don't have the right [just] because they're inside Seven Lakes," Fulcher said. "My guess is the

owner isn't paying fines. They've been to Carthage who knows how many times."

In a telephone interview with *The Times*, Al Carter of Moore County Animal Control said the officer who patrolled this section of the county was familiar with the dogs. Carter noted that the policy for impoundment of a

stray animal had been revised in December 2008 to a graduated penalty system with an additional \$25 fine per incident.

"Previously the fee was \$25, and it was just cheaper to pay it than fix the problem," Carter said. "We have reached the third incident, which is now at \$75

(See "SLLA" p. 17)

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Phase 1 water restriction still in effect in Village

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

While the Village of Foxfire remains under Phase 1 water restrictions, a new well scheduled for mid-July connection to the Foxfire Water Department will raise yields from 155 gallons to 197 gallons per minute.

"Phase 1 is rather lenient but we will stay with it because our wells are up one to two feet over last year," Councilman Ed Lauer reported during the Village Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 14.

Under Phase 1 Mandatory Water Conservation Restrictions, spray irrigation is permitted between midnight and 10:00 am at properties with odd numbered addresses on Mondays and Thursdays, and properties with even numbered addresses on Tuesdays and Fridays. Watering by hand is permitted between 6:00 and 10:00 am and pm for odd addresses on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and even addresses on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Watering by low volume drip irrigation is permitted at any time. Residents are prohibited from washing vehicles or exterior building surfaces and decks except on Saturdays and Sundays.

Long Range Planning

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco requested the Long Range Planning Committee be revitalized to begin work on a new five to ten-year plan. She recommended

membership include residents from the East and West Side, and at least one member from the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction and Stonehill Pines.

"The Committee can bring things to the Council in regards

Foxfire Council Meeting

7/14

to long term planning for facilities, streets, personnel, and management. If we don't start planning we'll find ourselves growing without any appropriate guidance," said Frusco. "Now is the time to begin looking at the process."

Mayor George Erickson agreed. Serving as the most recent chair of the LRP, he said the last project was a survey of the community in 2003 which brought about the original PARTF grant to create the Village Green Park.

Finance

As of June 30, the General Fund was \$455,729, Frusco reported. The cash balance includes \$28,872 in Powell Bill funds for road maintenance and \$22,203 in a reserve account for Stonehill Pines. With a balance of \$268,404, the Water Fund includes \$135,180 held in escrow for a new well. Uncollected property taxes were \$31,359.

Streets

Brook Vickery of Foxfire Resort & Golf Club was thanked for his work establishing a connection from the course's irrigation system to the East Side entrance plantings. Irrigation is scheduled for two hours every third day beginning at 12:30 am.

Councilman Vic Koos also reported that trees and brush will be cleared from the 60' right-of-way along Village roads.

Parks

The Village Green Park shelter pavilion ceiling, support posts, flooring, and tables were cleaned and treated with a six-year stain preservative, reported Koos.

The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 24. However, Mayor George Erickson said the fund will be substantially lower because of the reduced number of statewide real estate transactions.

Wireless Service Agreement

The Council renewed a four-year service agreement with Broadlink Wireless Inc. to host the Village's web domain, supply email accounts, and maintain the office computer network and equipment. The service also provides high speed wireless

service to the community and is installing internet access at the park and pool recreation areas.

Other Items

Zoning Administrator Mimi Ainsworth reported plans for a single family residence on Oak Hill Drive were received. The Appearance Committee would also be considering requests for an accessory building, and a dog run in the Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction [ETJ].

Erickson reported the Woodland Circle Extension project is on schedule.

The Council unanimously resolved to join the Triangle J Council of Governments. Representing a seven county region of North Carolina, the Council addresses regional issues of concern to local governments and municipalities

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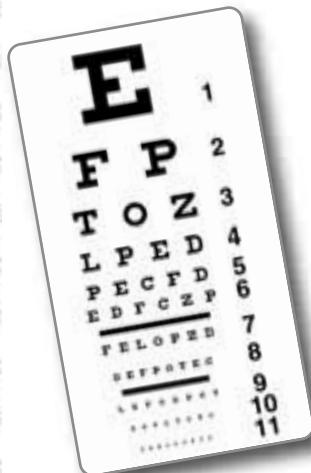
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Commissioners get first look at jail design

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The Moore County Commissioners got their first look Monday night at the layout and appearance of the new jail and public safety facility, presented by Pete Cayado of Ware Bonsall Architects, who presented the design during the Board's July 20 meeting. The 192-bed detention center is a two-story, V-shaped structure, with a guard command center located at the bottom of the V on each floor. Cells for the housing of inmates are arranged along both legs of the V, with each story containing two levels of cells, one atop the other. The upper, mezzanine level, in each story has a catwalk running in front of the cells. The structure includes individual cells, two-person cells, and two thirty-person dormitories. It will be connected to both the jail and the new public safety building.

Between the detention center and the public safety building the architects have located a medical and food service core of sufficient size to serve up to 550 inmates, in order to accommodate future expansion of the jail by building an additional two- or three-story housing facility.

The basement of the three-story public safety building includes the 9-1-1 communications center, administrative offices, and emergency operations center, areas for evidence processing and storage, break rooms, locker rooms, and physical training rooms for the sheriff's department and other emergency personnel.

The first floor includes the Sheriff's office duty desk, video visitation facilities, intake, booking, inmate processing, detention administration, and a magistrate's office and hearing room. This floor includes the secure corridor that connects the public safety building to the new jail.

The top floor includes all the administrative offices and work space for detectives, narcotics, civil process, and other Sheriff's office functions.

The building is designed with a corridor for use by the public on one side that significantly restricts access to the interior offices and a separate staff corridor on the other side.

Once Cayado had finished his presentation, Commissioner Lea asked why the design had been presented to the Commissioners before being shown to the Major Capital Projects Task Force, which was charged with devel-

oping the parameters for the facility.

Lea said minutes from earlier Board meetings would show that the Commissioners had envisioned a facility that could ultimately be built out to 700 or

800 beds, but the design presented was now limited to 550 beds. "It's interesting how the data continues to be very fluid," he said, and asked that the design be forwarded to the Major Capital Projects Task Force for

review.

Commissioner Caddell noted that Moore County is 200 years old and has thus far been able to get by with a 109-bed jail. "We'll all be long gone before we

(See "Jail," p. 23)

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Navy Grad



On July 2, Chad Chesley of Seven Lakes graduated from the U.S. Navy Recruit Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois as Airman 3rd Class. He is presently attending Aircraft Avionics school in Great Lakes, IL and will finalize his training in Pensacola, FL.

Upon completion of his schooling, Chad will return to Seven Lakes as a Navy Reservist and complete his 4 year degree at UNC-Charlotte.

Chad is the son of Roger and Pamela Koll of Seven Lakes West and the grandson of Bob and Marty Lockwood of Seven Lakes West.

Purser declines pay hike

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

At the request of Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser, the Moore County Board of Education amended her employment contract to eliminate the automatic \$2,500 salary increase she was due for the 2009-2010 school year.

"We really appreciate her sensitivity to this issue and I am very sorry," Member Sue Black said while making the motion. "This has been a difficult year and she absolutely deserves the money."

Bond Project Update

Construction and school improvement projects are moving forward using funding from the \$54 million school bond referendum approved in 2007, reported Deputy Superintendent Dr. Larry Upchurch.

Site work, a foundation, and block walls are in progress and on schedule at West Pine Elementary, which sits adjacent to West Pine Middle School. Also under construction, Crane's Creek Middle School near Carthage is ahead of schedule and under budget, reported Upchurch.

A water project at Highfalls Elementary and a water and

sewer project at Westmoore Elementary are both awaiting final approval from the State.

Classroom additions and renovations at Highfalls Elementary, Robbins Elementary, Sandhills Farm Life Elementary, and Westmoore Elementary are also underway. Stadium field replacement is nearing completion at North Moore and Union Pines High Schools with additional spectator seating in place at all middle and high schools.

School Calendars

New full-color academic calendars will be distributed to all Moore County students thanks to a joint project with FirstHealth and funding from the Moore Health Childhood Obesity Prevention Demonstration project

grant through the NC Department of Public Health. Each calendar features required school information as well as healthy eating and living tips.

Integrated Math

Dr. Beverlee Beale presented a new, integrated approach to the standard high school mathematics curriculum of Algebra I, II, and Geometry. Rather than studying each topic as an isolated course, entering freshman enrolling in Integrated Math I-IV will work on skills found in each of the four strands of high school math each year. AP Statistics or Pre Calc/AP Calculus options will be available for students who have completed Integrated Math III.

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10 Mushroom & Wild Rice Soup ♥ Baked Spaghetti Dinner	11 Curried Carrot Soup ♥ Chicken Pot Pie Dinner	12 Vegetable Soup ♥ Ginger Beef Stir Fry Dinner ♥	13 White Bean Chicken Chili Crab Cakes Dinner ♥	14 Corn Chowder Swiss Steak Dinner
17 Tomato Basil Soup ♥ Meatloaf Dinner	18 Potato Leek Soup Chicken Tetrastini Dinner	19 Crab & Shrimp Bisque Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	20 Broccoli Spinach Soup ♥ Pecan Tilapia Dinner	21 New England Clam Chowder Smothered Pork Chops Dinner
24 Chicken & Dumpling Soup ♥ Lemon Shrimp Oriental Dinner	25 Chilled Cucumber Soup Herb Turkey Dinner	26 Black Bean Soup ♥ Beef Burgundy Dinner	27 Summer Vegetable Soup ♥ Sesame Salmon Dinner ♥	28 Potato Bacon Soup Two-Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥

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Planning Board approves TH Blue zoning

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

After first correcting the Moore County Zoning Ordinance to include mulch and mulching businesses under commercial applications, the Planning Board unanimously approved a rezoning request by T.H. Blue Inc. on 32.12 acres of the 967.97 acre tract at the intersection of Flowers Road and NC 211, west of Seven Lakes.

T.H. Blue has operated a mulching business on the property for over thirty years. In 1999, a 19.5 acre portion of the property was zoned Light Industrial [L-1], however, the area did not encompass the entire business

operation.

As approved during the Planning Board's Thursday, July 9 meeting, approximately 3.96 percent of total property acreage is now zoned L-1 with the remaining land maintaining the current designation as Rural Agricultural [RA].

Package Store Declined

A request by Vaughn Rouse to commercially rezone a 2.62 parcel on Rt. 705 south of Robbins for the purpose of operating a drive-in alcoholic beverage package store was declined. The existing physical structure did not meet zoning setback requirements that a business must be located at least 50' from the road.

The applicant's brother, Gerald Rouse, said they will appeal.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Planning Director Joey Raczkowski said work is progressing between the county and eleven municipalities to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan – a required document for Federal assistance in the event of a disaster. A draft will be submitted to the State by May 2010 and to FEMA in November 2010.

Master Water & Sewer Planning

In June, the Commissioners approved \$50,000 to long range planning, specifically Master Water & Sewer Planning. However, Dave Kinney expressed

concern that the lack of funding to update a master plan was also delaying the Moore County Board of Commissioners decisions on the McGill Water Study.

"It is clear to me that the Commissioners are going to approve a total county-wide package...the subject has been beat to death and I'm getting darned impatient," Kinney said.

Raczkowski agreed that limited financial resources would not allow an update to the Land

Use Plan, "but we are moving in the right direction to achieving long range planning."

Other Items

Next month the Board will hear an overview of the proposed telecommunication wireless ordinances. A Public Hearing will be scheduled in September.

Two new members of the Planning Board were sworn-in: Rodney Pickler and Giles Hopkins.

Grads



Catherine E. Quinn
Georgian Court University
Lakewood, NJ

Catherine is the daughter of Gregory and Patricia Quinn of Cedar Grove, NJ. She is the granddaughter of Elizabeth and the late Robert Quinn of Seven Lakes. She received BA in Communications and a minor in Public Relations.

Catherine will attend Seton Hall graduate program in the Fall.



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Ann Campbell's art featured at Clayton Center

by Mason Gould

One of the explanations of the word "prolific" in the dictionary contains the word "productive." The latter is most certainly a characteristic of Seven Lakes artist Ann Campbell, and she's still at it at 81.

Here she goes again with

another major evidence of her creative accomplishments. She is currently showing 34 of her paintings of a variety of subjects at a month long solo exhibit entitled "Conundrum" in Clayton, a suburb of Raleigh. Her showing continues until July 30 at the Clayton Center, 111 Sec-

ond St., Clayton, 919-333-505.

Over the years her major emphasis has been in visual arts and commercial illustration.

Her exposure to learning techniques at several institutions played a role in developing her career including Dana Hall in Massachusetts, Syracuse and Oregon State Universities, Pratt Art Institute in New York City and the University of Vermont. Her career has also taken her to China, France, South Africa, Italy, Ireland, and Russia to learn more about painting and to paint more. Her major motto is "See, Think, Draw, and Paint."

In recent years, she has taught art in Burlington, Vermont, and she's still teaching at Sandhills Community College.

As for her students, she says age at either extreme is not a barrier. One of her students is 96. Others have been barely in their teens or less.

Yes, Ann Campbell has made the most of her talent.

And yes, still at it.

So make time to visit her next solo event in September at the Artists League of the Sandhills in Aberdeen.



Ann Campbell "Silhouette in Pink"



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Sandhills All-Stars win State Championship

The Sandhills Optimist 11u All-Star teams participated in the Cal Ripken (46/60) State Tournament July 9 through July 12 in Grimesland.

The double elimination tournament was comprised of the Eastern North Carolina - Cal Ripken District representatives.

The Sandhills All Stars brought home the Championship finishing undefeated with four wins. The All Star Team was coached by Head Coach Tim Carpenter, Steve Dinkins, Jan Richardson and Danny Thomas.

In the second game Sandhills faced AFG All-Stars (Ayden/Farmville/Grifton) winning 14-7. Sandhills again found themselves in a hole down 7-0 until the 3rd inning when the bats came alive scoring 14 unanswered runs, including a three run homer by Carson Maples.

The Sandhills team won the first game against the Lenoir County All-Stars, 11-7. Sandhills found themselves down 4-0 before their first run scored in the 3rd inning. The Sandhills team then went on a hitting spree led by Clay Richardson who went 3

for 4 with 2 doubles. Sandhills had a total of 12 hits with 7 of them being doubles including two from Carson Maples, Clay Thomas, Zach Dinkins, and Stephan Stephens each hitting doubles.

Sandhills faced Southern Pitt County on Saturday who at that point was also undefeated. Sandhills once again had the bats going defeating a very good Southern Pitt team 7-1.

On Sunday, the Sandhills found themselves in the Championship Game against the Perquimans County All-Stars. Clay Thomas started and finished on the mound pitching all 6 innings allowing only one run on just two hits

Taking the Championship Game 7-1. The Sandhills All-Stars won the tournament in fine fashion outscoring their opponents 40-16.

The Sandhills All-Stars will now go on the face their next opponents in the Cal Ripken Southeast Regional Tournament in Alexander City, Alabama starting July 30.



The Sandhills All Stars: Front Row: Iden Swartzentruber, Zach Dinkins, Clay Richardson, Kyle Corbett, Jack Carpenter. Second Row: Evan Braswell, Jordan (Stephan) Stephens, Clay Thomas, Zach Atkins, Carson Maples, Ayinde McKnight, Jay Thomas. Back Row Coaches: Steve Dinkins, Jan Richardson, Tim Carpenter (Head Coach)

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In memory of . . .

Robin Elaine Brown Nuzzo, 41, of Seven Lakes died Wednesday July 22, at her home. Mrs. Nuzzo was born Laurinburg, the daughter of Arthur W. Brown, Sr. and Jean Bowyer Brown.

Mrs. Nuzzo graduated from Scotland High School, Laurinburg, in 1987. She was a graduate of King's College, Charlotte, class of 1988. She received her Associate Degree in Nursing in 1995 from Sandhills Community College. She was employed as PREOP/PACU Nurse Manager at The Eye Surgery Center, Southern Pines.

A visitation will be held at Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes on Friday, July 24, 5 to 9 pm.

Funeral services will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, July 25, at Culdee Presbyterian Church in Eastwood, with the Rev. Christopher J. Bobo and the Rev. Donnie Gillis officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Survivors include her husband of thirteen years Mark W. Nuzzo of the home; two sons William Louis Nuzzo and Mark Anthony Nuzzo; her parents Arthur W. Brown, Sr. and Jean Bowyer Brown of Laurinburg; brother, Arthur W. Brown, Jr. of West End; and sister, Kimberly C. Brown of Aberdeen.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to: The American Cancer Society at 8300 Health Park, Ste. 10 Raleigh, NC 27615 or

FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Robert Herman Thieme, Sr., 91, of Burlington, died Friday, July 17 at his home after several years of declining health.

Born in Paterson, NJ, he was the son of the late Bruno Herman Thieme and the late Anna Tabbert Thieme.

Mr. Thieme graduated from Central High School in Paterson, NJ and then attended Paterson State Teachers College and Upsala College in East Orange, NJ. He was an Army Air Corp Veteran of W.W.II and served as a radio operator in France and later retired from AT&T with over 26 years of service.

After retirement he was a resident of Seven Lakes, and moved to Twin Lakes Community in 1997 where he active in the Twin Lakes Men's Club where he served as a former chairman and guest speaker.

Mr. Thieme is survived by his wife Mrs. Lillian Ellerbrook Thieme, a daughter, Carol Daugherty of Rougemont, NC; a son, Robert H. Thieme, Jr. of Morgantown, WV; three grandchildren; three great grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Monday, July 20, at the Foley Chapel in the Coble Health Care Building at Twin Lakes conducted by Pastor Craven Ford. Memo-

rials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 4-A Oak Branch Dr., Greensboro, NC 27407-2145.

Marie Stuart, 92, died Friday, July 10.

A native of Caldwell, NJ, she and her husband spent a lot of time vacationing at Shelter Island in New York.

She was a lifelong artist who loved the outdoors and especially the ocean.

She was preceded in death by her husband William Stuart.

Mrs. Sturat is survived by her children Lynn Wilkinson and Bill Stuart; her grandchildren and great grandchildren

Funeral services will be held in Fairlawn, OH.

Reverend Kenneth E. Hankins, 55, of Seven Lakes North, died Friday, July 10, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

Reverend Hankins was born in Columbus, Ohio. He is the founding and only pastor of Seven Lakes Baptist Church, since its first service held September 11, 1988.

Funeral services were held on Monday, July 13 at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. Larry Lamberth and Bobby Branch officiated the service. Burial followed at Seven Lakes Cemetery.


He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Christine,

and his brother Jim.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; daughters, Nikki Wilkins of Lynchburg, Christi Embler of Seven Lakes, and Katie of the home; a granddaughter; sister Tammy Dye of Seven Lakes; brother Ron Hankins of Hattiesburg, MS.

Memorial contributions may be made to the building fund of Seven Lakes Baptist Church, P.O. Box 833, West End, NC 27376.

Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes assisted the family.



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Local athletes to compete in Jr. Olympics



Sandhills Track Club member Hannah Hensley is flanked by fellow team members Danielle Paran and her brother Ian Paran. All three athletes will compete in the USATF National Junior Olympic Championships in Greensboro next week.

Three athletes from the West End Area will accompany nine other members of the Sandhills Track Club to the USATF National Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships in Greensboro next week.

Hannah Hensley, a rising Freshman at Pinecrest High School, will compete in the Heptathlon, a seven-event competition that includes 100 meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200 meter dash, long jump, javelin throw, and 800 meter run.

She will be joined by brother and sister Ian and Dana Paran.

Dana is a rising eighth grader at West Pine Middle school and will compete in the javelin

throw. Ian, a Pinecrest Sophomore, will compete in the pole vault event.

To win a slot in the National Championships, the three athletes had to place in the top three slots in their events in state meets.

Hannah placed first in the state in the intermediate girls heptathlon, Ian was second in the intermediate boys pole vault, and Danielle placed third in the youth girls javelin throw.

The National Championships will be held from July 28 to August 2, at the Irwin Belk Track of North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro.



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- **Pancake Supper** – 5 - 7 pm, at Doubs Chapel United Methodist Church. \$7 per plate. Eat in or take out. 1444 Doubs Chapel Rd, West End.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

- **Truck Show Tailgate Contest** – 6:00 pm, family event in the parking lot at Carolina Car Care, 114 MacDougall St., Seven Lakes, sponsored by Modern Woodmen, refreshments at Snack Shack.
- **Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED** – American Red Cross Certification Course, 8:00 am - 1:30 pm, Certification fee \$55, 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines, 910-692-8571.
- **Open Auditions for 2009-2010 season.** – Temple Theatre. Auditions by appt. only 10 am to 6 pm. Call Temple Theatre Business Office at (919) 774-4512, ext. 221. All auditioning bring two copies of headshot, resume, two contrasting monologues no more than 2 minutes total, a short selection from a pop song or musical theatre song w/sheet much for piano accompanist or provide a CD.
- **Women of Promise** – 5:00 pm, hosting a Women's Program. Guest speaker is Pastor Mary Lindsey of St. John from Derby. Belford Baptist Church, 925 Windblow Rd Jackson Springs. All welcome!

SUNDAY, JULY 26

- **Southside Baptist Church**—designated Sunday, July 26

as "God & Country Day." Retired Marine Colonel Tyler Ryberg speak in Sunday School at 10:00 am, Morning Worship at 11:00 am, & at the Evening Service at 7:00 pm. Services are to recognize & honor all US military personnel, veterans as well as those currently serving our country. A small token of appreciation will be given to each special

Springs. Service specially designed for people with work schedules that can't attend morning services. Everyone is welcome.

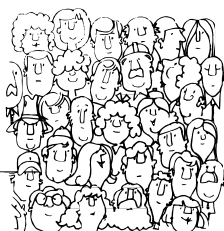
MONDAY, JULY 27

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

Birding and Botanizing in Brazil - Take virtual trip to South America with local botanist Bruce Sorrie. Sorrie will share highlights of flora and avifauna from his latest trip. Visitors Welcome! 910-692-2167 for more information or visit www.sandhillsnature.org.

- **6th Annual First Bank/Coalition Golf Classic** – at National Golf Course. Be a part of Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care's largest annual fundraiser. Entry fee \$150/player includes cart, greens fees, refreshments on course, breakfast, lunch, awards, and

What's When Calendar



guest.

Potluck dinner

will be held after the morning service & all are welcome to attend. Public is invited to attend. 125 Cedar Creek Road, Biscoe. For information or directions contact Pastor Michael Lynn at 910 428-9243.

- **Belford Baptist Church "Son" Down Service** – 6:00 p.m. 925 Windblow Rd., Jackson

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TUESDAY, JULY 28

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis** – Noon at Seven Lakes Country Club.
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30 - 6:00 pm, Penick Village, Penick Village North Bldg., Emmanuel Episcopal Ch., 100 E Rhode Island Ave. Ext., Southern Pines. Appt. call 692-8571.

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association General Meeting** – 7:30 pm, West Side Park Community Center.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Open Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 10 am - 2:30 pm, FirstHealth Fitness Center 170 Memorial Dr., Pinehurst. Call 715-1800 for appt.



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- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Located in Seven Lakes Plaza (next to Peking Wok, Seven Lakes Plaza).
- **Annual Robbins Farmer's Day Festival** – 6 pm - 9 pm. Gospel Music Night featuring: Glory Road, The Destiny Quartet, Redeemed Hearts. Free festival. Small fee for rodeo, carnival rides and games. Food vendors on site. Crafts, mule show, arts. Middleton St. downtown Robbins. 910-464-1290 or www.robbsfarmersday.com
- **Save Our Sandhills Hosts Expert On Water Allocation And Conservation** – 7 pm in the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Save Our Sandhills will host guest speaker Bill Holman to speak on the topic "Water, A Valuable Resource in the 21st Century – Does North Carolina Need a Plan?" Refreshments served.

FRIDAY, JULY 31

- **Annual Robbins Farmer's Day Festival** – 6 pm - midnight. Bluegrass Music Night featuring: Fine Blue Line, McKenzies Mill, Passin Thru, and Whiskey Rain. Two groups of cloggers. Fireworks at 10:15 pm. Free festival. Small fee for rodeo, carnival rides & games. Food vendors on site. Crafts & arts. Downtown Robbins. 910-464-1290.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

- **Annual Robbins Farmer's Day Festival** – 9 am - midnight. Parade at 11:00 am. Bluegrass & Gospel Music throughout the day. Special Forces Parachute Jumpers, Mule Show, Lumber Jack Competition and more. Small fee for rodeo, carnival rides and games. Tractor pull. Middleton St. downtown Robbins. 910-464-1290.
- **An Evening with Blue Horizon** – 7 pm, at Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. Admission \$15. 2 - (1) hour sets with a 15 minute break. Bluegrass format. Info. Adam or Phillip, 673-1181.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

- **Bluegrass Benefit Show** – 2:00 pm, East Montgomery High School Auditorium, 157 Eagle Lane, Biscoe. All seats \$15, general admission. Three great bands: Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice; Lorraine Jordan and Carolina Road; and the ever famous Lonesome River Band whose career has been filled with a multitude of awards and recognitions including numerous awards by the IBMA and SPGBMA. Proceeds benefit fellow musician Larry McPeak, of Wytheville, VA to help with the cost of a kidney transplant.
- **Art Exhibit and opening**

reception – 2 - 5 pm, "Jewels in the Sandhills" an exhibit featuring small works and fine art miniatures by League members. On display through August 28. Artists League of the Sandhills Exchange St. Gallery, 129 Exchange St., Aberdeen. Mon. - Sat., noon-3 pm. Classes and workshops offered. 910-944-3979, www.artistleague.org.

- **Winged Gems** – 3 pm, Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve. Program will focus on the butterflies found in the Sandhills. Join the ranger for talk about the ecology and life history of butterflies. Hike after the program, to look for and observe butterflies. Bring bug spray and binoculars. Meet at park office. 910-692-2167.
- **Belford Baptist Church** – 4:00 pm service to honor the Ministerial Staff. Guest speak Pastor Archie Peterkin. Everyone is welcome. 925 Windblow Rd., Jackson Springs.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – concert Series welcomes Mollie O'Brien & Rich Moore to the lawn of the Postmaster's House in Aberdeen at 5:30 pm. Great original songs in a traditional Appalachian style. 204 E. South Street, picnics welcome. \$9. 910-944-7502.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

- **Computer Photo Classes** – Picassa 3 – noon to 2:30 pm, and Advanced Digital Camera 3:00 – 5:30 pm, both held at Sandhills Community College in Van Dussen Hall. 3-day class through August 6.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

- **National Night Out** – 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm, at Memorial Park, Southern Pines. Free law enforcement display and cookout. Event is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships, and to send a message

to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Sponsored by the Southern Pines Police Dept. Everyone from the surrounding area is invited to attend. Contact Bob Temme at 910-692-2732.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Located in Seven Lakes Plaza

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

- **Summer Concert Series** – 7 to 9 pm, at Johnson Point. "Almost Perfect" Free Admission. Bring drinks, coolers, snack, chairs, kids, and listen to some great music. Sponsored by SL West Activities Committee.



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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

out of it and try to make a decision that's in the long term best interest of those that, as Commissioner Caddell indicated, will be here long after we're dead and gone."

Morgan questioned the safety of locating the jail and county administration building on the same site. "I believe that this vote, that you guys are about to make, has the potential of putting our employees and myself in harm's way, and I hope you have thought long and hard about that."

Both Morgan and Lea have argued that the Commissioners need to decide where to put a new courthouse — which would ideally be physically connected to the new jail — before deciding to place the county administration building on the downtown Grimm site. Connecting the courthouse and jail, by means of a secure tunnel if nothing else, substantially increases the security and decreases the cost of transporting inmates between the two facilities.

Courts Facility Committee Weighs In

Earlier in the meeting, the Board heard the recommendations of a recently-formed Courthouse Facility Advisory Committee chaired by Superior Court Judge James Webb, including a recommendation that the courts facility be "located adjacent to or near the new detention facility." Webb's committee included both Lea and Picerno, as well as the current and previous clerks of court and District Attorney Maureen Krueger.

On a motion by Lea, the Board of Commissioners unanimously supported that recommendation. They also unanimously supported a second recommendation of the committee, that "the County Commissioners employ or retain a professional consultant to conduct a study of the courts' short term and long term facility needs."

However, the committee's third recommendation — that the Board "delay a decision on the placement of a new county government building" until the consultant's work was complete, was rejected in a 3-2 split vote with only Lea and Morgan in favor.

That foreshadowed the later vote to site the County Administration building on the Grimm property. Lea has strongly supported studying the possibility of placing the Administration building on the county-owned Carriage Oaks Shopping Center on the east end of Carthage, a site that already includes a number of county departments. County Manager Cary McSwain presented, for the Board's approval, a \$34,000 contract negotiated with architects LS3P Associates for a study of the Carriage Oaks site. Morgan's motion to proceed with the study was defeated 3-2, setting up Melton's motion to locate the administration building on the downtown Grimm property.

Caddell Cites Infrastructure Costs at Carriage Oaks

Commissioner Caddell, a former mayor of Carthage, said informal estimates provided by the town's public works department convinced him that necessary water and sewer upgrades to the Carriage Oaks site would add \$1.2 million or more to the cost of placing the administration building at that location, while water and sewer connections at the Grimm site would cost little more than \$25,000.

Lea rejected Caddell's informal estimates as a basis for decision-making. "We have had the architects that are in the process of designing the detention center, they have told us that that piece of property could handle no more than two new building footprints," Lea said, an assessment that he noted was echoed by Howard Warren, a retired architect that serves on each of the county's building committees.

"These are experts," Lea continued. "These are not guesses. These are not things that Commissioners have gone out and tried to conjure up or bring back to this table for consideration without them being studied in detail."

"Now, if in fact the three of you have already gotten together and you have already made this decision, which is what it appears to be, once again, then why don't we just eliminate any committee process and the three of you just go ahead and make

all of these decisions without the rest of the Board being involved — and we can circumvent this whole time frame process and allow you guys to be able to run this county without the involvement of the other two commissioners."

"You are putting words in people's mouths," Chairman Picerno told Lea. "You're making assumptions that three people

have gotten together — which has not happened with me. And so you're telling the public, you're telling the paper, things that you know not to be fact . . . I know that I have not met with these two gentlemen and decided to run the county."

Melton's motion to locate the administration building on the Grimm property reactivates an existing contract with LS3P Asso-

ciates for design of the facility — a contract that had been put on hold while the Board considered the possibility of using the Carriage Oaks site instead.

What About the Courthouse?

What did not emerge from Monday night's Board of Commissioners debate on where to (See "Commissioners," p. 17)

 <p>105 PRIMROSE CIRCLE 4 BR, 3 Bath Family Home Seven Lakes North \$225,000</p>	 <p>104 WOODALL COURT Exec Home with Guest Apt. Seven Lakes West \$835,000</p>	 <p>113 LONGLEAF DRIVE 4 BR, 3 Bath with Bonus Seven Lakes West \$352,000</p>		
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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 5)
for each of these dogs; and I think we've got their attention. I believe they have put in an electric fence."

Revised Facility Fee Policy
SLLA members may reserve and use the common area shelters free of charge except for a returnable clean-up deposit. Fulcher reported that the office has received numerous complaints about the number of guests attending these private

functions.
"We can enforce a guest card policy at the stables and pool because we have staffing; but we are also starting to enforce wherever we can, including the playgrounds and basketball court, and Sequoia Point," Fulcher said.
He recommended a new fee policy of \$25 for shelter rentals with up to twenty-five guests; functions with twenty-five to fifty guests would be charged a \$50 rental fee. A similar fee and form was also recommended for reser-

vations at the North Clubhouse and Community Activity Center.
System of Governance
Treasurer Denny Galford distributed discussion points related to his study of System of Governance to the Board and asked for comments and response.
"The recent [Seven Lakes Times, July 10] editorial seemed to indicate we had a major problem with our system of governance, but what I anticipate is

putting together some bullets of recommended ways the Board should interact with management," Galford said. "Our biggest focus is on what Kent is leading us to [Community Manager search]."
But Droppers countered, "This is a logical time to step back and look at our system. I think it should almost be an ongoing thing that we should look at on some level."
Galford agreed but said he wanted to clarify that the Board

was discussing ways to interact with management and was not "going all out and rewriting the Bylaws and rules and regulations."
SLLA Community Plan
President Randy Zieldsorf distributed two chapters of the SLLA Community Plan to the Board for comment and review. He reported additional chapters would be provided in August, with a goal to approve the plan during the September Open Meeting.

"The Community Plan started as the Long Range Plan but was renamed because its focus is mainly five years out -- the primary focus is the next five years," Zielsdorf said.

Closed Session
Immediately following the Work Session and Special Open Meeting, the Board went into Closed Session to discuss legal and personnel issues.


Commissioners

(Continued from page 16)
put the County Administration building is how to solve the problem of an already overcrowded courts facility.
Judge Webb and the Courts Advisory Committee made very clear that the current courthouse is inadequate in terms of courtrooms, storage for the clerk of court, and offices for the district attorney. Commissioners Picerno, Caddell, and Melton all voted in favor of hiring a consultant to study the problem and in favor of locating the courts facility adjacent to or near the

new jail. The debate during Monday night's Board of Commissioners meeting did not reveal how that might be accomplished, if the county administration building is placed on the Grimm Property.
The Times posed that question to Picerno in a brief interview on Tuesday. He said moving the Sheriff's Office from the basement of the existing courthouse to the new public safety Building will free up approximately 8,000 square feet of space. Moving the clerk's offices and storage areas into that space will both

give the clerk more room and open space on the first floor of the courthouse that can be used to address some of the other space needs.
Longer term, Picerno told The Times, it may be possible to either expand the existing courthouse or build a new courts facility on the site of the existing jail. "The existing jail is getting old

and will need to be torn down," Picerno told The Times. "That space will make a potentially great courthouse facility."
But that is an option more likely to be explored by the Board of Commissioners five or ten years in the future, he noted, adding. "You can't build everything. There is only a finite amount of money."



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Grab the relish! Wieners on the loose!

Fortunately no one was injured when the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile crashed into a Wisconsin home last week.

It seems the driver thought she was moving forward rather than in reverse but I can understand the confusion: How do you tell which end is the front of a hot dog?

But this was not the first time the Homecoming-float-sized craft has run afoul of the law. Last year a Wienermobile tragically missed the frozen foods aisle and slid into an icy Pennsylvania ditch. Worse, a Wienermobile was detained in Arizona two years ago for sporting a stolen

license plate. After checking with a higher authority [Wiener Central?], it was determined the tags should be considered stolen only if they were on a vehicle other than a giant hot dog.

Now in case you're wondering why I've used the indefinite article 'a' when describing the Wienermobile, let me explain. You see, Mr. Mayer and his minions oversee not one but a fleet of seven rolling mega-delicacies!

Intrigued, I delved further into this meaty topic [read: It was a slow news week] and learned the company conducts an annual audition to identify a dozen of the best and brightest pilots, known

in the business as "Hot Doggers."

I couldn't help it as that little jukebox in my brain immediately cued up the Top Gun movie soundtrack and Kenny Loggins



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

started belting out, "And shovin' into overdrive. Highway to the Danger Zone." Dunna, dunna!

Unfortunately, my maverick spirit will have to be satisfied with cruising the mean streets of West End in the Mommy-mobile since only college seniors are eligible for those coveted Hot Dogger slots.

Which is really too bad since I think I've got a great raw talent for the position!

Perhaps, instead, I'll

just head back to my own college stomping grounds in Washington, D.C. and enjoy today's annual Hot

Dog Lunch on Capitol Hill. Sponsored by the American Meat Institute and held in the Rayburn House Office Building, trust me when I tell you that getting in to this event is considered one hot ticket.

I know, I'll crash the party!

...The Moore County Sheriff's Office reports a minivan sporting a giant, cardboard hot dog was seen traveling north at a high rate of speed. The driver is considered to be alarmed and hungry.

Citizens should not approach without mustard.

Redoubled effort needed on Westside security

Dear Editor:

The residents of Seven Lakes West are facing a dilemma of various unsolved acts of vandalism, and now most recently, an act of crime. This is a very serious situation which impacts our property values, our security, and our peace-of-mind.

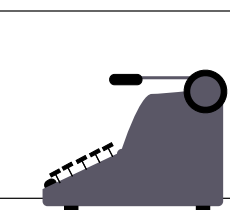
An "Emergency" meeting for the Board of Director was called by the President last Monday morning, and various remedies were discussed. Because we don't know the identity of the perpetrators, a reward was issued for the arrest and conviction of those responsible. This reward has since grown as a result of multiple resident contributions.

But the development needs to do much more; we need more

eyes-and-ears, and the Director of Security is asking for additional volunteers, and we need greater cooperation from the residents in obeying the established rules. Most important, we need to act with a sense-of-urgency in identifying the perpetrators who have caused this most recent crime and subsequent property damage. Until then, we are all vulnerable to additional acts of vandalism and crime, and our property values can be negatively impacted.

After Monday's meeting, I sent the following letter to President Shepard and to each of the Board of Directors, communicating my opinion and necessary actions which need to be taken. I am now asking you, the

newspaper editor, to print this letter in *The Times* for the purpose of achieving greater awareness of this crime dilemma, to make residents aware that their contributions to the reward fund are welcomed by the Association, and to ask those who can identify the perpetrators to confidentially come for-



Your Turn

Dale Erickson
Seven Lakes West

ward to the Moore County Sheriff's Department.

The letter in it's entirety follows.

President Shepard,

I appreciated the opportunity of being present and participating in the "Emergency" meeting which you called for the Board of Directors and residents this morning.

The meeting was informative, created some reasonable discussion, and concluded with at least one tactic which I believe is paramount to curtailing the development's now-defined "crime" problem.

I believe this development is experiencing rule-breaking on

an increasing basis; I believe this to be a systemic problem of flagrantly violating the established rules and regulations. . . and getting away with it.

This has been going on for years; it first started as inconveniences due to some minor infractions, then grew to serious vandalism, and

now we have a well-defined "crime" involving theft, trespassing, and significant property damage. I can visualize

this current "crime" as a result of the development's passive attention to past rule-breaking.

From the vantage point of my residence and simply driving to the mail house, I regularly see boats in driveways for extended periods of time, disregard for stop signs, speeding, vehicles without either the windshield sticker or a bar code, high-speed boat traffic after sundown, frequent high-speed boat traffic outside the buoy markers, mysteriously-missing buoys, complete disregard for the "no wake" rule, and physically restrained dogs barking for eight to ten hours while their owners are away, just to name a few observations. Discussion with past

community management people never brought a single positive result.

These resident rule-breakers have been allowed to continue their infractions; might they be tempted to go further since no control or corrective requirements have been evident? Did this current "crime" develop as a result of inattention to past infractions?

The thousands-of-dollars which the development has unwittingly spent on various "security measures" has apparently done no good at all! I ask now that the Board be objective in clarifying what we want to achieve. . . that the perpetrators must be identified and they must realize their appropriate justice.

The one-thousand dollar reward (now bolstered by my and other one-hundred dollar additions) is a move in the correct direction. I view, however, the discussed motion detectors and a manned back gate as not directly contributing to solving the problem; rather I see them as a "threat response" to the perpetrators. In addition, this morning's discussion of "incorporation" is certainly inappropriate and definitely not applicable to the situation-at-hand.

The development of Seven (See "Westside," p. 18)

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Financial facts for North-South residents

Dear Editor:

Much has been written and said about our financial situation, and here are some facts that may be of interest to residents.

1. About 5 years ago we residents voted overwhelmingly to disband our Company Police, at a savings of over \$80,000 per year. The Board at that time, voted three times, a 5-2 vote, to keep the police. A recent comment by a current Board member suggests that we landowners should just go along with all Board decisions. This is unwise for the residents!

2. We discovered, well after the fact, that the Board had signed an agreement with our retiring manager. The agreement calls for a one year consulting fee of about \$75,000. This is about \$62.50 per landowner which is more than our dues increase of \$50 *this year*.

3. The budget plan for 2008-09 showed a net profit of about \$138,000 and the actual profit for the year was \$10,000. Why. The Board spent about \$100,000 that was not in the budget and the most costly was the purchase of three pickup trucks for about \$45,000. Was this an emergency requirement? It probably was not!

4. The budget plan for this year may trouble we residents. Here are some facts about this budget:

- Our maintenance cost for the year is about \$430,000. This includes \$98,000 for repairs and capital. What are the specifics of this \$98,000.
- Our administrative cost for

the year is about \$253,000, to include the office staff and two managers. One can not determine if any of the consulting fee is included in this cost.

Letters to the Editor

- Our security cost for the year is about \$261,000 and it probably includes the gates and our roving patrol.

5. The total cost of these items is \$940,000 or 73 per cent of our expenses. These expenses under current operating procedures are certain to increase each year.

- For over five years residents have made two suggestions to each Board. These sug-

gestions might lead to the saving of resident's money.

- Develop a Long Range Plan starting with a Five Year Financial Plan. *The Times* had a recent editorial suggesting that all residents have input to the plan. An excellent idea,
- Study the merits of contracting out our maintenance. This is done by many communities including Seven Lakes West.

7. To date neither have these suggestions have been accomplished by the Board.

- It may be of interest to know we have always paid more in dues than the West side and that they have two to three times as much money in reserves than we do. For example, when our dues were \$800, theirs were \$630. This year their dues went up to \$715 and ours to \$850, and you know ours will be \$900 next year.

- My primary career was in the military, 30 years active duty,

and we stress taking care of our people. The Landowners' Manual, the Green Book, suggests a primary responsibility of our Board is *To Look Out After The Interests Of The Landowners*. Certainly a major interest of all landowners is our dues and costs. Are Board decisions made following this principle.

- Perhaps all residents should

become more aware of our financial condition and insist all Boards be more careful in spending our money. *After All, the Money They Spend Comes From Us Landowners.*

Charles W. Oliver
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Dear Friends and
Seven Lakes Community:

Traditionally, this time of year brings about the epic bicycle event, Le Tour de France. This reminds me to prepare for the Tour to Tanglewood.

For the past 15 years, I have ridden in this event to raise funds for the effort against a terrible disease – Multiple Sclerosis.

Le Tour de France requires constant attention to the huge physical and psychological challenges of the continual demands of the event. Multiple Sclerosis provides an even greater physical and psychological challenge. Having Multiple Sclerosis makes it difficult to lead a normal life.

Unlike those in the Tour de France, those with Multiple Sclerosis face the challenge without a choice and it lasts a lifetime.

1994 was the first year that I participated in the Tour to Tanglewood, as well as the first year

that the Food and Drug Administration recognized a medicine specifically to treat Multiple Sclerosis.

Many advances have been made since then to help treat the disease. Such advances have been made possible with money raised by such events as the Tour to Tanglewood.

Many people with the disease report that such treatments have made big improvements in their lives. It is with your help that funds can be raised to continue to help with the struggle against Multiple Sclerosis.

I feel a very personal connection to those with Multiple Sclerosis.

My grandfather died from complications with the disease before I was born. I learned much about him and how he lived his life and I admire him for it. I just miss having known him. My grandmother and mother made

up for that as best as possible, by telling me so much about him. There are many others that I know and have known whose life with Multiple Sclerosis made both happy and sad stories that fill my memories.

Please help me raise money to benefit those with Multiple Sclerosis by donating any amount you can. Please make your check to the National Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and send it to me at PO Box 628, West End, NC 27376.

This year the 90 mile bicycle ride is on September 26 & 27. It would be nice, if donations could be sent by August 21. (If that is not convenient, donations will be accepted up until the event.) Any amount that is donated is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Dr. "Pete" McKay

Literacy Tutors Needed

Moore County Literacy Council needs tutors to help "Moore" people to read.

An Orientation will be held for new volunteers August 18, 1 – 2 pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Youth House, 385 E Indiana, Southern Pines. Tutor training will be held for those interested in continuing to become a tutor August 25 and 27 from 9 am to 4 pm at the same location.

If you can read you can help.



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Procrastination

Procrastinating in Webster's Dictionary is not a pleasant word. It's described as "postponement, delay, neglect."

Aren't we all guilty of this trait from time to time? Yes, it seems to be among one of life's certitudes – one that frequently reminds us that today was the day for that

action you were planning.

How easy it is to let things slide, only to have them rear up and pummel you into a funk, signaling the need to scramble to put things back to where you know they should be. All things considered, it's somewhat refreshing to realize that you're not the only one who goofs. Even the president of the United States can rue the day when he failed to take action at the proper time.

It's really easy to make some inroads into the problem. Just write a notice in large letters and place it in the center of the rug in each room of the house. The very oddity of the act should goad you into action.

Yes, there are lots of seemingly weird ways to solve problems. Why not give this one a try and have a chuckle or two about the result!



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Praise for West End USPS

Dear Editor:

My 36 year career required close involvement and work with post offices/USPS in 8 states and the District of Columbia. More than a few of them, especially in D.C. are the reason for their poor, but in my opinion, undeserved reputation.

In the eight years that I have dealt with the West End USPS as a customer, I have not had one bad experience.

In fact, the attitude, friendliness and professionalism of the crew there is quite refreshing in these hurried times. Shirley and Pam behind the counter greet you with a friendly smile and take time to treat you as a neighbor, not just another customer. I don't know the names of the personnel who deliver to the Seven Lakes West mail house, but they too are very pleasant when I see them, with a wave

and friendly greeting.

It is obvious to me that they all enjoy their jobs, and are a credit to the United States Postal Service.

Thank you employees of West End USPS, for your dedicated but often overlooked and underappreciated service.

Sam Demme
Seven Lakes West

Westside security

(Continued from page 18)

Lakes West is perceived by some to be slowly gaining the attention of outside entities as a "loose community" where standards of excellence, discipline, and pride of occupancy has eroded.

Every time an act of vandalism occurs, I sense another lowering of my property value as well as further development unrest.

The Board needs to take immediate and visible control. The Board needs to ensure a complete understanding of responsibilities. The Board needs to exert full authority to help identify and bring the perpetrators to justice, and the Board needs a no-nonsense communication to the property owners. I furthermore believe the identity of the perpetrators may presently be suspected by some of us. I believe it's time to exercise a "person of interest" identification to the Moore County Sheriff and to *The Times*!

President Shepard, I look to you to display a sense-of-urgency in this "crime" episode and prepare a no-nonsense communication to the development. A communication from you stating that enough-is-enough is needed.

A communication from you stating that rule-breaking will have significant consequences is necessary. A communication from you stating that a reward fund contributed from the development and from its residents has been established. This communication is needed to send a strong message from the President and the Board of Directors that demonstrates the seriousness of the situation and a commitment to "crime" elimination within the development.

We must return this development to a community where pride, trust, and a law-abiding atmosphere is the acceptable trait of the residents. Without a meaningful crime deterrent strategy, we will likely see further decreases in property values in Seven Lakes West and an unacceptable level of morale.

I made my immediate monetary contribution to the reward fund this morning; I now ask the President and the Board of Directors to demonstrate strong community leadership and applied solutions to enable a return to a secure environment.

Play for Pink!

A Pink Ribbon Day Golf Tournament will be held at Foxfire on Wednesday, August 26 with an 8:30 am Shotgun start, on the West Course, Captain's Choice Format.

Make your own team or be Get in the Spirit of the game and wear your Pink!

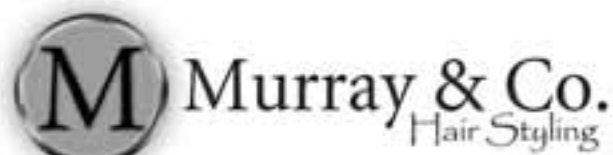
Entry fee is a \$20 Donation or more. Make your checks payable to: FLGA (ref: Komen for the cure) There will be an additional \$20 Cart Fee for non-members payable at the Pro Shop. Prizes for low team gross; closest to the pin; longest

putt and straightest drive contest. Mulligans available.

A 50/50 Raffle. Raffle tickets available for door prizes! A special luncheon at 1:00 pm. Cost is \$12 per person after the tournament.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit directly to the NC Triangle Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Deadline for for entry fee and team members is August 12.

Call Ginny Siedler at 910-673-3240 for more information and registration forms.



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Westside work session

(Continued from front page)

were budgeted at approximately \$421,000; the dam reserve stood at \$419,000 at the beginning of the budget year, Treasurer Kathy Kirst told *The Times*. Total expenditures for dam repairs — including the extra slurry and a weighted dam filter installed while equipment was on-site — will total just over \$500,000.

During Tuesday's Work Session Kirst said the Dam Reserves had been depleted, "as it should be -- that's what they are there for." However, with the Contingency Fund also depleted by at least 70% to cover the additional expenses, Kirst said the number one budget priority in the new year would be replenishing it.

She said the next anticipated major dam-related expense would be replacing valves -- about twenty-five years from now -- and that the budget included money set aside in reserve to cover that cost.

A related agenda item on weighted dam filters was tabled for discussion in Executive Session.

Mandatory Septic Management Program

Legal Affairs Director Ed Silberhorn presented the first reading of a proposed rule in Section 5.3 that will require all septic systems that drain into the Lake Auman watershed to have periodic inspections and pumping, if needed, by a Board-approved vendor. Written verification with the work will have to be filed with the Association.

This rule essentially makes mandatory what has been a voluntary program designed to protect the lake.

The owners of newly-constructed homes would be required to inspect septic systems three years after occupation, while existing homes must pro-

vide verification of an inspection within three years of September 2009. Those not filing in a timely manner would be subject to fines and prosecution by the Judicial Panel.

Property owners of lots not identified as being in the Lake Auman watershed are also encouraged to participate in the program.

Silberhorn thanked the working committee chaired by Bob Fewkes, with George Jenner, Jay Mikula, and Bud Sales as members, for a job well done.

Party at Pine Island

A group of seventy-five or so young adults gathered for an impromptu party at Pine Island recently, and left behind a substantial mess of beer bottles, cans, and trash.

"It wasn't pretty," stated Herdrich, as he passed around photographs taken the following morning by a nearby lakefront resident who cleaned up the litter. "It is an issue -- this is unacceptable and we need to address it."

After discussion of various enforcement options using Lake Patrol, signage, additional rules, or permits, the Board agreed to forward the issue to the Lake Auman Sportsman's Club for their recommendation.

Safety and Security

Director John Hoffman reported that nineteen of the forty volunteers necessary for the Neighborhood Watch program had been recruited.

In related discussion, he reported that vandalism is on the rise in the community and that a methodology to track reports of suspicious activity would be maintained by Community Manager Joan Frost. "The individual homeowner of the property violated has the responsibility and choice to report to admin-

istration or the [Moore County] Sheriff," Hoffman said.

He also reported that the gate guards were no longer honoring thirty-day hang tag permits issued by the Seven Lakes Landowners Association to vendors and contractors.

"We have tightened down significantly on vendors and the kind of hang tags they receive," Hoffman explained. "We've categorized the vendors and as you go down the pecking order the hang tag gets shorter -- down to a one-day visit verified with the homeowner."

Gate security was commended for assisting the Sheriff in a recent complaint by a property

owner who discovered several prescription pills were missing after employing a "cleaning woman." Using gate records, officers were able to identify other residents that she had worked for.

Hoffman said the Safety and Security Committee was studying emergency exits from the community and the role and responsibility of CERT [Community Emergency Response Team]. He will present a proposed plan to include procedures for opening emergency gates, signage, and organization of people to assist in the direction of automobile traffic at the next Work Session.

Hoffman also clarified that wildlife "creating more than a nuisance" should be reported to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and that loose domestic animals should be reported to Moore County Animal Control.

Deed of Trust

Prior to 1994 Seven Lakes Development received loans from residents using Deeds of Trust to fund paving of interior roads, Treasurer Kirst reported. In reviewing Association records, she identified thirteen lots where the loan repayment was satisfied but the deeds were never can-

(See "Westside," p. 23)

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Reward

(Continued from front page)

patrol. Director John Hoffman said there is \$10,000-\$12,000 unspent in that budget line item; Shepard noted the fee for off-duty officers is approximately \$30 per hour.

Hoffmann was also asked by the Board to reinstitute a late-night/early-morning volunteer lake patrol that would monitor the lake on "high-impact" holidays and weekends, in order to attempt to prevent future incidents.

Are volunteers enough?

Talk of additional volunteer efforts led Director Karen Milligan to point the Board in another direction.

"At what point does this community decide that the volunteer network . . . that the scope of what we want to accomplish is beyond that?" Milligan asked.

Pointing out that Hoffmann's efforts to round up forty volunteers to staff a neighborhood watch program has thus far yielded only nineteen, Milligan asked, "At what point do we need to look beyond that and ask the landowners 'How much is security worth to you budget wise?' Relying on nineteen volunteers, though it is a lovely thought, to patrol our community . . . I'm not mitigating what they do, but there is a point where we have grown beyond relying on volunteer power."

Later in the meeting, Milligan added, "This community is too big a community to run with three ladies in the office and an entire volunteer system. If you want these things done, you have to pay for it. Volunteers can't run this community, even though we have a lovely network of them."

"It is a question that the board has absolutely to address," Hoffman said in response. He noted that he has several initiatives in the works to tighten security, among them determining how much the West Side can rely on the Sheriff's office for on-duty patrols.

"Today I have a meeting with Neil Godfrey, the Deputy Chief," Hoffmann said. "The focus of that meeting today will be what will the Sheriff's department sanction, support, and recommend for this community to do to improve security — on-duty patrols, off-duty patrols, and working in concert with neigh-

borhood watch, and perhaps a late night lake patrol. I call that a system, a program."

Another element of that program, Hoffmann said, is to encourage residents to be attentive to — and, when appropriate, to question — the presence of unusual vehicles, people, and incidents in their neighborhood. Another element is improving security at the entrances to the community.

Hoffmann said that his recommendation for responding to the boat theft incident would be to "Stay on the course you are on; try to accelerate it if possible." He said he would be able to bring the Board recommendations based on his meeting with Deputy Chief Godfrey within the week.

Lightning damages back gate

Community Manager Joan Frost used the occasion of the discussion of security to inform the Board that a lightning strike on Thursday, July 9 had disabled the electronics at the back gate. Traffic cones were put out to temporarily close the entrance, but someone stole the cones and drove through the gate, damaging it further, Frost said.

The security equipment vendor was able to repair the barcode reader and gate mechanism, returning the gate to service by Friday afternoon. But the dig-

ital video recorder and internet link to the front gate were not expected to be operational until Friday, July 24. So the gate was functional but no information about the vehicles entering and exiting was being collected.

Director Hoffmann, a strong advocate of a manned back gate, suggested using the opportunity to temporarily man the gate and collect information about who enters — or tries to gain unlawful entry into — the community, but the Board did not agree to fund that option.

Other Comments

After having established the reward, approved hiring off duty officers, and reinstituted the late-night lake patrol, Board members and residents who attended the meeting brainstormed other options for improving security, among them:

- Leaving dock lights on at night — or outfitting them with motion detectors so that they come on when approached by a trespasser — or, potentially, a Canada goose. Opinion among those in attendance was divided on these options, with some objecting to lighting Lake Auman up "like the Bronx" and others suggesting the effect of properly screened lighting at lakeside would be attractive and an effective deterrent to lakeside

vandalism and theft. Director Silberhorn noted that current Association rules in fact prohibit leaving dock lights on all night and asked whether the Board might consider suspending that rule temporarily. The question was deferred to a July 24 special meeting called to review proposed changes to the rules and regulations.

- Roving patrols — Board members discussed options ranging from roving security patrols to a fully-staffed police force, and had differing perceptions of the experience the Seven Lakes Landowners Association had with both efforts.
- Personal security — One res-

ident suggested encouraging landowners to lock their vehicles and not leave keys in cars and boats.

- Beefing up the back gate hardware to make it less penetrable.
- Dale Erickson suggested that the Association use the newsletter and *The Times* to report minor incidents of vandalism and petty crime, in order to keep the community on its toes. Director Hoffmann noted that such incidents often go unreported to the Association.
- Projecting a no-nonsense "get tough on crime" attitude in the community.

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Seven Lakes Times
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