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Volume 25 Number 5

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

January 8, 2010

Commissioners okay government center design

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Continuing a process that will involve multiple approvals, Moore County's Board of Commissioners okayed a more detailed architectural design for the new government center during their Monday, January 4, regular meeting. The new building will house most of the county's departments, with the exception of the Department of Social Services, which will remain at the old Carriage Oaks shopping center on the east end of Carthage.

Project Architect Chris Roberts of LS3P Boney said the new drawings took the already approved schematic design and "put the bones and guts in it," adding electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems.

The rear facade of the building was also reconfigured to give it a more traditional look in

keeping with the front side.

Roberts said his design team is keeping a close eye on the progress of the architects at Ware-Bonsall, who are designing the detention center and public safety building that will be located on the same 21-acre campus as the government center. Roberts said LS3P Boney plans to come back to the Commissioners in April for approvals that would allow the project to be sent out for bids, with the bids finalized in early June.

The expectation is that a single contractor will have responsibility for the entire project : government center, detention center, and public safety building. Roberts said the government center would likely take eighteen months to complete; the detention center and public safety building will take longer.

(See "Commissioners," p. 24)

SLLA Board will introduce management company 1/14

The Seven Lakes Landowner's Association Board of Directors has announced a Special Open Meeting on Thursday, January 14, 7:30, in the North Club House to approve a contract with a management company, and introduce the company to residents.

Representatives of the company are expected to be present at the meeting.

Toasting success!



Leslie and Bob Rose of Sandhills Winery are all smiles after learning the Winery is a finalist for Moore County Chamber of Commerce's "Entrepreneur of the Year" Award.

Chamber honors Winery

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

After less than a year in business, Sandhills Winery owners Bob and Leslie Rose said they were surprised and thrilled to be recently named as one of three finalists for the Moore County Chamber of Commerce 'Entrepreneur Business of the Year.' This award recognizes a local small business in operation

less than five years, based on several criteria, including innovation, response to adversity, and community involvement. The other finalist is NC Self Storage, located in Southern Pines. The winner will be announced at the Moore County Chamber's Annual Banquet on January 28.

"It was an honor just to be nominated but we really want

to win!" exclaimed Leslie. "This business is a community thing – our success is because of them. This year has been a whirlwind for us and we've been received with open arms."

Since opening in February, Sandhills Winery has offered over 600 labels of wine, and provided an ever-expanding inventory that also includes forty

(See "Winery," p. 23)

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Engineer Pate was key player in 7 Lakes design

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Most current Seven Lakes residents have probably never heard of James C. Pate. Yet according to the folks who were around in the earliest days of the community, Pate, an engineer by trade, may have had more impact on the shape of Seven Lakes than any other individual.

"There is no single individual that has shaped this community — as far as design and layout is concerned — more than Jim Pate did," said Alan Shaw, former President of Longleaf, Inc., the original Seven Lakes development company.

Pate died at his home in Fayetteville on December 21.

Joe Cline, Longleaf's field supervisor, told *The Times* that Pate "would have to be given the lion's share of the credit for the engineering on the North, South, and West Side."

Pate studied engineering at the University of Arkansas, where he also played football, and later teamed up with his architect roommate Darrell Mullins to form Pate, Mullins, and Associates, the Sanford-based firm that handled almost all of Longleaf's architectural and engineering tasks — roads, drainage, permitting, even the smaller dams. The larger Auman and Sequoia dams were outsourced to another firm.

Shaw told *The Times* that Pate even played a pivotal role in the design of the Seven Lakes Country Club golf course. Peter V. Tufts developed the initial design for the course, Shaw explained, and then Tufts, Pate, and Shaw re-routed that design to improve it from a land-planning perspective. Tufts then placed and shaped the tee boxes, greens, and fairways.

"Jim Pate was a quality guy,"

Shaw told *The Times*, noting that Pate had "more than just an engineering interest in the community." He owned property in the community, and was even involved in purchasing some of the land.

"His interest in Seven Lakes was far greater than just a job," Shaw added.

Pate and Mullins would often host pig-pickin's and barbecues for the workers involved in the early development of the community.

A story Cline told gives some sense of those early days. The Northside pool was finished before three phase power was available to run the pool's massive pump and filtration system. So Longleaf brought in a generator to begin filling the pool and running the pumps.

"That generator was old and needed constant babysitting so it didn't burn itself up," Cline

said. "So we'd sit up with it all night."

One dark and steamy summer night while performing that chore, with no houses and no light save the dim glow of a Coca-Cola machine by the Landowners Office, Cline and Pate decided to cool off in the half-full pool. "We didn't have any swimming things," Cline told *The Times*, "so we slipped off buck naked and went swimming."

Their refreshing swim was interrupted by the sight of a car's headlight coming down the hill and across what is now the playground.

"Jim hit the panic button," Cline

recalled. Reminding the listener that this was a man who had been a college football lineman, he said, "Here you have this 250-pounder running around buck naked looking for his clothes!"

Fortunately, the car in question was being driven by Shaw, easing somewhat Pate's predicament.

"Jim was a good man and a good friend," Cline told *The Times*.

Pate is survived by his sons Breton and Prayson; his daughter, Jamie; his mother, Evva; his sister, Sandra; his fiancée, Jan Donaldson; and five grandchildren.

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 888-806-2572, or e-mailed to mail@seven-lakestimes.net.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
Jan. 22	Jan. 15
Feb. 5	Jan. 29
Feb. 19	Feb. 12
Mar. 5	Feb. 26
Mar. 19	Mar. 12
Apr. 2	Mar. 26
Apr. 16	Apr. 9
Apr. 30	Apr. 23
May 14	May 7
May 28	May 21
June 11	June 4
June 25	June 18
July 9*	July 1*

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.



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Co-op promises local food for local people

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Watermelon, cantaloupe, sweet corn and potatoes, strawberries, tomatoes, and even Bell peppers – are just the tip of the cornucopia of fresh produce that will be available this Spring

through the Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative.

Eagle Springs farmer Billy Carter said he will be growing all this and more on his 1,000-acre spread as a member of this business enterprise, which is designed to bring local food to

local people.

"I've lived here my entire life and been farming since college, twenty-five years ago. I have to do a lot more today to realize the same income. It takes large volumes to generate a reasonable income," Carter said, explain-

ing that the majority of his farm property is dedicated to tobacco and small grain crops like barley and oats. "One of the reasons I'm interested in the cooperative is finding a home for our produce. It is a benefit to us as well as for people interested in local produce."

Currently there are 450 charter members of The Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative and general membership will open on January 15. The cost to participate is \$25 which includes a refundable \$5 consumer share in the cooperative and \$20 account set-up fee which helps

to fund the purchase of boxes.

The program's motto is "Neighbors feeding neighbors," and membership numbers will determine how much local produce is needed. However, members are not obligated for purchases. As seasonal produce is available, details will be announced and members will then have the option to order subscription boxes and other food products as they become available. Subscription boxes will be delivered weekly to distribution sites throughout the county – a site in West End is currently under con-

(See "Co-op," p. 4)



Eagle Springs farmer Billy Carter will be supplying fresh produce to members of the Sandhills Farm to Table Co-op later this year.



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ESU offers wide range of timely programs

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

The Sandhills Branch of the English Speaking Union [ESU] will present a lecture on reforming the U.S. Health System on Wednesday, January 13, featuring guest speaker Dr. Christopher Ruhm, the Jefferson-Pilot Excellence Professor of Economics and Public Economics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Ruhm is a widely-acclaimed teacher, lecturer and writer, and is recognized as one of the top 1,000 economists in the world.

The Sandhills ESU is a mem-

bership organization dedicated to international and cultural scholarship. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, October through May, at CCNC, and feature a speaker with a distinguished background in national and world affairs. All are welcome to join, annual dues are \$75 per person or \$150 for a couple, and there is a separate charge for meal costs. Meetings are Black Tie, however, a dark suit is appropriate. Women are encouraged to wear cocktail dresses or pants suits.

"The programs are interest-

ing with varied topics and we always enjoy a very nice dinner," enthused Kay Kudreiko, a resident of Seven Lakes South. "The speakers are people you don't hear much about in other ways and a way to broaden your knowledge about what is happening around the area. Being a member has been very enjoyable."

The ESU is also actively engaged in scholarship programs for local teachers, with an emphasis on Shakespearian studies.

"It's nice to know what the schools are doing and how the help that the group provides has assisted them," said Kudreiko.

The organization was formed in 1918, at the end of World War I. Membership grew rapidly and numerous branches were established in the United States – eventually expanding to fifty countries throughout the world. Recognizing that English is a worldwide-binding language, the ESU broadened its mission to include scholarship and exchange programs. Last year a new middle school debate program was initiated, with the Sandhills branch

participating as one of multiple sites for an inaugural debate contest.

The January 13 event begins at 6:00 pm with a social hour at the Country Club of North Carolina [CCNC], followed by dinner. The menu is crusted salmon with roasted vegetable couscous and a trio dessert.

Other upcoming ESU events this Spring include:

Gib Young on February 10 will present, "Theodore Roosevelt in Pinehurst." Young is the nation's foremost interpreter of Teddy Roosevelt, our 26th president. The evening's menu is chicken Madeira, mashed potatoes and vegetables, and chocolate hazelnut Marquis.

Author and former Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Edward Braithwaite, will present at the "Sandhills Branch Shakespeare Competition" at the Sunrise Theatre at 10:00 am on Saturday, February 27. Braithwaite has written several books including "Paid Servant," "A Kind of Homecoming," and "To Sir With Love," which was made into a movie. Lunch will follow at The Jefferson Inn in Pinehurst.

Lynne Scott Safrit will present "The Growth of Biotech in North Carolina" on March 10. Safrit is president of Castle & Cooke North Carolina and Atlantic American Properties, (See "English," p. 5)

Co-op

(Continued from page 3)

sideration.

Connecting farmers, workers, and consumers, the program complements North Carolina's "Eat 10 Percent Local" campaign, and will help preserve local farms and open land while also improving the local economy.

In addition to a commitment to improve the quality of life for members and other residents of the community, the Cooperative values education and will

be offering classes on how to add more vegetables to your diet, eating healthier, as well as canning and preserving classes – so that members may enjoy local seasonal produce all year long.

To enroll as a General Member after January 15, visit www.sandhillsfarm2table.com or send a \$25 check made payable to Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative, 7 Dixie Drive, Whispering Pines, NC 28327, or by telephone 910-949-2142.



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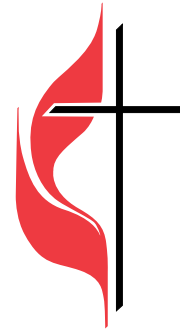
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Kiwanis recognize top Christmas decorators

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

The homes of Sam and Judy Demme (West side), Bob and Edie Reinhardt (North side), and

Chris and Carol Armstrong (South side) were chosen as winners in this year's Christmas decorations contest. Each home received a \$65 gift certificate

for their laudable efforts.

Three teams of judges toured the community prior to Christmas to select the winners. It was noteworthy that the Armstrong's

used almost 10,000 lights in their display. The Reinhardts were winners for a second time, while the Demme's display reflected their first award.

By encouraging Seven Lakers to spruce up their homes and lakefront property, the Kiwanians continue their investment in contributing to the village's well being.

This was the 15th year of this event sponsored by the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis Club dedicates their energies

toward uplifting the community and its children. Potential new members are invited to attend any Kiwanis Tuesday luncheon meeting at the Seven Lakes Country Club.



Sisters Chris and Carole Armstrong of Seven Lakes South were among this year's winners in the Seven lakes Kiwanis Christmas decoration contest. This photo, by Len Barnard, captures only about half of their festive display.

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English

(Continued from page 4)

and the project development manager of the North Carolina Research Campus, a major facility dedicated to state-of-the-art research in the fields of biotechnology, nutrition, and health. The evening's menu is grilled shrimp and crab cake, assorted vegetables and potatoes, and cheesecake with strawberries.

"The English language in Virginia and the Carolina," will be presented on May 4 by Dr. Christopher Mulvey, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Winchester, England. The evening's menu is spinach salad, shrimp skewer and crab cake, rice pilaf and vegetables, with key lime pie.

Each speaker program runs about an hour, following the social hour and dinner. Upon joining the ESU, members will receive a meal card from CCNC for billing dinner costs. Reservations are required and may be made for singles, couples, or for entire tables.

For more information on membership or to make a reservation, please call Martha O'Connor at 235-0635.

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We invite you to take the One Month To Live Challenge with us!
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January 10th – "Living the Dash"

January 17th – "Live Passionately"

January 24th – "Love Completely"

January 31st – "Learn Humbly"

February 7th – "Leave Boldly"

February 14th – "Living With No Regrets"

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"No matter how much this idea makes you squirm, it's a fact. No matter who you are, how young or old, what measure of success you've attained, or where you live, mortality remains the great equalizer. With each tick of the clock, a moment of your life is behind you. Even as you read this paragraph, seconds pass that you can never regain. Your days are numbered, and each one that passes is gone forever."

— Kerry Shook



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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Two Identical Services at 8:30 am & 11:00 am

Sunday School – 9:45 am

SOS offers presentation on insects, habitat

Save Our Sandhills will host guest speaker Dr. Stephen Hall on Thursday, January 28, to speak on "Insects and Habitats That Are of Special Conservation Concern in the North Carolina Sandhills." Dr. Hall, an Invertebrate Zoologist with the NC Natural Heritage Program, conducts studies of insects associated with specialized habitats.

The importance of this topic is twofold. First, scientists are trying to determine whether certain insects are facing extinction. They are trying to give as much weight to preserving rare and threatened insects as they do to vertebrates and plants. Secondly, they are trying to gauge the ecological integrity of the habitats of specific insects. For exam-

ple, scientists have found a high degree of ecological integrity in some longleaf-wire grass woodlands, and a strikingly low degree of integrity in some wetland habitats. Integrity of habitat is important to healthy interrelationships between insects and their host plants. Each species of insect, plant or animal plays an essential role in its ecosystem. Destruction of habitat is cause for alarm. When plants and insects disappear, the food source of birds and other animals is compromised and can even lead to the extinction of local wildlife populations.

Dr. Hall, who received a BA in Zoology from Pomona College and a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of North Carolina, has been the Invertebrate Zoologist for the NC Natural Heritage Program since 1990.

He has extensively surveyed insect populations and their habitats in the Coastal Plain. In the Sandhills, he conducted a survey that resulted in the Saint Francis' Satyr butterfly becoming

listed as a Federal Endangered Species. With regard to this project, he worked at Fort Bragg with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Army to determine how best to protect and manage its populations. For several years, he also worked at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve, preparing an

inventory of the Lepidoptera (butterflies, moths, and skip-pers) at the park.

Join Save Our Sandhills for this informative and interesting evening on Thursday, January 28, 7 pm, at the Southern Pines Civic Club, corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Southern Pines; refreshments to follow.



Dr. Stephen Hall

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Dodson entertains Kiwanis

by Frank Krohn
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Jim Dodson, Writer in Residence for *The Pilot* and Editor of *Pinestraw* magazine, spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, December 15.

Dodson well known in the Sandhills, and even nationally, for his books and the many contacts and friends he has acquired throughout his lifetime, spoke as he writes-down to earth, folksy and just plain friendly. He made the whole crowd feel as though it and he had been friends for

many years. In a non-scripted speech, he related some of his early life experiences, his associations with many famous golfers, both past and present that he has known, and even touched on the current dilemma of Tiger Woods.

Using Tiger as an example, he commented on the changes that have taken place in the world of Golf during the last 20-25 years. The massive infusion of corporate money into the business has changed the game of golf. Bottom line profits and cor-

porate greed has changed the value system of the game and the players, and Tiger's problems are a good example of what Cliff Roberts predicted many years ago, that too much money, and the focus on golf as a business, could destroy the game.

Mr. Dodson ended his talk all too soon with a question and answer session. Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Guests are always welcome.



Jim Dodson with Frank Hayes, the Program Chairman

Adult Academy program on Alzheimers-dementia

The Adult Academy, a joint venture of West End Presbyterian Church and The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines are hosting an Alzheimer/Dementia Program.

On January 19, Sangeeta Varanasi, M. D. will conduct a program on dementia, dealing with Alzheimer's and other debilitating forms of dementia.

Dr. Varanasi is Board certified in both Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine and is highly regarded by both colleagues and patients. She is in charge of Pinehurst Medical Clinic's Geriatric and Memory Disorders Clinic, where her consultant-only practice is dedicated to the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety

of memory related issues.

Although the Adult Academy program will concentrate on Alzheimer's, other forms of dementia will be discussed.

The program will be held at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines on Tuesday, January 19 at 7 pm.

The public is invited to attend and there is no charge.

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Theology & Lit at Adult Academy

In April, The Rev. Dr. Larry Lyon, pastor of West End Presbyterian Church, will lead a discussion on Theology and Literature.

Rev. Lyon will teach a four week course on Theology and Literature beginning on Tuesday, April 6 and concluding on Tuesday, April 27, 7-8:30 pm each night.

The course is based on writings by North Carolina authors

and sign-ups will be necessary to order the book that attendees will be studying. There is a minimal charge to cover the cost of the book.

The course will be held at West End Presbyterian Church and child care will be provided. More information on this programs will be forthcoming. The public is invited to attend.

Make your plans now to attend.

Accenting with flowers at 7 Lakes Garden Club

Join the SL Garden Club on Thursday, January 14, 7:30 pm at the Seven Lakes Northside Game Room, as they host Carol Dowd, AIFD, owner of Botanicals, Southern Pines.

Dowd will present a program to show everyone new and different ways to accent with flowers. She has twelve years experience in the nursery industry, beginning in her home and

opened her shop in 2005.

Dowd has an Associate Degree in Art and Interior Design and is a fourth generation in her family to work in the nursery business.

Dowd's designs have been featured in *Pinehurst Magazine's* Southern Weddings issues, and her bouquets have graced the covers three issues.

Chief Cal Loy at Kiwanis

by Frank Krohn
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

The Tuesday, November 17 meeting of the Seven Lakes Kiwanis featured a visit by Cal Loy, Seven Lakes Fire Chief.

He was invited-not a surprise inspection! Mr. Loy gave an interesting talk about the Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire Department.

The SL Volunteer Fire Department formed in 1976, is State chartered, and has a contract with Moore County.

There are 24 volunteer Firemen in the Department, and five part time, paid firefighters.

Each man must perform 285 hours of basic training, plus 60 hours/year additional training, to be a certified Firefighter.

This makes the recruiting of new people somewhat difficult because of the heavy time burden on the individuals. The recruiting job is crucial to the survival of the Department, but is becoming more difficult all the time.

After Chief Loy's talk, the audience visited the firehouse where they were shown all the equipment, and had the opportunity to question the Firemen first hand about their experiences.



Cal Loy

512

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County DSS names employees of the year

Two Moore County Department of Social Services' employees have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to the agency and the community.

Leah Harris, Supervisor of the Food & Nutrition Unit, was recognized as the Income Maintenance/Administration Employee of the Year. In a tough economy, the unit's caseload has risen to the point of needing more workers.

Even with the increased workload and higher call volume, Ms. Harris has led her team with professionalism and a "can do" attitude, sometimes working weekends to get the job done.

She was instrumental in helping the agency transition to a paperless system. Ms. Harris also has been recognized by the state for her streamlined version of the Food & Nutrition application and, under her guidance, her staff have won numerous state awards for proficiency and productivity.

April Wood, Social Worker III, was honored as the Services Employee of the Year. Ms. Wood was instrumental in the development and testing of the agency's paperless technology and trained fellow social workers to use the new system. She has taken the lead in the devel-

opment of streamlined forms, which has improved efficiency. Ms. Wood helped create a newsletter for teens and assisted with the development of a computerized case staffing system. Her talents have helped the social workers become more computer savvy and comfortable using technology.

Both women, upon receiving the awards, pointed out that their success was a testament to the great people they have the privilege to work with at DSS.

Director John Benton presented the honors at the agency's annual awards program on December 16.



Leah Harris and April Wood are presented DSS Employee of the Year awards by Director John Benton.

Chamber hosts State of State

NC House Speaker Joe Hackney is the featured speaker at Moore County Chamber of Commerce's State of the State event on January 12, at the Pinehurst Members Club, 11:45 am – 1:30 pm. This event is in partnership with Fidelity Bank.

Many states, including North Carolina, continue to struggle with budget decisions affecting services in almost every area. Attendees will be given the opportunity to hear from the Speaker of the House how the legislative body will address this on-going concern.

While budget decisions continue to be tough at the state and local levels, for the third consecutive year, *Site Selection* magazine has ranked North Carolina as the state with the "Top Business Climate."

North Carolina has actually achieved this status six times in

the last seven years.

At the meeting, Speaker Hackney will highlight how the state is continuing to work towards a business friendly environment and how it is addressing other top issues including education, economic development and military affairs.

The cost for Chamber members is \$25 and non-member \$50. Tickets at the door are \$35 and \$75. Reservations after January 5 will be invoiced in full. RSVP by calling (910) 692-3926 or via email at info@moore-countychamber.com



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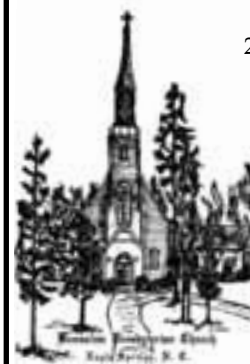
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Professionalism & Experience Make a Difference

League will review positions at upcoming meeting

Moore County's League of Women Voters will review the League's positions on a variety of issues from health care to international relations at their Tuesday, January 19 luncheon.

For the program, 'The Big Picture, How Do We Fit In?' members of the Moore County League board will make short reports

on League's positions.

Under the broad topic of Representative Government, Mary Lou Bennett and Selma Schwartzbach will describe the League's position of Voting rights, Election process, Citizen Rights and Congress and the Presidency.

John Reagan and Linda Table-

man will be reporting on the League's position covering International Relations, covering the U.N., Trade, U.S. Relations with Developing Countries, Arms Control and Military Policy and spending.

Nora Moran and Mary Anne Bird will be discussing Natural Resources, mentioning League

positions on Resource Management, Environmental protection and Pollution Control, Public Participation and Agricultural Policy.

Finally, Mary Price, Barbara Farr, Dot Lawless and Ginger Minichello will be discussing the League's position concerning Social Policy, covering Equal Opportunities, Fiscal Policy, Health Care, Immigration, and Meeting Basic Human Needs.

The public is welcome to attend this luncheon, which will be held of the League of Women Voters

of Moore County will be held at the Table on the Green Restaurant, in Midland Country Club.

Check-in time is 11:30 AM and the meeting will start at 11:45.

Lunch may be reserved by calling Charlotte Gallagher at 910-244-9611, at least by January 15. Cost for the meal is \$12. A check, payable to LWVMC, is the preferred method of payment. The meal is catered, 'no-shows' without prior cancellation will still be required to pay.

Carmela & Marjorie will cook up hearty winter dishes

On Saturday, January 23, at 1 pm, Carmela Chase and Marjorie Nurnberg will present a "Hands-on-Cooking" Program, at Seven Lakes West Side Park Community Center.

Participants will create simple dishes for their Super Bowl party or just for supper with the family. Dishes that are hearty and party fun for those cold winter nights.

Groups of five will prep ingredients, and make one recipe of the five recipes featured.

A sample of the featured recipes include; Hearty Potato and Cheddar with Bacon Soup, Spicy Hot Wings with Blue Cheese Sauce, Jambalaya, and other dishes and desserts that can be made ahead, easily and quickly.

At the conclusion of the pro-

gram everyone will partake in tasting of all the dishes and receive copies of the recipes presented.

This program is sponsored by the West Side Community Activities Committee. Cost is \$12.50 per person. For information and to register for the program, call 673-5314.

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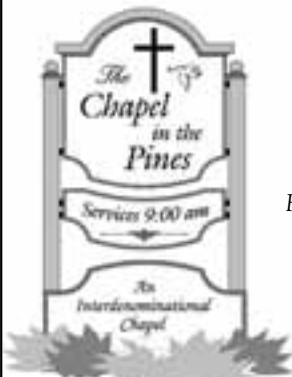
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Reverend Stark will be conducting the worship services during the month of January.

January 10th - Bob Tourt, Soloist

January 17th - Chapel Choir

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In memory of . . .

Mary Margaret (Peg) Hart, 83, died January 5, at her home in Seven Lakes.

She was born in Rochester, NY, the daughter of Delbert A. and Helen Kennedy Predmore.

She graduated from Academy of the Sacred Heart, Prince Street, Rochester and then Good Counsel College, White Plains, NY (now Pace University) in 1948.

In 1968, Mrs. Hart received a Master's of Library Science from State University of New York at Geneseo, NY. She became children's librarian at the Emma Sherman School in the Rush-Henrietta School District. She and George retired in 1985 and moved to Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Hart was a literacy volunteer in Moore and Montgomery Counties, tutored, directed choir, sang in the Moore County Choral Society, was a board member and music librarian for the Society, a member of Our Lady of the Americas, and a member of the Seven Lakes Country Club.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday January 16, at 2 pm at Our Lady of the Americas in Candor. There will be no calling hours. Interment will be at the Columbarium of the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines at the convenience of the family.

Mrs. Hart was preceded in death by her brother, William F. Predmore II and husband, George F. Hart.

She is survived by her sisters: Ann Roach (Francis) and Carol Shields (Thomas), both of Rochester, NY; sons, Kevin Hart of Ann Arbor, MI, Christopher Hart of Irondequoit, NY; Peter Hart of Buffalo, NY; William Hart of Albany, NY; Dr. Brian Hart of Saranac Lake, NY; and John Hart of Rochester, NY; and one daughter – Meg Minich of Bear, DE; and seven grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made in Mrs. Hart's memory to Our Lady of the Americas, PO Box 519, Candor NC 27229 or to First Health Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Rd, Pinehurst NC 28374.

Therese Lucille McClelland of Georgetown, TX, formerly Seven Lakes died January 2.

She was born in Volga, South Dakota, graduated high school in Madison, South Dakota and attended the University of Denver. She was a member of Sigma Kappa and Zeta Phi Eta sororities while also affiliated with Kappa Sigma fraternity. She and her husband, Robert lived in the Seven Lakes from 1986 to 1998. She was a church volunteer.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Gepka Pool of Madison, South Dakota.

She is survived by her husband, Robert; two daughters, Barbara VanDyke of Holly Springs, NC; Nancy Sproul of San Angelo, TX; a brother, Sherman Pool of Albuquerque, NM; four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

A memorial service was held at The Worship Place in Georgetown, TX on January 5. The Reverend Ron Robinson officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Worship Place Library Fund, 811 Sun City Boulevard, Georgetown, Texas 78633.

Elsie Mae Southard, 88, of West End, died Friday January 1, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Southard was the daughter of the late Sidney Bryant Smith and Maggie Boles Smith of Stokes County.

Mrs. Southard was a member of the Palmair Baptist Church.

Funeral services were held Sunday, January 3 at Boles Funeral Home in Seven Lakes. The Rev. Dana Brewer and Rev Otis Goins officiated. Burial followed in the West End Cemetery.

Mrs. Southard was preceded in death by her husband James Floyd Southard and her brother Robert Smith.

Mrs. Southard is survived by her two sons, Jesse Clifton Southard of Candor; James Robert Southard of West End; a daughter, Betty S. Puckett of West End; eight grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

Dorothy Langenmi Spies, 92, of West End died December

26, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Spies was the daughter of the late Arie Bloembergen and Deana Terveen in Groningen, Netherlands.

Mrs. Spies is survived by her daughter, Dorothy Koenig; her son, Helmuth "Harry" Mobius of Walnut Creek, CA; a sister, Anna Shattuck of West End; six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Dorothy Spies to the West End United Methodist Church Food Pantry, PO Box 276, West End, NC 27376.

Godfrey F. Bellavigna, 84, of Seven Lakes, died Tuesday, December 15.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2:30 pm at West End Presbyterian Church.

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New classes for painters start in February

Westsider Andrea Schmidt cranks up a new round of her popular painting classes in February with sessions for both watercolorists and those who prefer oils or acrylics.

Watercolor students will learn:

- "Plein Air" painting on location using basic watercolor techniques,
- Usage of watercolor board,
- Use of Gesso on watercolor paper, and

- Silhouette painting with watercolors.

Choose either Monday morning from 10 am to 12 noon, February 1, 8, 15, and 22 or Wednesday morning from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm, February 3, 10, 17, and 24.

Students should bring the following supplies: 140# acid free watercolor paper and watercolor board, masking tape, your own palette with assorted water-

colors, small jar of "Gesso-Acrylic-water-base" paper towels, watercolor brushes, water container, note pad, plastic table cover, etc.

Oil/Acrylic students will learn color values, cityscapes, and structuring live subjects while working with photos of personal interest. Friday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon, February 5, 12, 19, and 26.

Students should bring the fol-

lowing supplies: Primed stretched canvas 8x10 or 11x14 or 16x20, white and black paint plus other assorted colors, oil paint brushes in sizes #10 flat, #8 round, fine liner or script #1 or #2, water container for brushes, pallet tablet with tear-off sheets for mixing colors, natural sponge paper towels, and/or existing supplies, plastic table cover, etc.

All classes are held on the lower level activity room of West Side Park Community Center (WSPCC) and are limited to 12 students each.

Instruction is designed for

beginner and intermediate level students. Cost is \$25 per student for each 4 week class.

Classes are open to all residents of Seven Lakes who must sign up at the WSPCC office to reserve their space.

Andrea Schmidt is a renowned artist and dynamic teacher with more than 30 years experience and a Seven Lakes West resident.

If you have any questions regarding the classes or supplies required, call Schmidt at 673-1210

January blood drive

The Moore County Office of the American Red Cross announces the following blood drive locations for January:

Friday, January 8

1:30 - 6 pm
Community Presbyterian
125 Everett Rd.
235-0712 or 295-6848

Wednesday, January 13

10 am-3 pm
Sandhills Community College
Blue Hall, 3395 Airport Rd.
Make appt. online at
www.membersforlife.org/cbsr/schedule. Search sponsor code 1769

Thursday, January 21

10 am -2:30 pm
First Health Fitness Center
170 Memorial Dr.
Pinehurst
715-1800

Friday, January 22

10 am - 2:30 pm
Moore Co. Red Cross
Douglass Community Center
1185 W. Pennsylvania Ave.
Southern Pines
692-8571

Tuesday, January 26

1:30 - 6 pm
Penick Village
First Bank

North Building
Emmanuel Episcopal Ch.
100 E. Rhode Island Ave.
Southern Pines
692-8571

Wednesday, January 27

1:30 - 6 pm
Sandhills Cycle Center
On the bus
7540 Hwy 15-501 North
Pinehurst
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There is no longer an upper age limit. Donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parent's permission). For eligibility questions call 1-866-236-3276.



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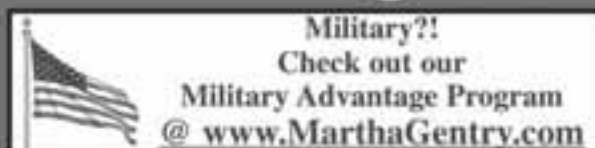
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County Listings



FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30 - 6 pm, Community Presbyterian Church, 125 Everett Rd., Pinehurst. For an appt. call 235-0712 or 295-6848.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

- **Standard First Aid + Adult CPR/AED** – 8 am - 2 pm, Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification fee \$60. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees must be paid in advance. Class size is limited. Fees are non-refundable, but they may be applied to another course. 692-8571
- **Leave One For The Chipper** – 9 am to 3 pm, corner of Hwy 15-501 and Murray Hill Road, Southern Pines (Beside Tripps Restaurant). Bring your Christmas tree for recycling. Trees will be chipped into mulch on site. Keep Moore County Beautiful will provide bags for individuals to take free mulch home to use around shrubs, trees or in flower beds. For additional information, contact Joan Neal, Executive Director, Keep Moore County Beautiful, Inc. jneal@moore-countync.gov or 947-3478.
- **Drop-In Wine Tasting** – 1 to 5 pm at Sandhills Winery. At least five types or varietals to educate your palate. Located in Seven Lakes Plaza, next to Peking Wok.
- **Temple Theatre** – 8 pm, Country Comedy Tour; first standup comedy show at Temple Theatre in historic downtown Sanford. Tickets are \$15. This is a clean comedy show and is suitable for the whole family. Country Comedy Tour has made seven appearances on the Tonight Show and has been seen on Fox, MTV, CMT, and the Rick and Bubba Show. Temple Theatre website at www.templeshows.com or call the Box Office at 919-774-

4155.



What's When Calendar

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

- **Eddie Barrett** – with the Goodman Legacy Orchestra. 3:30 to 6 pm. At Mr. P's, 155 Hall Avenue, Southern Pines.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Work Session** – 8:30 am, Conference Room.
- **National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Sandhills Chapter 1895** – monthly meeting, 10:30 am at the Community Congregational Church, 141 N. Bennett St., Southern Pines. The guest speaker will be Dr. Rhonda Faircloth, Wake Forest School of Medicine. She will speak on diabetes research. Chapter 1895 welcomes all Federal (including US Postal Service)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Work Session** – 9 am, West Side Park Community Center.
- **State of the State** – at Pinehurst

Members Club, 11:45 am – 1:30 pm. The Honorable Joe Hackney, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, will highlight how the NC is continuing to work towards a business friendly environment and how it is addressing other top issues including education, economic development and military affairs. Cost for Chamber members is \$25 and non-member \$50. Tickets at the door are \$35 and \$75. Reservations after January 5, 2010 will be invoiced in full. Please RSVP by calling (910) 692-3926 or via email at info@moorecounty-chamber.com Sponsored by Moore County Chamber and in partnership with Fidelity Bank.

- **Seven Lakes Computer Club**

– 3 pm, Seven Lakes North Game room. Jim Anderson, retired Professor and Coordinator of Networking Technology at Sandhills Community College will be the guest speaker. The topic will be "Latest free Security Products for your Computer and Tips for Upgrading your computer to Windows 7."

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13

- **Sandhills Community College** – 10 am -3 pm, American Red Cross Blood Donation Site, Blue Hall, SCC, 3395 Airport Rd. Make appt. online at www.membersforlife.org/cbsr/schedule. Search spon-

sor code 1769

- **Belford Baptist Church** – 7:30 pm, hosting a New Year's Crusade 2010 with National Evangelist Perry Hester. The Crusade will continue each night through January 15. The church is located at 925 Windblow Rd., Jackson Springs.
- **Professional Rescuer CPR/AED Review** – 6:30 - 8:30 pm, *Prerequisite: Participant should hold current or recently expired certification in the review subject. (For Healthcare Providers & Lifeguards) Red Cross Certification Course. Certification fee \$25. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees must



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

- **Moore County Republican Men's Club** – monthly meeting, 12 noon; at the Country Club of North Carolina. The featured speaker will be the Honorable Robert Holt Edmunds, Jr., Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Persons interested in attending the meeting can contact Miles Baldwin at 910-295-1577. Luncheon cost is \$15.
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Game Room. Carol Dowd, AIFD, owner of Botanicals in Southern Pines will present a program to show new and different ways to accent with flowers. Dowd has 12 years experience in the nursery industry, beginning in her home and opening her shop in 2005. Dowd's designs have been featured in Pinehurst Magazine's Southern Weddings issues, and her bouquets have graced the covers three times. Join the Garden Club for a fun filled evening.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

- **Moore County Literacy**

Council – Orientation 1- 2 pm, workshops for volunteers who would like to become adult tutors. Volunteers are required to attend Orientation required prior to a training session. Tutor Training sessions continues on January 26, 27 (Tues & Wed) 9 am - 4 pm. Donations will be accepted to defray the cost of materials. Bring a lunch. Register one week prior to session. All sessions held at Emmanuel Youth House, 385 E Indiana, Southern Pines. Registrations may be made by phone, (910)692-5954 or e-mail, pammclc@nc.rr.com.

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 6 pm, at Historic Courthouse, downtown, Carthage.
- **WEPC and Chapel in the Pines Alzheimer and Dementia Program** – 7 pm, Sangeeta Varanasi, M. D. will conduct a program on dementia, dealing with Alzheimer's and other debilitating forms of dementia. Dr. Varanasi is in charge of Pinehurst Medical Clinic's Geriatric and Memory Disorders Clinic, where her consultant-only practice is dedicated to the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of memory related issues. Sponsored by the Adult Academy of West End Presbyterian Church and Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. The program will be held at the Seven Lakes

Chapel in the Pines. The public is invited to attend and there is no charge.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

- **Standard First Aid** – 6 - 9 pm, Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification Fee \$35. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees must be paid in advance. Class size is limited. Fees are nonrefundable, but they may be applied to another course. 692-8571

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

- **CPR/AED for the Healthcare Provider** – 9 am - 4 pm, Red Cross Introductory Certification Course. Certification Fee \$60. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees must be paid in advance. Class size is limited. Fees are nonrefundable, but they may be applied to another course. 692-8571
- **FirstHealth Fitness Center** – 10 am -2:30 pm, American Red Cross Blood Donation Site. 170 Memorial Dr., Pinehurst. Appt call 715-1800.
- **Seven Lakes Forum** – 4 pm, Contemporary research in genetics and molecular biology has indicated that there are many possibilities for modifying the physical characteristics

of human beings, including the elimination of some of the currently incurable diseases which severely affect the quality of human life. Dr. Lynn Elwell, a nationally-recognized biotechnology researcher, consultant and prolific author in the field will present the topic entitled Human Gene Therapy: Promises and Risks. Held on the upper level of the West Side Park Community Center. All women and men from Seven Lakes, and their guests, are invited to attend. For more information, contact Bill Mamel (673-8970). Next Forum: Thursday, February 18, 4 pm. Tentative title: Continuing Care Retirement Communities: Industry Trends for the New Generation of Consumers

- **Adult/Infant/Child CPR/AED Review** – 6 - 8:30 pm, *Pre-requisite: Participant should hold current or recently expired certification in the review subject. Certification fee \$25. 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Fees must be paid in advance. Class size is limited. Fees nonrefundable. 692-8571

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

- **Moore Co. Red Cross** – 10 am - 2:30 pm, American Red Cross Blood Donation Site, Douglass Community Center, 1185 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Appt call 692-8571.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

- **Super Bowl Party and Other**

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Get your kids signed up for Spring 'futbol'

Sandhills Futbol Club (SFC) has brought a new style of recreational soccer to Moore County. Beginning the last week in February elementary school children at five Moore County schools will take part in weekly soccer training at their own school.

SFC is excited to bring sports directly to the schools allowing more students to participate in recreational sports programs immediately following school so even kids in after school programs can now participate in recreational sports. This fitness program will teach each student the fundamentals of soccer through fun, fast paced soccer games and matches.

Registration is now being taken for students at many of the schools in Moore County for this soccer program.

At 3 pm, one day a week, SFC trained staff coaches will meet with all K-5th grade students for a 30 minute master

training session. During the session each player will be taught fundamentals of soccer: dribbling, passing, trapping, and shooting. These fundamentals are imperative to playing the game successfully and are often left out of recreational soccer training, leaving players lost on the pitch. SFC will give each player the

proper tools to play the game to the best of their ability. They are taught through active games and drills that are age and skill appropriate.

SFC will also host Saturday Soccer Friendlies. These small sided, tournament style matches for our registered U8 players and above, are a bit more struc-

tured than weekly matches and are designed for development and success. The U8 and above players from each school are invited to play, representing their school in a series of matches half way through the 6 week training and at the end of the training.

Sandhills Futbol Club has a highly trained staff comprised

of coaches who have all played at the college level and above, are schooled and licensed, in coaching and training players no matter what level.

SFC understands that soccer is a community sport and has many programs available to youth of all ages and levels of play.



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WSL will host mixer for the community

Newcomers and neighbors, old friends and new ones too – everyone is invited to the Women of Seven Lakes Community Social Mixer for great food, fun and conversation. Mark your calendars now for Sunday, January 31, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and the event is BYOB.

This is a popular event and space is limited. Tickets are only \$5 and will be available for purchase at Seven Lakes community mail houses on Thursday and Friday, January 14-15 and January 21-22.

For more information, please call Chair Ginny Heerma at 673-5150.

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Chorus donations top \$25,000 in 2009

The Golf Capital Chorus is pleased to announce a record amount of charitable donations made in 2009. Approximately

\$25,000 has been donated to local charities by the barber-shop singers.

This money is raised from the

chorus' annual show, the singing Valentines program, and numerous paid engagements by the chorus, ensembles and quartets. The chorus has contributed over \$250,000 to local charities in the past twenty years.

During the holidays, the cho-

rus sang at the tree lighting in both Pinehurst and Southern Pines, the Military Officers' Dinner, and several other seasonal events.

The Chorus is made up of men who love to sing, with a wide diversity of musical back-

grounds, ranging from professional musicians to shower singers. Anyone is welcome to visit practices, held Monday nights at 7 pm at Community Presbyterian Church, Pinehurst.

Cran-Apple Salad

Please forgive me for being so lax recently. It seems that I haven't been reminded of any recipes recently except for the ones I have already shared with you. I thought everyone might like this if you like cranberry combinations after Christmas and Thanksgiving

Cran-Apple Salad or Relish

Ingredients:

- 1 can whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1 rib of celery, chopped fine
- 1 medium, unpeeled tart apple, thinly sliced or chopped (Granny Smith or Pink Lady)
- 1/2 cup chopped English walnuts

Combine all ingredients. Cover and refrigerate.



from Lucy's
Kitchen

Lucy Ingram
Seven Lakes South

Windows got you baffled?

A Windows XP Level I class will be taught at West End Elementary School.

The class begins on January 26 and runs through February 23, on Tuesday's and Thursday's, 6 - 8 pm. Corinne Walls will be the instructor for this class. The class will include informa-

tion on virus protection, creating folders, moving files, computer maintenance, control panel options, printing, basic word processing, creating CDs and

much more.

Call the Continuing Education Department of Sandhills Community College to register at 910-692-3766.

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Resolutions to ring in the New Year

So here we are in twenty-ten, or is that two thousand and ten?

Folks seem to slip back and forth between those phrases and a simmering debate is gathering over which is correct. Well, maybe not correct but at least to determine which one sounds better rolling off the tongue.

Personally, I'm suffering from a New Year's speech impediment because that pesky 'o' keeps sliding in on my dates. You know, last year we'd shorten it up to o-nine, so I just say it's o-ten.

And I had to laugh when a friend recently pointed out that this is 2010 — and didn't we all think we'd be living like The Jet-

son's by now? It was strange enough to party a decade ago like it was 1999, and then to duh-nuh-nah-DUHNUH through 2001, but my friend is absolutely right.

So what I want to know is, "Where's Rosie?"

If this is the future we all dreamed about as kids, then I expect that dutiful Jetson-era robot maid to pop out of my kitchen any minute with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and a dust rag in the other.

There! Oops, I thought I saw her but it was just my own reflection in the window — which needs cleaning, I see.

With no help forthcoming from

Rosie I guess I'll multitask and use that rag to polish off a few of my customary New Years resolutions this morning too.



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

Repeat after me. I will not procrastinate, I will clip coupons, I will eat healthier and stop pretending that hot dog and hamburger condiments count as veg-

etable servings.

And I will spend more time reading.

Books, that is. I already spend plenty of time reading online news: a hazard of the profession, I guess. First I'll check out our local happenings, then surf over to see

what's new in my mother's hometown, before moving on to the national press. All told, I can easily kill half the day perusing the work of my fellow ink-stained

wretches.

Now you know why I count procrastination as character flaw number one.

And as for those veggies, I'm off to a great start this year as a new member of the local farmer's co-op. With a mean Scottish streak running through my veins [read: cheap], I've found I'm much more likely to stick with something once money is involved. I figure an obligatory weekly box o'greens will keep at least one of my rusty old resolutions on track.

So here's to twenty-ten, two thousand and ten, or o-ten . . . no matter how you choose to say it, Happy New Year.

Fulcher's look back paints too rosy a picture

Dear Editor:

Retired community manager Dalton Fulcher's parting shot at the current board of Director's deserves a rebuttal.

To their credit, the current board made a difficult decision after considering all options. Contrary to Fulcher's claims, the community will not prosper by continuation of existing policies.

Fulcher's solution to spend money on infrastructure with funds from increased dues ignores the fact that his administrative policies had significant areas of waste which when elim-

inated will save in excess of \$100,000 a year.

To someone without business acumen, Fulcher's statement about office staffing remaining constant seems to be a remarkable achievement. To those that understand the concept of the modern office, it simply shows Fulcher is out of touch.

When Fulcher arrived, the manager was staffing and supervising the operation of both the North and South Gates. Soon after he arrived, Company Police was formed. Affordable computers with all of the bells and whistles for accounting and word

processing were not available. Handling receivables, payables, and check writing was a time consuming function.

Today, the gate operation is subcontracted, there is no Company Police, we have computers, e-mail, word processing, accounting programs with integrated check writing, and mobility in communications. These items reduce significantly the hours required of managers and staff.

A professional subcontractor will do all accounting, phone answering, billing, banking, and mailings for about \$34,000 a year. Thus, it is logical to exam-

ine why administrative cost, including manager salaries, exceeds \$250,000 this budget year.

Only the board knows the deliberations that were involved in selecting Fulcher's replacement. Yet, it is clear that consolidating the manager and assistant manager's jobs and out sourced back office operations is necessary.

New policies must be implemented to keep cost as low as possible while maintaining acceptable community stan-

dards. Operational savings can be used to increase capital expenditures. I commend this board for doing the job they were elected to do. However, their job is only half complete. The second half is to empower the new manager or management group to manage the community and then hold them accountable for performance.

D. Alan Shaw
Seven Lakes South

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

Published every other Friday for residents & landowners
of Seven Lakes, Foxfire, & McLendon Hills, NC
by Seven Lakes Times, LLC, P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376
910-673-0111 • 888-806-2572 (fax) • mail@sevenlaketimestimes.net

Publishers — Greg Hankins & Tom Hankins
Editor — Greg Hankins • Layout & Design — Marcy Hankins
Reporter — Laura Douglass

Founded in 1985 by Seven Lakes Times, Inc.
J. Sherwood Dunham, Alfred C. Gent,
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Letters to the
Editor



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Is Westside dues increase really necessary?

Dear Editor:

Have the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association board members lost their minds in having a thirty-six percent — and I repeat, thirty-six percent — increase in dues in one year? Is it really necessary? What about sixty-nine percent on unoccupied lots?

It is always responsible to build reserves for the next twenty years, but is that board completely out of touch with our current down economy, unemploy-

ment rate, and overall decline in real estate values (twenty percent or more) including new building starts and resale down fifty percent?

Is it really, really necessary to spend \$16,000 for a master plan, \$18,000 for a fence, \$15,000 for guard rails, \$15,000 for proximity cards, \$67,000 for road drainage, \$20,000 for cameras — all in one year?

Is it really necessary to eliminate the volunteers that put up the Christmas decorations for

the last twenty years and spend another \$3,000 to replace their great work? I'm sure the overall budget is full of this type of thoughtless spending, which could and should save the homeowners and landowners of this Association thousands upon thousand of dollars.

To follow other associations that have higher dues as a good reason to accept this type of increase reminds me of the game "follow the leader." Unfortunately, if the leader is last and falls off a cliff who would want to follow that leader? That in itself is irresponsible and given by some who could care less about running the Association in a cost effective, responsible manner, especially with the state of the economy overall in such bad shape.

I would call on every board

member to reconsider this extreme measure of a thirty-six percent dues increase and reverse their vote to a more sensible alternative for everyone's benefit. I would call on every homeowner and lot owner to vote "No" on the entire budget if this board continues to act irresponsibly in shoving this increase down our throats.

I'm sure there is at least one person on the board who rec-

ognizes a more conservative approach to building the reserve over a short period of time.

How about a ten percent increase, if necessary, each year for the next three years? I think a lot more homeowners and landowners could swallow that type of increase, if it's really necessary.

Ron Weber
Seven Lakes West

Westside budget raises dues, cuts amenities

To the Editor:

If I read *The Times* correctly, for an extra \$255 per year, my family can enjoy a pool that has no diving board and a pool with no lifeguards.

In addition, in order to visit the pool unescorted, the resident is required to be 16 years old. Is the Board aware that the American Red Cross considers 15 year olds to be mature and responsible enough to earn their lifesaving certificates and hold a job as a lifeguard?

Why has the unescorted age been set at 16?

No wonder the North Side is

concerned about the influx of families from the West Side coming in and overcrowding their pool. The West Side pool is no longer an amenity for my family — it's just a big wading pool. What a waste!

Along with the elimination of the fireworks display, I see nothing but a loss of my family's amenities for an extra \$255 per year.

Obviously, the Board will not receive a yes vote for their budget request from my family.

Lisa Morris
Seven Lakes West

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Thanks 7 Lakes!

*Dear Seven Lakes
Friends and Neighbors:*

First, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the many friends from Seven Lakes, North, South and West for your interest in my recovery from my recent surgery.

The many cards, visits, call, and flowers were a big help in my recovery. If any one needs a second opinion for a major back problem you might contact the Hey Clinic in Raleigh. You can get information about the clinic on the internet. Also, if you are in need of a temporary nursing and rehabilitation facility you should visit Quail Haven. The staff, nurses, physical therapists, activities director were outstanding during my month stay at Quail Haven. I could not have received better care.

Second, I wish to thank Kent Droppers for his dedication, time, and thoroughness in studying our need for new management. His hard work will be of tremendous assistance to all residents. Also, the Board is to be commended for their review of Kent's work and their support of his recommendations. All who worked on this project also deserve our thanks.

Third, thanks to Bud Shaver and his maintenance committee for the obvious improvements in our community.

Bob Darr, who was hired to oversee the maintenance program has done a superb job also. To site just one example, from many, the maintenance yard has been cleaned for the first time in my 19 years at Seven Lakes. I certainly hope we elect Bob to our board, so he can continue to serve our community.

I believe 2010 can be a very fine year for Seven Lakes and I shall support the new management staff in the small way one resident can help.

*Charlie Oliver
Resident of Seven Lakes
since July 1991*

Look before you leap

One of the chief happenings that have kept surfacing in my life is the reminder of how friendships have helped me maintain at least some degree of equilibrium in a world beset with disturbing

headlines daily.

It seems to extremely important that as my eighth grade teacher once told us: "Try to listen to all points of view" before spouting off in a big hurry to smack them down, either openly, or privately at home in front of your quizzical dog. Yes, it's difficult to shut our ear when someone is spouting of what's wrong

with the world. You sit there waiting for the chance to interject, calmly and even decisively (you think) with depth and, hopefully, decency.

So what's a bigger challenge that learning? The chance to gather the bits and pieces of knowledge to help us approach the equilibrium we all need. It's a challenge. One that's big enough to cause some to miss the mark, but certainly one of the major goals to reach regardless of how long it may take,

So, as an author in my library

room full of pieces of wisdom says: "Never forget you're not the only person who's right."

Yes, it's all about forming bridges between minds.



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

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It's January in Seven Lakes; time for Silly Season

It's a new year in Seven Lakes, and that means it's time for "Silly Season."

Every sport seems to have one. Now that the regular season is over and the Superbowl is on the horizon, Silly Season has cranked up for the National Football League, with firings and rumors of firings — like the Redskins' replacement of Head Coach Jim Zorn with New Head Coach Mike Shanahan on Wednesday.

ki, too cold to golf, too cold to fish, too cold to pick up pinecones, too cold to do anything but study the news of the day and work up a lather about it.

Second, it's time for the landowners associations on either side of NC Hwy 211 to roll out their budgets for the coming year — and any proposed dues increases. North and Southsiders approved a two-for-one dues increase last year, so the budget may not

generate too much silliness over there. But the Westside Board is looking for a whopping thirty-six percent hike in the rate for home-

owners and sixty-nine percent for lot owners. That's already started to generate some feedback — pro and con — in our opinion section.

Third, it's time to elect new Board members. We've got a full slate of candidates on either side of town, though we really haven't gotten a chance to know most of them yet. We do know one Seven Lakes Landowners Association candidate pretty well — former President Don Truesdell, who had the great good fortune to preside over that Board

(See "Silly," p. 22)

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



Silly Season hits the NASCAR motorsports garages around mid-summer, when it's becoming clear which drivers and crew chiefs have chemistry and which teams need a little shake-up.

In Seven Lakes, the sport in question is local politics, and the season starts now. The venue is the Letters to the Editor column of this newspaper.

Why now? Well, first, folks have some time on their hands. The holidays are over and it's too cold to sail, too cold to waters-

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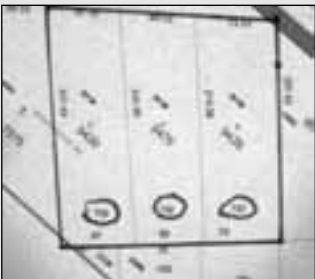


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Silly Season

(Continued from page 21)

during one of its most tempestuous periods ever. We expect some folks to use our letters section to weigh in on the qualifications of Truesdell and other candidates.

The weather, the budget, the candidates — not to mention breaking in a new management company on the North and South Side — there will be plenty of fodder for letters over the next couple of months, before most of the controversy gets settled at the Associations' annual meetings in March.

In short, Silly Season.

If you like vigorous public debate, you love it. Folks getting riled up, expressing their opinion, trying to convince their neighbors — it's the very heart of democracy.

If, on the other hand, you think of Seven Lakes as a peaceful little oasis in the midst of the Sandhills where all is quiet and harmonious, with neighbors help-

ing neighbors and nary a cross word or raised voice to be found, Silly Season may scare the socks right off of you.

Just this week, I had one of those perennial conversations with a local builder or Realtor who was concerned because some non-resident lot-owners had become alarmed reading *The Times*. The strong language in our Letters section had them spooked, wondering whether our peaceful oasis was about to burst into all-out war.

If you are one of those gentle souls, let me reassure you. Seven Lakes is in fact a peaceful little oasis in the midst of the Sandhills where all is pretty much quiet and harmonious, where neighbors care deeply about the welfare of their neighbors, and where a genuine sense of community spirit pervades that inevitably overcomes any rancor that may arise during Silly Season.

But Seven Lakes is also home

to folks who care deeply about the future of their community and are not shy about using every available venue to put forward strongly-worded arguments with the aim of convincing other folks that their vision of that future is the correct one.

It takes both kinds of caring to make a community as strong as Seven Lakes.

Be ye not afraid of the vituperative letter-writer; for often he has a heart of gold.

And if ye be one of those vituperative scribes, consider, as we enter Silly Season, this simple editor's tip:

If, while scribing, you find yourself using multiple exclamation points; if you find yourself maligning the integrity of your opponent; if you find yourself using the word "unconscionable;" or if you find yourself making reference to Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, or Osama

bin Laden — if you find yourself doing any of these things, please, lay down your pen and pick up a nice cup of chamomile tea, a mug of hot cocoa, or tumbler of single-malt scotch, reflect while enjoying your refreshment that some readers will read in

your tone clues to the character of this community, and then turn back to your page with a gentler spirit.

We'll all be much happier — and much more likely to survive Silly Season unscathed.

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Winery

(Continued from front page)

beers from around the world, kegs by pre-order, dips & chips and all manner of party goods, as well as gift baskets and tempting goodies like chocolates, meats, and cheeses.

However, the Roses said their biggest accomplishment has been successfully creating the popular social destination that they had envisioned.

"We really wanted to be the 'Cheers' for this area – the place where everyone knows your name. We've done that," Leslie said. "Seven Lakes is so unique. We're all transplants and we all want that atmosphere of a friendly town. There is never a stranger at our store."

Residents of Seven Lakes South for sixteen years, the Roses stocked the shelves with high end wines, grocery store brands — and everything in between — almost always at better prices than elsewhere.

In many ways the customers themselves have shaped the inventory, Leslie explained, and have, in some cases, brought new wines to their attention.

"We're very much about what

customers want," said Leslie. "We'll try to find their favorites and no order is too small. If you want one special bottle, we'll get it for you."

And then some things just take on a life of their own — like ChocoVine.

"That was the hit of the season and we were the first in the county to offer it," said Bob.

Their initial four case order of the Dutch chocolate and red wine concoction sold out in three hours. Their next order of twenty cases sold out in three days.

"We kept ordering it and kept selling out! But this put us on the map in Moore County. If you wanted ChocoVine, you came to Sandhills Winery," Leslie said.

Looking to the future, the Roses hope to expand Sandhills Winery into an additional business space that will allow them to offer even more specialty products, perhaps deli meats, cheeses, and fresh breads.

As part of that planning, the couple will soon be participating in a three-day cheese workshop in New York City, learning about sixty types of cheese and how

to pair each with wines and beer.

Also for the New Year, Sandhills Winery will be offering wine-o-grams for special occasions and gifts — wrapped bottles will be hand-delivered locally.

Stop-in tastings are a great way to try something new and Sandhills Winery Thursday Night Wine Tastings are a 'must-do' especially when guests are visiting. Held twice a month in the Winter and weekly when the weather warms, the next event will be held Thursday, January 21 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Come sample five to six Sicilian and Italian wines and enjoy both sumptuous and sweet hors d'oeuvres catered by Goldie's Gourmet. The cost is \$10 inclusive and reservations are preferred.

"The tastings are a great way to try new wines and you don't have to stay the entire time. Come and drop by on your way to dinner," said Leslie. "Or your way home!"

Sandhills Winery is open Tues-

day to Saturday 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. The store is located in the Seven Lakes West Plaza, near the Peking Wok restaurant.

For reservations, special orders, or more information, please call 673-2949.

Mental illness support group


National Alliance on Mental Illness – Moore County [NAMI-MC] sponsors a local educational/support meeting on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, and a support-only meeting is held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. All meetings are held at the FirstHealth Conference Center located on the corner of Page Road and Rte 211, Pinehurst. For information call 295-1053 or visit www.nami-moorecounty.org



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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

The two-story government center will sit atop a full basement that will initially be used for archival storage. The ground floor will include a 250-seat Commissioners meeting room, as well as the tax, planning, and environmental health departments. Other county departments will occupy the second floor which will include a second meeting room capable of accommodating up to fifty people attending, for example, a planning board meeting.

The Government Center Committee unanimously recommended approval of the design and the Commissioners voted to support that recommendation, though that approval was less than unanimous. Both Chairman Tim Lea and Commissioner Cindy Morgan voted against approval, but both made clear their objection was not to the architectural design but rather to the location of the building.

"I think we have done a good job on the design," Morgan said, "however, I still am not happy with the location."

"I have concerns about this building, the governmental building, being located right next door to a detention center that has a build out capability of 800 beds, Lea said.

With Lea and Morgan

opposed, Commissioner Larry Caddell's motion to approve the architect's work passed three to two.

Fiscal policies amended

The Commissioners approved a change to the county's Fiscal Policy Guidelines aimed at clarifying what will happen when the county's fund balance — the amount left over after all revenues are collected and expenditures are made — exceeds fifteen percent of budgeted expenses.

On a motion by Commissioner Nick Picerno, the Board agreed that "Monies in excess of fifteen percent available fund balance will be transferred to a capital reserve fund for future use for a specified purpose within a specified time frame." The wording and stability of the county's fiscal policies impact the rating it receives from bond rating agencies, and those ratings affect the interest rate at which the county can borrow funds, for example, to build a new jail or government center. The county's advisor on bond issues, Ted Cole of Davenport & Associates, gave his blessing to the wording proposed by Picerno, indicating it would have no negative impact on the county's bond rating.

(See "Commissioners," p. 25)

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 24)

Cole said he and the county's financial staff would be working over the next few months to put in place the financing that will be needed to pay for the new government center, detention center, and public safety building, so that funds would be available when the county is ready to let construction contracts. Unlike the general obligation bonds the county sells to finance school construction, based on a referendum approved by the voters, the new buildings will be financed using "certificate of participation" or COPS financing. Cole explained that this is very similar to a home mortgage, in that the debt is secured by the building itself.

Chairman Lea asked whether the county could obtain a better interest rate by instead holding a bond referendum that would ask the voters to approve the financing of the new buildings. Cole said general obligation bonds generally offer a better rate than COPS bonds, but noted the delay of mounting a referendum, could cause the county to miss an opportunity to bid the construction work while prices are low. The county's AA bond rating also reduces the spread between general obligation and COPS bonds, Cole said.

Airport revenues down

Revenues at the Moore County Airport fell more than thirty-eight percent from 2008 to 2009, Airport Authority Chairman John Owen reported during Monday's Board of Commissioners meeting. The decline, from \$3.5 million to \$2.2 million, was largely the result of substantially lower fuel sales, Owen said, noting that the number of planes landing at the airport declined twenty-three percent year-to-year. The airport derives more than seventy percent of its revenue from fuel sales. The number of gallons of fuel sold, as opposed to the revenue from those sales, showed a fifty-eight percent decline, from 646,000 gallons to 374,000 gallons. The Authority was able to cut expenses by thirty percent from 2008 to 2009, Owen said, though expenses exceeded revenues by nearly one-quarter of a million dollars.

The airport has 74 hangers, and is home base for 90 aircraft. Owen said this reflects a ninety-five percent occupancy rate. The lack of commercial service at the airport has a high cost. Owen said the Authority receives \$150,000 per year in federal funding as a "general aviation" facility, rather than the \$1 million it would receive if it were a commercial airport.

Other Business

In other business during their Monday, January 4, meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Tabled a request from Moore County Schools [MCS] to use \$500,000 in bond-related funds to purchase computerized "smart boards" for the middle schools and to improve their information technology infrastructure. County Finance Director Lisa Hughes and Commissioner Nick Picerno

had exchanged emails prior to the meeting concerning the precise source of funding for these MCS projects, and Commissioner Caddell said he needed additional time to study the issue.

- Approved an easement for a meter vault for a new water line serving Highfalls Elementary School.
- Approved a \$10,000 contract with engineers Hobbs-Upchurch Associates to prepare a preliminary engineering report as part of an application to the US Department of Agriculture for a grant to help fund Phase 3 of the East Moore Water District.
- Approved July 1, 2010 as the date on which the county's new computer systems will "go live."

- Approved a \$93,500 contract with Hobbs Upchurch and Associates for engineering services related to repairs to a bridge and culverts at the Riverbend subdivision near Vass.

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January 8, 2010

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PRIDE HOME ADDITIONS — "Building with PRIDE to meet your needs." **Home Additions-Decks-Docks-Bulkheads** Fully Insured - 34 years experience-references. Free estimates for all your home needs. Bruce Westmorland 910-673-9163 or 910-690-1736.

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