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Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

March 19, 2010

## Group seeks incorporation – with gates

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Incorporate Seven Lakes — and keep the gates. That's the goal of a new effort called "IncorporateSevenLakes.com."

Why the dot-com on the end of the name? Because the group has an extensive website that fully details its proposal for turning Seven Lakes into a North Carolina municipality, and that website can be found at [www.IncorporateSevenLakes.com](http://www.IncorporateSevenLakes.com).

IncorporateSevenLakes.com is the brainchild of Randy Merritt, Vann Joyce, and Darrell Marks; and the trio are



actively seeking others to join the cause and sign the formal petition that begins the process of turning Seven Lakes into a town.

Merritt is a resident of Seven Lakes North and an owner of Seven Lakes Friendly Mart. Joyce is a southsider and an owner of Quality Care Pharmacy. Marks

and an ardent supporter of the community.

Asked for the single most important thing that Seven Lakesers should know about this new

### Why incorporate?

So why incorporate? Because, as Seven Lakes grows, it faces an increasing number of challenges that can best be solved by incorporation.

"Our basic motivation came from what we read in every issue of *The Seven Lakes Times*," Marks said. "Problems with vandalism and other petty crime, speeding on Longleaf or Firetree, the need for a bigger voice at the county on water issues. Every one of those things is a real question facing the community. And the answer to every one of those questions is incorporation."

### Why now?

Because the already incorporated villages of Pinehurst  
(See "Incorporate," p. 15)

## West Side sues developer

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

The Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] has filed suit against Westside developer Lakeside Development Company, LLC in a dispute over the community's front gate.

Legal Director Ed Silberhorn announced the suit during the SLWLA Board of Directors' Tuesday, March 9 work session but did not elaborate, saying only that "the complaint speaks for itself and will be distributed to the public for review."

The complaint, which was to be filed in Moore County Superior Court on Tuesday, alleges that Lakeside has breached a contract with the SLWLA by refusing to pay its share of the cost of hiring security for the front gate. The front gatehouse and the land on which it sits is owned by Lakeside, not the

Association, and was acquired in a 2005 transaction in which the newly-formed limited liability company purchased a large number of Westside lots and unsubdivided land within the gates from then developer GS Communities.

Lakeside Development Company is a North Carolina Limited Liability formed by Westsiders Peyton Gentry, a Realtor®, and Bob Van Houten, a builder.

### Lakeside replaced GS Communities

Along with the real estate purchased from GS Communities [GSC], Lakeside obtained a grant of developer rights and assumed developer liabilities -- effectively taking over from GS as the Westside's lead developer. GSC had, in turn, acquired its developer rights from Seven Lakes Development Company in 1997, and had agreed at that

time to pay an equal share of the salaries of gate personnel, splitting the cost with the Association  
(See "Westside," p. 28)

## Talis shows off systems

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Progress under new management was evident at the Monday, March 15 Work Session of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] as Community Manager Alina Cochran presented an outline of the Talis Operating System and distributed examples of how actions and reports are being recorded and then tracked.

"Basically, we are switching from hand-written work orders to an electronically tracked document that will also keep record of time and material spent on

each job," said Cochran. "We need to know how long it takes us to accomplish tasks."

SLLA President Randy Zielsdorf said he was very pleased with the amount of information presented and Director Bud Shaver agreed, noting that tracking labor by task and time spent per individual will allow for better long range planning.

"It will give us a real understanding of what it costs us to do in-house [maintenance]," Shaver said.

Financial information will be similarly tracked and reported using Talis accounting software;

however, the transition of information has been delayed to coincide with the start of the next fiscal year, May 1.

Speaking to *The Times* following the Work Session, Treasurer Denny Galford clarified that homeowner dues for FY 2011 are \$900; \$570 for lot owners; \$397 for multiple lot owners; and \$410 for renters. Renter dues are paid in addition to homeowner dues; however, once paid in full, the homeowner is issued a half credit of \$205.

"The bottom line is the [landlord] homeowner pays \$695 in  
(See "SLLA," p. 28)

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# Westside Art classes return in April

The popular art classes taught by Andrea Schmidt at West Side Park Community Center return in April.

## Learn Watercolor Painting

Watercolor students will learn: "Plein Air" painting on location using basic watercolor techniques, painting from self-provided photo, and Live still life techniques. Choose either Monday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon, April 5, 12, 19, and 26; or Wednesday mornings from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm, April 7, 14, 21, and 28.

## Oil/Acrylic Painting Class

Students will learn color values,

cityscapes, and structuring live subjects while working with photos of personal interest. Held Friday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon, April 9, 16, 23, and 30.

All classes are in lower level activity room of West Side Park Community Center (WSPCC)

and are limited to 12 students per class. 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 a space.

## Drugstore Cowgirl



**West End Elementary Fourth Grader Jada Harper** shows off her winning drawing in Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe's "Drugstore Cowgirl" Art contest. Says Miss Harper: "My art teacher asked us to draw a picture about Fall. When I think of Fall, I think about Thanksgiving. My picture shows Indians with a turkey. Turkey is a big part of Fall. At Thanksgiving, we always visit family and sit down together to eat like the Pilgrims and Indians did long ago."

## 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
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*
July 23	July 16
Aug. 6	July 30
Aug. 20	Aug. 13
Sept. 3	Aug. 27
Sept. 17	Sept. 10
Oct. 1	Sept. 24
Oct. 15	Oct. 8
Oct. 29	Oct. 22
Nov. 12	Nov. 5
Nov. 23*	Nov. 18*
Dec. 10	Dec. 3
Dec. 22*	Dec. 16*

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

## SLLA Summer Camp

Will Summer Camp be offered at Seven Lakes this year?

In February, Recreation Director Bruce Keyser, Jr. reported no decisions had been made and that discussions over half day or full day option hours and staffing were ongoing. However, the zero anticipated income for Summer Camp out-

lined in the FY 2011 Budget has raised new concerns.

Speaking to *The Times*, Treasurer Denny Galford explained that since the Summer Camp is 'a wash,' with fees income offsetting any expenses, camp income was not included nor was it a priority for the Finance Committee for budgeting purposes.



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# West Side may issue its own speeding tickets

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Stepped up enforcement under Association rules, rather than speed tables or other speed calming devices, appear to be the remedy that the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] Board of Directors will prescribe for speeding on Longleaf Drive and elsewhere in the community.

Chapter 3 of the Association's newly revised Rules and Regulations gives the Association the right to enforce speed limits, issue speeding tickets, assess fines, and publish the names of those ticketed. Concerned that placing obstructions in the roadway carries too great a potential for liability, the Board reached consensus during its Tuesday, March 9 Work Session to use Chapter 3 to address speeding.

## The Fence

But before any discussion about speeding or anything else could take place in Tuesday morning's meeting, the Board

had to enter executive session to discuss The Fence. That would be the solid board privacy fence in the back yard of the home at the corner of Lakeway Drive and Parkwood, directly across the street from the Westside mailhouse.

A somewhat too obvious satellite dish, along with a dog chained

part of Seven Lakes West, even though it lies within the community's gates.

The Board has been negotiating for months with Parkwood developer John Garner to annex the community and make it part of the SLWLA. But the deal is not yet done, and that means the Association has no power to regulate fences or anything else within the small subdivision.

Moving back into open session after discussing the matter behind closed doors, the Board, through Secretary Ed Tuton,

issued the following statement: "The Parkwood Community is not currently part of Seven Lakes West. The controversial fence was approved by the county. The Board feels that the annexation of Parkwood remains in the best interest of the community. However, we are not in a position to do so, until the fence matter is resolved."

## West Side Landowners Meeting

3/9

in the backyard near a doghouse, had already generated a significant number of complaints to the SLWLA Board. But the fence, installed last week, flooded the email and voice mail inboxes of the Association's directors.

Unfortunately, the SLWLA Board has little control over that lot or any of the others in Parkwood, because Parkwood is not

## Enhanced speed enforcement planned

Security Director and Vice President John Hoffmann presided over Tuesday's meeting in the absence of President Ron Shepard, and he opened the discussion on speeding with some data he had collected using the Association's radar gun. A survey of 450 vehicles in the community found forty percent traveling at six to nine miles over the posted speed limit and another fourteen percent traveling at ten to fourteen percent above the limit. None were observed doing fifteen or more miles per hour over the limit.

Longleaf resident Wendy Fisher has asked the Board to consider installing speed tables — flat raised areas — in the roadway as a means of forcing traffic to slow down. Hoffmann said he had done substantial research on speed tables in the month since Fisher first presented her request, including a review of speed calming devices prepared in 2005 by then-Director Ray

MacKay.

"There is absolutely no definitive evidence that law enforcement or departments of transportation are unanimously for or against the use of these devices," Hoffmann said, adding that some communities embrace speed calming structures, while others reject them. "The majority, though they may see merit, have chosen not to go the way of speed tables, speed bumps, chicanes, divided roadways, and so on."

Hoffmann said motorists confronted with speed tables and other devices will often change their route to use an alternative — for example, Morris Drive could be used as an alternative to avoid a speed table on Longleaf.

Noting that Seven Lakes West does not have the immunity of an incorporated municipality, Hoffmann said he is very concerned about the potential liability of placing obstructions in the roadway.

(See "Westside," p. 22)

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# Foxfire dam problems not as bad as feared

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

The dam on Forest Lake Drive is not in as bad of shape as anticipated, Scott Matthews of Neil Smith Engineering told the Foxfire Village Council on Tuesday, March 9. A mid-February inspection by the Division of Land Quality determined the dam was in 'fair condition,' which is better than we thought, he said.

The five-year inspection was initiated by Foxfire a year early due to concerns over repairing the road that traverses the dam. The road is maintained by Foxfire Village; however, the dam is a privately owned. Earlier this year, any decisions on repair work of the road were tabled until the dam was inspected.

Currently the Forest Lake Drive dam is classified as low-hazard; however, as homes are developed in the Woodland Circle Extension area, that could change.

Matthews reported that work on the Woodland Circle project was delayed by inclement weather, but that erosion control work would resume and that the water line was complete, pressure tested, and final certification was anticipated within the month.

## Finance

Nearly one hundred percent of budgeted property taxes have been collected, reported Finance Director Leslie Frusco, with \$57,000 still due.

Telephone calls and letters have been sent to delinquent accounts which will be advertised on April 1.

Frusco requested the Village adopt a standard insufficient funds check [NSF] fee and recommended the fee schedule should be updated and renewed as part of the annual budgeting process.

"It makes more sense to have the fee schedule renewal coincide with the beginning of fiscal year, so the new fee structure becomes effective July 1," said Frusco.

The General Fund was reported at \$698,000; the Water Fund at \$259,000 which includes funds

not spent on the Woodland Circle Extension; \$45,000 in Powell Bill funds available for maintenance and drainage projects on Village roads; and \$20,000 in Stonehill Pines consulting fund.

The first loan payment – a \$103,220 interest only payment – for Woodland Circle is due April 2010. In July, loan payments are due; \$28,514 for Village Green Park and \$41,144 for the Water Fund.

The Council approved a \$13,000 budget amendment to cover increased legal fees incurred by additional ordinance work requested by Planning and Zoning.

## Foxfire Council Meeting

3/9

### A bench to honor Kate

Mayor George Erickson opened the March 9 meeting by thanking the many members of the community for their cards and condolences on the passing of his wife, Kate Erickson.

"We are so privileged and your expressions of love and support are overwhelming. The family really appreciates it," said Erickson.

To honor her life and her love for Foxfire, a memorial fund for the Village Green Park was created. Erickson requested that part of the funds be used to install a bench near the playground, where Kate enjoyed watching her grandchildren play.

Later in the meeting, Ed Spaulding, representing the Foxfire Property Owner's Association, asked that additional electrical outlets be installed at the Park's pavilion area and that more lighting was needed for evening events. He said a Foxfire resident and licensed electrician was interested in the job and had provided a rough estimate of \$500.

Erickson recommended that Spaulding meet with Parks Committee Chair Jack Olsen, and that donations from Kate's memorial fund could provide financial support for the project.

### Pool Policy updates

Several new pool policies go into effect this Summer, including a slight modification of hours to accommodate weekly major

(See "Foxfire," p. 21)

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_____	Helleri	\$10.00
_____	Ferns (potted)	\$12.00
_____	Althea	\$10.00
_____	"Miss Huff" Lantana	\$8.00
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# Study: County needs a new courthouse

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Moore County needs a courthouse. Sooner rather than later.

"The need for courthouse space is serious," consultant Steve Allen told the Moore County Board of Commissioners during their Monday, March 16 regular meeting. "The need for district court space and clerk of court space is dire."

Allen's firm, Solutions for Local Government, has done a number of studies for Moore County, ranging from an assessment of the space needs of county administration to an analysis of fire and EMS services. Responding to a recommendation of their Courthouse Facilities Advisory Committee, the Board of Commissioners hired Allen to study the present and future space needs of the district and superior courts, clerk of court, and district attorney.

Presenting the results of that study Monday night, Allen left little doubt that a new courthouse needs to be added to the list of county building projects, which currently includes a new jail, a public safety building, and a county administration building. He recommended that the Board move promptly to begin the design process for a new courts facility, so that it could potentially be bid while construction

costs remain low as a result of the recession.

Allen's analysis, which rests in part on state projections of population growth in Moore County over the next 20 years and the impact of that growth on the number of cases filed with the courts, suggests the county needs a 116,700 square foot courthouse, which he estimated would cost approximately \$21.7 million to build, at today's lower commercial construction costs. That doesn't include parking, which could range in cost from \$660,000 for surface parking that covers another 3.5 acres of downtown Carthage in asphalt, to \$5 million or \$6 million for a parking garage.

Allen examined, and then rejected, the idea of trying to retrofit the existing courthouse, built in the late 1970s, to meet the county's need for the next two decades. Once the public safety building is complete, the sheriff's office will vacate half of the existing courthouse basement, which will allow the clerk to move civil court records into that space, freeing up ground floor space for a new district courtroom.

But that is not sufficient to meet the county's needs, Allen said, and the design of the existing courthouse is wholly out of keeping with contemporary standards, with circulation patterns

that often have judges, attorneys, defendants, witnesses, jurors, and spectators using the same hallways. Modern standards attempt to keep court officials, jurors, defendants, and the public in separate areas.

The existing structure could be expanded by building a new structure to wrap around the rear portion of the building, but the disruption caused by such a massive renovation would disrupt court functions. "You simply can't shut down the courthouse for an extended period of time," Allen told the Commissioners.

If a new courthouse must be built, a key question is where to put it. Members of the Courthouse Facilities Advisory Committee, speaking after Allen's presentation was complete, made it clear that, in their estimation, the best location for the courthouse is right where the Commissioners have voted to put the new county administration building, on the Grimm property in downtown Carthage.

"In my estimation, I think you need to look at the Grimm site," retired architect Howard Warren, a member of the committee, told the Commissioners, "at where you have the county administration building posi-

tioned now."

"I would ask that you consider very carefully the space where that courthouse will be situated," committee member and District Court Judge Jayrene Maness told the Board. "We have recommended that you place it at or near the detention center. We recommend you not proceed with the administration building until you have made a determination of the best location for the new courthouse facility."

Those two points, that the detention center be located close by the jail and that the Commissioners hold off on putting a government center on the Grimm property until they've decided where to put the courthouse, have remained unchanged since July of last year, prior to Allen's study.

Recognizing that the Commissioners have already made a decision about the site for the government center, Allen offered an alternative: once the new jail is complete, tear down the existing jail and put the courthouse there.

## Hunting Deer with Dogs

Also during Monday's meeting, the Commissioners heard a presentation from West End resi-

dent Dr. Joh Monroe, who urged them to send a letter to Moore County's state representatives Jamie Boles and Joe Hackney, as well as state senator Harris Blake, asking that the General Assembly pass a local bill banning deer hunting with dogs in Moore County.

The commissioners were, without exception, unwilling to wade into a controversial area over which the county has no regulatory authority.

Monroe argued that Moore County's growing population makes it incompatible with running deer with dogs, and displayed a map showing that the practice was banned in most of the counties to the west of Moore County, but still legal in most of the counties to the east. He said the practice, though traditional in the area, created safety concerns and very often violated private property rights. "Some hunters cannot or will not control their animals," Monroe said.

During the public comment period that began the meeting, nine deer hunters addressed the Board, defending the practice of hunting with dogs, while one Whispering Pines property owner said she sympathized

(See "Commissioners," p. 19)

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# School Board faces tough budget year

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Moore County Schools already know for sure that their state funding will be cut by \$1.1 million next year — and there's a real possibility the state will cut an additional \$1.7 million from the budget. Facing the prospect of making do with \$3 million less next year, MCS Superintendent Dr. Susan Purser told the School Board during its Monday, March 8 meeting that her proposed FY 2010-2011 Budget includes the same practical and prudent financial strategies and cost savings measures developed last year, when a \$1.7 million net reduction in state funds resulted in the loss of fifty positions.

Purser's \$105 million proposed budget includes \$57.9 million in funding from the state and \$10.8 million in federal funding. Moore County will be asked to provide \$29.5 million towards operating expenses and \$1.3 in local capital funding — an increase necessary, Purser explained, to offset anticipated costs of classroom additions and the opening of two new schools this Fall: Crain's Creek Middle School and West Pine Elementary.

A public hearing on the proposed budget on Monday, March 15, drew no comment. A special meeting to adopt the proposed budget will be held Monday, March 29. Once approved, the budget will then go before the Moore County Board of Commissioners for final review. A copy of the budget presentation and detail may be downloaded from *The Times* website.

## Laptop Initiative

A scaled back version of the

laptop computer technology initiative is included in the proposed budget; however, the one laptop per student component proposed last month has been eliminated.

Using one-time state capital funds and some federal funding, Purser recommended the installation of wireless networking in all schools, the purchase of laptop carts, and swapping out teacher's desktop computers for laptops, beginning at the high school level.

"We will not issue individual laptops, but add carts as a way of increasing student access to the technology," said Purser.

## West Pine Elementary

The Board approved a modified redistricting line for the new West Pine Elementary School that allows students from the Village Acres development to remain at Pinehurst Elementary. The adjustment affects approximately thirty-five students and does not impact West End Elementary.

Children within the greater Seven Lakes area — including Seven Lakes West, North, and South; McLendon Hills; and points northeast and west — will continue to feed into West End Elementary. Foxfire, Taylortown, and Jackson Springs, basically all areas east of the NC Hwy 73 - NC Hwy 211 intersection will be redistricted to the new West Pine Elementary. Anticipated Fall 2010 enrollment at

West End Elementary is 385 students, with 394 at West Pine Elementary, and 336 at Pinehurst Elementary.

"[The modification] provides a better balance across the three schools . . . this is a win-win," said Purser.

The longest estimated bus ride will be fifty-six minutes; and Purser said that she will continue to work with the NC Department of Transportation on how the road-widening project along Hwy 211 will impact the schools, in particular West Pine Middle and West Pine Elementary.

## Earning college credit in high school

Enrollment continues to grow for high school coursework leading to college credit — at no cost to the student.

Last year nearly 1,000 community college credit hours and 2,800 four-year university credits were earned by Moore County students through the successful completion of 292 dual enrollment, 532 Advanced Placement, and 113 International Baccalaureate courses.

At the standard fee of \$50 a credit hour charged by Sandhills Community College, that is the equivalent of \$48,450;

and at \$170 per credit for University of North Carolina or NC

State tuition, the equivalent of \$477,870.

## WEE PTA Yard Sale

Spring cleaning is around the corner. With that comes what to do with all the items you don't want. Out with the old and in with the new — plus you can help raise money for the West End Elementary School playground.

The WEE PTA will be hosting a fundraising yard sale on Saturday, April 17 starting at 7:00 am on the school grounds. Anyone interested in partici-

pating will need to rent a 10x18 space for \$20 to set up their items. If you are unable to set up and sale but would like to donate your items to be sold, the PTA will have a space for this as well. Please contact Kay Miller (673-2932) or Sue Povish (638-1801) to rent a space or to make arrangements to donate your items. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the playground.

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Harry sez:



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# Planning Board approves Parkwood rezoning

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Two vacant tracts on Parkwood Court, a cul-de-sac road that is located within but not yet officially a part of Seven Lakes West, were rezoned to general use by the Moore County Planning Board on Thursday, March 4, to correct what staff termed, 'a mapping error.'

The .88 and .77 acre tracts which are both owned by John

Garner, were originally zoned Village Business and portions of each were identified for commercial use; one as a reserve drain field for a restaurant, the other as a future repair area for Seven Lakes Hardware. However since the properties are physically located within the confines of Seven Lakes West and have no direct access to Hwy 211, the Board unanimously approved the rezoning request

to Gated Community-Seven Lakes. Whether or not the tracts are buildable has not been determined.

## Foxfire ETJ Extension

A rezoning request to rezone the 750-acre Wilson farm property into the Foxfire Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction [ETJ] received a unanimous nod of support by the Planning Board and will now go before the County Commissioners for final approval.

Located at the corner of Hoffman Road and Hwy 211, owner Mike Wilson said the process was initiated following the voluntary annexation of the Stonehill Pines Planned Unit Development [PUD], and the involuntary annexation of Pinewild by the Village of Pinehurst: large developments that abut the family's property.

## Other Business

In other business on Thursday, March 4, the Moore County Planning Board:

- Approved a conditional use permit request to operate an automobile service business on a 5.4 acre parcel at the intersection of Alton Road and Hwy 24-27 in Eagle Springs. The existing structure is used for storage and is located approximately 160 feet from the primary residence. As approved, all vehicles waiting for service must

be parked behind the building and no junk vehicles may be stored on the property.

- Initiated discussion on amending ordinances and setting standard requirement for home

occupation permits of an industrial or commercial nature, to include appropriate signage, outdoor illumination, and buffering. A formal recommendation by staff will be offered in April.

## SLCC goes Hawaiian

Everyone's invited to a "Hawaiian Luau" on Saturday, April 17, at the Seven Lakes Country Club.

Festivities begin with cocktails at 5:30 pm, a fabulous Hawaiian buffet at 6:30 pm, featuring Pineapple Ham, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Wild Rice, Combo Pasta, Grilled Vegetables, Salad, Rolls, Fresh Fruit and topped off with an Ice Cream Sundae bar. Music provided by Glen Davis at 7:00 pm.

The all-inclusive price for members is \$28 and non-

members \$33 inclusive.

Reservations may be made in person at the club on March 22 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am and call in reservations taken after 11:30 am. Nonmembers may call the club at 673-1100 starting March 29. You do not have to be a member to attend this fun event.

The dress code for the Luau suggests Muumuu, Hawaiian shirts or anything casual. Hosts are Alice & Terry McPheeters and Lynn & Steve Ritter. Don't miss this evening of fun.

## Wedding in Jamaica



Ronnie and Lynne Graham of Seven Lakes West and Joe and Lisa Hopkins of Brown Summit are proud to announce the marriage of Devon and Shana Graham on February 22 at Savanna La Mar, Jamaica.

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# Robin & Linda Williams to play Noah Jones benefit

by Dr. Larry Lyon  
West End Presbyterian

Young Noah Jones has an amazing capacity to touch the hearts of those he encounters, and the latest such example is a big benefit concert coming up featuring recording artists Robin and Linda Williams on Saturday, April 10, at the Robert E. Lee Auditorium at Pinecrest High School.

The concert's proceeds will go to pay medical expenses incurred in young Noah's multiple treatments and surgeries.

Young Noah, who will turn four next month, is the son of Christian and Jennifer Jones of Seven Lakes South.

Noah was born in April 2006 with a severe neurological disorder called hemimegalencephaly that causes seizures and developmental delays. He started out life having more than 55 seizures a day. He has undergone three major brain surgeries at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, MD, with the first in August of 2006 and the most recent one year ago at Johns Hopkins.

Noah is now able to walk and continues to make progress in both his speech and motor skills. He has an infectious smile and joyful spirit that touches those he meets.

Friends of the Joneses from West End Presbyterian Church have organized the benefit concert. Many volunteers and hundreds of volunteer hours are going into the effort.

Robin and Linda Williams are a husband-wife duo. They sing frequently on Garrison Keillor's

Prairie Home Companion radio show on National Public Radio. They also have appeared on Austin City Limits, Music City Tonight, Mountain State and have sung at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

Their music is a hearty blend of bluegrass, folk, old time and acoustic country. They have crisscrossed the continent (and beyond) for more than three decades, and their music brings joy and smiles to those in the audience.

In addition, a local blue grass band, Blue Horizon, will kick off the April 10 concert with its own wonderful blue grass talents.

The band includes Phillip Hearne on guitar and lead vocals, his brother Joel Hearne on bass and lead vocals, Rodney Haywood on the five-string banjo, Jeffery Greene on mandolin and tenor vocals, and fiddle player Tim Furr.

Blue Horizon performs at benefits, festivals, weddings and churches. They have traveled extensively, and always draw a hearty reaction from their audiences.

Tickets for the 7 pm concert are \$20 and can be purchased online on a special web site designed for the concert, RobinandLinda.net.

More information about the concert is available at the web site as well.

Tickets also can be purchased at the Sandhills Winery shop in Seven Lakes Plaza, near the entry to Seven Lakes West.

All proceeds from the event will go toward medical expenses of Noah Jones.



Robin & Linda Williams

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# SCC Art students benefit from Richmond's gift

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

Visual arts students at Sandhills Community College have a comprehensive new research library thanks to accomplished artist and longtime Seven Laker, Ginny Richmond.

Following her recent donation of eight hundred art books, a gift that spurred other donations of books, the college created a student art lounge featuring a table and chairs surrounded by

handcrafted bookshelves built especially to house Richmond's impressive collection.

The hardcover books donated by Richmond include every art category, from anatomy to landscape, from pastels to oils to watercolor, biographies of famous artists, and works on particular periods.

"You name it — I had a book on how to do it," explained Richmond.

A Bob Ross and William

Alexander art instructor, she said it was always helpful to have an instructional book on hand.

"I'm glad that Sandhills would accept them. These books were really meant to be in one place where somebody could use them," she said.

That 'somebody' will actually be an entire art department.

"We are thrilled! These textbooks are perfect for what we need," said Denise Baker, a professor of Visual Arts and director of the SCC Hasting Gallery. "This will allow students to do research without having to go to the [main] library. If they need something in class, they can look it up, because we have all these reference books right here."

Baker said she was especially pleased to meet with Richmond during the recent opening reception held at the art lounge.

"She is an amazing woman and a wonderful artist. She is so young and was thrilled to meet the students and see the arts studio. We are so grateful for her gift."



Ginny Richmond

## Learn about urban farming

On Saturday, April 10 urban farmers across Cumberland and Moore Counties will open their homes and gardens in order to show everyone how they weave elements of rural life into their town and suburban lifestyles.

Visitors will see urban homeowners, much like themselves, demonstrating a passion for a wide variety of farm-life practices adapted to their back, side, and front yards.

You'll see demonstrations of bee keeping, native plantings and edible landscapes, rainwater harvesting, raising chickens as laying hens, vermi composting (worms), shade gardens, certified wildlife habitat, growing fresh cut flowers, and more. And you'll also learn firsthand how practices such as tilling in cover crops, composting and building raised beds can improve soil quality and increase garden yields.

The Urban Farm Tour is self guided and participants will be able to pick up a Tour program at the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens in Cumberland County and Aberdeen Elementary School in Moore County. Sites on the Tour will be open from 10 am to 3 pm and you can purchase a Tour button for only \$5 per person.

For more information contact Heather Brown at brownh@ctc.com or 910-639-7024.

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# In memory of . . .

**Evelyn E. Watson**, 81, of Seven Lakes West, died Monday, March 15 at Penick Village Nursing Home in Southern Pines.

Ms. Watson was a resident of Michigan until her move to North Carolina twenty years ago.

Survivors include her sister Betty J. Buechel of Seven Lakes; three nieces, and one nephew of Michigan.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

**Jane Violet Keckeissen**, 85, of Sarasota, FL, formerly of Seven Lakes, died March 11.

A memorial service was held on Monday, March 15 at Bahia Oaks Lodge, 2186 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, Florida.

A memorial service in Seven Lakes, will be held at a later date.

Mrs. Keckeissen was born in Cushing, Wisconsin the daughter of Oliver and Violet Gronlund. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. She was teacher and librarian in the Bloomfield, New Jersey school system.

She and her husband Arthur J. Keckeissen retired to Seven Lakes where she enjoyed traveling, golf, gardening, church, and investment club activities. They were dedicated volunteers for many years for Meals-on-Wheels in Moore County.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Roger Gronlund of Edina, Minnesota.

Survivors include her husband of 63 years, Arthur J. Keckeissen; brother, Sherwin Gronlund; son, Arthur S. (Lynn) Keckeissen; daughter, Judy (Russell) Behanan; and four grandchildren also survive.

Toale Brothers Funeral Home of Sarasota, FL assisted the family with arrangements. Memorials donations may be made to Meals-on-Wheels, c/o Moore County Dept. of Aging, PO Box 487, Carthage, NC 28327 or St. Paul Lutheran Church Food Pantry, Sarasota, FL.

**Michael Scott Thamm**, 52, of West End, died Monday March 8. Mr. Thamm was born in Groton, Connecticut, the son of the late Captain Tom Brobeck Thamm and Sally Snyder Thamm.

Mr. Thamm was a talented

musician, artist, and writer. He learned to play the guitar as a young boy, and played a multitude of instruments.

He was a graduate of NC State and had worked in the agriculture and landscaping industry for over 30 years. He had been a volunteer with Family Promise, mission trips to Brazil, and chaired the Moore County Agricultural Extension Service. He was a member of the Cattleman's Association and volunteered for the Vass EMS.

A memorial service was held Friday March 12, at Culdee Presbyterian Church in Eastwood. The Rev. Christopher Bobo officiated. Burial will be private in Culdee Cemetery at a later date.

Mr. Thamm is survived by his wife of seventeen years, Jacqueline Mains Thamm of West End, three sons, Dustin and Gavin Thamm of Raleigh, and Taylor Norfleet of West End. Also survive are his brothers and sisters; Mark Thamm of Keene, NH, Marijke Kehrhaan of Cobalt, CT, Marta McKenna of Paramus, NJ, Kenneth Thamm of Hatfield, PA, and Kacey Miller of

West Chester, PA.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Michael S. Thamm to: Friend to Friend Crisis Center, PO Box 1508, Carthage, NC 28327.

**Cheri J. Lyman**, 61, of Seven Lakes, died Wednesday, March 3 at her home.

She was born in Stockton, CA the daughter of Harry and Lois Mathena. She attended Stockton schools and the University of the Pacific. Her vocation for many years was one of the top salespersons in the nation for Merksamer Jewelers.

She and her husband moved to Seven Lakes in 2005.

Survivors are her husband, Donald Lyman; daughters, Kim Fleischmann of Garden Grove, CA; Carey Ward of Sacramento, CA; her sister, Janice Walker of Ft. Bragg, CA; and three grandchildren.

No local services are planned. Her ashes will be spread in the Pacific Ocean near Huntington Beach, and also at Disneyland.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, The Seven Lakes Chapel

in the Pines, or FirstHealth Hospice.

**Kathryn Eleanor Erickson**, 68, of Foxfire Village, died Tuesday, February 16, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital. A memorial service was held on Sunday, February 28, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Southern Pines. A reception followed in the parish hall.

Mrs. Erickson was born in Petersburg, Michigan, to the late Michael Bilan and Helen Spargo Bilan. She graduated from Adrian College with a bachelor's degree in education. She taught in the public school system in Ohio. In 1985, the University of Akron selected her for a two-year Outstanding Teachers Program. She taught at Pinehurst Elementary in the 1990s.

She was a member of the

Foxfire Village Garden Club and Property Owners' Association. Her passion for reading helped her to organize the Foxfire Village community library. She also loved nature, walking, flower gardening, and most of all her family and friends.

Mrs. Erickson is survived by her husband, George; her children, Beth Howland, of Asheville, and Lesley Erickson, of Foxfire Village, and Kristen and James Holton, of Pinehurst; five grandchildren: two sisters, Sandy Hague-Rogers, of Toledo, OH, and Iris Bilan, of Houston, TX; and a brother, Michael Bilan, of Petersburg, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Foxfire Village Green Park, 1 Town Hall Drive, Foxfire Village, NC 27281 or to a charity of choice.

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# I was there — at Woodstock

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

'It was the Summer of '69,' and Northsider Sandra Adinolfi was a young mother living in Queens, New York, with no idea that she was about to participate in the defining moment of her generation.

"My husband at the time was in Vietnam," Adinolfi said.

"Everyone I knew, knew someone in the war. It was depressing and terrible — we didn't want war, we didn't want to register for the draft and be taken against our will."

"There was so much stuff happening and we wanted to change it, she explained.

When an invitation to attend a three-day concert came up, her mother offered to watch the baby and said she thought it was a good idea for Adinolfi to get away and have some fun.

"I had no idea — it was supposed to be just a concert — but Woodstock was like the head of a pin," she said.

"It was a defining point at the end of an exclamation mark of young people who wanted freedom, but not the constraints of the previous generation."

She said the music of the concert became the voice for everybody, "When Hendrix played the 'Star Spangled Banner' and talked about napalm bombs — it was just how we felt."

## 'By the time we got to Woodstock'

Adinolfi's journey to Woodstock actually began two weeks before the concert.

"It was only a three hour drive away, so we decided to go up and check it out," she explained. "We got there and, lo and behold, found people already camped out — which we thought was odd."

However, with the stage framework already erected, she and her friends walked across it, met new people, and enjoyed a sunny day at Max Yasgur's upstate NY farm.

"So we're thinking, great! When we come back we'll park over there and meet back up with these people," Adinolfi said. "We wandered around town all day and it was just energized — you knew there was an impending event."

Two weeks later with \$15 concert tickets in-hand, Adinolfi and six or seven friends piled into a white VW bus after work on Friday night and drove through Queens into the Bronx.

"We had a sheet fixed to the side with a big peace sign painted on, and blankets and coolers of food. There was no backseat so we just sat on the floor of the van and Lenny brought his guitar and we sang peace songs."

However, the group's carefully laid plans derailed when they heard a radio announcement that the roads to Woodstock were closed and that people should go home.

"We're thinking, what are they crazy? How could the New York Thruway be closed?!" exclaimed Adinolfi.

Luckily their driver, a resourceful type of guy named Tony, said

he knew other routes over the Hudson River and all agreed to press on.

By now, she said, it had started to rain and their trip took on the air of adventure — "just to get there became exciting."

"Somehow, we got ourselves to Woodstock and I couldn't believe it. There were people everywhere! Walking in the road, parked on the sides, we couldn't get within a half mile of where we had been before," she said.

"It was pitch black and raining and there were herds of people headed down the road — it was like being a pilgrim, like we were all walking towards a light."

With quilts pulled over their heads, Adinolfi and her friends made their way towards the stage, but didn't reach it that night or even the next day.

"I remember being surrounded by people. We couldn't get to where we wanted to be, but

(See "Woodstock," p. 27)

## Were you there?

Were you present at a historic event — the Poor People's march on Washington, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the inauguration of John F. Kennedy or of Ronald Reagan? Did you attend the HUAC hearings, the Clinton impeachment hearings, the Broadway premiere of *The Sound of Music*?

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# Don't miss the first Palustris Festival

Six events ranging from concerts by folk and country music entertainers to free cultural drama and guided tours of local historic sites will be sponsored by the Moore County Historical Association during the Palustris Festival, March 25-28 in the Sandhills.

"Palustris" is taken from the Latin name for the longleaf pine, the signature tree of North Carolina and the Sandhills.

Here is a list of just a few of the more than 60 events. Visit [www.palustisfestival.com](http://www.palustisfestival.com) for a full schedule.

- **Daily, free.** Thursday through Sunday, 1 pm to 4 pm, docent-guided tours of the 1820-era Shaw House, furnished with period items, and home today of the MCHA, this antebellum farmstead is the birthplace of Southern Pines and the homestead of its first mayor. Also on the property at the corner of Morganton Road and Broad Street are two historic homes from northern Moore County, built in the 1700s and moved to the site.

- **Saturday, March 27, free, 10 am:** "Greeting the Train With the Sounds of Southern Memory," co-sponsored by the Town of Southern Pines. This cultural theater event, directed by Ray Owen, is based on two historic greetings in the town's early days, designed to give northerners coming in on the train a chance to meet and get a taste of the local culture of African-American and Scottish immigrants who settled in the area. The program includes an African-American choir song and a bag pipe band, plus a Gaelic-and-English language prayer.

- **Saturday, March 27, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm,** Musician Larry McNeely and his band will perform at Old Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 1020 Bethesda Road, Aberdeen. Tickets \$12, with children 12 and up welcome. McNeely is a five-string banjo player who has collaborated and performed with country music star Glen Campbell and has recorded soundtracks for several motion pictures.

- **Saturday, March 27, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm,** at Old Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 1020 Bethesda Road, Aberdeen, a concert featuring musicians Craig Fuller and his son Patrick.

Tickets \$12, with children 12 and up welcome. Craig is a founding member of the pioneering country rock band, Pure

Prairie League.

- **Saturday, March 27, 8 pm,** Pinecrest High School Auditorium, Southern Pines: Concert

by singer-songwriter and recording artist Tift Merritt. Merritt sings rock and roll, soul, folk and country music. \$25. For tickets, phone

(910) 692-2787.

- **Sunday, March 28, 3:30 pm,** "Oldest Living Confederate" (See "Palustris," p. 14)

# WANTED

## Chili Cooks and Vendors

### 3rd Annual Seven Lakes Business Guild Chili Cook-off and Street Fair Saturday, April 17, 2010



**For more information,  
contact Judy or Kim  
673-4240**

# Time for weed control in your lawn

Here it is late in March and we are well behind in our gardening tasks, although the lateness may be attributed to the weather — every season is different. We have been blessed with abundant rain fall and moisture. When the soil temperature and land preparation becomes ready, it should be an ideal time for planting.

One thing that has been observed, on schedule, is numerous and all kinds of Winter broadleaf weeds and, to a lesser extent, grasses. Some of the troublesome broadleaf weeds are dandelions, chickweed species, wild onion and garlic, clovers, henbit, Virginia button weed, wood sorrel [oxalis], knotweed, and others. Several inquiries have been made about how to control them in lawns and landscapes.

In most instances, these pests are too numerous to pull or dig out, or by short mowing before seed maturing; therefore, it becomes necessary to use herbicides. Most all of these broadleaf weeds can be controlled post-emergence with liquid spray mixture of 2,4-D plus dicamba, 2, 4-D plus mcpp, 2, 4-D plus others. These products can be used overtop the established Summer grasses of Bermuda and zoysia as a broadcast or as a spot treatment. Check the product rates for the amount of spray mixture to be used on 1,000 square feet. Use all precautions and other suggestions on the label.

One product name is 'Weed Out' along with others. 'Weed

and Feed' containing plant food plus a herbicide is another granular trade name product that has reportedly given satisfactory results.

Unwanted grasses in your lawn or landscape can be spot-treated with 'Round Up' [glyphosate] as a contact control. Use all her-

Some complain that moss has become a problem during the cool-moist-damp weather. Moss is associated with shade and moisture. Find out some way to promote better drainage and allow sunlight to reach the mossy areas. Hopefully, this will help the situation. In certain circum-

stances, raising the pH by adding lime might help but some species of moss tolerate or even grow better under improved

alkaline soil conditions. There is a moss controller available on the market for home use. Your garden supply dealer might be able to help you. If you find none of these suggestions worthy or helpful, an alternative might be a moss garden. These

are becoming popular among many gardeners.

## Other tips for March:

It isn't too late for planting new shrubs, ground covers, and perennials, but remember to water well until they are established.

Prune roses, hybrid teas, grand flora, and floribunds.

Inspect your flower pots, hanging baskets, window boxes, and other containers. Make sure they are in good condition for Spring plantings. Clean up and buy fresh potting soil. Clean your flowerbeds and add limestone if needed.

Clean outdoor furniture and finish repairing your lawn mower and garden tools.

Take your houseplant root cuttings for making new plants. During warm sunny days, put your houseplants outside. Bring

them inside at night until temperature levels are above fifty degrees.

Dig, divide, and replant clumps of chrysanthemums and other perennials that are growing vigorously.

Vegetable planting for March are: asparagus crowns, beet, carrot, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, peas - edible podded and garden, radish, rutabaga, spinach, Swiss chard and turnip seeds, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, leaf lettuce and head lettuce plants, onion sets and plants, and Irish potato cuttings.

Greens lovers might want to try a small bed of broadcasted seed mixture with cress, mustard, kale, kohlrabi, radishes, Swiss chard, and turnips. I have found this combination mixture highly-productive and timely as a March planting.



## Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

bicides and all chemical pesticides strictly according to labeled usage and safety suggestions.

Now is the time to apply pre-emergence crabgrass prevention chemicals to your lawn, before the dogwoods reach full bloom.

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## Palustris

(Continued from page 13)

Widow: Her Confession" at Old Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 1020 Bethesda Road, Aberdeen. Tickets are \$15.

This gritty one-woman play starring Jane Holding, is adapted for the stage by Holding and Alan Gurganus from his best-selling novel, "Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All."

For ticket information for the MCHA concerts call (692) 2051. For more information visit: [www.moorehistory.com](http://www.moorehistory.com) or [www.palustrisfestival.com](http://www.palustrisfestival.com)

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# IncorporateSevenLakes.com

(Continued from front page)

and Foxfire are increasingly knocking on Seven Lakes' back door, as they expand their village limits and push out their extra-territorial zoning jurisdictions [ETJ].

The recent annexation agreement inked by those two villages does not immediately change any boundaries, zoning, or facts on the ground. But, it does show the direction in which they intend to move, Marks told *The Times*.

"Imagine that the developer of Pine Forest — the big subdivision that goes right up into West End — imagine that he decides he wants to be part of Pinehurst and asks to be annexed. Pinehurst has a two-mile ETJ. That would put portions of Seven Lakes South in the Pinehurst ETJ."

The Pinehurst Foxfire Annexation Agreement map shows Foxfire's future expansion area stretching up to West End on the other side of 211, right up to the back gate of Seven Lakes West.

Marks pointed out that, as the borders of Pinehurst and Foxfire stand right now, the proposed town of Seven Lakes would be more than three miles from the Pinehurst Village limits. That means Lakers must only advise Pinehurst of the incorporation effort. If Pinehurst annexed Pine Forest, Seven Lakes would have to ask permission from Pinehurst before incorporating.

## The Town of Seven Lakes

IncorporateSevenLakes.com has already laid out a map for the proposed town, a charter that describes how its government would operate, and a proposed operating budget, all of which are available on the group's website, or available in hard copy at Phoenix Fashions in the business village.

The boundaries stick closely to the actual boundaries of the gated communities — including McLendon Hills. Beginning at the North End of Seven Lakes Drive, where it intersects with Carthage Road, the proposed town limit would follow the boundaries of Seven Lakes South down Carthage Road to its intersection with Love Grove Church Road, follow the southside boundary up to NC Highway

211 and head east toward West End, encompassing Pinesage, but otherwise following the boundary of Seven Lakes West.

The line follows the Westside boundary all the way around to the back gate entrance on NC Highway 73, and continues to follow the boundary, encompassing Morgan Wood and Beacon Ridge, until it reaches Lucas Road. Running down Lucas Road to Dead Man's Curve Road, the town boundary again reaches NC Hwy 211 at McLendon Hills, runs west to Holly Grove School Road, and follows that road, encompassing the western border McLendon Hills and northern border of Seven Lakes North, until Holly Grove intersects with Dowd Road. The border then follows Dowd back to the intersection of Seven Lakes Drive and Carthage Road.

Incorporatesevenlakes.com has a rough boundary map on the website; Moore County's GIS department is currently preparing a detailed map that will show which individual tracts along the border fall within the proposed town limits.

Merritt told *The Times* that the Town of Seven Lakes would have a population of 5,000 or 6,000, likely making it the coun-

ty's third largest town. "A lot of people don't know that Seven Lakes is the largest community in the county that remains unincorporated," Merritt said.

## A Mayor-Council Form of Government

The proposed town charter on the group's website envisions a town council with five members, plus an elected mayor. To make sure all areas of the community are represented on the council, it would be split into five council districts and one council member would come from each district. But all the voters in the town would vote for each of the council members, as well as the mayor.

The system is similar to that Moore County using to elect its Board of Commissioners. Merritt told *The Times* that the proposed mayor-council structure with residency districts is the most common form of government for towns the size of Seven Lakes in North Carolina.

## A nickel's worth of taxes

State law requires that a new town begin with a property tax rate of at least five cents per hundred dollars of valuation, and that is what Incorporate-

sevenlakes.com is proposing. That compares to a tax rate of twenty-eight cents in Pinehurst and thirty-two cents in Foxfire. The owner of a \$500,000 home in Seven Lakes would pay \$250 in annual property taxes; the owner of a \$200,000 home would pay \$100.

Recognizing that one of the key concerns many folks have about government is the prospect of endlessly rising taxes, IncorporateSevenLakes.com has built into the proposed Town of Seven Lakes charter a maximum annual increase of five percent in the tax rate. "That means it will be fifteen years before that five cent tax rate turns into ten cents," Marks explained. If the town council felt the need to increase

taxes faster, that would require a referendum of Seven Lakes voters.

## What can a town do with a nickel?

Once Moore County GIS finishes the tract-level map of the proposed town, exact numbers will be available on the value of the property it contains. IncorporateSevenLakes.com estimates the total valuation will be approximately \$800 million. So the initial five cent tax rate will generate \$400,000 in revenues for the town. The group's website shows a budget that stretches that \$400,000 to pay for a town manager and clerk, rent for a town hall, and a three officer

(See "Incorporate," p. 18)



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**SATURDAY, MARCH 20**

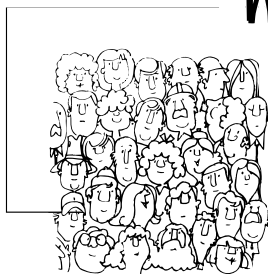
- **Operation Medicine Drop Disposes of Unused & Expired Medications** – Please take time to clean out your medicine cabinet. Bring any unused and expired medications to one of the drop-off sites listed below where law enforcement can dispose of them properly. **Food Lion, Carthage**, 11 am – 2 pm, Chris McKenzie, Carthage Police Department, 947-2231; **IGA Grocery Store, Robbins**, 9 am – 1 pm, Jerrell Seawell, Moore County Sheriff's Office, 947-2931; **Coopers Pharmacy, Vass**, 9 am – 1 pm, Jerrell Seawell, Moore County Sheriff's Office, 947-2931; **Lowes Grocery Store, Olmstead Village**, 9 am – 1 pm, Jerrell Seawell, Moore County Sheriff's Office, 947-2931; **Prescription Shoppe, Seven Lakes**, 9 am – 1 pm, Jerrell Seawell, Moore County Sheriff's Office, 947-2931
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 7 pm, presenting Shannon Whitworth. A founding member of the acclaimed acoustic quartet The Biscuit Burners, she received national praise for her definitive songwriting and captivating voice. Continuing the series of Soup and Songs, the doors will open at 6 pm, music at 7, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Buy tickets on line with debit or credit cards. Cash and checks are accepted at the door. \$12 for you grownups; under 12 always free at the Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502

**SUNDAY, MARCH 21**

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Annual Meeting** – 2 pm, West Side Park Community Center.

**MONDAY, MARCH 22**

- **"Taste of the Town!"** – 5 to 7



## What's When Calendar

pm, sponsored by The Women of Seven Lakes, at West Side Park Community Center. Local restaurants, including some of the community favorites. Each restaurant will feature their culinary specialties this year. Wine, beer, and coffee are included in ticket price. Separate Wine Tasting by Sandhills Winery, will be held prior to the event. Tickets \$20/person for Taste of the Town, \$10/ person for Wine Tasting. Proceeds benefit West End Methodist Food Pantry. Contact Lois Ann Eisel at 400-3094 for tickets.

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Zambia: The Nature Conservancy in Africa – TNC's Ryan Elting will present images and experiences from his recent fellowship working with

the Wildlife Conservation Society's Community Markets for Conservation. Visitors Welcome. Call 910-692-2167 or www.sandhillsnature.org.

- **Bingo Night At Our Lady Of The Americas** – 7 pm, Early Bird Bingo; and 7:30 pm, Regular Bingo. 298

Farmers Market Rd, off Hwy 211 (Exxon Station), east of Hwy 220 near Candor. Min. purchase \$15. Doors

open 6:30 pm. Everyone welcome. 910 974-3051.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 23**

- **Moore County American Red Cross Blood Donation Site** – 10 am - 2:30 pm, First Health Fitness Center, 170 Memorial Dr., Pinehurst. Appt call 715-1800.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24**

- **Moore County Cooperative Extension Service** – class on Candle wicking stitch and design making. Held at the Ag Center, 707 Pinehurst Avenue, Carthage. Class time 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. Cost \$5. Call 947-3188 for reservations and information.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 25**

- **Moore County American Red Cross Blood Donation Site** – 1:30 - 6:00 pm, Douglass Community Center, 1185 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Southern Pines. Appt call 692-8571.

- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – 7:30 pm, Trials and Triumphs of an Insurance-Free Doctor will be the topic by Dr. Robert Berry, MD. Dr. Berry is the founder of PATMOS ("Pay at the Moment of Service" Emergiclinic in Greenville, TN). At Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst. Free and open to the public. Call 910-245-3132.

- **Artists League of the Sandhills** – exhibits and activities as part of the Palustris Festival, Thursday, March 25 through Sunday, March 28 Daily: "Inks!" - an exhibit and sale in the gallery of art work in colorful alcohol-based inks and the more traditional pen and ink. "Follow-the-Leader" art classes each day with an Artistic Lunch in between. Fee and reservations are required. Friday: two sessions of art and antique appraisals (fee/pre-registration) and an exhibit of duck carvings and decorative duck decoys by the Sandhills Carving Club (no charge). Sunday: Plein Air painting, tea, artistic pastries from The Bake House, exhibit by the Sandhills Carving Club and

a lecture - "Impressionists at Giverny" by Dr. Molly Gwinn. Hours Thurs. - Sat. 10-4, evening events on Friday. Sunday 1-4 pm. www.artistleague.org or 944-3979, 10-4 pm (M-F). 129 Exchange St., Aberdeen.

- **Moore County Historical Association First Arts Festival** – Palustris Festival Events ranging from concerts by folk and country music entertainers to free cultural drama and guided tours of local historic sites are sponsored by the Moore County Historical Association during the Palustris Festival, Beginning today March 25 through March 28 in the Sandhills. Ticket information (692) 2051, order tickets online at www.palustrisfestival.com, and at selected First Bank offices in Moore County. www.moorehistory.com, or e-mail moorehistory@connectnc.net **Daily, free**, Thursday through Sunday, March 28, 1-4 pm, docent-guided tours of the 1820-era Shaw House.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 27**

- **Moore County Historical**

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• **Stoneybrook Gala** – To Benefit The Foundation Of FirstHealth Cancer Care Fund. Held at Pinehurst Resort Members Club with a “Casablanca” theme. Music, dancing, dining and a casino. Guests can enjoy a variety of food stations including one serving food with a Moroccan flair. A “Casino” offers a broad variety of gaming including blackjack, poker, craps and roulette. Monies raised through the Gala, the Steeplechase and the Run for the Ribbons 5k/1k will ensure the availability of the services provided by the Cancer CARE Fund. Tickets, to volunteer or more information on the Stoneybrook Gala, Steeplechase and Run for the Ribbons 5K/1K, (910)-875-2074 or Stoneybrook [www.carolinahorsepark.com/stoneybrook](http://www.carolinahorsepark.com/stoneybrook). Information on the Foundation of FirstHealth Cancer CARE Fund [www.firsthealth.org/foundation](http://www.firsthealth.org/foundation). Foundation of FirstHealth Cancer CARE Fund helps local cancer patients with medication, wigs, prostheses, transportation and needs associated with their treatment.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 28

- **Palm Sunday**
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Annual Meeting** – 3:00 pm, West End Elementary School Gym.
- **Moore County Historical Association First Arts Festival** – 3:30 pm, “Oldest Living Confederate Widow: Her Confession,” at Old Bethesda Presbyterian Church, 1020 Bethesda Rd., Aberdeen. Tickets \$15. A one-woman play starring Jane Holding, adapted for the stage by Holding and Alan Gurganus from his best-selling novel, “Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All.” (692) 2051, tickets online at [www.palustrisfestival.com](http://www.palustrisfestival.com)

### MONDAY MARCH 29

- **Passover Begins at Sundown**
- **Moore County American Red Cross Blood Donation Site** – 1:30 to 6:00 pm, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 340 S. Ridge St., Southern Pines. Appt. call 692-8571.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 30

- **Passover**
- **Chamber Comprehensive Business and Personal Goal Develop Program** – 7:30 am to 9:00 am. Program presenter will be Susan Hays-Barr with Barr Associates. Business. Personal. Professional. Your rewards, both personal and financial, could be significantly greater than your investment of 90 minutes. Cost \$45 members/\$65 for non-members. Held at the Moore County Chamber of Commerce. Register at [www.moorecountychamber.com](http://www.moorecountychamber.com) call (910) 692-3926.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 1

- **April Fool's Day**
- **Maundy Thursday**
- **Women of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 2 pm, with Dr. Lesesne of UNC ‘Is Patch Adams right? Laughter as Medicine’ at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. All are welcome, refreshments follow.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 2

- **Good Friday**
- **Good Friday Service** – 7pm, West End Presbyterian Church. The Church Choir led by James Brown will present “Tenebrae, A Service of Dark-

ness” by Hal H. Hopson. The community is invited.

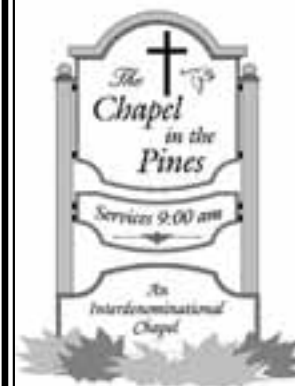
### SUNDAY, APRIL 4

- **Easter Sunday**

### MONDAY, APRIL 5

- **Moore Republican Women** – 11:30 am social, lunch at noon. Pinehurst Members Club. Cost \$15 cash or check. Checks-made payable to Pinehurst LLC. Pauli Curl@215-9796. Hosting Republican Candidates Forum, all primary candidates who attend will present their objectives & their plans for office.

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# IncorporateSevenLakes.com

(Continued from page 15)

police force that could enforce traffic and other laws both inside and outside the gates.

"There is not a cheaper municipality to establish," Marks told *The Times*, "than one made up of gated communities that manage their own amenities and infrastructure."

## Additional Revenue available from the state

In addition to property taxes, incorporated municipalities in North Carolina receive from the state a number of other revenue streams based on other taxes. For example, a town the size of Seven Lakes could expect to receive \$19,000 per year as its share of the state's beer and wine tax and another \$2,000 in franchise and business taxes. That is money that is not flowing to Seven Lakes now, but that could be used to provide services, Marks said.

A major revenue flow to the Town of Seven Lakes from the state would be what are called Powell Bill Funds, derived from the tax on every gallon of gasoline sold in the state, and designated to be used for roads, streets, sidewalks, etc. This could amount to \$100,000 annually, the group estimates. Again, Marks said, these are tax dollars that Seven Lakers are already paying, but are deriving little direct benefit from.

Powell Bill Funds can't be spent on the private, Association-owned infrastructure that lies behind the gates. But, it could be used to improve the crumbling streets in the Seven Lakes Business Village — and even to build sidewalks that make the area more walkable.

Another option that could bring more revenue to a town of Seven Lakes would be to hold a referendum and win approval for a Seven Lakes ABC store. If the voters approve, the town could petition the county ABC Board to place a store in Seven Lakes — and the town would get a share of the profits, as Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, and Carthage do now. Merritt told *The Times* such an operation could be worth \$60,000 in revenue for the town.

Ultimately, what the Town of Seven Lakes does with its revenues will be up to the elected town council. But state law requires that the town provide a least four of a list of eight services: police protection; fire protection; solid waste collection or disposal; water distribution; street maintenance; street construction or right-of-way acquisition; street lighting; and zoning.

Merritt told *The Times* that he expects police, fire, zoning, and street maintenance to be the four that the Town of Seven Lakes would initially offer.

## What has to happen?

The process of incorporating Seven Lakes involves several levels of public approval, all spelled out in detail on the Incor-

porateSevenLakes.com website.

First, at least fifteen percent of the registered voters who live within the boundary of the proposed town must sign a petition asking for incorporation. That goes to the state's Joint Legislative Commission on Municipal Incorporations, which reviews the incorporation proposal and makes a recommendation to the General Assembly. Only the General Assembly can create a town.

If the petition is signed by less than half of the registered voters in the proposed town, then the county Board of Elections will hold a referendum on the question of incorporation, to make sure a majority of voters support the proposal. If more than half of all registered voters sign the petition, a referendum may not be necessary.

## Next Steps

Asked what IncorporateSevenLakes.com wants Lakers to do, Merritt said, "First, we want people to go and sign the petition." Copies are available at Seven Lakes Friendly Mart, Quality Care Pharmacy, and Phoenix Fashions.

"Second, we want people to call and ask how they can help."

Merritt said the group ultimately wants to form committees to explore various aspects of setting up the town — from police protection to zoning.

Most importantly, Merritt said, the group wants folks to visit the website or pick up a packet of printed material at Phoenix Fashions, so they can educate themselves about the proposal and the process and ask any questions they have.

The IncorporateSevenLakes.com website has discussion forums, so that interested Lakers can register and ask questions about the incorporation proposal. Merritt, Joyce, and Marks are also ready and willing

to speak with individuals and groups about the idea.

"This may be Seven Lakes' last best chance to control our own destiny," Merritt told *The Times*.

"We want the community to take a hard look at it, see the benefits, and decide to support the effort by signing the petition and getting involved in the creation of the Town of Seven Lakes."

**Sign up for email updates  
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# Commissioners

(Continued from page 6)

with Monroe's position.

While each of the Commissioners expressed sympathy with Monroe's position, each also pointed out that the proper authorities to address the issue were state lawmakers, not the county Board of Commissioners.

Alluding to public hearings on hunting deer with dogs held in 2001 by her husband Richard Morgan, who then held Boles' seat in the State House, Commissioner Cindy Morgan said "the last legislator came down and listened to both sides. This is out of our jurisdiction. I believe it is their [Boles and Blake's] duty to do the due diligence."

"This is not on our table," Chairman Tim Lea said. "Senator Boles and Representative Blake know this is a hot issue. They don't want it on their plate." Both Boles and Blake are up for reelection in November. Boles is unopposed, but Blake has a challenge in the GOP primary from Richard Morgan.

Monroe pushed back, telling the Board, "It is your responsibility to reflect the wishes of most of the people in Moore County." He asked those in the audience supporting his position to stand; about a dozen did so.

But the Commissioners took no action on Monroe's request.

## Other Business

Having spent forty-five minutes on a new courthouse and forty-five minutes on hunting deer with dogs, the Board returned from a five minute break to face an empty meeting room and a lengthy agenda. They proceeded to march double-time through a variety of decisions, all unanimously approved, among them:

- A public hearing followed by approval of an agreement for a \$300,000 infrastructure grant agreement with the Department of Commerce to upgrade the water system serving Manning Industries, a Pinebluff manufacturer of plastic extrusion fabrics for the automotive and other industries. The grant will allow Moore County sewer service to be extended to Manning, to provide for the expansion of their business. A required \$9,625 in local matching funds will be paid by Manning and Company.

- A public hearing an approval

of an application to the NC Department of Transportation for a \$558,000 grant to help fund the county's Community Transportation Program.

- The award of a \$182,000 contract to ACS Government, Inc. for the purchase of Firehouse reporting software for use by fire departments and EMS squads.

- Acceptance of Community Development Block Grant and NC Rural Economic Development Center funds that will pay for a \$900,000 expansion of the county sewer system to serve Pinebluff manufacturer ATEX Technologies. The company has committed to preserving 29 exist-

ing jobs and adding 30 new ones.

- The award of a \$1.1 million contract to Hobbs-Upchurch & Associates for the design of an expansion of the county's Addor Wastewater treatment plant.

- The approval of a new water purchase contract with Southern Pines that will allow the county to buy up to one million gallons of treated water per day at a cost of \$2.10 per thousand gallons — compared to the current \$2.40 it pays for Aberdeen water and \$2.55 it pays for Harnett County water passing through the East Moore Water District. Commissioner Picerno noted that the contract increas-

es the county's water capacity by at least 500,000 gallons per day.

- Changing the structure of the regular-twice-a-month Board of Commissioner meetings to begin with an hour-long closed session, followed by the regular portion of the meeting. The Moore County Board of Education currently uses a similar set-up. The Commissioners will now meet on the first Monday of each month beginning at 4:00 pm, with the public portion of the meeting commencing at 5:00 pm, and on the third Monday of the month beginning at 5:00 pm, with the public portion of the meeting starting at 6:00 pm.

- Replacing current Planning Board member Kim Vonnannon with Jerry Wilson, a retired law enforcement officer who once headed the county's ABC enforcement division. Vonnannon was serving as the Planning

Board Vice Chair. She was eligible to serve another term on the Board and had expressed a willingness to do so. The Commissioners made no comment before voting to replace her with Wilson.

- Mindful of the request they had made to other departments to present draft Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budgets that cut expenses by three percent and by five percent, the Board reviewed suggestions for cutting their own budget, presented by Clerk to the Board Megan Garner.

Among Garner's suggestions were eliminating commissioner compensation and travel allowances, eliminating food from events, and dropping the Board's membership in the Moore County Chamber of Commerce, which costs the county \$8,600 annually.

## Lucas Road update

During their Monday, March 15 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners got an update on the county's attempt to help both the human and animal residents of a run-down property on Lucas Road near Seven Lakes West.

County Manager Cary McSwain said that, contrary to rumors to the contrary, the county has returned none of the eighteen dogs it removed from the property in February. In fact, seventeen of those animals have been adopted into other homes; the eighteenth had to be euthanized.

The County Attorney's office

is continuing legal research aimed at determining how the county can help find an appropriate housing solution for the residents of the property, who are living in a dilapidated RV with no electricity or running water.

McSwain said one of the residents had recently inquired at the Planning Office about permits needed in order to begin to repair a home on the property.

"So the county is doing all it possibly can to rectify that situation?" Chairman Tim Lea asked.

"Yes sir," McSwain replied.



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# Foxfire

cleaning, a limit of two children under twelve years per adult, and requirement that children under twelve must be supervised by an adult aged eighteen or older.

Pool hours are Monday, 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm [except Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays]; Tuesday through Friday, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm [the first hour is adult-only swim]; Saturday, 11:00 am to 8:00 pm; and Sunday, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Individual pool passes are \$50, and a family pass is \$100

[includes all residents of the home]. Season pass include five guest passes. The daily walk-in rate is \$2 for residents and \$5 for non-residents.

**Public Safety**

Foxfire Fire Department may have a first responder on-duty seven days a week, if the county approves the West End Fire Rescue [WEFR] budget request, reported Councilwoman Page Coker.

"I have received good feedback on our first responder [current-

ly on duty five days a week]. It is going very well," said Coker.

She said to have a responder on-duty around the clock will also require installing two-hour fireproofing material around the sleeping quarters at the fire house. She said grant money is being sought.

In addition, money set aside in this year's budget will fund a twenty-hour per week, part-time police officer position, a job she hopes will be filled by May. Coker said she will advertise for two certified law enforcement officers,

each to work ten hours.

"We are not a training base. We need to hire someone who is ready to come in and go to work," said Coker.

**Door-to-door soliciting**

With warmer weather arriving, Town Clerk Lisa Kivett said door-to-door soliciting may become an issue. Currently, the Village does not have an ordinance prohibiting such activity. She recommended a permit process, with files kept in the office and by Foxfire Police.

Coker cautioned against drafting to prohibitive an ordinance.

"I don't want a Girl Scout selling cookies to be turned away," said Coker.

On Coker's suggestion, the discussion was tabled until the full council had a chance to review the proposed ordinance.

**Other Business**

In other business on Tuesday, March 9, the Foxfire Village Council:

Heard from Joan Umstan, a request for additional evening patrol hours by Foxfire Police and offered support for hiring a third officer.

Heard from Erickson that a residential swimming pool request was approved by Zoning.

Heard from Erickson that the Foxfire ETJ extension request for the 750-acre Wilson property was approved by the Moore County Planning Board on March 4. The request will be heard by the County Commissioners in April.

Heard from Mick McCue that Long Range Planning Committee members were continuing to collect data, most recently from Foxfire Police and county planners.

# Theology & Lit at WEPC

by Laura Douglass  
Times Reporter

A four-week course on 'Theology & Literature' featuring discussion and reactions to the book 'The Christ-Haunted Landscape: Faith and Doubt in Southern Fiction,' a collection of short stories by Southern writers, will be held Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm, beginning April 6, at West End Presbyterian Church.

Taught by The Rev. Dr. Larry Lyon, the course is the latest offering in the Adult Academy, a joint program sponsored by West End Presbyterian Church and The Chapel in the Pines.

"The book is a wonderful col-

lection of stories and authors," said Lyon. "Each story includes an interview by Susan Ketchin that is very good, exploring the religious beliefs and characters in the stories."


Twelve authors are featured, however, Lyon said the course will focus on North Carolinian writers and be based on his own seminary experience of studying theology and literature using this same book.

"I think a part of a Christian's task is to see God at work in their lives," said Lyon. "I think these stories do that – that is, to get each

of us to think theological how God may be acting out God's purposes in the world in the everyday stuff of life."

He said the book's stories are mostly poignant and funny, written by well-known authors including Reynolds Price, Lee Smith, Clyde Edgerton, Doris Betts, and Allan Gurganis.

The Adult Academy is open to all. There is no fee. Please call and register before purchasing a book; registration must be complete by Tuesday, March 30. For information, contact the WEPC office at 673-4341.

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# Westside meeting

(Continued from page 3)

"I have come to the conclusion that the payback is not worth the potential liability risk," Hoffmann said, "and there is no conclusive evidence that it will calm speed more than three to six miles per hours. Will three to six miles per hour of speed calming be worth the downside? I conclude I would have a hard time voting for speed tables."

Director Mick Herdrich asked whether the community risked some liability if it does not effectively enforce its speed limits -- for example, if someone were injured in an accident. But Director Silberhorn said the posting of speed limits should protect the Association on that account.

Herdrich said he was concerned that the Sheriff's office will not issue a ticket for a motorist doing less than ten miles per hour over the speed limit. Noting Hoffmann's research that shows the bulk of speeders traveling six to nine miles over the limit, Herdrich added: "If sheriff is not going to write ticket for someone going eight miles over the speed limit, then we are wasting our time -- because that's where most of the speeders are."

"The sheriff won't make that statement," Hoffmann said. "But you have, I think, an accurate impression."

Herdrich's point prompted Board members to revisit the notion of using Chapter 3 in the Rules and Regulations to mount an Association-driven enforcement effort that could target the less egregious speeding that appears to represent the bulk of the problem in the community.

Hoffmann said he believed, but was not sure, that it might be possible to hire off-duty sheriff's officers for speed enforcement, who would use their cars and equipment, but issue "Association tickets," rather than the usual citations. Other options would include using personnel from SFI -- the company that provides the Westside's gate guards -- or members of the security committee.

Silberhorn agreed that, if it is possible, utilizing off-duty sheriff's officers would be desirable, because of the authority they project.

After a wide-ranging discussion on how to implement the private ticketing system, the Board

agreed that Hoffmann should explore options for enforcement personnel, while the entire Board should review Chapter 3, in preparation for further discussion of internal speed enforcement at the next Board meeting. Hoffmann also encouraged public input on the idea of using Chapter 3 for internal speed enforcement before any final decision is made.

"This is potentially a big decision," Hoffmann said "and we want community feedback if at all possible."

## Other Security Issues

Hoffmann provided an update on other security issues and projects during Tuesday's work session, including:

**Gate Cameras.** Working with Maximum Security, Hoffmann discovered that some of the existing security cameras at the front gate can be manually zoomed. Using that feature, they were able to substantially improve license plate recognition, as well

as provide images of the face of the driver and side of the vehicle -- where a business name or logo would be affixed.

"We made a significant improvement at the cost of a service call," Hoffmann said, noting that the next step would be to try some of the same strategies at the back gate.

**Access control.** Hoffmann said he has, during his time as Security Director, heard many calls for strict access control at the front gate.

"We have right now a Standard Operating Procedure worked out with the head guard," Hoffmann said. "There is some waving in of visitors -- for example, of the FedEx truck -- because they are in here ten times a day." He noted that FedEx, UPS, and others are large enough companies that they have tight controls on their drivers. "I felt that was a reasonable risk. But given number of complaints, I want to hear from the Board about stricter access control."

Both Silberhorn and Herdrich said Hoffmann was closest to the issues, and therefore in the best position to make decisions about Standard Operating Procedures at the gate.

**Snow, Sleet, & Ice.** Hoffmann said he continues to work on a draft plan for dealing with snow, sleet, and ice events, including policies for treating and pre-treating community roadways with salt, urea, or other substances. A meeting with a NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR] representative to discuss possible impacts on Lake Auman was scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

**24-7 coverage.** Also in draft form, Hoffmann reported, is a Standard Operating Procedure for coverage of those responsibilities normally assigned to CAS when action must be taken outside of regular business hours. "I think we need an SOP in place that discusses who's in charge,"

(See "Westside," p. 23)

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Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.  
**Joshua 24:15**

# Westside meeting

(Continued from page 22)

when, of various things," he said.

## Dam Certification

Director Herdrich reported that engineers at the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR] had returned the Lake Auman Dam Emergency Action Plan for minor revisions.

The agency won't provide final certification of repairs the dam until the emergency plan is corrected, a task that Herdrich and former Director Mary Anne Fewkes are undertaking.

## Other business

In other business during its Tuesday, March 9 Work Session, the SLWLA Board:

- Announced its lawsuit against Westside developer Lake-side Development Company, LLC, in a dispute over payments for security personnel at the gatehouse.

- Reduced the property transfer fee from \$150 to \$100, with the proceeds split between CAS and the Association.

- Voted to honor the service of directors in the Class of 2010, including Ed Tuton, Kathy Kirst, Mick Herdrich, and Jim Haggard, by purchasing a tree to be planted on Lakeway Mall, at a cost not to exceed \$400.

- Heard that Director Karen Milligan continues to seek volunteers to serve on next year's nominating committee.

- Heard from Infrastructure Director John Goodman that both the Landscaping Committee and the Roads and Drainage Committee are up and running. The Landscape Committee is preparing to bid the contract for West Side Park maintenance.

- Were encouraged by Vice President Hoffmann to have rosters of committee members ready for approval by the Board at its next work session.

- Learned that the drive to privately fund half the cost of the West Side's Fourth of July fireworks display has currently raised a bit less than \$1,000 of the \$5,000 needed to ensure the display takes place this year. Community Manager Joan Frost is working on obtaining quotes from two companies.

- Heard from Frost that Beacon Ridge Country Club owner

Wingfield Properties continues to be delinquent in paying its share of the cost of providing security at the front gate.

- Learned that substantial progress continues to be made in collecting delinquent dues, with the total outstanding now at

approximately \$14,000.

- Reiterated that there will be no evening Board Work Session on Tuesday, March 23,

because of the annual meeting, scheduled for Sunday, March 21.



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## Editorial

### Incorporation: Time to decide

A myth has dogged Seven Lakes for nearly a decade: the myth that incorporation means losing the gates.

It's a myth born from a superficial examination of incorporation a number of years ago — an examination that was well-intentioned but not well-thought-out. It resulted in a straw poll of the entire community, asking that Laker choose between incorporating Seven Lakes and keeping their gates.

It was a false choice. It has always been possible, under North Carolina law, to create a Town of Seven Lakes and keep the gates at the entrances to Seven Lakes North, South, and West. It was a false choice, but it burned into the minds of hundreds of Seven Laker an unfortunate equation: incorporation = no gates.

If you've read the story on IncorporateSevenLakes.com that appears on the front page of this edition of *The Times*, then you know it is possible to incorporate Seven Lakes while keeping the gates. Not only is it possible, there is a real effort moving forward right now to do it.

The proposal by IncorporateSevenLakes.com is well-intentioned and well-thought-out. They have carefully explored the questions that must be answered. They have developed boundaries for the town, created a charter, designed a form of government, pulled together an initial budget, delved into the intricacies of what

needs to be done to turn Seven Lakes into a town. They've set a very low tax rate and capped its growth, providing just enough revenue to offer the police protection, the planning and zoning, and other services that Seven Lakes truly needs.

Best of all, they have put it all out there for the whole community to see, to question, to debate, to support. If you have web access, it's all at IncorporateSevenLakes.com. If you prefer a paper copy, you can drop by Phoenix Fashions and pick one up.

Should Seven Lakes become a town?

Seven Lakes has for too long dodged that question based on myths and bad information. IncorporateSevenLakes.com has done the community an invaluable service by creating a real world, fact-based, actionable plan for incorporation that we can all study, digest, and discuss over the next few months.

If you love Seven Lakes, if you are concerned about the future of the community, if you want a voice in that future, then you need to go to the website or pick up a packet and educate yourself about this opportunity.

If you like what you see, then you need to put your name on the incorporation petition. If you have questions, you need to ask them. If you have concerns, you need to voice them.

Should Seven Lakes become a town?

Now is the time to decide.

### Litter lessons

Some time ago, while working on a scouting badge, my son was called on to perform two good deeds — a simple enough request.

After thinking on it for a few days, Jack announced he would pick up litter from the roadside. Leaping to action before he decided he'd rather wash homeless puppies at the animal shelter or some other task that might come with unexpected benefits, I called our local Kiwanians and offered his services.

On the appointed day, we met our volunteer escort, donned safety vests, and started collecting an eclectic mix of flotsam and jetsam. About the time we picked up our billionth Marlboro butt, I pointed my scout towards home.

But he wasn't ready to leave, at least not just yet.

"That was really hard work," he exclaimed. "Can I have a piece of candy?"

In less than an hour, Jack had nailed two of life's most valuable lessons . . . Things are always harder than they look and rewards are hard to come by.

If he's lucky those pearls of wisdom will stick because I'm a lousy role model. You know the

type: a hapless volunteer who ends up overcommitted and committable.

Already terrorized by my own inability to 'just say no,' this year I discovered a whole new threat to my sanity — the dreaded volunteered. As in, 'I couldn't find anyone else to help so I volunteered you.' This murky land inhabited by the not quite appointed and



### Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

not quite agreed upon, is getting fairly crowded these days. Lots of military, I've heard: and husbands.

However in the end, or at least the very next day for young Jack, he learned a third life lesson.

Proving the old adage that no good deed goes unpunished, twelve hours or so after we diligently cleaned the roadside, it snowed: several inches in fact. With all his hard work hidden under mounds of fresh ice, not surprisingly Jack's second good scouting deed was fulfilled with slightly less enthusiasm.

Luckily for him, mothers are trainable — this time, I brought candy.

### If the sun had eyes . . .

If the sun had eyes, what would it see?

If it had emotions, what would it think?

This masterpiece of creativity continues to shine down as though its perennial optimism could

rub out the trouble spots around us in hopes of a return to God's intentions.

It's rays sweep across the treetops of a vast and lush forest, but must then advance to rest briefly on the sagging roofs of Appalachia.

It witnesses the panorama of mountains, lakes, waterfalls and prairies - or wolves tending their young - or soaring hawks forming overlapping ellipses against the

azure sky.

Man should make it more pleasing for the sun - and with it, God - to coexist harmoniously.

Instead, myriad blotches and blemishes form embarrassing patterns of vicissitudes.

Why does man fight man? Nation fight nation? That's what the sun is asking.

"Why am I dispensing my earth-enriching rays so that humanity can continue to exist?"

"Why must I witness hate, crime, envy, and impoverishment in all corners of the world?"

Yes, indeed. Why?



### Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

### SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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# Setting the record straight on Westside budget

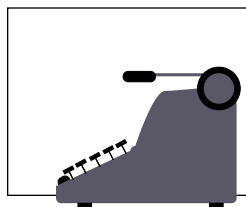
This is in response to the letter printed in the last issue of *The Times*. There were so many incorrect statements that I felt I needed to set the record straight as to the facts on the proposed budget, the budgeting process and the reserve accounts.

1. The writer mentioned that John Hoffman has \$20,000 budgeted for cameras when SLWLA have already spent \$100,000 on cameras. That number is totally incorrect. Our total gate system with all the hardware, software, bar code readers, gate controllers and cameras totals \$100,000, as recorded on the Balance Sheet.

We did spend \$30,000 on cameras that have not done what we wanted. But if the writer had listened at the last meeting, Director Hoffmann specifically stated that no cameras would be purchased unless they did exactly what we needed. Plus, in response to my question about the use of the current cameras, Hoffmann said they would be used at other places. He is fol-

lowing the proper procedure of requesting budget for items that, if they meet his criteria for the specific need and are justified to the Board, can then be purchased.

2. The "nice to have items" that Hoffmann put in the budget were also men-



## Your Turn

Kathy Kirst  
SLWLA Treasurer

tioned in the letter. Actually \$40,000 of that came directly from the LRP planning budgeting sheets listed under security projects and fencing as initial input for items that might be desirable. Hoffmann is assessing the need for fencing at some of the more vulnerable places in the community. But, again, he stated at the meeting that he was not trying to fence in the community.

3. The dam remediation did

not cost \$700,000. The dam remediation was about \$425,000 and then there was a weighted dam filter that was also installed at the same time. That cost was about \$78,000. This actually saved SLWLA about \$50,000-\$60,000 because all the equip-

ment was here and we could use some of the fill from the dam remediation for the weighted filter instead of purchasing it. This weighted dam filter had been approved in a previous budget, but was deferred because of the remediation.

4. Creating a master plan for the front and back gates came directly out of efforts from Long Range Planning [LRP] and was discussed extensively in their meetings. Without some sort of plan for cohesion, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] will continue to develop areas piecemeal and

continue to have a "patchwork quilt" appearance. We don't know when we will have to re-do the front entry, but it can't be done without some sort of plan.

5. Road reserves has about \$335,000 right now. Using the numbers from the Pavement Management Plan from 2007, about \$1.4 million is going to be needed in 2014. I don't know how you get from \$335,000 to \$1.4 million in four years without setting aside \$250,000 per year.

6. Contingency reserves have not been budgeted every year. For several years, we didn't have any budgets that had sufficient money for reserves until last year's. Two years ago, members voted for a deficit budget. That certainly didn't have any money budget for contingencies. The Finance Committee, with input from LRP co-chairs, recommended to the Board that Contingency Reserves be maintained at \$100,000. The Board agreed. When money was needed for work on the dam, the Board agreed that the first priority

was to bring Contingency Reserve back to its full level.

7. The amount for Dam Reserves was planned at \$10,000 for the eventual valve replacement — again from LRP. The additional \$23,000 listed for Dam Reserves was additional funding that was not designated. Since Dam Reserves were totally depleted, the Finance Committee opted to place it there.

8. The LRP budget was part of the initial input that FC committee used in creating the proposed budget. The numbers from the LRP budget were the first items placed in the Capital Budget section for the Board to review and prioritize. Then additional capital maintenance items and other capital items were added by the Directors. All items were prioritized and negotiated during the budget planning work sessions, which were open to all members.

I hope that if a member writes to *The Times* and quotes num-

(See "Budget," p. 26)



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# Why it's time to consider incorporation

I brought my business, Phoenix Fashions, to an old building in West End twenty years ago, and then bought my present location in Seven Lakes sixteen years ago. For nearly that entire time, I have been a member of the Seven Lakes-West End Business Guild. I joined the Guild because I shared their common view that if you gave a little bit of your time each week to build your community, that the community would, in return, take care of building your business. Thus far, it has worked for me.

As a Guild member, I have contributed thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours to the efforts of the Guild to have common areas mowed and beautified, the endless supply of potholes and eroded roads repaired, and to the staging of community events from 'Meet the Merchants' to the Christmas tree

lighting. I have been joined in those efforts by the other members of the Guild who also volunteered their time and money because these things needed to be done and there was no one else to do them.

Recognizing that in most areas many of these func-

that is unsustainable in light of the present economic conditions, the substandard original construction of the district roads, and the continued growth of the area without an infrastructure in place to support such growth.

After the completion of an \$11,000 paving project earlier this year, non-Guild member businesses along the path of the road work were solicited for funds to help

the Guild defray the costs of the project. Instead of a contribution, one business responded with a question. She asked, 'What's the Guild doing paving roads?'

Despite the fact that she failed to see the bigger picture and benefit of such work to her overflowing parking lot which was generating many potholes, she had a point. Most business guilds spent their efforts nurturing the business environment of their members. They stage sales event for their members, coordinated advertising campaigns for their area, hold car shows and the like to attract crowds from which

their retail and restaurant members can draw business. In fact, they are just a collection of local businesses putting a combined best foot forward for the mutual benefit of each other. But those guilds have a government taking care of the other stuff.

It is with an understanding of the above information that the Guild decided to explore the pros and cons of incorporation, the process by which our community would become a legal entity, establish a duly-elected local government to provide services and planning for our future, acquire the ability to raise funds for the maintenance of infrastructure and the establishment of a police force commensurate to our size, and speak with one elected voice to the county whenever our concerns

are not being addressed at the county level.

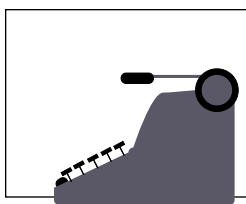
The idea is not so far fetched.

Not a printing of *The Times* comes out that doesn't include concerns from one group or another about issues such as growing crime, Seven Lakes' dependence on other entities for water, the need for better cooperation between the different property groups, or discussion about what the business district — that links all of our communities together — should look like or be used for. Every group that has arisen in the past to address these concerns have been Ad hoc at best, self-interested at worst, and always lacked the access to money to pay for anything.

The issue of incorporation is (See "Why it's time," p. 27)

## Your Turn

Darrell Marks  
Phoenix Fashions



tions are normally performed by local governments, we did them gladly, as well, because by doing so we prevented another layer of government from being necessary.

During my twenty years here, many new businesses have come and gone from the Seven Lakes landscape. Some have become contributing members of the Guild and were instantly missed upon their passing. Others, in fact the majority, did not share our commitment to satisfying the common needs of the community, and passed with little notice.

Surprisingly, among some of the successes have been far too many businesses that never contributed to the efforts of the Guild. The result has been far too few businesses trying to pay for the needs of the entire business district, presenting a situation

## Budget

(Continued from page 25)

bers that they would get the numbers and their facts straight. If there are questions, the e-mails and phone numbers for all Board members are posted on our web site. I found this letter inflammatory and largely incorrect. Constructive criticism is always appreciated and preferred over just taking a negative approach. It's easy to criticize the work of others. It's not easy to come up with a workable solution.

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# SLLA needs to rearrange fiscal priorities

Dear Editor:

Why is the Seven Lakes Landowner's Association Board of Directors even discussing resurfacing the tennis courts, after spending over \$50,000 to resurface them 3.25 years ago? Why would they spend one dime

on an expenditure that is not necessary at this time?

At the work session held on February 15, an off the record informal comment was made pertaining to the tennis courts mentioning \$40,000, to which another comment was made

"closer to \$80,000." That is all immaterial, the important factor is that the Board is still considering expending any sum of money on the tennis courts and tabled for further discussion and decision while awaiting a recommendation from the new management group.

Can we be assured that no money will be spent to resurface the courts, and be assured that they will not attempt to make a basketball court out of two of the tennis courts?

It is not only about tennis courts, it is about an out of control spending priorities and philosophy.

Let's turn our attention to the deplorable condition of our beaches . . . which we were told last spring that there were no funds available to improve. We must protect our children and grandchildren by removing geese from the beach areas. Nature has given us a great asset, why waste it?

Let's remember that many families living in Seven Lakes are facing financial considerations. While we seek to attract new residents, we don't wish to force any current residents to move because we are spending beyond our means and must raise dues.

Let's all work together to make Seven Lakes even greater than it presently is. Management and the Board must be responsive to the residents. You have earned the right to vote your priorities. Whether you vote for me or not, I hope each and every voter will take the time to vote.

Bob Racine  
Seven Lakes North/South

## Why it's time

(Continued from page 26)

a complex one, but does not have to be a divisive one. Over the last year and a half, we have studied the law, gathered the facts, established budgeted goals, and chosen a course of action to achieve them. Now is the time to put that information in front of the people of Seven Lakes, so that they can make an

informed decision whether or not to support the plan. When all is said and done, the people may choose another plan, or no plan at all.

The winds of change often blow slowly, but I think we all can agree from the outset, that change is best considered during the calm and always pre-

ferred to waiting until those winds are the breathe of an adversary blowing down ones' neck. If you would like to join us in this effort, feel free to drop by Phoenix Fashions to share your thoughts, ask your questions, or just say 'hello.'

Ask for Darrell.

## Woodstock

(Continued from page 12)

eventually we could hear the concert and then it didn't matter. We never made it back to the stage so it became all about the people."

By the second day, Adinolfi said the radio started calling the concert 'a movement' and the dialogue of the concert-goers began to change.

"I laugh now at how naïve we all were. We thought we could change the world – it's not that we couldn't and didn't, but not with that one event," Adinolfi said. "It needs a gradual mind change."

Leaving on Sunday morning, Adinolfi said she didn't feel defeated that she never saw the performances.

"We were amazed at what we did see – a kinship with everyone else. We felt connected to people we didn't even know and were amazed at how calm it was. We sat for hours in our vehicles with traffic as far as the eye could see and there was dancing and singing. There was no anger, it really was peace and love."

Adinolfi said she believes her generation sees themselves as agents for change.

"Culturally and socially. Of course, we've all grown up and calmed down but we still have that thinking."

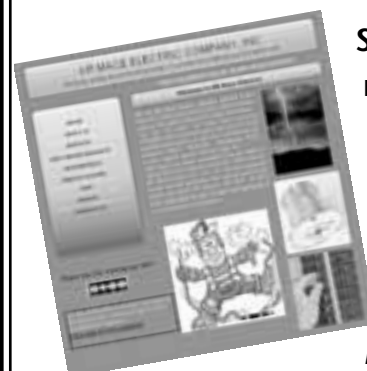
She cited a favorite quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 'We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same

boat now.'

"This is how that generation felt. We didn't want bigotry, we didn't want segregation, we didn't want war or to live in a divided country." Adinolfi concluded. "Woodstock and the music reflected that, but we were just amazed as everyone else that the concert became such a moment in time."

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## SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

dues and the renter pays \$410 – so the Association receives \$1,105 for a rental house,” explained Galford.

### New SLLA Directors

Three director seats are up for election and winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 28 at 3:00 pm at West End Elementary School. Dues packets and voting ballots have been mailed. Residents wishing to vote in per-

son, must register by 2:30 pm.

Looking forward to the new Board which will be seated within the month, Zielsdorf said Talis would conduct an orientation session for the new directors.

“The purpose of the meeting is to inform the Board how we can work more efficiently and effectively with their organization. As we move into next year, we may make some changes,” said Zielsdorf. “There is no reason we need to do things the same way as we’ve done them

for x number of years.”

He encouraged the incoming Board members to work with Cochran and to reexamine what committees are needed. Per Bylaws, standing committees include Judicial, Election, and Architectural Review Board [ARB].

Shaver suggested that directors should write a statement of intent, clarifying goals and objectives for the year.

Director Sally Kindsvatter raised concern that with her exit from

the Board, the Beautification Committee might be overlooked.

“Will someone plant flowers by the pool and clean that area? Sequoia Point shrubs need to be trimmed...We met and determined what projects needed to be done and that’s why it was done,” she said, stating that she willing to continue coordinating efforts. “There is no Bylaw that precludes a committee being chaired by a non-Board member.”

Zielsdorf said that no one would disagree that the common areas should look great all of the time; however, there were disagreements on how to accomplish that goal.

“Should it be done through a committee? Through outsourcing? Hire somebody? I don’t know, but we’ve never had a long term plan to make sure it happens every year,” said Zielsdorf.

### Long Range Planning

In a related discussion on long range planning, Cochran recommended soliciting bids for a professional reserve study.

“A reserve study would give the Association a better idea of needs and would include a physical analysis – a visual inventory – of assets and also a finan-

(See “SLLA,” p. 29)

## Westside suit

(Continued from front page)

and Beacon Ridge Country Club.

According to SLWLA’s complaint, when Lakeside took over from GSC, it agreed to pay \$940 per month toward security costs, while waiving any rental fee for use of the gatehouse. The utilities bill was to be covered by the Association.

The complaint alleges that Lakeside paid the monthly fee from mid 2006 until September 2008, when the payments stopped. In January 2010, the Association claims, Lakeside informed SLWLA that it would not make up the missed payments, would not make payments for the security service going forward, and would begin in June charging the Association \$500 per month rent for use of the gatehouse.

### Breach of Contract alleged

That, the suit claims, breached both Lakeside’s agreement with GSC and GSC’s agreement with Seven Lakes Development Company. As a result, Lakeside’s claim to developer rights within

the community is no longer valid.

In its suit, the Association asks for a jury trial, seeking monetary damages, attorney’s fees, and a decision of the court that Lakeside has, in fact, breached its contract and is therefore no longer entitled to developer rights in Seven Lakes West. As a practical matter, the loss of those developer rights could mean that Lakeside would have to pay SLWLA dues on its undeveloped lots. It is currently exempted, as a developer, from paying dues on those lots.

### New Westside developer in the cards

Lakeside principal Peyton Gentry told *The Times* the dispute over the gatehouse comes down to a matter of timing. Lakeside is currently in negotiations to sell its assets -- which include the gatehouse on 0.82 acres as well as developer rights -- to a third party, Gentry said, and a verbal intent agreement is already in place. A written contract is expected in two or three weeks, with a closing of the deal possible in

sixty days or less.

Lakeside would prefer that a resolution of issues surrounding the gatehouse be deferred until after the new developer is in place.

“The controversy regarding the gate house involves more than just money owed for security service,” Gentry told *The Times*. It also involves use of, control of, and ownership of the gatehouse itself.”

“We asked the Association to be patient,” he added, “and, one way or another, the issue will be resolved by the time the closing with the potential buyer takes place -- and SLWLA will receive any payment they are due. But the Association is pushing to get it settled right now, which would preclude any input from the new developer.”

Gentry told *The Times* that he had “heard through the grapevine” that the suit had been filed, but had not actually seen a copy of the complaint.



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# SLLA

(Continued from page 28)

cial analysis which provides a timeline for replacement," said Cochran.

The study is a necessity because, she believes, Association reserves are underfunded, "But we need to get a qualified opinion to know."

She said the reserve study would provide a thirty year scale of when items would need replacement and how much money would need to be allocated for infrastructure replacement and that the study would cost \$6,000 to \$7,000.

"We can use it as a tool when we do the budget and it also helps to bring awareness to the community of what needs to be replaced," said Cochran.

Galford said the Finance Committee proposed a ten-year budget plan, but said he was in favor of a professional study.

"This would be an educated guess and would put aside any disputes that a volunteer might be incorrect. We need to have something so we have a consistent non-arguable basis [for planning]," said Galford.

## Other Business

In other business on Monday, March 15, the SLLA Board:

- Heard from Shaver that pre-emergent weed killer was applied to the grass areas at the gate entrances. He said since grass is required by the state on the dams, new, clean sod was installed at the gates last Summer, so the old sod could be reused on the dams.

- Heard from Kindsvatter, a request to improve public relations and communication in the future. "We need to toot our own horn. That may cut down on some of the detractors if we put down what we have done, what we will do, and why we have the committee."

- Heard from Zielsdorf, a request to extend the regular afternoon hours at the Yard Debris collection site.

- Asked Cochran to research the existing drainage policy and determine whether it makes legal sense, and then present any recommendations for improvement back to the Board.

- Agreed to vote on election proxy ballots during a Closed Session immediately following the Work Session.



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Lots 2060 & 2061 - Sold  
Lot 2065 - Sold  
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**Seven Lakes Times**  
March 19, 2010

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