

Sprucing up the Village



The day was cloudy, but members of Seven Lakes Village Beautification were out in force on May 2, sprucing up the beds at the intersection of NC Highway 211 and Seven Lakes Drive. Among the workers were Sue Soderblom, Teresa Hessler, Linda Geiger, John Knowlton, and Nancy Knowlton.

SLLA rethinks guest card policy

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board appears ready to undo a change to the guest card policy that was implemented just a few months ago.

Community Manager Ray Sohl, during the Board's Monday, May 13 Work Session, said the new policy, which requires that guest cards be assigned to a particular individual, had resulted in "some very serious complaints about the new fees." The office had been "inundated" with complaints, he added.

The longstanding SLLA guest card policy had allowed Association members to pay \$25 for four guest cards that entitled guests to the use of any of the community amenities.

Motivated by a concern that overuse by guests was increasing Association expenses, the previous Board of Directors took the stables and the Northside pool out of the guest card system, implementing a separate fee schedule for use of each of those amenities.

Continuing in the same vein, they tightened up use of the guest card to access

(See "SLLA," p. 27)

Spence defends MCS stewardship

by Ellen Marcus
 Times Reporter



"I do not believe that our current operating expenses should be cut, as these are expenses we use to pay our teachers, purchase learning materials and run our schools," Superintendent and Dr. Aaron Spence said at the Monday, May 13 regular meeting of the Moore County Board of Education.

Spence was referring to County Manager Wayne Vest's proposed FY2014 budget, which carved \$375,000 out of the \$25.5 million in local operational funding requested by the School Board, using that money to create a new digital technology fund. An additional \$375,000 drawn from

the County's capital reserve would bring that fund up to the \$750,000 Moore County Schools sought from the County to pay for Phase 2 of an effort to put laptop or tablet computers in the hands of every teacher and student.

Penalized for being fiscally responsible?

Commissioners Chairman Nick Picerno told *The Times* and other publications that the schools were running a surplus in their local funding account and apparently had been "overfunded" by the County.

Spence took exception to that notion.

"I also was quite surprised to read that there is a belief by some that our schools

(See "Spence," p. 19)

No tax hike in County budget

by Greg Hankins
 Times Editor



Budgets are a balancing act, and the Fiscal Year 2014 budget pro-

posed by County Manager Wayne Vest during the Tuesday, May 7 meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners meeting is no exception.

Vest's budget, assembled

by a team that included Chairman Nick Picerno and Commissioner Randy Saunders, has no increase in taxes, continues to pay down debt without depleting reserves, covers the rising cost of employee benefits, and adds seven new paramedics, including three dedicated to a new EMS & Fire substation to serve the northeast corner of the County.

On the other hand, it fails to fully fund Moore County Schools' and Sandhills Community College's requests for local funding, and offers no cost of living or merit increase for county employees.

Vest and the budget team were praised by all four Com-

(See "County," p. 26)

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A big day in 7 Lakes Village Saturday, May 18

The Seven Lakes Business Village will be hopping on Saturday, May 18, as the Seven Lakes Business Guild holds its MayFest Street Fair, and Sandhills Winery serves as headquarters for Strength for Sienna.

Northsider Sienna Shute, a UNC-Chapel Hill Senior, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in September, and will soon undergo a bone marrow transplant.

Strength for Sienna aims to raise funds to support the family, as well as raise awareness about the disease. 5K and 1K runs are planned, as well as the sale of BBQ plates and an opportunity to register with the National Bone Marrow Registry.

Though a matched donor has been found for Sienna, many other potential marrow recipients are in need of donors.

More information about Saturday's events is available on the web at strengthforsien.com.

The Business Guild's Street Fair will take place at "Village Central," on Grant Street Between Lake House Bar &

Grill and TempControl.

More than 30 booths will feature artisans, local businesses, non-profit agencies,

and plenty of refreshments.

There will be music courtesy of Lake House and plenty of fun for the kids.

Correction

An article on the Foxfire Village Council's April 30 Budget Work Session that appeared in the May 3 edition of *The Times* contained incorrect information on the draft Village Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

We reported that state-mandated increases in health and retirement benefits for Village employees totaled \$68,000.

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco told *The Times* on Monday, May 6 that the total for those state-mandated increases, plus a proposed cost-of-living increase in salaries for full-time employees, is approximately \$11,000, split between the General Fund and the Water Fund.

The Times regrets the error.

Our reporting on projected revenues and expense cuts made during the meeting may have also been misleading.

Frusco explained that the Village expects \$38,000 in additional revenues over the current year, a number that was already included in the draft budget worksheets provided to council members at the meeting.

As the meeting began, the draft budget showed a \$6,000 surplus for the year. During the meeting, the Council cut an additional \$23,000 in expenses from the budget, to help make room for the cost-of-living increases and related increases in payroll taxes. The net effect to the General Fund is a projected \$25,000 surplus for FY2014.

Got Grads? We want 'em!

It's graduation season at high schools and colleges all across the U.S. If you have a daughter, son, grandchild, etc. that gives you graduation bragging rights, we'd like to help you spread the word.

We'll be publishing photos and vital stats on graduates in the May 31 issue of *The Seven Lakes Times*. To make sure your grad is included, get us the following by May 22: a photo of the grad, full name, name and location of school, degree, names of parents, grandparents, or other Seven Lakes/West End/ McLendon Hills/Foxfire connection, something about the grad's next big step in life (college, job, etc.) and anything else you think brag-worthy.

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Thu, May 23*	Fri, May 31
Fri, Jun 7	Fri, Jun 14
Fri, Jun 21	Fri, Jun 28
Fri, Jul 5	Fri, Jul 12
Fri, Jul 19	Fri, Jul 26
Fri, Aug 2	Fri, Aug 9
Fri, Aug 16	Fri, Aug 23
Fri, Aug 30	Fri, Sep 6
Fri, Sep 13	Fri, Sep 20
Fri, Sep 27	Fri, Oct 4
Fri, Oct 11	Fri, Oct 18
Fri, Oct 25	Fri, Nov 1

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The Seven Lakes Times, a community newspaper serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, McLendon Hills, and West End, is seeking a part-time reporter to cover local government meetings and write feature stories.

Relevant educational background and experience are required. *The Times* needs someone who writes clearly and concisely and has a passion for accuracy. Excellent computer skills are a must.

The Times commitment averages six to twelve hours per week, but is determined by local government meeting schedules — and thus is not particularly flexible. Morning, afternoon, and night meetings are common.

Interested?

Please email cover letter, resumé, and any other relevant material to mail@sevenlaketimes.net

Foxfire Budget Session fields little input

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Foxfire Village held the first of two citizens' participation budget workshops on Tuesday, May 7.

Mike Cole, Captain of the West End Fire and Rescue Department, was the only citizen in attendance, aside from the Council members. For the benefit of one, the Council laid out the proposed budget.

"We would like to give residents some idea where our revenue comes from and where it goes," said Councilwoman Leslie Frusco, who heads the finance committee.

At the previous work session, the council had worked to prioritize departmental spending and make any necessary cuts. The revised budget is still a work in progress.

"This is the preliminary budget," Frusco said. "After we have our citizens' participation meetings we will go back and review it."

The finance committee has devoted much of 2014 to the budget. "This is a process we have spent a lot of time on," Frusco said, "making sure we are serving the needs of the Village and our residents and also taking care of our employees."

The Council hopes that the end result will welcome new residents. "By keeping the Village looking good we hope to encourage potential people to come and build homes, while being cognitive of our residents' needs," Frusco said.

Two Funds

The Village's two main funds are the General Fund and the Water Fund. The General Fund's expected revenue for FY2014 is \$943,300 and the Water Fund's expected income is \$228,500.

Fifty-nine percent of General Fund revenue is derived from property and motor vehicle taxes. The current tax rate is thirty-five cents per

hundred dollars of valuation. Sales tax and assessments make up twenty-nine percent of General Fund revenues, with utility taxes, State Street Aid (Powell Bill funds), and swimming pool fees rounding out the remaining twelve percent.

The water fund revenues support the Village's Water Department and include water billings, assessments, tap-on fees, and irrigation meters.

Projected General Fund expenditures include Public Safety, which consumes 20.8 percent of the budget, and Administration, at 18.2 percent. Administrative costs are split between the Water Fund and the General Fund, with the Water Fund covering more than 80 percent of the expense.

The Village's debt service is paid with revenue from both the General Fund and the Water Fund. The General Fund covers loans for the Village Park, at \$160,000, and Woodland Circle, at \$1,630,855. The Water Fund

is responsible for \$140,170 in Woodland Circle related debt, as well as Wells and Water Lines debt totaling \$253,738.

Public Safety

As the council pared down expenses they sought to balance economy with providing necessary services. Councilman Mick McCue explained the difficulty in weighing the needs of the Village's Public Safety Department.

"How to balance a three legged stool?" he asked. "It includes the safety our citizens and officers, maintaining a reasonable tax rate while taking care of our people."

"I want to commend our Fire Chief and the Chief of Police," McCue added. "They run the departments as tightly as possible and give us a tremendous bang for our buck."

"There are things we can make very good arguments for. But we can't have it all without raising our taxes," McCue said. Several of the needs included more patrol

time and rifles.

"Our police officers can come up against fire power that they cannot match," he explained. "These are the things that we struggled with."

For this year, the Safety Department has prioritized two other needs over patrol time and increasing firepower.

"We would rather have an in-vehicle camera," McCue said. "We also need to have work done on our evidence locker so that we can bring it up to speed. We have to have a proper chain of custody. These are some of the things we have tried to balance. We are indeed balanced, but we don't have everything we want when it comes to Public Safety."

Maintaining Streets

Street maintenance took a big hit at the previous meeting. Councilman and head of the roads committee Vic Koos said, "If we paved every

street in the village we are talking about \$90,000 per mile. It would cost right under \$1.5 million."

Working with about one-tenth of that amount, a budget of \$152,000, it is necessary to prioritize necessary repairs.

"In order to pave, you have to patch it first," Koos said. "Cracking of the surface and any shifting during this past year, we spent all the money available on patching. We just have one more street Wildwood to be patched this fiscal year."

"Next year, where to pave is based on our financial limitations. I don't want to pave half the road. I want to pave the whole road. That limits what I have for my budget," Koos said. "I am formulating a three-year plan based on what my budget will be."

Cost of Living Increase

The Council included a two percent salary increase for
(See "Foxfire," p. 25)



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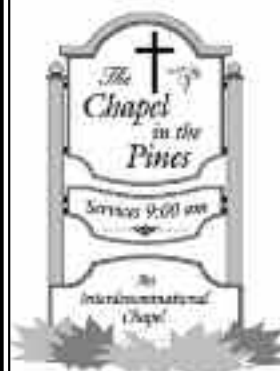
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Foxfire Council debates sale of water system

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The Foxfire Village Long Range Planning Committee believes it is time for action. Earlier this year, the committee recommended that the Village Council should consider merging its water system with the larger Moore County water system.

Moore County Public Works Director Randy Gould fleshed out the proposal in a meeting with the Council in April. The County would acquire most of the assets of the Foxfire Water System, as well as its outstanding debt, and Foxfire customers would become Moore County customers.

During the Council's Tuesday, May 14 regular meeting, Councilman Mick McCue recommended action.

"I think we need to move forward," McCue said. "For myself, I am convinced this is the way to go. I am more than happy have a public

hearing for the citizens' input and listen to people and let them convince me that it is not. We know that Moore County is doing an excellent job of planning for the future water needs, thirty to forty years out. And I want to be on board with it."

Time is of Essence

"I think we need to set the public hearing sooner than later and get moving on this," McCue concluded.

Mayor George Erickson suggested taking things a little slower, noting that a lot of residents are on vacation during the month of July.

"My response is: we can do that, and maybe that's the appropriate way to go," Erickson said. "I would like to see some kind of proposal that I can look at and some kind of agreement with the county. Randy [Gould] can initiate that and put something together."

Councilman Steve Durham said that Gould had already provided much of that information in the proposal he made in April. Durham also noted that Gould was amenable to listening to the Village's input and working out the details.

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco acknowledged that Gould had provided a tremendous amount of information, but was not satisfied with parts of the proposal.

"I realize, Mick [McCue], you are very much in favor," Frusco said. "But I still think we need to have a forum — put this out there and let residents come and discuss

this — an open meeting where he [Gould] could field some of the technical questions. If we decide to further move forward on this after listening to residents, then we need to sit down and talk as a Council."

Durham expressed his dissatisfaction with the pace of the Council's decision making.

"The council has not had a serious conversation, based on information, concerning the long range planning committee's recommendation," he said. "Are we in favor in terms of pursuing it with any real interest? If not, then why would we go to all the trouble to hold a public hearing? We can get maybe six people here. And all of them will be either for or against it. They are not going to sway my decision. If 900 residents came forward, that would influence my decision."

Erickson brought up the fifteen questions on the proposed transfer of the system

that he had presented at a work session in February. During that meeting, each question was addressed by Durham and McCue.

"I know that there are number of things that will come up. Like who is going to own the town property underneath the water tower? What are we going to do with the yard debris area?" Erickson asked.

"I don't think we need to know all of the answers before we have a discussion," Durham replied. "We can

continue to study. If you think it's a bad idea, say no now. I don't want to invite Randy [Gould] back for an open session where we have more give and take, if we are not all on same page. If you say: no matter what anyone says, there is no way that I will vote for this, then I would like to know it."

"I think we should be a little more deliberate as we go forward," Durham continued. "We need to decide

(See "Foxfire," p. 18)

Help for Family Caregivers

Come to the workshop "Why is Caregiving so Hard?" — for caregivers to be held on Tuesday, May 21, from 6 pm to 7 pm. This is a free event and the first of a series to help family members manage their caregiving less stressful.

Sponsored by the Sandhills Memory Care, 292 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes and held the third Tuesday of each month from 6 pm to 7 pm.

Presenter will be Barbara Stender, MEd Gerontology.

For more information and to register call Barbara Stender at 673-2230 or Sandhills Memory Care at 673-2045. Refreshments served.

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County gets rolling on Harnett Co. water

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



In addition to hearing the initial presentation of County Manager Wayne Vest's proposed FY2014 budget, the Moore County Commissioners got the ball rolling on two key initiatives during their Tuesday, May 7 regular meeting: a deal to buy into a water plant expansion in Harnett County, and the purchase of a site for a new fire and EMS substation in the northeastern corner of the County.

More water from Harnett

Commissioners Larry Caddell and Jimmy Melton have been working with Public Utilities staff to narrow down the list of options the County has for increasing its water supply. After investigating the alternatives and negotiating with Harnett County officials, they settled on buying into the expansion of Harnett County's water plant, which draws its supply from the Cape Fear River.

During Tuesday's meeting,

the Board authorized Public Utilities to issue a Request for Qualifications for a consultant to develop a preliminary engineering report and environmental assessment — the first step toward securing funding for the project. Public Utilities Director Randy

near West End will add another \$5.4 million to the cost of the project.

"This is the first step in a twenty-year plan for water," Caddell said. That plan will also include at least three additional wells to be drilled on sites on Linden Road.

"This is the first step in a twenty-year plan for water."

— County Commissioner Larry Caddell

Gould said the overall project will take 3.5 to 4 years to complete.

As proposed, the County would pay Harnett County \$5.25 million to purchase 3.0 million gallons per day of capacity in its water plant, as well as \$200,000 for infrastructure improvements needed to move that water to the Moore County line. That will permit Moore County to pay Harnett \$1.92 per thousand gallons for water, compared to the \$2.40 per thousand gallons it is paying now.

A waterline extension along NC Highway 73, booster pumps, and a new water tank

Speaking on behalf of both the Moore County Chamber of Commerce Board and the Water Task Force of the Moore County Summit, Chamber Director Patrick Coughlin commended the Commissioners on their decision to move forward to secure additional water resources.

New Northeast Fire/EMS substation

The Commissioners approved an offer to purchase 3.8 acres of land on Carthage-Glendon road from Jordan Timberlands as the site of a new fire and EMS substation that will serve Northeast Moore. A sketch of the proposed site plan shows a mod-

ular unit that will be used as an office and sleeping quarters, as well as a sixty-foot by sixty-foot building to house vehicles and equipment.

Public Safety Director Bryan Phillips said the intention was to have the facility blend in with the existing homesites in the area.

County Attorney Misty Leland explained that a title research revealed two exceptions with the property that she is working to have resolved. The first would give International Paper fifty percent of the royalties from development of mineral resources on the site. The second would give an International Paper subsidiary fifty percent of the royalties from any compensation derived from telecommunications facilities on the prop-

erty. She noted that the County would likely place a communications tower on the site and might want to lease space on that tower to cellphone or other communications companies.

"It won't stop you from doing what you want to do," she said. "We can wait to close until we get it taken off."

Responding to a question from Commissioner Picerno, Phillips confirmed that the \$15,000 land purchase would be paid for with capital reserves in the Advanced Life Support fund.

Rough landing for airport

Three Moore County Airport Authority requests for County funding met with some stiff headwinds during Tuesday's meeting — and a caution

(See "Commissioners," p. 2)

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Planning Board says 'No' to Solar Farms

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The Moore County Planning Board has, in effect, banned industrial-scale solar farms in Moore County.

The action came during the Board's Thursday, May 9 regular meeting, as members considered a set of text amendments prepared by the Planning Department, that would have made "solar collector facility" a conditional use in a number of zoning districts. After considerable debate, the Board concluded the concerns outweighed the benefits.

At least three landowners have already taken the first steps to receive state approval for building solar farms in the County.

A viable business?

Planning Board Members questioned whether solar farms were viable as a business and worried that they are dependent on large government subsidies. They also worried that evolving technology would quickly date existing structures, making them obsolete. And they feared that, once a solar farm was no longer in use, the landowner would not properly

dismantle it and that it would become an eyesore.

At the Board's request, the Moore County Planning Department has been conducting research on solar farms since October of last year. Several members of the board visited the Strata Solar Farm in Raeford. During the Board's April meeting, a question and answer session was held with a representative from Argand Energy Solutions, LLC. At that time, Planner Jeremy Sparrow was asked to edit and write text amendments to present at the May meeting for Board consideration.

Sparrow gave an in-depth presentation of the proposed text amendments, which tightly covered all bases — from setbacks, proximity to existing three-phase electrical, height of fencing, and emergency access to the type of non-reflective coating permissible. Throughout the presentation, the Board commented on and discussed the proposed ordinances.

Concerns about decommissioning

Member Tom McGinnis asked why performance bonds had not been included in the ordinance rewrite. "If it was decommissioned and not a viable enterprise any-

more, maybe the owners will not be able to put money up for decommissioning it," McGinnis said.

"When I am traveling out in the Midwest, I can show you miles and miles of wind farms that are unproductive," Member Rodney Pickler said. "They are not worth the money to update. All this renewable stuff is like a computer and obsolete in no time."

"Seeing those windmill farms, when one breaks down, they abandon them and leave them there," Pickler continued. "I have an article about a company in Colorado. The company was recipient of \$400 million loan. They received \$70 million and it cost the taxpayers \$40 to 60 million. The company is now abandoned and bankrupt, and the state is wondering how they will dispose of it."

Questioning whether solar energy sounded too good to be true, member Johnny Harris asked: "If it makes that

much power, then why won't the power company [i.e., Duke Power or Progress Energy] do it?"

"I don't care about roof panels, it is these ground solar farms that worry me. If we get it wrong then it will be wrong for a long time," Pickler said.

During both the April and May meeting, public input was welcomed.

Neighbors voice concerns

At least three solar farms have been proposed for the County. Several residents neighboring the proposed installation on NC Highway

211 near Samarkand asked questions and voiced concerns. Both Todd Brown and his mother Ruby Brown worried about the loss of fertile agriculture land.

"We are already doing a lot of solar farming in Moore County," Todd Brown said. "We farm grass and turn it into beef. I am sure a lot of people are already solar farmers. What we are going to do here is cover existing agricultural land."

"There should be some reasonable attempt to protect the view shed," Brown continued. "Is it possible to

(See "Solar," p. 25)

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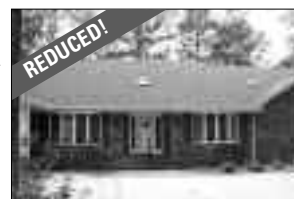
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**169 Lancashire
Seven Lakes South**

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**116 Pinnacle
Seven Lakes West**

3 BD, 2BA home in the Pinnacle section. Yard maintenance is included in dues. Beautifully maintained home with new paint, spotless carpets, tile floors, and heat pump replaced in '06 Only \$159,000

In memory of . . .

Alexander Visoso, 21 of Eagle Springs died Wednesday, May 8, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Mr. Visoso was born in Chapel Hill, son to Arturo Zamudio and Maria Natividad Visoso.

Funeral services were held at Boles Funeral Home Sunday, May 12 in Seven Lakes. Burial followed in the Candor Cemetery.

Mr. Visoso is survived by his parents; brother, Juan Ernesto Aponte; sisters, Vivian Ivette Aponte and Naomi Aponte all of Eagle Springs; step-father, Adolfo Bernal of Eagle Springs; his grandmother, Celestina Arelano of Mexico; Aunt and uncle, Luisa Visoso and Arturo Gonzalez both of Eagle Springs; and his cousins, Araceli Gonzalez and Luis Angel Gonzalez.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Brenda S. Johnson, 63, of West End, died May 6, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

She was born in Moore County, daughter to the late Alton (Steve) and Lillian Stevenson.

Mrs. Johnson was a lifelong resident of Moore County. She graduated from Sandhills Community College where she received her degree in Nursing. She was a practicing Registered Nurse at FirstHealth for many years.

Survivors include her husband of 44 years, Eddie Richard Johnson, Sr.; son, Ritchie Johnson and his wife Ashley of Washington, DC; daughter, Natalie Wilson and her husband John of Raleigh; brother, Chris Stevenson of Denver, CO; sister, Judy Brett of Greensboro; and four grandchildren.

Interment will be private.

Memorial donations may be made to Susan G. Komen for the Cure 5005 LDJ Fwy. Ste. 250 Dallas, TX 75244.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. Southern Pines assisted the family.

Betty Whitmel Durfey Lyon, 88, died at FirstHealth Hospice House, Sunday May 5.

Mrs. Lyon was the youngest of the five daughters of Cary and Margeret Durfe. She was raised in Raleigh.

She graduated from Needham Broughton High School in 1942 and from Peace College in 1944. In 1946, she married Vernon Frederic (Bud) Lyon on December 26 at the First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh.

Bud and Betty Whit began their marriage living in Denver, CO, and their journey together also included living in Southern CA, suburban New York in Tarrytown, NY, and finally, to Alexandria, VA.

In 1960, the family moved to the Mt. Vernon area south of Alexandria. It was there, in the Waynewood neighborhood, where Betty Whit truly found her home and her calling as a friend, a mother, a hostess, a conversationalist, and a surrogate mother and

grandmother to legions of people in and around that neighborhood.

She began a career in banking in the early 1970s and worked for more than 20 years for Crestar Bank in Alexandria. Mrs. Lyon was a lifelong Presbyterian.

In October, 2011, she moved next door to her son Larry and daughter-in-law Martha in Seven Lakes West.

A memorial service will be held Friday, May 17, at 4 pm at West End Presbyterian Church sanctuary. A graveside service is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, at 11 am in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh.

She was proceeded in death by her husband Vernon Frederic (Bud) Lyon.

Survivors include sons: Fred Lyon and daughter-in-law Lynn of New Orleans, LA; Larry Lyon and daughter-in-law Martha of Seven Lakes West; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; her sisters, Margaret Timberlake of Alexandria,

VA, and Dorothy (Dot) Hoover of Raleigh.

Memorial contributions may be made to the West End Presbyterian Church, PO Box 13, West End, NC 27376, or to Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA, 22308.

Edith Williams Simpson, 92, of Southern Pines, died Saturday, May 4, at St. Joseph of the Pines Health Care Center.

She was the widow of the late John Henry Simpson and the daughter of the late Dockey F. and Omata Needham Williams.

Funeral services were held

Tuesday, May 7 at Doubs Chapel United Methodist Church. The Rev. Laura Dunlap officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Survivors include daughters: Betty Locklear, of Carthage; Paulette Matthews (Ralin), of Hoffman; and LouAnn Matthews (Lonnie), of Foxfire Village; ten grandchildren; nineteen great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215.

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West Pine Elementary honors Diveley, Williams

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



It easy to forget how much personality a kindergartner can exude. There is no filter, and they are happy to share exactly why West Pine Elementary teacher Brandy Diveley is the school's Teacher of the Year.

"She's nice," and "kind," and, "she teaches us everything she knows," they explain. One student enthusiastically waves his hand, when asked what he thinks of Ms. Diveley. He replies, "She teaches us fun stuff like math and all that."

One full-of-beans little girl is wearing earphones and jiving away. Listening to her favorite song is her reward for staying on task. Diveley understands the importance of positive reinforcement. Students earn stickers that they can cash in on a treat. One student traces her letters in ink — she has earned the privilege of writing with a

pen for the day.

"Brandy knows that working with and collaborating as a team is essential for both adults and children, in order to promote engagement, innovation, and learning in the classroom," Principal Seth Powers said. Recognizing that each child is an individual, "she works diligently to find a way to meet each of their learning needs."

Even teachers need approval from their school mates. "Being chosen as teacher of the year is an incredible honor," Diveley said, "because I was chosen by my peers."

Assistant of the Year Kim Williams

Across the hall, teacher assistant Kim Williams holds down the fort. Her kindergartners are on task writing their letters and answering their worksheets. The students raise their hands to give their opinion of Ms. Williams.

The first student says,

"She's nice."

A little boy at the next table is exasperated, "Hey you stole my thunder! Now what am I going to say?" He thinks for a second before replying, "She makes math fun." There is a nodding of heads and the general consensus is that she does in fact make math enjoyable.

One quiet, pigtailed student whispers, "She helps us when we make mistakes." Another — glossed, glittered, and layered in all shades of pink — says, "She reads with much expression."

Above all things, a teacher's assistant must be dependable.

"She does an outstanding job of working with her teacher to support the individual needs of students on a daily basis," said Powers. "She genuinely cares about our students' growth and development, both inside and outside the school."



West Pine Elementary has named Brandy Diveley and Kim Williams Teacher and Teacher Assistant of the Year

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Spanish Immersion class coming to WEE

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The cartoon adorned the office door of a college Spanish professor: A mouse barking like a dog to scare a way a cat. The caption read: "See, children, it pays to know a second language."

At West End Elementary, twenty-four kindergartners will get the chance to learn to communicate beyond their mother tongue. Beginning in the new school year, West End will introduce its first Spanish Immersion kindergarten.

Principal Leigh Ann McClendon has done her research. Last year, Associate Superintendent Kathy Kennedy asked McClendon to visit the language immersion program at New Century International Elementary School in Fayetteville.

McClendon was amazed at what she saw. She immedi-

ately requested permission to begin a similar program at West End.

"We have done a lot of research, screening of candidates and interviews," McClendon said. "We are partnering with VIF International Education Company out of Chapel Hill."

West End currently has an opening for a kindergarten teacher. McClendon has conducted interviews to hire a native Spanish speaking teacher.

"This is not an additional position — this is based on my enrollment," she explained.

Partnering with VIF has helped provide McClendon the support she and the Moore County School System needs to implement the program. "

It is an awesome opportunity for our students," she said. Nineteen students have already signed up. Any family with a rising kindergartner

is eligible to enroll. Enrollment is open until June 1; if more than 24 students enroll, students who make the class will be chosen by lottery.

"We will have a full class of twenty-four students," McClendon explained. "The twenty-four kindergartners will stay together, year after year, until they complete fifth grade. By fifth grade, all students will be bilingual. Each year we will add a different Spanish speaking teacher,

until we have a full Spanish Immersion Program in grades K-5."

The curriculum truly involves immersion in another language. "The instruction will start slowly in Kindergarten, until the students are able to understand," McClendon said, noting that the understanding comes quickly. "The students will most likely be able to understand full instruction [in Spanish] by November."

"Ninety percent of the day

will be spent in with instruction in Spanish," McClendon explained. "English instruction will make up the other ten percent, with classes in art, music, physical education, lunch, and recess allowing time for interaction with their peers."

Not until second grade will the students have their first English class. Parents are expected to read to their children every night in English.

"English is around these

(See "Spanish," p. 21)



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5K Race 9:30am \$25 Registration fee

Corn Hole Tournament 11am \$50 per team

BBQ lunch 11am to 2pm \$10 each

Pre-register for event through May 13, 2013, visit www.strengthforsienna.com.

Proceeds from this event benefit both Sienna's treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and the "Be The Match" program. "Be The Match" kits for bone marrow typing available at the event or request a kit online at www.marrow.org.

Find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/StrengthForSiennaSaturday](https://www.facebook.com/StrengthForSiennaSaturday)

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Chip Lee named Teacher of Year

bt Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Sometimes, I get a chance to write about something I really believe in. Mr. Chip Lee is West Pine Middle School's Teacher of the Year. He also happens to be my eighth grade daughter's homeroom and social studies teacher.

Before I met Lee, I received notification from the school saying that his house had



Chip Lee, West Pine Middle Teacher of the Year

burnt down. Several weeks later we met him at back to school night. He cheerfully greeted each of us. When I asked about the fire, he was matter-of-fact and grateful that no one was hurt.

It is that common sense strength that Lee brings to teaching — challenging his students beyond their comfort zones to better understand and appreciate history and world views. He manages to do all that while not allowing his students to take adolescent life too seriously. At the end of every day, rain or shine, he good-naturedly directs exiting school traffic.

His dedication does not go unnoticed. "Any teacher can tell you there is no such thing as an eight-hour work day.

(See "Lee," p. 11)



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104 PINEWOOD COURT
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128 Winsford Cr - New Listing

Low-cost rabies vaccinations available

Make it a priority to have your pet routinely vaccinated, especially for rabies. In fact, North Carolina law requires rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats and ferrets four months and older.

In April 2013, a family in Wake County experienced the nightmare of having three beloved pets euthanized because of rabies. One of their dogs came in contact with a rabid raccoon, which was reported to local Animal Control officials.

The unvaccinated dog tested positive for rabies and had to be put down. Sadly, the other two pets, also not vaccinated, had to be destroyed because of exposure to the sick dog. This unfortunate scenario could have been avoided with routine vaccinations.

Rabies is an animal disease caused by a virus which affects the central nervous system. Common carriers of this disease are raccoons, bats, foxes, and skunks. When an animal is first infected, it may appear healthy and show no signs of infec-

tion. After 1-3 months, the virus affects the spinal cord and brain. The animal will begin to display classic symptoms such as change in behavior, aggression, uncoordinated gait, and drooling or "foaming at the mouth." Once these symptoms occur, the animal dies within days.

Exposure is cause for immediate action. If you are bitten by a possibly rabid animal, wash the wound with soap and water for 15 minutes and then seek immediate medical attention. Your physician will decide if vaccinations will be needed.

If your pet is bitten, consult your veterinarian immediately. Local Animal Control should also be notified so the possibly infected animal can be caught and tested for the disease.

Rabies Clinics are held at Moore County locations throughout the year. The 2013 Northern Moore County Kick-Off Clinic will be held on Friday, May 17, 2-4 p.m. at the Robin's Nest pet shop at 130 N. Middleton Street,

Robbins. Moore County residency is not required to participate.

A one-year rabies shot will cost \$5, and drive-through service will be available for those wishing to keep their pet(s) in their vehicle. A veterinarian will be present to answer questions, and information will be available about the subsidized spay/neuter program for Moore County pets at the Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic of the Sandhills located in Vass.

Rabies Clinics are also held on the 4th Friday of each month, from 2 to 4 pm at: Crain's Creek Fire Department, 4525 Lobelia Road, Vass and Aberdeen Fire Department, 800 Holly Street, Aberdeen.

Protect your pet, your family, and your community by having your pets vaccinated.

For more information on Rabies Clinics, please call 910-947-2858.

If you would like to volunteer, please call 910-315-0607.

Civil War Quilt Workshop Offered

Join textile historian and conservator, Lynn Gorges, on Saturday, June 8 for a "Bound Signature Quilt Block Workshop" from 1 pm to 4 pm. and learn about quilts used and produced during the time of the American Civil War as you make your own bound signature quilt block.

The workshop will discuss color palettes and patterns used during the Civil War era as well as compare authentic period fabrics to reproduction fabrics that can be bought for making replica Civil War era quilts.

Workshop will last about three hours.

Basic sewing skills are required. Space is limited to 20 participants. To reserve your spot, please call 910-486-1330. Extra openings will be filled the day of on a first come first served basis.

The cost is \$40 per person, which includes materials to make one bound quilt block. This event is in conjunction with 2nd Saturdays Arts Fest. Museum of Cape Fear, 801 Arsenal Avenue, Fayetteville 910-486-1330.

Lee

(Continued from page 10)

He is often here as early at 6:00 am and doesn't leave until five or six every night," Principal Dr. Candace Turk said.

"He is just an awesome teacher," Turk continued. "Chip was chosen Teacher of the Year because he loves the kids and he loves to teach social studies. He treats the students like his own and always makes time for them."

As my daughter puts it: "He talks to us, not at us." Sincerity and fairness are never lost on an eight grader.

Lee's students respect him and even care enough to keep in touch once they've moved on from middle school.

"They come back to see him," Turk said. "He cares about them and wants them to succeed in life; and, in turn, they want to make him proud."

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Kayleigh Wachter makes 7 Lakes Stables a winner

Kayleigh Wachter of Seven Lakes North competed in the South Central District 4-H Horse Show at The Ark Equestrian Park in Monroe.

Wachter trained with riding horses from Seven Lakes Stables placed in seven of the ten classes she competed in, making her a 2013 State qualifier.

In addition to furthering

her riding skills by competing in the 4-H shows and qualifying for state, she is eligible for academic scholarships through the 4-H program.

This was Wachter's first ever show, and a first for Seven Lakes Stables.

Stable manager, Kate Pennington said, "I'm very excited and proud that we placed, let alone becoming state qual-

ifiers!"

Asked about her favorite class, Wachter said: "Barrels. They were very challenging and made me think. Plus it was really fun, and Dollar liked them. Games in general were great!"

She said her next goal is "more showing and challenging myself to do better."



Kayleigh Wachter

Climate change & the Outer Banks

Dr. Michael K Orbach, Professor of Marine Affairs and Policy and Director of the Coastal Management Program in the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University will discuss the issue of rising sea levels in the context of cultural and historical view points on coastal management with specific application to the Outer Banks at the League of Women Voters of Moore County meeting on Tuesday, May 21 at 11:30 am.

Dr. Orbach has performed research and been involved in coastal and marine policy in North America, Asia and Europe. He has published widely on social science and policy in coastal and marine environments. In North Carolina, he was a member of

the NC Marine Fisheries Commission and is currently a member of the Boards of Directors of the NC Beaches, Inlets and Waterways Association.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held at Table on the Green Restaurant, Midland Country Club, 2206 Midland Road, Southern Pines. Check in time is 11:30 am; the meeting will begin at 11:45 am. Before the luncheon, a League member will give an issues report on pending voter rights legislation in the North Carolina legislature.

The luncheon is catered; a prior reservation is required. Call Charlotte Gallagher, 910-944-9611, by May 17. A check payable to the LWVMC in the amount

of \$12 is preferred.

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Tarp that load, and keep highways clean

Keep Moore County Beautiful has joined forces with the Moore County Home Builders Association for the Tarp Awareness campaign which focuses on reducing roadside litter, preventing accidents, increase tarp usage & awareness of NC litter laws.

Continuous efforts are maintained to implement litter and solid waste programs, utilizing the Keep America Beautiful System, to ensure that Moore County is the cleanest county in North Carolina.

The Moore County Home Builders Association will be offering free tarps and educational materials to their members and to the public courtesy of Keep Moore County Beautiful.

MCHBA members received tarps at their May 13 general membership meeting, and the public can stop by the

Association office on May 22nd between 1:00 -5:00 at 10022 NC Highway 211 East, Aberdeen. Tarps will be distributed on a first come first served basis. Help save tax dollars, reduce litter and keep our roads safe by using tarps, cargo nets and tie-downs to secure our loads.

North Carolina taxpayers spend millions each year to remove litter that blows out of truck beds. It's illegal under North Carolina law to haul an improperly secured load.

Penalties for littering include up to a \$2,000 fine, community service work and one point on a motorist's driver license upon conviction.

Though you may not intentionally litter, if you do not secure the items in your truck bed, you are contributing to dangerous and unsightly roadside litter.

Sawyer wins scholarship

Westsider Rebecca Rose Sawyer, daughter of Lee and Amy Sawyer, was recently awarded a scholarship by the Moore Philharmonic.

The orchestra's scholarship competition is open to all Moore County residents that play an orchestra instrument. Awards were academic and merit based, and required written recommendations from teachers and report cards.

Winners were presented with their scholarships on April 21, during a concert of the Moore Philharmonic at Sandhills Community College.



Rebecca Rose Sawyer

Fascinating bats

Sandhills Natural History Society will meet Monday, May 20 at 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

"Bats by the Millions:" Park Ranger Scott Hartley will share slides and video from a recent trip to several Texas caves containing huge maternity colonies of Mexican free tailed bats.

One cave contains 20 mil-

lion bats!

When these bats emerge to feed it is an extraordinary spectacle.

Hartley will discuss their life cycle/ecology and how these flying bug zappers were almost used to fight in World War II. Visitors are welcome!

Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit online at www.sandhillsnature.org

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County offers Leadership Academy for Teens

Moore County Government Leadership Academy 2013 is a program that places High School and College students in internships throughout county Government. The Leadership Academy is an initiative sponsored by Moore County Public Information Office and Moore County 4-H.

Since its inception in 2010, the program has continued to improve and become very popular in the Moore County community, and as such this year only 10 select applicants will participate in the improved and more intense program.

The program gives students ages 14 and up a unique learning experience by allowing them to participate in on-the-job training with Moore County Governmental

agencies.

Students will be assigned to county departments based on their career interests. The civic education component will allow participants to gain insight into the workplace and participate in simulations and hands-on activities that give an up-close and personal view of the process of becoming a government employee, school board member, sheriff, commissioner, state representative, etc.

Youth will gain leadership skills while learning how government affects our daily lives and the impact citizens have in government. Tours will include county, city, and state government agencies.

The final day will be spent in Raleigh touring the state Capitol.

Knowing their government can expand their knowledge and ability to make a difference in the community.

By participating in the Government Leadership Academy, students will: gain work experience, develop leadership skills, learn how government affects the people, learn how decisions are made in the county and beyond, students will meet local government officials and staff, and learn how they can become involved in the process.

Schedule

July 12 10:00 – 1:00
Orientation (lunch included) Agricultural Center, Carthage

July 29-Aug 2, 9:00-4:00
Internship

Aug 5 - Civic Education
Cost: \$25 (will include all meals during Civic Education)

Program information and applications can be found at www.moorecountync.gov or contact Linda Gore, 4-H Coordinator, at (910) 947-3188, Eli Arroyo-Allen 910) 947-6363. All Moore County youth ages 14-21 are eligible to apply.

McDonalds Chapel celebrates anniversary

On Sunday, May 19, McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church will celebrate its eleventh anniversary of becoming a particular church. All members, friends, and family associated with the church are invited to attend the worship service at 11 am and remain for a covered dish lunch afterwards.

McDonalds Chapel was originally established in the 1930's as a satellite church of Community Presbyterian Church in Pinehurst.

Through the years McDonalds Chapel grew and flourished, providing more services to its members and the Foxfire area and gradually becoming independent. In 2002, it became officially a "particular" church of the Presbyterian Church USA.

The church welcomes visitors. McDonalds Chapel is located at 1374 Foxfire Road, off Linden Road, Pinehurst.

For more information, call Jill McCloy at (910)692-5094.

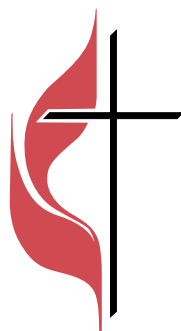
Lions Golf Tournament

The Seven Lakes Lions Club will be holding their 17th Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Sunday June 9. The tournament will be held at the Seven Lakes Country Club, with a 1:30 pm, shot-gun start.

Format will be Captain's Choice with four Person Teams (teams may be men, women, or couples). Cost for this charity is \$80 per golfer and includes a buffet dinner served at the conclusion of the Tournament. Prizes for 1st & 2nd places – cash prizes, with Hole-in-One prizes – TBA, Closest to the Pin Prize on a Par 3 Hole. Raffle Prizes – include golf equipment, free rounds of golf at area golf courses, meals at local restaurants and many other prizes from local merchants.

Contact Bill Seldomridge 910-673-2590 or 910-690-9500 for more information.

To register teams, send payment to: Seven Lakes Lions Club, PO Box 841, West End, NC 27376.



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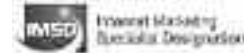
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108 SMATHERS • 7LW MANY UPGRADES! BOLTON BLDG AWARD WINNER – \$275,000	124 SHAW DRIVE • 7LW WATERVIEW! CLOSE TO MARINA! – \$255,000	115 BAKER • 7LW WATERFRONT! RV/BOAT STORAGE – \$495,000	459 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW AUMAN WATERFRONT WATER VIEW IN EVERY ROOM – \$540,000	116 JAMES DR • 7LW 4 BD + MANY UPGRADES! • \$286,000
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 101 FEATHERSTON – \$55,000 • 111 CLAY – \$55,000
 119 CLAY – \$58,000 • 445 MORGANWOOD – \$85,000

FRIDAY, MAY 17

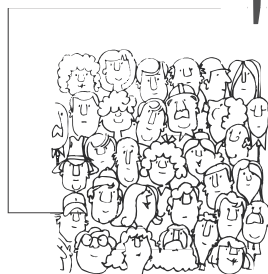
- **Hospice Teleconference** – on Improving Care for Veterans Facing Illness and Death held at FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care Administration Building, 251 Campground Road, Building 251B, Pinehurst. Registration at: 12:30 to 1 pm, Presentation: 1 pm to 4:30 pm. Call (910) 715-6000 for information and to register. Presentation is free.
- **Rabies Clinic** – 2 to 4 pm at the Robin's Nest pet shop, 130 N. Middleton Street, Robbins. Moore County residency is not required. One-year rabies shot \$5, drive-through service available for those wishing to keep their pet(s) in their vehicle. Veterinarian will be present to answer questions, and information will be available about the subsidized spay/neuter program for Moore County pets at the Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic of the Sandhills, Vass.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

- **Armed Forces Day**
- **VVA #966 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** – 8 am to 10 am, Vietnam Veterans of Moore County Chapter 966. Join your neighbors at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, 1403 N. Sandhills Blvd., Aberdeen. Tickets at the door, \$7 per person. Proceeds support Veterans of any conflict and active duty personnel.
- **Bird Walk** – 8 am, Spring migration is underway. Join the ranger for a 2-mile hike to look for these winged wonders. Bring binoculars, tick repellent, sunscreen and field guides. Meet at the park office. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-

692-2167. Free and open to the public.

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.
- **Seven Lakes Business Guild Street Fair & May Fest** – 11 am to 3 pm, Come meet friends and neighbors at the



Business

Guild event, organizations, craftspeople, artisans, food & craft vendors will be on hand.

- **Strength for Sienna Fundraiser Run for Awareness** – 9 am 1K Race \$15, 5K Race 9:30 am \$25, Cornhole Tournament at 11am, \$50 per team, BBQ lunch 11 am to 2 pm \$10 each. Proceeds benefit both Sienna's treatment and for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and the "Be the Match" program. Held at Sandhills Winery, 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-2949 or contact Noreen at noreen@nc.rr.com

SUNDAY, MAY 19

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church Anniversary** – 11th anniversary, at 11 am. All members, friends, and family associated with the church are invited to attend the worship service and a covered dish lunch afterwards in the fellowship hall. McDon-

alds Chapel, 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen. Jill McCloy at (910)692-5094.

- **Discovery Hike** – 3 pm, The group will look at flowers, shrubs, bugs, birds, frogs, toads, lizards, snakes, turtles, mammals and anything else they can discover. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, and tick/bug spray.

Meet at the park office. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free

and open to the public.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – doors open at 6 pm, show at 6:45 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Guest tonight is John Cowan and Tiller's Folly. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)-944-7502.

MONDAY, MAY 20

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Monday Night Services at WEUMC** – evening Fellowship Meal at 6 pm followed, by Worship Service

at 7 pm. Come as you are. West End United Methodist Church, 4015 Highway 73, West End. Church Office 673-1371.

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – gather at 7 pm, program begins at 7:30 pm. "Bats by the Millions" Weymouth Woods Superintendent, Scott Hartley, will share slides and video from a trip to Texas. Meet at the Weymouth Woods Auditorium. 1024 Ft. Bragg Road, Southern Pines. 910-692-2167 www.sandhillsnature.org

TUESDAY, MAY 21

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **League of Women Voters of Moore County** – Dr. Michael Orbach, Professor of Marine Biology, Duke University, will speak on Climate Change and the Outer Banks. Registration at 11:30 am. Lunch at 11:45 am. Cost \$12 for lunch. Table on the Green. Everyone welcome. Reservations required: 944-9611.
- **Moore County Board of**

Commissioners – 6 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

- **Caregiving Workshop** – 6 pm to 7 pm. Why is Caregiving so Hard? Free workshop for family caregivers of seniors. Sandhills Memory Care, 292 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. Speaker Barbara Stender. Refreshments. Call 673-2230 to reserve a seat.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

- **Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Lunch Bunch** – All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch for lunch at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Jorammon Fellowship Hall on at 12 noon. Todd Pusser, an award-winning photographer, will be the presenter. To make reservations for lunch and if transportation is needed, call Dora Lancaster 673-0166.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Welcome Home Bible**

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Study – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong leads the session in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Zumba Class** – 7:00 to 8:00 pm, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Moore County Concert Band** – performance at 2 pm, in the Grand Ballroom of the Carolina Hotel. Concert is free and open to the public. Information: www.moorecountyband.com or 910-235-5229.

- **"More than Pines"** – 3 pm, Join a ranger to discover that just the opposite is true. Bug spray is recommended. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – doors open at 6 pm, show at 6:45 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Guest tonight is *Betse Ellis and Wurlitzer Prize*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)-944-7502.

MONDAY, MAY 27

- **Memorial Day Holiday**

TUESDAY, MAY 28

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West

Side Park Community Center. Open to all landowners.

- **Army Brass To Perform** – 7 pm, Fifteen brass players from the Army Ground Forces Chamber Ensemble will present a evening of thrilling brass music, at The Village Chapel, 10 Azalea Road in Pinehurst. Free concert in the Chapel's Sanctuary. 910-295-6003.
- **Welcome Home Bible Study** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Bible Study designed for the reverts; who went to the church when they were

young and strayed away or were not active in the church, then came back later to know God and seek the purpose of life. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong leads the session in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion, meal at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Mag-

dalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes.

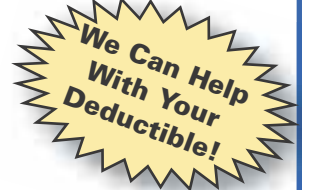
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Zumba Class** – 7:00 to 8:00 pm, free class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – Free, Garden Tour, 9 am to 1 pm. Tour 8 gardens in Seven Lakes (Maps available at the South and West Entrance Gates).

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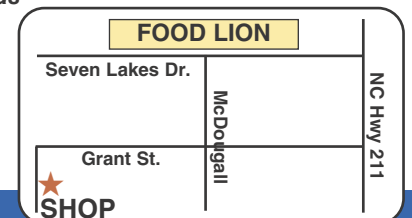
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Foxfire water

(Continued from page 3)

among ourselves if we think Moore County is the best way to go, and then we can go forward. It is the recommendation of the long range committee and the best interest of Foxfire Village and its future water source."

Conception to Reality

"If you are asking conceptually, then I think 'conceptually,' yes," Frusco said. "But when I bring up something, you say that's a detail. Whether or not it is financially feasible is a different story. Conceptually, I think it's the right thing to do."

"I don't like the proposal that was originally made," Frusco added.

"What about that draft proposal that we shared was problematic?" Durham asked.

Frusco said the Council had originally been told that the Village's water rates would stay the same for twenty years. Gould had later clarified that rates would stay the same, unless the County rates went up, in which case they would be raised proportionally.

Frusco also questioned the transparency of the proposal.

"Our water rates are higher than Moore County's, and a portion of the water rates are to pay for that line coming down [that is, a new water main connecting the County and Village water systems]. How much is the water line

going to cost?" Frusco asked. "How much of the resident's water bill is going to go to that line? I think it's important to have something structured in case a developer comes in and buys 150 acres of land with highway frontage — that they [the developer] will have some obligation to [pay down] that debt, ultimately."

Durham agreed that there was some initial confusion and miscommunication with Gould concerning how water rates would be impacted by the merger.

"The day before our meeting," Durham explained, "he [Gould] called me and said, 'I made a mistake when I told you rates would stay the same for 20 years. That was incorrect.' Our rates would stay the same until the next rate change."

"I don't believe Randy [Gould] in any way attempted to deceive us," Durham said to Frusco. "You kind of implied that when you first started. The rate, of course, is going to pay some of the note [borrowed to pay for the new water main]. I am missing your note about a lack of transparency."

Durham and Frusco dominated the debate, leaving little room for other Council members to join in.

"If you just say you are going to pay x amount of dollars for water usage . . . Somewhere that is going to pay off some of the debt,"

Frusco said. "We don't know how much of the water rate is going to be used for debt service."

"Why don't we look at this differently?" she suggested: "Pay the same rates and figure out what it is going to cost to bring that water line down."

Durham replied that at the April meeting Gould had said it would cost slightly above \$1 million to lay the line.

McCue interjected: "He [Gould] was very amendable to that. Those are details we are going to have to work out if we think we need to hook up to Moore County for the future."

What's the rate?

After doing some quick math, Frusco said the debt service on a \$1 million water main would require Foxfire rates only \$5 to \$9 higher than standard Moore County rates. She then made the same recommendation she had made in April — that Village residents should pay standard rates, plus a separate surcharge for the cost of laying the water line.

McCue once again reminded the board that Gould had been amendable to that sug-

gestion. He then recommended setting a public hearing.

Durham agreed it was time to hear from the public. "I am confident as a Council we can figure out what to do with the debris pile," Durham said. We have to go forward with this.

It Only Takes Three

"I am in agreement with Leslie we would be remiss not to pursue the concept," Mayor Erickson said. "But there is a whole bunch of stuff in those fifteen questions I asked that I wanted answered. We don't have to have 5-0 vote to do this. We only need 3," Erickson said.

Erickson then reminded the Council of other split votes in the past. "We weren't unanimous," he said. "Once we got through it, then we went back to work to do what work we had to do."

Durham said he had hoped the Council might be in agreement on such an important issue.

"We need to move forward," Frusco said. "It's a big deal. Let's hear from the public. If only five people show up then shame on them."

In the Wake of Catastrophe

After much back and forth, Councilman Vic Koos took the floor.

"My concern is if we don't go with Moore County and something catastrophic happens to the water system in the future," he said. "And if we haven't gone with Moore County, then I don't want to have to say, 'Gosh, we had that chance back then.' What if something happens, catastrophic? It might never happen. We had the chance to go with Moore County and we didn't do it. That's where I am coming from."

The lack of public input also concerned Koos. "It is somewhat depressing have this meeting, and only two or three genuinely interested people show up, and we have 902 in the village," Koos said. "I know what the criticism of my outlook will be. But you can't look at it that way. I don't want to take a chance. Right now I would be in favor of it. Have the meeting and convince me I am wrong."

The Council agreed that Frusco, Durham, and any others who wanted to would meet with Gould in July. A public hearing would be planned for August.








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Spence

(Continued from front page)

have been overfunded," he said. "As we discussed with the Board, we have received level local funding while state funding has decreased dramatically since 2008. During that time, thanks in large measure to [Chief Finance Officer] Mike Griffin, Moore County Schools has nonetheless been a remarkable steward of the public trust."

Sauce for the goose?

Spence said it is prudent for MCS to maintain a fund balance.

"I think it's critically important to note that the decision to grow fund balance was a sound decision," he said. "This allows the district to hold in reserve funds that prevent us from going to our Commissioners in the case of unexpected need or disaster."

The Superintendent pointed out that the County Commissioners themselves have worked to maintain a fund balance of in excess of fourteen percent — and, beyond their fund balance, they are growing capital reserve funds.

"This year, they [the Commissioners] were able to put over \$4 million into this capital reserve fund, presumably with an eye towards some future county government facility construction," Spence said. "All of us should commend our county for its ability to lead with sound fiscal policy and be in this position — and Moore County Schools should be similarly commended."

Skin in the game

Speaking at the County's recent Critical Issues Summit about MCS' digital learning initiative, Picerno said he wanted the school system to have "skin in the game." That may explained the decision to, in effect, move \$375,000 from the schools' current operational funding to the new digital technology fund. But Spence objected to that logic.

"I believe that we should be funded as requested, with level operating expenses, and an additional line item for

\$750,000," Spence said. "Barring this, if the county desires to fund the initiative at half our request, we hope they would leave our operating expenses at current levels and simply designate \$375,000 towards digital learning."

A public hearing on the proposed FY2014 Moore County budget is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00 pm in the Historic Courthouse in Carthage.

"We would certainly encourage individuals interested in the future of our schools to come and show your support as we raise these issues again," Spence said.

End of Year Recognitions

Despite economic challenges, teaching and learning continue apace. The Board of Education meeting room was standing-room-only as the members recognized stellar students, staff, and teachers.

The North Moore High

School wrestling team received recognition as state champions. Even more impressive was their grade point average of 3.6, the highest of any wrestling team in the state.

Racing to the Finish

One recognition proved a bittersweet moment for board Member Bruce Cunningham, whose daughter Jennie Cunningham is moving away to begin her college career. She was recognized for the winning the State indoor track event for the third time and tying for female runner of the year. She holds four records at Pinecrest in the 500 meter, 800 meter, 1000 meter, and 1600 meter events.

Running fast comes with rewards beyond winning the race. Jennie received a full scholarship and will be running cross-country and track at Dartmouth College.

Jennie greeted each board member with handshake,

but gave her dad a big hug.

"I appreciate seeing all of the coaches here tonight," Bruce Cunningham said. "I would like to recognize the positive impact the coaches and teachers have on our students it is just outstanding."

Never too Old to Learn

Thirty-one school employees were recognized for earning higher degrees. Twenty-four earned their masters; three earned other advanced degrees; and Mamie Allen, Lisa Troutman, and Kathy Kennedy earned their doctorates.

Chapel Lunch Bunch

All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch for lunch at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Joralemon Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 22 at 12 noon. There is no cost, however reservations would be appreciated. Transportation will be provided if needed. Anyone wishing to come for the presentation only may come at 12:30 pm.

Todd Pusser, an award-winning photographer, will

be the presenter. Pusser's travels have taken him to over 30 countries and into every ocean on earth. His photos have appeared around the world and have been featured in prominent magazines such as BBC Wildlife, National Wildlife, National Geographic Kids and Ocean Realm and many more.

To make reservations for lunch and if transportation is needed please phone Dora Lancaster 673-0166.



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What's Your Back-Up Plan?

A teenage daughter routinely uses social media to post pictures of her friends. After one careless posting, a lawsuit is presented by the parents of one of the girls, citing defamation of character.

Any intentional false communication, either written or spoken, that harms a person's reputation; decreases the respect, regard, or confidence in which a person is held; or induces disparaging, hostile, or disagreeable opinions or feelings against a person may result in a defamation lawsuit.

The posting of photos and comments on the internet opens a whole new world of opportunity for personal injury lawsuits. Whether frivolous or not, one can still expect the cost of defense.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 5)

against expecting county taxpayers to fund airport improvements.

Airport Executive Director Steve Borden came looking for a local match for three projects:

- Terminal upgrades paid for with Federal Aviation Administration funds, requiring a \$16,667 local match.
- Purchase and clearing of the Priest property, adjacent to the airport, requiring a local match of \$26,000.
- A temporary control tower for use at the airport to manage traffic during the 2014 US Open Golf Tournaments, with the Airport Authority and County Commissioners splitting the \$63,632 cost.

All three items were ultimately tabled pending additional information, but Chairman Nick Picerno laid out the Board's key concern:

"I don't want any money coming from the Moore County general taxpayer going into the airport," Picerno told Borden. "You get the sales tax rebate [that is, the County rebates to the Airport County sales taxes collected on the sale of aviation fuel]."

"We want to support you and want the airport to be a showplace. We don't want to expand the airport. We want to keep it right where it is."

"If it [the funding] is coming from the Moore County taxpayer, I can't vote for it, Picerno concluded.

What Picerno and the rest of the Board apparently would support is paying the local match for the terminal upgrades and Priest property using funds derived from the hotel occupancy tax. An inter-local agreement among the County, Airport Authority, and Convention and Visitors Bureau allows a portion of the tax to be used to support the airport.

But Picerno was unclear whether those funds could be used for these specific purposes, and asked to have the matter tabled pending County Attorney Leland's

review of the agreement. The Board voted unanimously to table.

On the matter of the tem-

tower, but, if fuel sales at the airport were more than expected due to the US Opens, the Airport Authority

"I don't want any money coming from the Moore County general taxpayer going into the airport We want to support you and want the airport to be a showplace. We don't want to expand the airport. We want to keep it right where it is."

— Commissioners' Chairman Nick Picerno

porary control tower, Commissioner Randy Saunders noted that the County Manager's FY2014 budget anticipated increased airport revenues due to the US Opens. He added that it is common for a business expecting an increase in traffic and sales to expect to have increased costs.

That prompted Picerno to propose that the County pay half the cost of the control

would pay the County back.

"The whole county will benefit from the increased commerce during the Opens," Picerno said. "We do believe it is a winner, but we are trying to minimize the impact on the Moore County taxpayer."

Picerno asked Borden to come back with a firm fuel sales projection, and the Board tabled the item.

Picerno questions business incentive

A \$15,500 economic development incentive to upgrade sewer service to International Tray Pads & Packaging in Aberdeen passed in a three-to-one vote, with Chairman Picerno opposed.

Picerno noted that the Aberdeen company is owned by Pactiv, LLC, which is in turn owned by Reynolds Holdings, "which had a \$2.6 billion profit in either the last quarter or the last year." He questioned whether a company with profits of that magnitude really needed \$15,500 from County taxpayers, and a matching \$15,500 from taxpayers in Aberdeen.

Commissioner Saunders defended the incentive, noting that the County had agreed up front to match the town's contribution.

"The company has already employed thirty-three [the number called for in the

(See "Commissioners," p. 21)

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 21)

incentive package] and are pushing to forty-five," Saunders said. "A number of them were former Gulistan [Carpet] employees."

"A company with that much profit has the potential to bring us more than thirty-three jobs," Commissioner Jimmy Melton added.

Other Business

In other business during the Board of Commissioners Tuesday, May 7 meeting the Board:

- Called a Public Hearing for Tuesday May 21 on text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance dealing with Group Care Homes.

- At the Request of Cooperative Extension, approved a resolution asking a federal bankruptcy court to look favorably on offers to purchase the Chatham County poultry processing assets of the bankrupt Omtrom USA, LLC. The hope is that a buyer

will reopen the facility, providing jobs for the nearly 1300 employees laid off when the plant closed, as well as a market for local farmers.

- Approved the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council's FY2014 funding plan, which divides a \$181,745 state grant among Moore County Youth Services, Communities in Schools and the Council itself.

- Authorized Sheriff Neil Godfrey to enter into mutual assistance agreements with the law enforcement agencies of county municipalities and adjacent counties.

- Approved an amendment to the policy for water and wastewater lines to allow those lines to be extended across two intermediate lots in hardship cases.

- Approved water tank maintenance agreements with Utility Services Co, Inc. for maintenance of two tanks on Power Plant Road and one on Monticello Road.

- Approved a quitclaim deed that transfers the site of the former Vass wastewater treatment plant back to its original owner, Alliene, LLC. The town's sewer system is now connected to the County's treatment plant in Addor.

- Approved the sale of an unused county van to Friend to Friend in exchange for a promise that it will be used for public benefit.

Seven Lakes Garden Tour set for June 1

The Seven Lakes Garden Club is pleased to announce their Annual Seven Lakes Garden Tour will take place on Saturday, June 1 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Tour eight lovely gardens in Seven Lakes (Maps will be available at the South

and West Entrance Gates).

Register to win Raffle, Gift Baskets for a \$1 a chance or 6 for \$5 (Baskets include 2 Golf, 2 Wine, 1 Garden, 1 Coffee and 1 Spa).

Free Admission for the tour. All are welcome.

Spanish immersion

(Continued from page 9)

children most of the day," McClendon said. "They listen to radio, watch television, and speak English at home. Some transfers happen naturally when they start hearing different expressions. What research is showing is, by the time language immersion students take the EOG, they are outperforming their peers."

During visits to Charlotte and Fayetteville, McClendon and Moore County Schools [MCS] Senior Staff members saw firsthand the impact Spanish Immersion classrooms can have on students. The kindergartners participating in this program will graduate from high school in June 2026 speaking and reading English, Spanish, and, hopefully, another language they will take in high school — creating the possibility of them being trilingual as they enter college.

Exposure to language, culture, and knowledge is so readily absorbed at Kindergarten age, McClendon said.

But it is important not to leave anyone out. With the PTA's help, the whole school is getting a colorful global makeover.

"We are running the SPLASH global gateway in the two other kindergarten classrooms," McClendon said. "Each grade level will also focus on a continent. The students will learn about, reference, and make comparisons and contrasts of curriculum they are being taught. By fifth grade, students will have a good knowledge base of our world."

"We want our students to know that there is more to life, and opportunities can reach beyond West End, North Carolina, and even the United States," she said. "The idea is to make our students globally competitive in their future."

For more information regarding the program or if you have a child entering Kindergarten at West End Elementary, contact the school at 910-673-6691.



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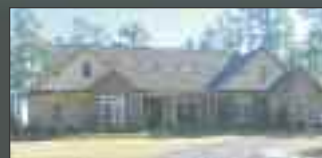
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Too much emphasis on athletics?

Question: Do you think that American colleges and universities place too much emphasis on athletics?

Response: Of course they have. It doesn't take a genius with a Ph.D. to recognize what is happening to many of our most distinguished institutions of higher education that have been lured by the gods of television revenue and the pressure from professional sports. Only in North America do we find competitive athletic teams as part of the structure and life of most colleges. Other nations have competitive athletics, but the athletes and teams represent a town or city — not a school.

What began over a century ago as a movement to include

physical education in a well-rounded college education has now turned into an albatross around the universities' necks. Literally millions of dollars pass through the athletics office as revenue from ticket sales, television net-

diverted to academic departments, but in smaller colleges, student fees and money that could have been used for academic programs actually subsidize the athletic department.

When asked about these

revenues, college officials say that if the athletic programs disappeared or were downsized, the colleges would not

be able to raise the money from other sources, and they would also lose their edge in recruiting students who either play or love to watch sports events.



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Rev. Don Welch

works, and donations from sports fans corporations and alumni.

In a few of the more successful universities, a small portion of this money is

Some of the most distinguished schools in the country have either dropped major sports teams or reduced them to non-scholarship endeavors. The Ivy League Schools, The University of Chicago, Emory University, and Berea College are recognized by the Academic world as excellent institutions, yet no scholarships are awarded for athletic skill. Instead, they provide financial aid for academic achievement and financial need.

Some smaller colleges in recent years have added intercollegiate football to a program in order to attract students and others believe that they are making higher education available to minority students who otherwise would not be able to attend

college.

When I watch an ACC basketball game and see five players on the floor and eight coaches on the bench, most of whom are paid more than the professors in the arts and sciences. I think to myself: "Something is out of kilter. We have our priorities out of sync."

But to show you what a hypocrite I am. Please don't call me after 7 o'clock at night when ACC basketball is on television. *Go Blue Devils! Go Tarheels! Go Wolf-pack!*

Don Welch, the minister of the Chapel in the Pines, welcomes your questions and comments at: dwelch1@nc.rr.com

Happy with the progress at Little Juniper

Dear Editor:

An article in the May 3 edition of The Times that discusses the preferred source of water to be pumped into Little Juniper Lake contains a quote which could be misleading to readers.

Speaking during the April 24 Open Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] about the pending sale of our home on Cardinal Lane, I did not mean to suggest that frustration with Lit-

tle J is the sole reason, but rather is one of the reasons, for that decision.

I am delighted to say that recent committee, board, and management have been responsive to Little J issues, unlike board and management from several years back that refused to respond to requests for policies and procedures, or do anything to rectify the water and dam deficiencies which have been an issue since the founding

of the SLLA.

Ron Erskine was instrumental in establishing a committee which successfully brought Little J and other water concerns to the attention of management and board. Don Fetzlaff has persistently led lakes and dams committee members more recently, with much progress.

Ed Dunn created an excellent pumping procedure which will assure equity of lake levels. My issue at the

meeting was only concern about the source of water to supplement Little J levels.

As I write this, I can watch maintenance personnel rebuilding the upper dam surface that fell into the lake first about eleven years ago, and has been an eyesore since. Great things are happening currently, which may include professional oversight of our lakes, our most valuable asset.

In time, I hope and expect the integrity of the Little J dam will be properly evalu-

ated, since the dip in the center of the road appears to be progressively increasing. Things are better than ever for Little J.

We have purchased a somewhat larger home on a larger lake. Thanks to recent efforts of many, future homeowners on Little J will not have to endure the low water levels and dam eyesore, items which were neglected for so many years.

*Jerry Johnson
Seven Lakes North*

SEVEN
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Letters to the
Editor

**Your letters
welcome!**

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached. We prefer letters delivered by e-mail, but also accept letters via the US Postal Service. Or you can drop your letter off at our drop box at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive.

Please limit your letter to a maximum of 300 words.

NC school funding is dumb

The way we fund the public schools in North Carolina makes no sense. The system may be too broken to fix completely, but it would be a big improvement if we gave local School Boards independent authority to levy property taxes, and pulled the local school budget out of the county budget.

That simple change would have several salutary effects:

- It would make school board members directly accountable to the voters for spending tax dollars.
- It would get county commissioners out of the business of second-guessing school board strategy and policy.
- It would avoid the demeaning spectacle of elected school officials — who run an enterprise larger than the rest of the county combined — coming to elected county officials to beg for funding.
- It would give the voters a better opportunity to weigh the costs and benefits of school board initiatives — like Moore County Schools' digital learning initiative.

I don't have the space to try to untangle the spider web of North Carolina school funding, but here are some basics. In Moore County, about 65% comes from the state, 26% from the county, and 6% from the federal government.

The original logic behind the system was that the state would pay for the teachers, and the counties would build the schools (just like they are responsible for building jails and courthouses). That, predictably, fell apart long ago.

A broken system

Predictably, because the sages in the General Assembly have a natural incentive to equalize teacher pay across the state. But it costs more to live in places like Cary and Moore County than in some less affluent counties with more affordable housing.

The pricier counties began to supplement the teacher pay provided by the state,

and one thing led to another, until now counties pick up the tab for a variety of expenses and initiatives that technically should be state-funded.

But now, Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Aaron Spence and members of the School Board want to pursue an audacious plan to roll out digital technology in the

classroom, and they'd like a little extra county funding to pay for it.

Actually, they asked for an extra

\$750,000. That's about six tenths of one percent of the County budget or eight tenths of one percent of the MCS budget. It's the equivalent of six tenths of one cent on the 46.5 cent property tax levy.

But it's an ongoing commitment that will ultimately become an annual \$2 million expense for County taxpayers.

The request met with a chilly reception from the Commissioners, who protested that they thought we were going to start all this digital learning stuff next year. Chairman Nick Picerno, who

(See "School," p. 24)

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



Meanwhile, the state created an "education lottery" that was supposed to provide additional funding for education but often has been used for other purposes.

How it plays out here

This leads us to the current state of play in Moore County, where the Commissioners and School Board have had "an excellent relationship" over the past few years of tight budgets, mostly because the schools haven't asked for any increase in local funding.

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Run for a good cause - MANNA in motion

MANNA! in Motion, the 5k and 10K Trail Race, will be held at Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Southern Pines, on Saturday June 1. MANNA! In Motion

(MIM) is one of the four spring races in the Sandhills Race Series.

The MIM trail race starts at SCC and winds through the beautiful Reservoir Park

of Southern Pines. The race course provides obstacles that trail runners will enjoy – uphill and downhill challenges, wooden bridge crossings, tree weaving, tree roots

and more. The 5K and 10K starts at 8:00 a.m. to provide cooler temperatures for runners.

Register for MIM: by mail registration form to MANNA! P.O. Box 1081, Southern Pines, NC 28388, online at www.active.com, or on Race Day June 1 at SCC. The entry fee for the 5K and 10K Race \$25. Those registering on race day need to add \$2 to the registration fee. Number and chip pick up begins at 6:30 a.m. To assure receiving a free race T-shirt, runners need to register prior to May 15th. There is a \$20 discount for Sandhills Striders mem-

bers and a \$15 fee for active military and all dependents and students in Grades 1-12 in school or home schooled.

Pre-registration will be held Friday May 31 at 5:00 to 7 pm at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1517 Luther Way, Southern Pines.

The awards for 5K and 10K races will be awarded to the top overall male and female winners and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the following age divisions: 10 and under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70 years and older.

School funding

(Continued from page 23)

has been assiduously reviewing MCS financials for the past few years, noticed that the schools have been running a surplus in their local account and banking that cash in something called a "designated fund balance."

"We shouldn't be funding surpluses," Picerno said.

The schools, on the other hand, feel they have been carefully minding their pocketbooks, and responsibly salting away a little extra cash during uncertain economic times.

Now they have a plan to invest that nest egg, over a period of years, in the Superintendent's digital learning initiative.

Half a loaf

The Commissioners plan to give the schools half of the \$750,000 they asked for. Though that's not the intention, this decision insults the elected members of the School Board, implying that

they are either incapable of deciding how to educate our kids, which they were elected to do, or that they are irresponsible with taxpayer money.

On the other hand, it makes the Commissioners look like bad guys in the eyes of parents of school kids, who want their children to have the benefits of the best education possible (and are tired of selling candy and gift wrap to pay for copy paper).

How to fix this?

Commissioners Chairman Picerno came up with the solution to this perennial problem during the County's Critical Issues Summit.

"The thing that always bothers me," Picerno said, "it is sort of funny that the legislature has put us in charge of funding it, but we have no role in spending it." Exactly.

And the Commissioners and the School Board and

Moore County schoolchildren and Moore County taxpayers would all be better off if the General Assembly took the job of funding the schools off the shoulders of the County Commissioners and placed it instead on the shoulders of the School Board.

The School Board would then be responsible for educating our kids while holding "school taxes" at an acceptable level. And the Commissioners would no longer be responsible for funding something over which they have little control.

Is this going to happen anytime soon? Probably not, given that the current occupants of the General Assembly appear to be headed in the opposite direction, creating opportunities to move more power over schools into the hands of county commissioners.

But it would be a far better use of the considerable talents of both sets of elected officials.

VVA Pancake Fundraiser

Join the Vietnam Veterans of Moore County Chapter 966 at their Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday May, 18 from 8 am to 10 am. Ask your neighbors at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, 1403 N. Sandhills Blvd., Aberdeen. Tickets available at the door, \$7 per person. The proceeds from the breakfast will support Veterans of any conflict and active duty personnel.



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Foxfire budget

(Continued from page 3)

the Village's employees in the preliminary budget.

"We value our employees," Frusco said. "I am sure everyone on the council wishes we could do more for the employees."

Due to a state-mandated increase in employee health and retirement benefits, the Village will be responsible

for an additional \$6,800 in health insurance and retirement coverage for its full-time employees.

Village Mayor George Erickson said, "I would like to reiterate, we tussled with increasing benefits for our employees at some of our past work sessions. As you said earlier, we have tentatively agreed on a two percent

increase."

Water Level

Councilman Steve Durham reported that the Council anticipated little change in the water department's budget.

"We are in a good place with our infrastructure and water tank," he said.

Durham said that future

capital projects would need to be considered carefully: "It will depend on whether or not we choose to continue to operate our own water system."

Erickson opened the floor to public comment.

Resident Mike Cole asked whether the Village would ever consider having its own municipal fire department.

Cole expressed his concern that the Moore County Board of Commissioners plan to implement a flat fire tax countywide — to the disadvantage of West End Fire and Rescue.

"Just because they are going to get ten cents on a hundred doesn't mean that

they will pay us that," Cole said. "If we become a municipal department then we are not locked in to a flat tax."

"It's worth researching," Frusco replied. "Let's see if we can get together in the near future to at least talk about some of these things."

Durham advised inquiring at the state level.

"The League of Municipalities can to give guidance to how big a municipality has to be before it becomes feasible to have its own fire department," he said.

The Village's Citizen Participation Budget Workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30.

Solar

(Continued from page 6)

require planting low shrubs and a deeper set back from the road to protect the rural nature?"

"I also totally agree with cleanup," he added, echoing the concerns expressed by Board members. "There should be some funds to make sure it is cleaned up in the end. The cleanup should ensure that underground power line is removed, the garbage removed, and the land restored to its original state. I think solar panels are fine, but we also need to protect the rural nature. We have a lot of abandoned factories and mill sites that might also be a viable option for this."

"I am very also concerned about the amount of land that is being eaten up by these solar panels," Ruby Brown said. "We are losing very good agriculture land. These farms are not really doing a lot for the economy. We need sustainable jobs. The company brings in its own employees to set the panels up. I am glad they

use expert people to do it, but it wouldn't really mean anything to the local economy — which we really need."

"I am afraid that these solar farms may not be sustainable on their own," she continued. "How long it is going to last and be valid? I don't know what kind of teeth you have in laws or how you enforce them. If you don't take care of your land, then you won't have a country for very long."

"I have a farm right beside it and am working land downhill from it," Michael Ritter said of one of the installations. "There are wet springs that come right through my property. Would chemicals in these solar panels leach into the ground? We got good water. If you mess up your water, you got nothing."

Not now. Maybe later.

"I am a very staunch supporter of pushing the technological envelope and seeking betterment through technology," Chairman Robert Hayter said. "It is fairly self-evident, if it wasn't

for subsidies being provided, then there would not be an industry, because they have yet to prove themselves independent."

As technology improves the board will revisit zoning for solar farms, he added. "When the time comes for that technology to be market ready we will want to have these conversations."

Les Murray questioned whether rooftop residential solar panels were inadvertently being prohibited in the vote. Hayter agreed that the vote was only in reference to industrial solar farms, not residential installations.

After turning down the proposed amendments that would have allowed solar farms, the Board recessed and came back for an in-depth and lengthy review of the county's sign regulations.

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County budget

(Continued from front page)

missioners for their work on the draft document. The public will have an opportunity to weigh in on the budget at the Tuesday, May 21 Commissioners meeting; final approval of the budget is scheduled for the Tuesday, June 4 meeting. A copy of the full budget is available on the County's website.

No tax increase

The first of four goals that Vest said guided the budget process was to "maintain current tax rates," and the centrality of that goal was emphasized when Chairman Picerno called the wording of the objective his only quibble with the budget.

"I would have said 'maintain or reduce,'" Picerno said.

Vest's budget does indeed maintain the county property tax rate at 46.5 cents per hundred, where it has been since FY 2010, and the Advanced Life Support tax, which funds EMS operations, at 2 cents per hundred.

The fire tax rate in each of the County's sixteen fire districts remain at their current levels, including 4 cents for Seven Lakes, 5.9 cents for West End, and Eagle Springs at 7.5 cents.

Skin in the game for MCS

The Moore County Board of Education asked the Commissioners for \$25.5 million

in local operational funding — a request that has not changed since FY2010 — but also asked for \$750,000 in new funding to pay for the 1:1 Initiative to place laptop or tablet computers in the hands of every student and teacher in the County.

Vest's proposed budget provides that \$750,000, but does so by reducing the County's funding of school operations by \$375,000. The remaining \$375,000 will be drawn from the County's capital reserves.

MCS plans to roll out the 1:1 Initiative over the next three-to-four years, and will look to the County for increased funding for digital learning in each of those years. Once all students and teachers are equipped with digital devices, the annual cost of replacing the computers is expected to total \$3 million, and MCS is asking the County to fund \$2 million of that total.

With that in mind, Commissioner Saunders comments: "We are looking at numbers that we are going to have to pay for every year. Four years from now, we are looking at paying a significant amount. We hope that the schools will show that we are going to get a lot of bang for our buck. It's the future, but we have to find a way to pay for it."

MCS was already planning to put \$1.5 million into the

effort in FY2014, primarily using cash the school system has accumulated over the past several years.

It's that accumulated fund balance that caught Chairman Picerno's eye. He told *The Times* after Tuesday night's meeting that MCS ended FY2012 with a \$3 million surplus in their locally funded accounts — and had similar surpluses in the two prior years.

"We're just asking them to use the accumulated overfunding of the last four years," Picerno said.

Meanwhile, the \$375,000 at stake represents roughly one third of one percent of both the County and MCS budgets for FY2014.

College funding flat

The same concern about "overfunding" came into play with the Sandhills Community College budget request.

Sandhills Community College had asked the County for a \$200,000 increase (just under five percent) in operational funding and a one-time contribution of \$400,000 to replenish a dwindling capital maintenance fund.

Vest's budget does offer \$120,000 in capital funding,

but comes up with that money by cutting the County's contribution to operational funding by \$121,819.

"We essentially kept them flat," Picerno told *The Times*. "Like the schools, they are running a surplus. We shouldn't be funding surpluses."

Additional EMS staffing

The County Manager's budget includes funding for seven new EMS paramedics, three of which will man a quick response vehicle stationed at a new fire and EMS substation to be built on Carthage-Glendon Road. The remaining four paramedics will be assigned to Southern Pines, allowing the EMS unit there to operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Picerno told *The Times* that these new positions — and the new substation — will be funded from the ALS tax instead of from the general fund "taking some of the burden off the general fund taxpayer."

The general fund employee complement will be reduced by 1.5 full time equivalents, Vest said during his presentation. He did not elaborate

on which positions are being eliminated.

Rising benefits costs = no raises

The County's employee benefits costs are expected to rise markedly in the coming year, squeezing any room for cost of living or merit increases out of the budget.

The state-mandated contribution to employee pension plans jumped 7.5 percent for law enforcement and nearly 5 percent for every one else. The per-employee cost of health insurance will increase by \$634, and a new state-mandated contribution to an unemployment insurance fund will cost the County \$209 per employee, or \$157,152 in total.


In the current year's budget, County employees were awarded a half-year two percent cost of living increase that took effect in January.

A change that will have little effect on this year's budget but could cut costs — and employee compensation — in the future is a cap on total county retirement contributions for non-law-enforcement employees.

The County contributes

(See "County," p. 27)

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

the remaining amenities, requiring that guest cards be purchased for specific individuals, rather than being transferrable from, for example, one group of grandchildren visiting on Memorial Day and a separate group visiting on July 4th.

Serious complaints

Sohl said the complaints about this last change were "the most serious complaints since I have been here," and focused on the fact that the new passes are person-specific and unenforceable.

Noting that the roving secu-

rity patrol short starts in the late afternoon, Sohl said the Association lacks the staff to check guest cards at the playground, tennis courts, and lakes. "Having rules on the books that are unenforceable just breeds contempt for the rules," he said.

He also noted that the passes have generated only \$75 in revenue so far this year, "... and the amount of ill will this is creating for the association. . . ."

The Manager's recommendation was simply to drop the fees for the guest cards, but that recommendation produced an hour of debate

among Directors and landowners in attendance.

Director Bill Hirsch questioned whether the guest cards provide any additional level of control over what could be obtained by simply having security ask non-members they encounter to provide the name of their member-host.

George Temple reminded the Board of a situation a few years ago, when Sequoia Point was seriously overcrowded on the weekends due to unauthorized entry by non-residents. "Someone got roving patrol to start card-

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

County budget

(Continued from page 26)

three percent of each employee's salary into a 401K plan, whether or not the employee contributes to their 401K. In addition, the County, in 2013, will contribute 7.07 percent of salary to the employee's state retirement plan account. For existing employees, the County will continue to make both these contributions.

But for new employees hired after July 1, a new policy will cap the combined contribution at ten percent of salary. In addition, the County will match employee contributions to their 401K plans, but will not contribute when the employee does not contribute.

The pension and 401K contributions for law enforcement employees are mandated by the state.

Paying off debt

The County expects to pay \$10.6 million to service debt in FY2014 — \$5.5 million for school bonds, \$1.8 million for Sandhills Community College, and \$3.3 million for County capital projects.

Another \$3.4 million in debt service will go toward paying down loans for Public Utilities projects, including the East Moore Water District and the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. But the revenue to handle these payments is taken not from gen-

eral fund taxpayers, but from the rates paid by public utilities customers.

Water rates to rise

Though taxes will not rise, if the County Manager's budget is approved, water and sewer rates will.

The budget proposes a \$1.40 increase in the base water rate for both three-quarter and one inch meters. That will increase the three-quarter inch rate from \$6.10 to \$7.50 and the one-inch rate from \$7.70 to \$9.10.

The sewer rates charged municipalities will increase by thirteen cents, from \$2.61 per thousand gallons to \$2.74 per thousand gallons.

Making do with less

After Vest's presentation of the proposed budget,

Chairman Picerno noted that, five years ago, before 2008 recession, the County was receiving \$18 million in sales taxes. That number is now \$14 million.

The County general fund budget at the time had reached \$99 million; it is now \$88 million.

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 27)

ing people, and 75 to 100 had to leave," Temple said, adding that a few weekends of carding resolved the overcrowding problem permanently.

Hirsch noted that requiring payment for guest cards "has the purpose of preventing folks coming in and getting a whole fistful of guest cards."

Ultimately, Hirsch moved the matter to the Open Meeting in the form of two separate motions, both of which receive unanimous support from the Board. The first motion would remove the fee for the first four guest cards, and charge \$25 for four additional cards. The second motion would eliminate the requirement that guest cards be assigned to a specific individual.

Boat slip deposits

The Directors moved to the Open Meeting a recommendation from Manager Sohl to eliminate the \$50 deposit required when a member's name is added to the waiting list for a boat slip at the Sequoia Point marina. Sohl noted that keeping track of the deposits involved unnecessary bookkeeping for the staff. He suggested that, instead, the member at the top of the waiting list, when a slip comes up, be given 30 days to pay the \$400 slip rental fee or forfeit the right

to the slip.

But Director Bob Racine noted that the slip waiting list was quite long — prompting calls for adding more slips to the marina — until the deposit requirement was added.

"We were told we needed to build more docks," Racine said. "But, once we did the deposit, those folks vanished."

Lake Pumping Policy

A policy proposal that would move responsibility for administering the Association's lake pumping program from the Lakes and Dam's Committee to Association staff returned to the May 13 Work Session after concerns were raised during the April 24 Open Meeting that moving nutrient-rich water from Seven Lakes Country Club's Lake Windermere had, over time, fouled Little Juniper Lake with algae and aquatic growth.

Manager Sohl provided the Board with water quality tests that he said showed "reflect acceptable ranges for all lakes. There is no evidence to suggest that water quality issues are causing aquatic life growth in Little J."

The Board moved the matter to the May Open Session, with a request from Director Conrad Meyer that Sohl provide the Board with data on nitrogen and phosphorous

levels in the lakes prior to that meeting. Meyer noted that these readings were missing from the Directors' packet, and had a greater bearing on aquatic growth than did the bacteria level readings that were included.

Lake Management Proposal

Also moving to the May Open Meeting is a proposal to spend not more than \$13,500 to hire a consultant from May 30 to October 31 to study and help manage the community's lakes.

An initial proposal was provided by Foster Lake & Pond Management, which Sohl identified as "the premiere company in the state." Company President Johnny Foster had inspected the lakes and met with the Lakes & Dams Committee during a visit to Seven Lakes.

While noting that it may be difficult to identify other companies offering the same service, the Board asked Sohl to seek out some competitive bids prior to a vote at the May Open Meeting.

Director Meyer asked Sohl to make sure that Foster's work would include "some opinions on pumping from Windermere. Instead of having folks drawing conclusions based on personal observations, we will have some actual data."

Dock Extension Denial Appealed

Lake Sequoia resident Greg Lishawa appeared before the Board to appeal a decision by the Architectural Review Board to deny his request to extend his dock thirty feet into the Lake. SLLA rules set the maximum length at twenty feet.

Lishawa noted that his property, situated on the south side of the east end of the lake, is subject to considerable wave action and related sand deposits. In order to protect his boat, he

has installed a boat lift, but the lift requires at least two feet of depth, which is difficult to maintain at the current sixteen foot dock length.

ARB Director Hirsch said the committee felt it lacked the authority to grant this variance. He also noted that there are options other than a boat lift that Lishawa could use to raise his boat from the water, without requiring two feet of depth at the dock. He also noted that the ARB and the Board had recently denied a similar appeal from

(See "SLLA," p. 29)

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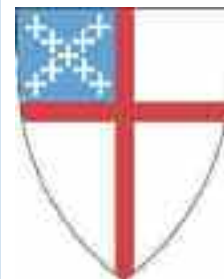
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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 28)

a resident who wanted to put a boat lift on the end of their dock.

The Board voted to move the appeal to the Open Session.

Offsite Horse Shows

Board members recently approved the one-time use of Association horses to attend a horse show, at the request of Stables Manager Kate Pennington. However, when that approval was given, the Directors did not realize that Pennington's young students, not the manager herself, would be involved in the exhibiting.

"I'm not sue if this is what we had in mind with an amenity — which was about trail rides and pony rides for residents and their guests," President Steve Ritter said. "Kate seems to be making it an on-going enterprise."

Sohl indicated that students would not, of course, be covered by the Association's worker's compensation insurance during such activities, and said he was unsure whether they would be covered by the liability policy.

Director Racine said he was against using the horses for offsite horse shows, and noted it had not been vetted by the Recreation Committee.

While praising Pennington's work effort and ambition, Sohl noted that expanding the stables program in that direction might not be sustainable should she eventually move on to another position elsewhere.

More Security Needed?

Director Rich Faraci told his fellow Board members that he feels the single shift of roving security patrol that the Association currently contracts with the Budd Group is inadequate.

He related an incident in which he fielded a resident's complaint about inappropri-

ate activity on one of the lakes at 11:00 am one day, and was unable to effectively respond, because roving patrol had not come on shift. Ritter followed up with a similar story about being unable to send a security staffer to check out a report from someone who said they smelled smoke at the North Club House.

After some discussion, the Board agreed that Ritter and Sohl will obtain from the Budd Group a quote on the cost of expanding roving patrol.

Other Business

In other business during the SLLA Board's May 13 Work Session, the Directors

- Moved to the Open Meeting a proposed rule amendment that would allow the Architectural Review Board to skip one meeting a month if there is no business to conduct. The rules currently require the panel to meet twice a month.

- Heard an appeal on past due assessments from a lot owner whose account was apparently lost in the former management company's records, so that, despite repeated requests from the owner, they were never billed for their dues assessments. The appeal was moved to the Open Meeting.

- Will decide in the Open Meeting whether to purchase additional insurance coverage for sexual harassment claims at a cost of \$950. The Association's broker suggested the addition, given the number of lifeguards employed in the Summer months, and Director Meyer asked Sohl to determine whether Directors and committee member would also be covered.

- Considered a bylaws change recommended by Sohl that would have increased the opportunity for the Board to use electronic voting, eliminating language that restricts such votes to emergency situations. Board members expressed a preference for retaining language that would restrict email voting to urgent matters and asked Sohl to communicate that preference to the attorney currently rewriting the Association's bylaws.

- Referred to the Open Meeting a proposal to replace all windows and doors in the Landowners Office building, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. Sohl noted that the current windows and doors are not energy efficient and are, in some cases, failing. He will secure additional competitive bids prior to the vote.

- Moved to the Open Meeting a proposal to replace the fascia, soffits, and ceiling of the Sequoia Point Pavilion at a cost not to exceed \$22,850. Director Hirsch cautioned that the proposed aluminum ceiling might represent an invitation to vandalism and suggested using Duralock® instead. Sohl will secure additional bids incorporating that recommendation prior to a vote.

- The Board reviewed procedures that Sohl developed for the gate guards and boat patrol, offering suggestions for improving both. Because the documents deal with internal procedures, they will not

move to the Open Meeting for a formal vote.

- Ritter reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council, which brings together the presidents of the landowners associations serving McLen-don Hills, Seven Lakes West, and the SLLA, as well as the Seven Lakes Business Guild. Ritter said the group had named west-side President Jack Stevens its President, and was planning to invite the Moore County Board of Commissioners to a public meeting in Seven Lakes in the Fall.

Director Chuck Leach was absent from the meeting.

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OFFICE FOR RENT – SPACIOUS – Located in South Park Office Complex \$500 per Month. No Utility Expense. Call John at 673-1818. tfn

FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

HOMES FOR RENT – in Seven Lakes and Pinehurst. Bortins Construction Contracting. 910-987-4683. tfn

SEVEN LAKES NORTH – 3BD/2BA home, \$850/mo, avail. May 1. 3BD/2BA home in Seven Lakes North, dbl car garage, \$980/ mo. Susan Adams Rental Mgt. 910-690-2975.

HIGH PROFILE LOCATION – 1800 sf office space, (includes 6 offices, reception area, lunch and file room). (1) 450 sf office space and (2) 100 sf office spaces available at 1030 Seven Lakes Drive. Call 910-673-4800.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

SEVEN LAKES HOME AND LAWN – lawn and yard upkeep, Call Ed at 638-2387. email: sevenlakeshl@yahoo.com tfn

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The Seven Lakes Times, a community newspaper serving Seven Lakes, Foxfire, McLendon Hills, and West End, is seeking a part-time reporter to cover local government meetings and write feature stories.

Relevant educational background and experience are required. The Times needs someone who writes clearly and concisely and has a passion for accuracy. Excellent computer skills are a must.

The Times commitment averages six to twelve hours per week, but is determined by local government meeting schedules — and thus is not particularly flexible. Morning, afternoon, and night meetings are common.

Interested?

Please email cover letter, resumé, and any other relevant material to mail@sevenlaketimes.net

CLASSIFIEDS

Seven Lakes Times
May 17, 2013

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DEBBIE’S PAINTING – Pressure Washing, Home & Window Cleaning. Call 910-986-1471. *7tp 14/19*

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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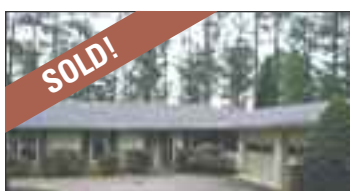
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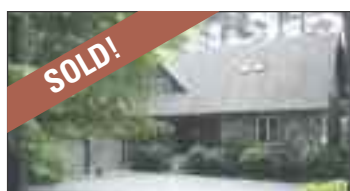
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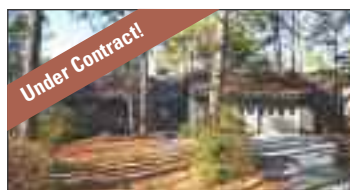
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