

## County budget nearly complete

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Though the final vote won't come until June 4, Moore County's Commissioners appear satisfied with their FY 2014 budget, as is.

After holding a public hearing on the draft budget during their regular Tuesday, May 21 meeting, the Commissioners decided additional Work Sessions on the budget were not needed, suggesting the

draft will be approved largely as submitted.

The FY2014 Budget was prepared by a team led by County Manager Wayne Vest that included Chairman Nick Picerno, Commissioner Randy Saunders, and a number of Moore County staffers.

### Support for education

Feedback during the public hearing focused on education; the budget as submitted provides neither Moore County Schools nor Sandhills Com-

(See "Commissioners," p. 26)

## A little courtesy needed on West Side

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Respect, courtesy, and observance of stop signs and speed limits were at the top of the Director's wish list at the Tuesday, May 28, Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Work Session

Vice President Bruce Keyser opened the meeting by admonishing a few residents

who have lacked restraint and treated staff with disrespect.

"It's an accumulation of incidences by a few people that seem to feel that they can take their anger out on our staff," Keyser reported after the meeting.

### Traffic woes

The misbehavior also continues on the community's roads, reported Safety and

(See "Westside," p. 25)

## Strength for Sienna



**A beautiful day and a worthy cause** brought together runners, walkers, cornhole tossers, BBQ lovers, friends, and family from Seven Lakes and beyond to offer strength for 22-year-old Laker Sienna Shute, who suffers from Non-Hodgkin Ltmphoma, and faces a bone marrow transplant in mid-June. [Tom Uhl photo. More photos on pages 4 & 5.]

## Ritter named Commissioner

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Otis Ritter, a stalwart of the Moore County Republican Party, was unanimously appointed during the Moore County Board of Commissioner' Tuesday, May 21 meeting to serve out the unexpired term of Commissioner Craig Kennedy, who resigned in April.

The 73-year-old Ritter, who currently serves as Chairman of the County's Emergency Services Advisory Committee [ESAC], told *The Times* that he will be a staunch conservative on matters of taxes and spending, and that he plans to continue to work on public safety issues as

Commissioner.

Kennedy's term would have expired in November of 2014. Under state law, a resigning Commissioner must be replaced by someone from the same district and party, and the law requires that the remaining Commissioners accept the person recommended by the executive committee of the appropriate political party in the county.

### The party's choice

Moore County GOP Chairman John Rowerdink told *The Times* that the party's executive committee met on Tuesday, May 14 and voted unanimously to recommend Ritter for the post. Party officers had interviewed three other individuals who had

expressed an interest in filling the seat, Rowerdink said, including GOP Men's Club President Lewis Gregory, Soil and Water Conservation Board Chairman Scott Sheffield, and former Robbins Mayor Theron Bell.

"I think he'll be an excellent Commissioner," Rowerdink said, noting that Ritter regularly attends Board of Commissioners meetings, and thus is well acquainted with the issues facing the County.

"All things being equal, we felt it was important to have someone from the northern part of the county," Rowerdink added. "In the interest of geographic balance, we wanted to make sure those people were represented."

(See "Ritter," p. 29)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# Foxfire Pool & Park are open to the public

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Former Foxfire Councilman Arden McConnell asked during a citizen participatory budget work session on Wednesday, May 15 whether Moore County residents were aware that the Village pool and Village Green Park are open to the public.

"We have a very nice facility and park," McConnell said. "I go over there day after day, and no one is around. I realize that it is a Village facility, but it is not being used at a very high level."

Councilwoman Leslie Frusco agreed that the pools and park were open to the public. However, she questioned whether it made economic sense to pay to advertise that fact.

"If we advertised, we would have to pay for the advertising," Frusco said.

Considering the neighboring communities, she said, "I don't know how much interest we would generate. Seven Lakes has all their own facilities. We could certainly discuss that as a Council, in a closed session."

McConnell noted that construction of the park was

paid for, in part, with state funds.

"How does the public, non-residents, find out about the pool that's only on our website?" McConnell asked.

"We can do more, but I think we need to be really careful with what we do," Frusco said. "We don't want people who won't respect the rules or get into things like loud music."

The park pavilions are open to the public and can be rented for birthdays and events. Councilman Vic Koos commented that the only minor vandalism he had witnessed was done by woodpeckers.

"But we do have to watch," Koos said. "I would feel obligated, although it's not my duty, if we had non-residents renting a pavilion, to take another walk down there."

McConnell pointed out that pool fees could help offset the cost of pool maintenance. Frusco replied that the pool would never be a money

maker.

"We charge significantly more for non-residents than we do residents," she said. "Our residents are already helping to support the pool through paying taxes."

"Even the people [residents] who don't use it benefit from it," Frusco continued. "As an amenity, the pool makes the whole neighborhood and community more desirable. We offer our residents seasonal memberships or punch cards. For everybody else that comes in, it is five dollars a pop."

The Village has recently raised their resident pool fees, to help cover pool expenses.

"We are trying — and we have actually for this year, this pool season — increased rates a little bit," Frusco said. "Those people that use the pool need to pay a little more. It is still the best darned price you can get in all of Moore County."

## Foxfire Pool Fees

Resident fees for use of the Foxfire Village Pool include a \$60 individual membership and a \$150 family membership. Residents may purchase punch cards for guests, at \$25 for 10 visits. Children aged two and under are free. Non-residents and non-

members pay a daily admission price of \$5.00 (cash only) per person paid at the pool facility. Children age two and under are free.

Beginning June 10, adults will have adult-only-swim-time one hour each day, Monday through Thursday, from 10:00 to 11:00 am.

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

### PUBLICATION DATES

Deadline	Issue
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

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# Solar: Down but not out in Moore County

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Solar farms are down, but not quite out, in Moore County.

The Moore County Planning Board, in a Thursday, May 9 meeting, voted to reject text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would have permitted and regulated industrial-scale solar farms in County.

But the Planning Board's role in amending ordinances is advisory; the Board of Commissioners has the final word on whether to adopt the text amendments proposed by the Planning Department.

The Commissioners will be asked during their Tuesday, June 4 meeting to call a public hearing on the matter for their Tuesday, June 18 meeting.

## Terribly upset

Bill Harris plans to be there.

Harris is a High Point attorney and Moore County turf farmer involved in two of the three solar firms currently proposed for the County.

"I am terribly upset about the action of the Planning Board," Harris told *The Times*, noting that he had watched videos of the April and May Planning Board meetings online.

"I would never have expected that Moore County would be so adverse to considering solar as an alternate energy source," Harris said.

Harris and his family own and operate Sandhill Turf, which has 400-500 acres in Moore and Montgomery County in turfgrass that they sell to golf courses, developers, builders, and homeowners.

They plan to lease property for two solar farms, one on Samarcand Road and the other on NC Highway 211 near the Montgomery County line, across from Sandhill Turf's offices. Together, the two solar farms would occupy about thirty acres.

## It's new, it's different

John Morrison, Chief Operating Officer of Strata Solar, was also surprised by the chilly reception solar farms got at the Planning Board.

"We have not seen any county that has been quite so antagonistic to solar as Moore County," Morrison told *The Times*. "But it's new, it's different, and a lot of people just don't know what it is about. Clearly, a lot of the concerns were being raised by people who just aren't familiar with solar technology."

Strata is an "integrator." Like Argand Energy, the company that Harris is working with, Strata purchases materials, does site development, manages construction, and, perhaps most importantly, puts together the limited liability companies that actually own the solar farm.

The legal and financial structure of a typical solar farm involves creating a lim-

ited liability company [LLC] that owns a single farm. Integrators like Strata form the LLC and find investors to participate. Ultimately, the LLC owns the facility, leasing land from the farmer, maintaining the facility, and selling the electricity to a larger electric utility.

The "farm" is a collection of photovoltaic cells that make DC electricity when the sun shines on them. They are assembled into panels and mounted on racks, positioned row after row, tilted to catch the sun's rays. The DC power they generate is fed into inverters that convert it to the AC power used in the electric grid.

Strata is involved in the third Moore County solar farm, planned for a tract on NC Highway 24/27 near Robbins.

## Pretty stable, steady income

Why would a farmer want to produce solar electricity

on a portion of their acreage, instead of corn or soybeans?

"We lease the land at about the same rate that they would make growing corn or soybeans," Morrison said, roughly \$500 to \$1000 acre.

According to Morrison, that's less than corn or soy would bring in a really good year, but more than the crops would bring in a drought year.

"Many landowners are using it as risk mitigation," Morrison said, noting that the lease payments are stable, steady income.

"They typically continue to farm the rest of the property," he added. "Sometimes the next generation isn't inter-

ested in farming, but this can help pay the tax bill, at least. Risk mitigation, estate planning — that's a lot of the conversation we wind up having with farm families."

"We can give them a lease that is nice, stable income without the vagaries of crop prices and weather," Morrison said.

"You can be pretty confident that revenue stream is going to be there. The utility companies are a pretty safe counterparty."

## Using marginal land

"The reason that my family was considering solar, is because this is land that is

(See "Solar," p. 20)

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# 'Strength for Sienna'

They called it "Strength for Sienna," and it brought hundreds of folks to Seven Lakes Village on Saturday, May 18 for activities that ranged from a strenuous 5K run through Seven Lakes North to a relaxing BBQ lunch on the patio of Sandhills Winery, which served as headquarters for the event.

The goal was to provide support for 22-year-old Laker

Sienna Shute and her family. Diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in September, Shute is scheduled for a bone marrow transplant in June.

Neil Clark won the 5K Race, which attracted 210 runners. Another 60 participated in the 1K fun run.

The team of Gary Lewis and Chris Cleveland won the Cornhole Tournament.

More than 300 plates of

BBQ were sold, and more than 50 folks swabbed their cheeks to join the National Bone Marrow Registry.

The Organizing Team included Noreen Sawyer, Bob & Leslie Rose, Steve & Nancy Melone, Brian & Lora Bounds, Michelle Miller, Carol McDonald, Jayne Lee, Teresa Copper, Mindy Goodwin, and Mark Miller.



**And they're off! More than 200 runners competed in the 5K race.**



**John, Sally, Sienna, & Bruce Shute. Sienna's signs read "Air Hugs Only."**



**With a few swabs of the cheek, folks joined the National Bone Marrow Registry.**



**The cornhole competition explored a variety of techniques.**



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Some runners clowned for the camera. [Tom Uhl photo]



The younger set enjoyed snacks and fine weather.



Young but serious runner. [Tom Uhl photo]



A team of chefs prepared the BBQ.



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Neil Clark rounds the turn to finish first in the 5K.



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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.

### 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, shotgun 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 & many other prizes from local merchants.

Proceeds from the tournament will be used to aid the Lions in continuing with the programs for the Blind, the Sight Impaired, Hearing Impaired and the local community needs 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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## In memory of . . .

**Joyce Haywood**, 80, of West End died May 25, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 27 at Christ Fellowship Church. The Rev. James A. Thyne officiated. Burial followed in Culdee Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

She was born in Moore County to the late John C. and Laland Frye.

She was preceded in death by her husband James Everett Haywood in 2007.

Mrs. Haywood is survived by sons, Tony Haywood (Donna) and Allen Haywood (Maureen); daughters, Hope Maness (Johnny) and Barbara Kelly (Duncan); her grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

**Fred Pate, Junior** 82 of Carthage died Wednesday, May 15 at Pinelake Health Care and Rehab, Carthage. Mr. Pate was born in Moore County son to the late Bill Pate and Flora (Patterson) Pate.

Memorial services were held Saturday May, 18 at the Boles Funeral Home, Pinehurst.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Willie V. Pate and thirteen brothers and sisters.

Mr. Pate is survived by his two sisters, Margaret Wilson of West End.; and Evelyn Wilson of Carthage.

Memorial donations can be made to the family care of: Mrs. Annie Williams.

Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst is serving the family.

**Patricia Kathleen Koss**, nee McGarry, of Seven Lakes, died Tuesday, May 7, at her home.

Mrs. Koss was born in Peoria, Ill. She met her soul mate, Louis ("Bud") in 1942. They were married May 15, 1943, and lived in Fairview Park, Ohio, where they raised their children.

She was preceded in death by her husband Louis Koss.

She is survived by her son Robert and his wife, Carolyn, of Boulder, CO, and their children, Jesse, Colleen and Alison; her son Terry and

wife, Pilar, of Santiago, Chile; and daughter, Lori, of Seven Lakes, and her two children, Kelle and Brandon Rozell;

and her great-grandson, Miles.

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A celebration of Mrs. Koss life will be held later in the summer.

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# Barber & Anderson are tops at West End Elementary

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



It's a rare thing when all the students show up with their tennis shoes on for Phys.Ed. West End's Teacher of the Year Lance Barber's students not only show up properly shod, they are well behaved and enthusiastic.

Barber splits his week teaching at Cameron two days a week and West End three days a week. He previously taught for three years at Carthage Elementary, where he also earned Teacher of the Year.

Barber also attended West End School as a student. It was in the eighth grade that his love for coaching was fostered.

"My P.E. teacher Melody Connor let me get out of class twice a week to help her teach physical education," Barber said. "She inspired me and encouraged me to go into coaching as a career."

Barber knew at thirteen coaching was his passion. "I knew this was it. I helped set up the gym class. She showed me the lesson and I helped with the students. At the end of the year she gave me a certificate that I still have. It will always be dear to my heart."

Unbeknownst to Barber, his future wife was in sixth grade at West End when he was in eighth. It would be years later when mutual friends would introduce them. "It's amazing to come back

home and have the opportunity to teach at the school where I once roamed," Barber said. "It's a blessing, and I feel very fortunate that I have the chance to work with great teachers and for such a supportive principal."

## Kathleen Anderson Teacher Assistant

Moms and patience are often synonymous. West End Teacher's Assistant of the Year Kathleen Anderson balances work with being a mother of four teenagers.

"When the Exceptional Class was formed three years ago, she actually asked to be in the class," Mary Kathryn Daw said.

Daw teaches the Exceptional Children Self-Contained Class. The class is made up of children of all ages with physical, academic, and special needs.

"We have eight children. Half of them are verbal, and the others are nonverbal. The students go to special events with their peers. The students really embrace and are happy to see our kids," Anderson said.

"Every day is different. The children's needs often dictate the schedule."

"Patience is a wonderful thing — and her willingness to encourage the students to be the best that they can be," Daw said. "She's wonderful. She's just been delight to have in the classroom. She understands the kids; she's really great with this

group of kids."

Anderson has a seventeen year old niece who has special needs.

"She has always been a part of our family," Anderson said. "Kids are very adaptable. It's rewarding seeing their progress. It can be as something little, or it can be something huge, like a student holding a door open for somebody."

Recently, WEE obtained a grant for EC students to participate in the Prancing Horse Therapeutic Riding Program. Seven Lakes North has allowed Prancing Horse to use their paddocks during the school year on Wednesdays.

"I didn't know what to expect at first," Anderson said. "The horses have a calming effect on the kids. They know when it is Wednesday. They look forward to it all week."



Lance Barber & Kathy Anderson are West End Elementary's Teacher and Teacher Assistant of the Year.

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# Dusch brings a lifetime of skill to Over-2-Tom's

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Tom Dusch wasn't born on a boat, but he might as well have been.

The Long Island native spent every Spring Break and Summer of his childhood on his grandfather's thirty-six-foot Chris Craft, a wooden cabin cruiser that needed plenty of on-going maintenance.

Dusch started helping out when he was seven — small enough to draw the unenviable task of cleaning out the bilge.

"From there, I started tinkering," said Dusch, who just opened Over -2-Tom's, a new Marine, Auto, and RV Service business on Grant Street in Seven Lakes Business Village.

Once he was old enough to service other people's boats, Dusch put his skills to work at Amity Harbor Marina, and then to Hidden Harbor Marina.

Then he made the jump to cars, working for more than twenty-one years for Ford Motor Company, rising to the level of Senior Master Technician, with responsibilities for both gas and diesel engines, as well as transmission work.

When he wasn't at work, Dusch was building race cars and race boats, and tending to his very own thirty-foot Chris Craft.

Dusch's parents moved to Seven Lakes in 2000. He, wife Lori, and three sons recently followed; and Dusch decided to put his skills to work offering auto, marine, and RV service close to home in Seven Lakes.

Over-2-Tom's was born. Asked about the name, Dusch said he liked its informality.

"It's like: I'm need to get my car fixed; I'm going over to Tom's," he explained.

The four-bay shop on Grant Street has plenty of room for handling multiple projects

at once, and Dusch is ready and willing for almost any assignment.

"No job is too big or too small," he told *The Times*. "From replacing a valve stem

in your tire to rebuilding your engine, we do it all."

"Rigging" — marine speak for "rewiring" is a specialty of Dusch's, and he does work on trailers as well as boats.

Over-2-Tom's also offers full detailing for both cars and boats.

A member of the Seven Lakes Business Guild, Dusch said Over-2-Tom's is a "family-oriented business." His 21-year-old son is currently studying for an auto technician certification and will

soon join the business.

"It's all about customer satisfaction," Dusch said. "We believe in service with a smile."

"I want people to be satisfied and to know that their car or boat will be fixed promptly."

Over-2-Tom's is located at 150 Grant Street in the Business Village. The phone number is 910-673-0451; email, Over2Toms@gmail.com. Or visit the website at [www.Over2Toms.com](http://www.Over2Toms.com)



Tom Dusch has opened Over-2-Tom's in Seven Lakes Village.

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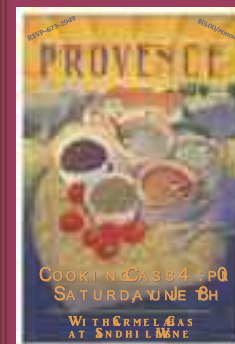
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# Stalk & shoot: Asparagus made tender

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter

'Tis the season for fresh asparagus, a delicacy that graced the pages of the oldest extant cookbook.

Before the Middle Ages wiped everything culinarily holy from the puritanical plate there was Apicius —the fifth century rock star of the Roman kitchen. His cookbook, *De Re Coquinaria*, survived the Dark Ages.

Chapter three is devoted to asparagus, the fresh crisp tender shoot of Spring. The delicate preparation is easily understood — by those who read fifth century Latin. For those who don't, there are countless translations. The best, however, is by Walter M. Hill in 1936, the first to rightly understand Apicius' instructions.

## The Recipe

Apicius first suggests washing, drying and tying off bunches of asparagus according to size. Asparagus (in order to have it most agreeable to the palate) must be peeled, washed, dried, and immersed in boiling water backwards.

"Backwards," of course, depends on your point of view. Is that top down, bottom

up, or the other way round?

Hill thought it through and realized that the asparagus must be placed upright with the heads protruding from the water.

## Very Simple, Very Easy

"Ahhh... Now why didn't I think of that?" you might ask. Of

course, the water level should only come half way up the woody stalk. The delicate heads are left to steam gently, while the boiling water tenderizes the stems. A perfectly cooked piece of asparagus is thereby attainable.

## Live to Eat

For the more adventurous palate, Apicius advocates boiling the asparagus first in coconut milk and then returning it to

water. If a pinch of red pepper and a spritz of lime were added, it could almost be reminiscent of a curry. The recipe suggests that the Roman elite had the leisure to pamper their sophisticated palettes.

## Earthy Pleasures

Had the Christian monks taken time to peruse the cookbooks in their libraries, Apicius's *De Re Coquinaria* might have ended up charred in an open pit. For it included the favorite foods for the

Feast of Epicurus.

Epicurus, the great philosopher and atomist, believed in the pursuit of peace and contentment and that the world is made up of randomly colliding atoms. Allowing human lives to be guided by free will instead of fate or the hand of God.

## Craving Spawns Innovation

The autumn Epicurean feast was not without its challenges, the greatest being

how to preserve the Spring asparagus until the Fall. But where there is a will there is a way.

Asparagus was farmed along the river banks of the Tiber. Picked at perfection, the harvest was rushed by chariot to the Alps to be frozen. After six months, the asparagus was retrieved and prepared for the Feast of Epicurus.

It would only take sixteen more centuries for freezing

to catch on as a common method of food preservation. With the introduction of the Frigidaire in the mid twentieth century, asparagus could be enjoyed year round.

But the most enjoyable is just picked, fresh from the garden to the table. Asparagus cooked Apicius style, then tossed in melted butter, fresh squeezed lemon juice, cracked pepper, and salt is, without doubt, the Epicurean's delight.



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# Vision Van to visit 7 Lakes



Area residents are welcome to take advantage of a free eye screening when the North Carolina Lions' "See the 21st Century" Vision Van will be in Seven Lakes on Friday, June 7 from 9 am to 3 pm.

This \$250,000 state-of-the-art mobile screening unit will provide screening for visual acuity and a variety of eye diseases and disorders. The Lions Vision Van will be in the Seven Lakes Food Lion parking lot. Residents of all ages are welcome, but persons under 18 must have a parent or guardian provide written consent for the screening.

# Church offers Music Camp

West End Presbyterian Church will switch to its Summer worship hour of 10:00 am, beginning on Sunday, June 9.

The church holds morning worship at 11 am during the academic year, but, during the Summer months, holds the service an hour earlier to 10 am, to allow more time for family and outdoor activities the rest of the day.

The new Presbyterian Men's

Group will meet for breakfast at 8 am this Sunday, June 2, in Priscilla's Kitchen in the Crawford Center.

West End Presbyterian will offer its third annual Music Camp, June 24-28 in the Crawford Center.

The music camp is open to children and youth and is under the direction of the church's music director, Jennifer Thomas Danis.

The music day camp offers

music education, fun, and recreation throughout the week and ends with a Friday night show performance in the Crawford Center.

The Camp is open to the community. For additional details, call Jennifer Danis at 673-4341, or email Jennifer@westendpres.org.

West End Presbyterian Church is located on Knox Lane, one block west of Highway 211 in West End.

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# Business Guild MayFest

Members of the Seven Lakes Business Guild hosted a MayFest celebration of Spring on Saturday, May 18.

Local businesses and non-profits set up booths and

met with curious residents, who enjoyed free cotton candy and snow cones provided by Middle Cross Baptist Church.

A bouncy house kept the little ones happy, while a DJ

sponsored by Lake House Bar and Grill provided entertainment for the crowd. For information on joining the Guild, contact Cheryl Darwel at 910-673-7245.



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# Free Friday night concert with Tammie Davis

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter

One way or another, Tammie Davis was determined to make music her life — even if she had to join the Marines to make it happen.

And, in fact, that's exactly what the North Carolina native did. She joined the Marine Corps straight out of high school.

"I went into the Marine Corps to become a musician," said Davis, who is the featured performer Friday night, May 31, in the Seven Lakes Business Guild's monthly concert series. The free concert will be held at Village Central, on Grant Street between TempControl and Lake House, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

"My Mamma told me I would never make it in the Marine Corps," Davis said. "So I went the next day to a hairdresser and cut all my long hair off. If you tell me I can't do something, then I am going to do it."

Every Marine Corps base has just one pianist.

"I was designated as base pianist at Quantico," Davis said. "When the General would have a dinner party, they would call the band hall and request a pianist to come and play."

Not only did Davis play the

piano, she also played drums, cymbals, and a host of other percussion instruments.

One day the Corps Band got a call requesting a country band. "All the generals would go to Quantico and play golf," Davis said. "They wanted a



Tammie Davis

country band to play at a BBQ. But we didn't have one."

Davis had listened to country music growing up. Her father played the guitar and would sing old country songs. Davis was raised Baptist.

"My Mamma didn't really want me to listen to secular music," she explained. "But,

when I got my first car I could listen to what I wanted to. I'd turn on the radio, and I would gravitate toward the country stations. People like Patty Loveless and The Judds, those are the people who taught me how to sing."

So, with Davis out in front as lead singer, the Quantico Marine Corps Band accepted the challenge and put together a country band.

"I had sung most of my life, but nothing too much to amount to any thing," Davis said. "We performed and I just sort of got hooked. I started taking vocals from a voice coach in Virginia. I rehearsed three or four hours a day. I was very serious about it. That is when I really started to build my vocals — while I was in the Marine Corps."

Davis left the Corps with the rank of Sergeant and as a recipient of the Navy Achievement Medal.

"When I moved to the Winston Salem area, I was working globally as a marketing specialist," Davis said. "Mike [now Davis' husband] and I met on match.com."

Davis went with Mike to his friend's party.

"There was a karaoke disk jockey," she said. "Mike had no clue that I could sing. I didn't put it on my profile,

and we had only been seeing each other two weeks. He kept encouraging me to get up and sing and just have fun. I finally agreed."

Davis sang a familiar song: "God Bless a Broken Road," by Rascal Flatts.

"When I came off the stage, everyone asked Mike who I was," Davis said. "He asked me why I wasn't singing for a living. I told him I was working full time, traveling, and raising my daughter."

They met in February and were married in November.

(See "Tammie Davis," p. 17)



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# Congratulations to The Class of 2013



**Raley Jane  
Carpenter**

Pinecrest High School  
Southern Pines, NC

Raley is the daughter of Tim and April Carpenter of Seven Lakes West, the granddaughter of Clement and Barbara Williams of Eagle Springs and Mary Leslie Carpenter of Troy. She will attend The College at Southeastern, Wake Forest, NC and major in Christian Studies.



**Allan George  
Casavant, Jr.**

Pinecrest High School  
Southern Pines, NC

Allan is the son of Allan and Melanie Casavant of Seven Lakes.

He is the grandson of Roger and Norene Casavant of Pinehurst.

He will be attending East Carolina University in the Fall.



**Russell Maslin  
Harvey**

Wildleaf Academy  
Seven Lakes, NC

Russell is the son of Henry and Jody Harvey of Seven Lakes West. His grandparents are Mary Anna & P. Z. Dunn of Greensboro. He has a Junior Black Belt in Karate, an Eagle Scout, pianist and biblical scholar. He will attend UNC-Greensboro and to pursue a degree in theology.



**Cassandra  
Holzerland**

Cochranton High School  
Cochranton, PA

Cassie is the daughter of Charlene and Jeffrey Holzerland of Meadville, PA; the granddaughter of Bud & Marilyn Holzerland; and niece of Karen and Rich McClimans all of Seven Lakes West.

She will attend Edinboro University of PA in the fall to study nursing.



**Alexandra Kaitlyn  
Hoehn-Saric**

The O'Neal School  
Southern Pines, NC

Ally is the daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Edward Hoehn-Saric of West End. Recognized for Philanthropy Prefect; National Honor Society; Ohio Wesleyan Branch Rickey Scholarship Recipient; O'Neal School 14 Year Club; Baccalaureate Reader. She will attend VA Polytechnic Institute and State University.



**Casi Lyn  
Jingle**

NC School of Science & Math  
Durham, NC

Casi is the daughter of Richard & Dr. Linda Jingle of Seven Lakes West. She was the recipient of the Morrill Scholars Program Prominence Scholarship and the OSU Alumni Association of Western NC Scholarship. She will attend Ohio State University to study Zoology & Math.



**Peter  
Johnson**

New Canaan High School  
New Canaan, CT

Peter is the son of Donna and Daniel Johnson of New Canaan, CT and grandson of Angela and David Terry of West End. He was captain of the Varsity Lacrosse, & a member of the Service League of Boys.

He will attend Denison University, Granville, Ohio.



**Kaitlyn Marie  
Loftus**

Mount St. Joseph Academy  
Flourtown, PA

Kait is the daughter of John and Lynn Loftus, Ambler, PA, the granddaughter of June and Ray Cooper, Seven Lakes North. She graduated with distinguished honors, Valedictorian, Varsity Crew Captain, and Editor of the school newspaper. She will attend Columbia University.



**Callahan Sommer  
McNeil**

Union Pines High School  
Cameron, NC

Callahan is the daughter of Selena McNeil, granddaughter of Thomas and Judy Bittle, and niece of Joe and Lisa Matthews all of Seven Lakes.

She will be attending Middle Georgia State College to pursue a degree in nursing.



**Hannah  
Munro**

NC School of Science & Math  
Durham, NC

Hannah is the daughter of Carol Munro of Seven Lakes. Hannah will be attending Earlham College in Richmond, IN to study Pre-Veterinary Sciences.

She has received a four Presidential Scholarship.



# Congratulations to The Class of 2013



**Devon E. Nowicki**  
Pinecrest High School  
Southern Pines, NC

Devon is the daughter of Susan and Craig Duncan of Seven Lakes and Bill Nowicki of Southport, NC; grandparents Jan and Gus Gustafson of Seven Lakes. She will attend Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA majoring in Sports and Exercise Science and playing soccer for the Women's Soccer Team.



**Kyle Rhodes**  
Chantilly High School  
Chantilly, VA

Kyle is the son of Lara Vance and Michael Rhodes of Chantilly, VA.

His grandparents are Jan and Georgia Pollnow of Seven Lakes West.

Kyle will attend Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA.



**Zakary Rhodes**  
Chantilly High School  
Chantilly, VA

Zakary is the son of Lara Vance and Michael Rhodes of Chantilly, VA.

His grandparents are Jan and Georgia Pollnow of Seven Lakes West.

Zakary will attend James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.



**Jake Lester Semon**  
Grimsley High School  
Greensboro, NC

Jake is the son of Randi and Brad Semon of Greensboro.

His grandparents are Carol and Lawrence Greenberg of Seven Lakes West.

Jake was awarded the Capstone Scholarship to attend the University of South Carolina.



**Jonathan M. Stepnoski**  
Pinecrest High School  
Southern Pines, NC

Jonathan is the son of Wayne & Kim Stepnoski of Seven Lakes North. His grandparents are Sandra & Bill Hands of Orient, NY, Joan & Joe Nockelin of Greenport, NY, Ron Ruther of Greenport, NY & the late Henry Stepnoski, Jr. of Pinehurst. He will attend SCC.



**Stephen Harold Stewart**  
The O'Neal School  
Southern Pines, NC

Stephen is the son of Kevin and Tabitha Stewart of West End. He was honored for 14-Year Perfect Attendance; Baccalaureate Reader; O'Neal School 14 Year Club; Intramurals Captain. He received the Scott-Ellis Scholarship and Administrative Scholarship at Campbell University.



**Samuel Ray Thomasson**  
Palo Verde High School  
Las Vegas, NV

Samuel is the son of Rob and Carol Thomasson of Las Vegas, NV.

His grandparents are Helen and Ray Pardue of Seven Lakes South.

Samuel will be attending the community college in Las Vegas, NV.



**Deena Page Walters**  
Pinecrest High School  
Southern Pines, NC

Deena is the daughter of Dee and Janice Walters of Seven Lakes. She was a member of Chamber Choir, Sotto Voce Choir, National Honor Society and Interact clubs.

Deena will attend UNC-Chapel Hill to pursue a nursing degree.



**Gage Curtis Woods**  
Waldwick High School  
Waldwick, NJ

Gage is the son of Traci and Bryan Woods of Waldwick, NJ. His grandparents are Terry and George Kelly of Seven Lakes South.

He will attend Bergen Community College for preliminary courses and transfer to pursue a degree in engineering.

## Got Grads? We Still Want 'em!

If we missed your grad in this edition, we'd be happy to have their photo for the next one.

To make sure your grad is included, get us the following by Thursday, June 6: 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, and something about the grad's next big step in life (college, job, etc.).

Your grad information and photo may be e-mailed to [mail@sevenlaketimes.net](mailto:mail@sevenlaketimes.net), dropped in our box at the *Seven Lakes Times* office at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, or mailed to P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376

# Congratulations to The Class of 2013



**Ali Marie  
Casavant**

Sandhills Community College  
Southern Pines, NC

Ali is the daughter of Allan and Melanie Casavant of Seven Lakes.

She is the granddaughter of Roger and Norene Casavant of Pinehurst.

She will begin her career as a Registered Nurse at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.



**Katlin E.  
Christian**

West Point Military Academy  
West Point, NY

Katlin is the daughter of Ed and Diana Christian of Jackson Springs. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the US Army. Her career will begin at Ft. Huachuca, AZ and receive training as a Military Intelligence Officer. Her duty station will be Ft. Campbell, KY.



**Alexander Ryan  
Fox**

University of North Carolina-  
Charlotte  
Charlotte, NC

Alexander is the son of Ryan and Cheryl Fox of Seven Lakes and grandson of the late Frances Fox.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a minor in American Studies.



**Kristina Marie  
Giles**

Savannah College  
of Art & Design  
Savannah, GA

Kristina is the daughter of Norman and Sherrie Hudson of Foxfire Village and the granddaughter of LaVon Morales.

She will be moving to Raleigh to pursue her major in Costume Design.



**Richard Cameron  
Gower**

Emory University  
School of Law  
Atlanta, GA

Cameron is the son of Geoff and Audrey Gower of Seven Lakes West. He graduated with Honors and plans to sit for the New York bar exam in July. Cameron will serve in a two-year Federal District Judicial Clerkship in Tampa, Florida.



**Steven Joshua  
Jones**

Duke University  
Durham, NC

Steven is the son of Joanna Jones of Southern Pines and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Roland MacDonald of Seven Lakes West. He graduated with a major in Physics and Computer Science with a minor in Math. He will begin a PhD program at the University of Michigan.



**Emily Grace  
Kullberg**

Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO

Emily is the daughter of Steve and Ann Kullberg and the granddaughter of Jim & Judy Kullberg of Seven Lakes West. She graduated as a University Honors Scholar, Cum Laude, with a degree in Civil Engineering. She will pursue at Masters at Colorado State.



**Margaret Maie  
McDonald**

North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, NC

Margaret is the daughter of David and Amy McDonald of Foxfire Road, the granddaughter of Ed and Martha Lancaster of Southern Pines and the late Frank and Fauline McDonald of Foxfire Road.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies.



**John Timothy  
Noceti**

Appalachian State Univ.  
Boone, NC

John is the son of John Noceti and stepson of Patsy Noceti of Shelton, WA. He is the son of Liliana Blatchley and stepson of Kyle Blatchley of Seven Lakes West.

He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. Business Administration degree in Computer Information Systems.



**Valerie Lee  
Ryan**

Central Carolina  
Community College  
Sanford, NC

Valerie is the daughter of Chip and Jayne Lee of Seven Lakes North. She is the wife of Brett Ryan and mother of Logan and Baylee Ryan.

Valerie received her Associates Degree in Dental Hygiene.



# Congratulations to The Class of 2013



**Caitlin Nicole  
Tefft**

Western New England  
University  
Springfield, MA

Caitlin is the daughter of Bradley and Ronalee Tefft of Sandy Hook, CT and the granddaughter of Ronald and Dita McGaughey of Seven Lakes West.

She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA in Psychology.



**Alexandra  
Van Vliet**

University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC

Alexandra is the daughter of Alan and Elaine Van Vliet of McLendon Hills. She graduated with Honors and Distinction with Majors in Peace, War, and Defense; Political Science and a Minor in History. She is considering working for the Peace Corps.

## Tammie Davis

(Continued from page 13)

"Mike stayed on me a whole year to start a band," Davis said. "In 2007, I said let's do it — but not as a hobby or weekend thing. I wanted to do it right."

By 2009, Davis had had the satisfaction of hearing her first single, "Tall, Dark, and Lonesome," played on the radio.

Davis understands the importance of marketing. "I don't have a big budget, and I can't sink a lot into promotion," she explained. "A lot of people don't relate marketing with the music charts,"

she said. Her first single put her on the charts.

Since then she has opened for the Oak Ridge Boys, Billy Dean, Gene Watson, Jeannie Seely, and Bucky Covington. She also opened for Charlie Daniels and was invited to perform with him on stage. She has won numerous awards and had the honor of opening for country legend Loretta Lynn.

Davis' second single "It's a Beautiful Life," charted on Music Row and was number 29 on New Music Weekly.

"When I first started, I didn't know things would go

this far," Davis said. "Now it has become an obsession. If you tell me I can't do it, I am going to try harder."

Davis credits her family and friends for her success.

"Your talents absolutely bless other people, whether you believe that or not. If you believe in yourself, then people will start believing in you. Their support makes it so much easier to accomplish things," Davis said. "When I hear a great compliment from somebody, it just makes me more determined and makes me want to work harder."

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Holy Communion - 9:30 am  
Children's Chapel - 9:45 am  
Adult Christian Education - 10:45 am

### Tuesday Mornings

Intercessory Prayer  
& Healing Service - 11:00 am

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**FRIDAY, MAY 31**

- **Seven Lakes Business Guild Free Concert featuring Tammie Davis** – 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Village Central (Grant Street between Lake House and TempControl). Proceeds benefit SL Business Guild to enhance Seven Lakes Village.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Disconnect*, 7:30 pm, starring Jason Bateman. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1**

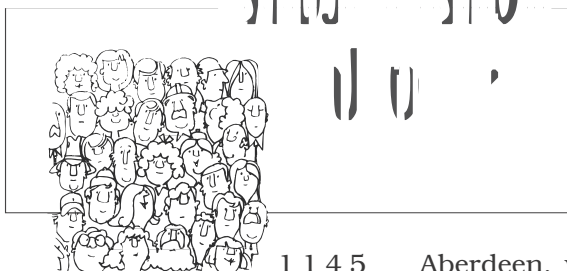
- **MANNA In Motion, a 5K and 10K Trail Race** – registration at 6:30 am, race at 8 am. The race begins at the Sandhills Community College track and merges onto the beautiful trails of Reservoir Park and returns to the track. Register and fee schedule information online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), and on race day at 6:30 am.
- **Seven Lakes Garden Club** – Annual Seven Lakes Garden Tour, 9 am to 1 pm. Tour eight lovely gardens in Seven Lakes (Maps will be available at the South and West Entrance Gates).

Free Admission for the tour. All are welcome.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Disconnect*, 2: 30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion.



1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.

- **Moore Regional's Cancer Survivors Day** – 2 to 4 pm at the Fair Barn on Highway 5, Pinehurst. Free activities will include entertainment, interactive trivia games, educational sessions, a photo booth, face painting, chair massages and games for children. Three mini presentations on healthy activities. Cancer Survivors Day celebration is free and open to cancer survivors, their families and friends, and to the

physicians and other health-care personnel who treat cancer patients. Information (800) 213-3284.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Disconnect*, 2: 30 & 7:30. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.
- **The Rooster's Wife** – doors open at 6 pm, show at 6:45 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Guest tonight is *Missy Raines and the New Hip, Casey Dreisen. Rooster's Wife*. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org) (910)-944-7502.

**MONDAY, JUNE 3**

- **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. 673-1371.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *Disconnect*, 7:30 pm. Tick-

ets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 4**

- **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.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5**

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Welcome Home Bible Study** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong leads the session in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6**

- **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 \$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](http://www.sandhillswinery.com)
- **Zumba Class** – 7 to 8 pm, free class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.
- **Covenant Preparatory School** – 7 pm, hosting an Open House. New Covenant Fellowship Church, 1305 Hulsey Road, Carthage. Open House is for those interested in an affordable Christian alternative to education. [www.covenant-prep.com](http://www.covenant-prep.com) or contact Kristin (910) 673-1025 or (201) 417-0481.



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## Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for June

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3		4 Tomato Basil Soup ♥  Salisbury Steak Dinner	5 Summer Vegetable Soup ♥  Chicken Marsala Dinner	6 Curried Chicken Soup ♥  Spice-Crusted Tilapia Dinner ♥	7 New England Clam Chowder  Beef Burgundy Dinner
10	<b>CLOSED</b>  <b>New Hours!</b>	11 Lentil Soup ♥  Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	12 Chicken Dumpling Soup  Pot Roast Dinner	13 Chilled Cucumber Soup  Herb-Crusted Salmon Dinner ♥	14 Corn Chowder  Beef Enchiladas Dinner ♥
17	<b>Tuesday - Friday 11:00 - 6:30 pm</b>	18 Split Pea with Barley Soup ♥  Italian Meatloaf Dinner	19 Gazpacho ♥  Chicken with Artichokes Dinner ♥	20 Cream of Zucchini Soup  Lemon Shrimp Oriental Dinner ♥	21 Manhattan Clam Chowder  Smothered Pork Chops Dinner
24		25 Curried Carrot Soup ♥  Broccoli Manicotti Dinner ♥	26 Navy Bean Soup  Herb Roasted Turkey Dinner	27 Crab & Shrimp Bisque  Tilapia Scampi-Style Dinner ♥	28 Mushroom Bisque  Ginger Beef Stir Fry Dinner ♥

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The 17-year old driver was found negligent and ordered to pay \$1.3 million to settle the injury claims. His parents had purchased an auto policy with limits of \$300,000 each person bodily injury and \$300,000 per accident. Suddenly, they faced the reality of their assets being placed in serious jeopardy. Add to the \$1.3 million settlement the cost of legal fees, and the expense they face is staggering.

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- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 42, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. The life story of Jackie Robinson. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7**

- **Seven Lakes Lions Club Free Eye Screening** – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, in the Food Lion Parking lot Seven Lakes. Free eye screening at the 21st Century Vision Van. The mobile screening unit will provide screening for visual acuity and a variety of eye diseases and disorders. Residents of all ages are welcome, but persons under 18 must have a parent or guardian provide written consent.
- **First Friday at the Sunrise Theater** – Musical Guest: *American Aquarium*, 5- 8:30 pm. Held in the Sunrise Theater Green Space (adjacent to the theater). *Free Admission*. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, So. Pines 692-3611.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 42, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. The life story of Jackie Robinson. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8**

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 42, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9**

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Lions Golf Tournament** – held at Seven Lakes County Club with a 1:30 pm shot gun start. Format Captains Choice. Cost \$80 per golfer. Proceeds from the event will be used to aid the Lions in continuing programs for the Blind, sight impaired, hearing impaired and the local community. Contact Bill Seldomridge at 910-673-2590 or 910-690-9500.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 42, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **West End United Methodist Church Gospel Singing** – 5 pm. join the

church for this great evening as they worship in Song and Praise. Evening will end with the church's traditional ice cream social in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone welcome. 4015 Highway 73, West End.

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

**MONDAY, JUNE 10**

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room.
- **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. 673-1371.
- **Sandhills Photo Club** – 7 pm, meeting at The Hannah Theater on The O'Neal

School campus, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines. A member competition at this meeting. The subject is Old Barns and Buildings. Everyone welcome. sandhillsphotoclub.org

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 42, 7:30 pm, Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 11**

- **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.
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7 pm, meeting, at Foxfire Village Hall. Open to community and public.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12**

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **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, JUNE 13**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided 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 to 8 pm, free class, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center.

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# Solar

(Continued from page 3)

marginal for agricultural purposes," Harris told The Times, "particularly the tract over on Samarcand."

Harris explained that the soil quality on the Samarcand tract is not as good as some of the other land they farm. In turf farming, income "depends on the parcel that you are looking at," Harris explained.

"I would not let them pick any tract they want," he said, referring to solar companies. "But this is marginal farmland."

## Banking farmland

"Sometimes we hear concerns that: You are taking all this good agricultural land," Morrison said.

"But you are banking that land, because the site can return to its original use. We specifically do not go in and alter the terrain."

Morrison explained that the uprights on which the racks of solar panels are placed are pile-driven, not set in concrete, and can be easily removed. The only concrete used in Strata Solar operations is for the fence posts of the border fence.

The inverters are placed on precast concrete pads,

which can be removed.

Morrison said Strata Solar uses no gravel for temporary roads during construction, but instead uses logging mats — large wooden pads that create a temporary roadway and can be removed once construction is complete.

"We do all that with the thought that, forty years from now, someone might want to return that land to agricultural production," he added. "Most landowners really like that idea."

## Who takes it down?

One of the concerns about solar farms expressed by members of the Planning Board was the question of who is responsible for decommissioning the equipment, once its useful life is over. Members described seeing the abandoned hulks of wind farms in midwestern states.

"Absolutely!" Harris replied, when asked whether the lease for his land requires the solar company to remove the equipment once its useful life is over.

"That's part of the way that they do their business," he added. "Anyone that owns land is going to want it returned to them in the same condition it was left."

"The planning department's concern was: How am I going to be assured that the company will make good on that promise?" Harris said. "That concerns me too. But that doesn't have anything to do whether or not you authorize solar farms."

"Authorize solar, and then properly regulate it," he continued. "Rather than just saying no. If everyone does that, we will never have any solar energy in this country."

Morrison noted that the expected life of a solar installation is 40 years. "The panels are silicon-based; there are no moving parts," he said. "The rack is aluminum and steel. The scrap value of the material is greater than what it would cost for you to decommission it."

If worse came to worse and the contractually-obligated party fails to remove the equipment, "it would be suitable for someone to salvage," Morrison said.

## Tax implications

The key objection to solar registered by members of the Planning Board revolved around federal and state tax

incentives designed to jump start the industry.

"If it wasn't for subsidies being provided, then there would not be an industry," Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter said, "because they have yet to prove themselves independent."

The federal government provides an investment tax credit of thirty percent on the initial cost of installing a solar system; the state provides another thirty-five percent. That cuts out more than half of the roughly \$15 million cost of the size solar farms that are being planned in Moore County.

Beyond that, the state helps create a market for solar electricity generators, by requiring electric utilities and electric membership coops to ensure

that a certain percentage of the electricity they sell comes from renewable sources.

What North Carolina has not done, however, is put a premium price on solar electricity. Morrison explained that the rate utilities must pay solar producers is set every other year by the NC Utilities Commission.

The Commission sets the price for solar at the "avoided cost" of other options — in other words, it is set at the cost the utility would avoid paying to produce electricity by other means.

Morrison said the price averages about eight cents per kilowatt hour; it varies by season and time of day. The Utilities Commission is currently in the process of

(See "Solar," p. 21)

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## Solar

(Continued from page 20)

setting the rate for the next two years. Morrison said the drop in natural gas prices is exerting downward pressure on the rate for solar electricity.

Bottom line: "There is no premium for the electricity we produce," Morrison said — at least so far as ratepayers are concerned. Instead taxpayers bear the cost of the tax incentives.

The investment tax credits for solar expire in 2015, raising the question of whether new installations built after that point will be profitable.

"The beauty of solar is that prices are coming down all the time," Morrison said. "That's why we are confident that after 2015 we can still make it profitable without the tax credit."

### Property tax implications

The state also provides a property tax benefit for solar farms in the form of an eighty percent reduction in valuation.

So, the typical \$15 million facility is valued on the tax rolls at \$3 million. Despite that discount, Morrison said, the installation of a solar farm provides the county with property tax revenue it otherwise would not have — and without creating additional expense for the county.

At Moore County's tax rate of 46.5 cents per hundred, plus 2 cents in Advanced Life Support tax, a \$15 mil-

lion solar farm would bring in \$14,500 in property tax revenue each year.

Farmers thinking of leasing to solar farms need to be aware that many localities — including Moore County — will not consider that an agricultural use. As a result, the acreage use for energy production will not qualify for the present use value discount available to agricultural property, making the farmer subject to back taxes and higher taxes going forward.

Morrison said present use value treatment varies from county to county and that Strata's lease agreements compensate the farmer for increased taxes.

### Environmental impacts

Some citizens who spoke during the May Planning Board meeting were concerned about harmful runoff from solar facilities.

Morrison said Strata's installations are principally silicon, steel, and aluminum, and present no environmental hazard. He noted that a different solar technology, called "thin film," does use substances that can be harmful.

A review of Harris' NC Hwy 211 project by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources noted that the property drains into Mill Creek, home to the "significantly rare Eastern creek-shell," but suggested no extraordinary measures beyond establishing a one

hundred foot buffer of native vegetation along perennial streams and a smaller buffer along wetlands and seasonal streams.

Some are concerned that the appearance of row upon row of solar panels is incongruous in a rural environment.

Harris noted that various members of his family live in close proximity to both the Samarcand and NC 211 sites that he wants to lease for solar.

He said that it is hard to argue that those two solar farms would negatively impact the viewshed, when the huge grain silos of the Perdue chicken feed operation dominate the skyline in the area.

"A solar farm is going to look better than Perdue," Harris said.

### The politics of energy

"Why is it that energy has gotten so politicized?" Morrison asked ruefully.

Recalling the conversation at the May Planning Board meeting, Harris said, "I am sensitive to the same concerns that were raised. But they moved it to a political

issue rather than a solar issue. They concluded because of tax incentives, it seemed to me, that this was a reason not to do solar. I disagree with that. I think a properly regulated solar farm would work fine. If I didn't think that, I wouldn't consider having a solar company come in."

"It's a matter of what I think to be a reasonable use of the land," he added.

"The Planning Board spent a lot of time talking about various issues," Harris continued. "I'm more interested than anyone on that Planning Board on all of those issues, because I own the property and don't intend to let go of it."

"But they got misdirected in focusing on the tax issues. If the government wants to incentivize solar to the same degree as other energy sources, what's wrong with that?"

"The way you deal with the concerns is to authorize solar and then properly regulate it — rather than just saying no. If everyone follows that same path, it's always going to be drill, drill, drill. I think

(See "Solar," p. 24)

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## IPR: Opossum relocation

Out here, one of my IPRs — Important Personal Responsibilities — is opossum relocation. This is owing to the fact that I am incapable of folding a king-sized bed sheet on my own and therefore am less than qualified for service in the laundry.

I believe I have relocated one opossum each month for the past six months. They generally come to our attention in one of two ways:

They find the metal garbage can full of chicken feed in the barn, because it lacks an adequate lid. I will gen-

erally notice disturbances in the surface of the feed, but can't for the life of me figure out what's causing this, until, one day, I look down into a nearly empty garbage can

the can after dinner.

The other opossum attractant is the cat feeder on the front porch. We have many house cats that aren't allowed in the house. So they lounge on the front porch and dine at a their leisure from a feeder the size of one of those water cooler bubblers.

An opossum will find this feeder full of high-protein Meow Mix®, dance a little jig of delight, and pay nightly visits — until one of the dogs spots it and corners the poor beast so that we can use a yard rake, broom, and other implements of destruction to scoop it into a 55-gallon Rubbermaid® trash can for safekeeping until relocation the following day.

The relocation effort begins

with the Rubbermaid® trash-can upright and securely bungeed in the back of the little red pickup truck. We drive down to Town Creek

near its entrance to the Town Creek Indian Mound Historical Site and let the beast loose in the wild.

(See "Opossum," p. 24)



### Out Here

Greg Hankins

full of a very well-fed opossum.

They learn to love the chicken feed when the can is full, and fail to realize that their delight will eventually prove their undoing, when they can no longer climb back out of



The well-fed opossum in his native habitat — the bottom of the chicken feed barrel.

## What kind of fish was that, anyway?

**Question:** I have always believed that the Bible is literally true, word for word; but I was reading through the Bible recently and came across the little book of the prophet, Jonah. I have a hard time believing that Jonah was swallowed by a great fish, lived in its stomach for three days; prayed a long and beautiful prayer; and then was spit up on dry land. I also doubt that the entire

people of a large city like Nineveh could be converted to God in such a short time. Do you think all this is true? Did it really happen? If I don't believe this, am I committing a sin?

**Response:** You have just illustrated how difficult, if not impossible it is for one to take every word of the Bible literally. Parts of the Bible are historically accurate and they represent actual

events that happened long ago. Other parts of the Bible are stories that are neither historical fact nor scientific truth, but they are in the Bible because they illustrate a truth that can only be understood by humans if they are presented as myths or metaphors.

The little book of Jonah is just such a

book. It is a brief story that contains elements of tale, fable, satire, and allegory. To say this is not to say that the story is untrue.

Jonah teaches us that God is the God of all people on earth — not just the God of Christians or Jews. It also teaches us that when we are called by God to perform a God-given task, we cannot run away. God will find us and continue to call us until we answer with obedience.

In the fifth century BCE,

Ezra returned to Jerusalem and reestablished the Kingdom of Judah under the strict teachings of the Torah. In doing this, Ezra exiled all of the non-Jews from the kingdom and dissolved all the

of all that was evil. Most believed, as Jonah did, that the citizens of Nineveh did not deserve God's mercy, nor did other Gentiles who were present and past enemies of Israel and Judah.

If I took the story of Jonah literally, I would be distracted by the question, "Can God make a fish big enough to swallow a man whole and keep that man alive in that fish's stomach?"

This question pales in the light of the truths that God is the God of all people and that none of us can hide from God.

To answer your questions, Yes, I believe this story is true. No, I do not believe it happened. I do not think it is a sin to doubt. I take the Bible too seriously to take it literally!

Don Welch, the minister of The Chapel in the Pines, welcomes your questions and comments at: [dwelch1@nc.rr.com](mailto:dwelch1@nc.rr.com)



### Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

### SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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# It's time for politicians to come clean

This week begins the official celebration of summer. It is kicked off by Memorial Day, when we remember all of those who have sacrificed to make us free. Memorial Day reminds me that we live in this nation where we are truly free. You remember: freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion.

At least that is the country that I remember swearing to protect and defend when I was in the military. That is the country that my history books told me that our forefathers died to protect.

Today it seems that some people believe that freedoms are limited to those who agree with a certain political, religious and ideological view.

And, now, individuals or groups with ideologies opposed to those running certain government entities, can apparently be targeted by the IRS, the most feared arm of government. The graves and memories of those who have given their lives so that we might enjoy the most basic freedoms are being spit upon.

What is even more scary is to me is that the Justice Department, which is involved in a number of scan-

dals, has the responsibility to make sure that justice is served.

It was the Justice Department that was responsible for the Fast and Furious scandal, as a result of which Attorney General Eric Holder

the Justice Department so they don't know that lying, cheating and murder are wrong?

Proverbs 28:13 tells us that "whoever conceals his sin will not prosper but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy."

I think that the only way that we will ever restore trust in our government again is if leadership comes completely clean concerning all of

these scandals. Each coverup simply diminishes faith in government. Rather than making our decisions based on our politics, let's honor those who have given their lives for this United States of America and do what is right.

If the politicians and public servants truly want to serve America, come clean. I pray that we make sure that those veterans who gave their lives

for our freedom did not die in vain

Let's make sure that we hold our leaders to the fire to make sure that the truth comes out. Let's return to being the *United States of America*.

*Chris Hrabosky is pastor at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. You may send him your question or comments at [chrabosky@mac.com](mailto:chrabosky@mac.com).*



## Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

became the first sitting member of the Cabinet of the United States to be held in contempt of Congress. Fast and Furious occurred in 2011 and Holder was held in contempt in 2012, yet he continues to hold office and be involved in scandal.

It is the Justice Department who has targeted journalists and infringed on their rights to privacy. It is the Justice Department which doesn't seem to have a clue about justice.

How can the branch of government that is supposed to be responsible for handing out justice be the one that seems to be the most corrupt? Why is it that no one is responsible and no one seems to know anything? Where does the buck stop?

Is it because they took the Ten Commandments out of

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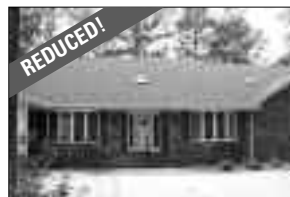
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**169 Lancashire  
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**101 Winston  
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## Solar

(Continued from page 21)

a lot of diverse sources of energy is a good thing."

### Other counties

The Times was unable to find another North Carolina county that has flatly prohibited solar farms, but specific installations have met with resistance in two nearby counties.

Robeson County had already authorized two solar farms when one proposed

for a tract just outside the small town of Rowland met with stiff public resistance, including from Rowland's mayor.

Initially, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners turned down a conditional use permit for that solar farm, a Strata project. But the company appealed to the Board of Adjustment, whose members, after hearing testimony, voted unanimously to reverse the Commissioners'

decision and allow the farm to be built.

One Commissioner commented that those in favor of the solar farm brought data, while opponents brought only opinions. NC law requires that conditional use permit decisions be based on factual testimony.

The City of Laurinburg has authorized two solar farms within its ETJ, and plans to lease municipal property for another that will provide elec-

tricity to the city's own municipal power company.

But the City Council denied a conditional use permit for another solar farm in the extraterritorial jurisdiction. The location of the project on heavily traveled NC Highway 15/501, and its proximity to an upscale residential development, prompted concerns about aesthetics, Planning Director Brandi Deese told *The Times*.

She said it was not clear whether Strata, also the developer on that project, would appeal the denial, which they would apparently have to do in Superior Court.

### Samarcan Project Approved by State

If the Moore County Board of Commissioners does decide to approve the Zoning Ord-

nance text amendments that the Planning Board rejected, at least one of the projects proposed for the county will have already cleared a key step in the process.

One of the projects on Harris' land, Samarcan Solar Farm, LLC was awarded a Certificate of Public Convenience and registered by the state Utilities Commission.

If the Commissioners follow the Planning Board's lead, and give the thumbs-down to solar, the solar integrators will likely just look for counties friendlier to solar.

"There are a lot of counties where it is much easier," Morrison explained. "So, I have to ask myself: Do I spend my time in Moore County or focus our energies on a county where they are more interested in solar?"

## Opossum

(Continued from page 22)

"We" drive down because my companion on this trip, if there's no daughter visiting at the time, is a girl German Shepherd named "Nietzsche."

She's named Nietzsche because she originally belonged to a prison guard neighbor of ours; and prison guards, as well as the folks that they guard, are inevitably reading Nietzsche. I cannot profess to know why this is the case, or whether they also enjoy a little Hegel taken with some Wagner for good measure.

In any case, when our prison guard neighbor acquired this German Shepherd with an appropriately German name, he believed he was acquiring a security dog, and even had an impressive sign in his driveway to prove it. It was red, and read "Security Dog," and even had

a little German Shepherd silhouette on it, just so no one got confused and thought one of our cats was the Security Dog.

But Nietzsche turned out to be gentle as a kitten and not brave enough to stand up to most grown cats. So, she eventually came to live with us.

Now, I am opposed to dogs in the cab of the pickup truck almost as fervently as I am

opposed to cats in the house. However, I am married to my wife; and, as a result, I have a dog in the cab of the pickup when I dispose of opossums and a kitten lying across my lap as I write this.

So, if you happen to find an opossum on your porch some evening, I hope you will remember two things: out here, the "o" is silent, and Nietzsche and I do not make house calls.

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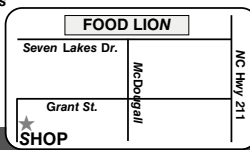
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## Westside meeting

(Continued from front page)

Security Director Ed Cockman.

"We live in a very beautiful, wonderful, and quiet neighborhood," Cockman said. "I sound like a broken record, but residents continue to speed, pass other cars, and do not stop at stop signs."

Lines were recently painted at several intersections to help remind people to stop. Cockman noted that reminders come with a price tag.

"Anything we do will cost each of us money," he said, "whether we hire people to patrol on a permanent basis or if we put up speed tables."

### Lake & Dams

"I can't remember a better Memorial Day weekend," Keyser said, during the Lakes and Dams report. "Some people said that it wasn't hot enough. This gang thinks it was just perfect."

He went on to compliment Westside boaters: "For the most part everyone was acting in a safe and courteous manner."

Due to cooler weather, the Lakes and Dams Committee has been lax in enforcing dated permits, but that is about to change, Keyser warned.

"We will be canvassing the shores to make sure boats are permitted," he said.

Keyser reminded everyone that placing an unregistered boat on the lake is considered trespassing.

"The trespasser will be turned over to the sheriff for prosecution," he said. Residents' guests are not allowed to bring in their personal boats.

Keyser said, "I would be happy to bring the state compliance officer here to check permits. He would have police authority to take care of these situations."

### Underage captains

During the Public Comment period Ron Shepard expressed a concern about juveniles operating boats without an adult on board. Shepard asked if the lake patrol will be stopping kids to make sure they have a license.

Keyser explained that the hired lake patrol would make sure that boats put on the lake were properly registered — "primarily to make sure everyone is safe and operating in a safe and cautious manner. If someone is not being cautious, and the patrolman doesn't believe he is over the age of twenty-five, then the patrolman can ask to see the operator's state permit."

That spawned a discussion of how to best to address the issue.

Currently, there is one patrol officer on the lake, and twelve or so residents who make up the volunteer

patrol.

But Keyser reminded the Board and membership that, in the past, any suggestion of bringing in NC Wildlife Resources officers immediately met with disapproval.

Board Member Chuck Watkins said "I think it is something that we need to address and take care of."

Shepard asked whether the patrol could enforce the Westside rule that requires the boat operator to be at least eighteen years old, or, if younger, accompanied by an adult. Keyser informed him that rule was no longer active.

### A little courtesy?

"Over the years since the nineties, we have grown from 300 residents to 900," Resident Bill Maples said. "One word keeps popping up: 'misbehavior.' We hear about pit bulls and poor driving here. We need to be more aggressive in educating our new residents. We don't provide enough information."

Maples suggested encouraging new residents to be "courteous to one another — and let them know when they are behaving inappropriately. Explain to them that this is how you behave in a community like this."

Year finished under budget

### Cooking with Carmela

In happier news, Treasurer Dale Erickson was happy to report that the Association fiscal year had ended under budget.

He credited better-than-expected building activity, an increase in non-refundable

road fees, and residents paying their dues early.

Director Dan Blue concurred, during the Architectural Review report, that construction was up.

"The trend is, folks are finding their way back to Seven Lakes with the improved economy," Blue said. "It's all good news in my mind."

### Cooking with Carmela

It is not too late to sign up with Cooking with Carmela reported board member Rosemary Weber. Weber then listed all upcoming summer events.



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## Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

munity College with the full amount of local funding they requested.

Jeff Marcus thanked the Board for fully funding the schools over the past few budget cycles, despite "drastic cuts" at the state level. Those cuts, Marcus said, mean that "our schools have not been getting the resources that they need. As a result, we are losing teaching assistants."

"I don't mind paying my taxes when it supports things that I need, like emergency medical services, parks, schools, and clean water," Marcus continued, urging the Commissioners to fully fund Moore County Schools' request for operating funds, as well as providing \$750,000 to support a new digital technology initiative.

The proposed FY2014 budget provides the full \$750,000 the schools asked for, but \$375,000 of that total is subtracted from the requested \$25.5 million in operational funding.

Ellen Marcus told the Commissioners that she had recently met a young Moore County teacher who is being forced to leave the County, because he can't afford Moore County housing on a teacher's salary.

"I have watched teachers every year have to do more and more with less," Marcus said.

Surprisingly, neither of the Board of Education members who addressed the Commissioners put up much of a fight about having their local budget shorted by \$375,000.

"Thanks for the \$375,000," Dennison said. "We appreciate your commitment to help Moore County Schools."

"We appreciate all that you have done to support us," School Board member Kathy Farren told the Commissioners. "Do we wish you could have funded us to the full amount? Yes. We are proud of how we have been able to spend money wisely and save money to begin our digital funding initiative."

Superintendent Aaron Spence was called away from

the meeting before he had a chance to address the Board.

Nancy Barton, who introduced herself as "a taxpayer with three grandchildren in the Moore County Schools," told the Commissioners: "Whether or not we have kids in the schools, if we don't keep our kids current, the young people that we are hoping to attract to move here, won't. We must improve the schools. So we must support them one hundred percent."

Margaret Smetana encouraged the Commissioners to measure the achievement of students equipped with tablet computers against those who do not have tablets before funding additional purchases of digital technology.

Carolyn Mealing read comments from Betty McGuire, who identified herself as a former county finance officer. McGuire asked the Board "to continue the same level of funding for current local expense and fully fund the digital learning initiative." Having carefully studied Moore County finances, she said, "I know this funding

can be found."

### Picerno responds

"We do not believe we have put the public schools in peril," Chairman Picerno said, after hearing from the public. "If they find themselves in a bind, they can come back to us."

Noting that the County is receiving \$6 million less in sales tax revenues now than in 2008, Picerno added: "We came internally to our own departments and required them to have a very large cut. We reduced our fund balance from twenty-five percent to fifteen percent."

"All government has to learn to live within its means," Picerno continued. "This is what we were doing. The schools have to decide how to spend their money. That's their job, and I'm not getting into their job . . . We didn't want to penalize anyone. There's just no money without raising taxes on the people. My belief is that there has to be an end point. When it comes to property taxes, we are at the top. I'd like to cut them."

"Addressing the School Board members in attendance, he added: "I thank you for your comments. I can assure you we have done the very best we can. Let's stay focused on this one year. You have fund balance. If you need to dip into it, it's there. We have funded your digital learning initiative. Go forward, and bring back the proof of the concept."

### College asks for full funding

Sandhills Community College was represented at the budget hearing by George Little, President of the SCC Board of Trustees, SCC President John Dempsey, and Robert Hayter, who chairs the Trustees' Building and Grounds Committee.

The College had asked for a \$200,000 increase in operational funding, plus a one-time capital infusion of \$500,000 to support the maintenance of the physical plant. The draft budget instead provides \$120,000 in capital funding, while cutting operational funding by approximately the same amount. In other words, the College got none of the \$700,000 they asked for.

Little noted that the citizens of the County had consistently supported bond issues, allowing the college to add additional buildings in order to expand its programs.

"Out of those bond issues comes an obligation for the county to fund the upkeep

(See "Commissioners," p. 28)



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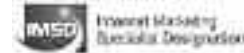
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2 KITCHENS, MANY UPGRADES • \$550,000

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## 141 JAMES DR • 7LW



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## 106 SHENANDOAH • 7LN



3 BD+ 2 BA, SPACIOUS! • \$159,000

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AMAZING WATERFRONT – \$600,000

## 135 E DEVONSHIRE • 7LW



**MUST SEE!**

3BD+2 BA, MANY UPGRADES – \$255,000

## 106 SIMMONS • 7LW



4BD+BONUS, CLOSE TO MARINA – \$349,000

## 119 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW



3 BD + 2 BONUS RMS – \$240,000

## 129 HARRELL RD • 7LW



3 BED + DEN, SPACIOUS, GREAT VIEWS! – \$475,000

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SPACIOUS WATERFRONT! – \$599,900

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## 113 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW



4 BED + BONUS! – \$275,000

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**WATERVIEW!**

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119 CLAY – \$58,000 • 445 MORGANWOOD – \$85,000

## LAKE AUMAN LOTS!

158 SIMMONS – \$425,000  
109 BUTTERFLY – \$410,000  
101 BUTTERFLY – \$650,000  
108 DOUGLAS – \$292,000  
133 BAKER \$375,000



## Commissioners

(Continued from page 26)

and the maintenance of those buildings," Little said. "We, as a board, along with the staff and students, have been good stewards of the campus. On behalf of the board of trustees, I am here to ask you to reconsider our budget that you proposed."

Dempsey said he was disappointed in the proposed County budget. He noted that the College had received no increase in local funding since 2008, despite the fact that SCC's physical plant has expanded by 115,000 square feet since then. Noting that the college serves as a meeting place for the entire community, Dempsey said "if we don't get some help on this, the beautiful buildings and grounds would be in peril."

"It is not always the logic and data, but the commitment to people's needs, that make our best decisions," Hayter said. "Those funding needs are real and essential."

The Board made no commitment to increase funding for the College, but Commissioner Jimmy Melton asked Picerno and Saunders "to meet one more time" with SCC representatives before the budget is finalized.

Picerno agreed to that meeting, but also asked County Attorney Misty Leleand to send to each Commissioner information on what the NC General Statutes require of counties in terms of community college funding.

### Otis Ritter sworn in

Accepting the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Moore County Republican Party, the Commissioners voted unanimously to add Otis Ritter to their number to serve out the unexpired term of former Commissioner Craig Kennedy. [See a profile of Ritter on page 1.]

During a period set aside for Commissioners' Comments at the end of the meeting, Ritter echoed Picerno's assertion that County property taxes are high enough.

"We have people that cannot make it from one month to another," Ritter said, "and, if we levy more tax on them, that might be the end."

"I am for the technology for schools and for the college," Ritter continued. "But the money's not there. Let's do it a little at a time. I'm going to be a thorn in the side of people who want it right now. You will not get my vote on anything that is going to put those taxpayers in a bind."

### Airport gets local match

Turning to other business, the Commissioners approved a \$16,667 local match for the Moore County Airport's 2012 Vision 100 grant, which will be combined with funds saved from previous years to pay for upgrades to the terminal.

The request was tabled during the May 7 meeting at Chairman Picerno's request to allow County Attorney

Misty Leland time to determine whether the local match could be drawn from a portion of the local lodging tax that is dedicated to airport safety improvements.

Leland confirmed that this source of funding could be used, and the Board unanimously approved the local match, but not before Picerno reiterated to Carol Thomas, the Airports Grants & Projects Administrator, that the Commissioners have no interest in using property tax revenues to fund the airport.

"We expect the county airport to work within the confines of the sales tax money and its revenues without coming back to the Moore County taxpayer," Picerno said, asking Thomas to "take this back to your Board."

### Solar Farms

County Manager Wayne Vest told the Commissioners that the Planning Department

has fielded many calls in the wake of the Planning Board's rejection of text amendments designed to permit and regulate industrial scale solar farms in Moore County. The final word on whether to approve those text amendments rests with the Commissioners. [See page 3 for more on solar farms.]

Vest said the Commissioners would be asked during their June 4 meeting to call a public hearing for June 18 on the proposed text amendments.

### Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday, May 21 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Tabled, at Picerno's request, a regional transportation plan developed by the Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization, which brings together Moore, Chatham, Lee, and Orange

counties. The plan is required to make Moore County eligible for certain federal and state transportation grants. Picerno asked for more time to study the lengthy document.

- Approved amendments to the County Zoning Ordinance to define "Group Care Home" and "Group Home Facility." The changes were requested by citizens.



- Agreed to transfer ownership of a gravity sewer line installed to benefit Atex Technologies to the Town of Pinebluff, as previously agreed. The line was installed by the County to permit Atex to expand its manufacturing facilities. The line lies within the Pinebluff town limits, and some Pinebluff citizens may be interested in connecting to it.

- Approved a revised agreement with the NC Department of Transportation for

(See "Commissioners," p. 29)

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## Ritter

(Continued from front page)

Ritter lives outside Robbins, near North Moore High School.

Ritter, a native of Moore County, had a 27 year career with the carpet division of JP Stevens, moving from the plant floor into management. After retiring from the textile business, he served for ten years with the NC Office of Emergency Medical Services.

Ritter has been involved with emergency medical services his entire adult life, having served as a charter member of Robbins Rescue Unit 1, the County's first rescue squad. He has served as ESAC chairman for twenty years. He also worked as a substitute teacher at North Moore for six years.

"I am more comfortable up on my tractor or out in my garden than I am in front of

the public," Ritter told *The Times*. "But I take it as a high compliment that the party has chosen me; and I hope I don't let them down or disappoint them."

Ritter has been involved in GOP politics since 1965 and was vice chair of the Moore County GOP in the 1980s, when the county switched from predominantly Democrat to predominantly Republican.

"I am going to be more conservative than a lot of people would like," Ritter told *The Times*. "I am scared to death of more taxes, because, in these economic times, that might be what pushes people over the edge."

Ritter said he looks forward to serving with the current members of the Board of Commissioners.

"I have a deep respect for all these guys on the Board," he told *The Times*. "And I have ultimate respect for our current Chairman. This guy is the sharpest guy with a pencil that I have ever seen."

"I expect to be a fish out of water at first, but I'll be swimming real soon," Ritter said.

"Otis is a very thoughtful, caring person who really analyzes before he speaks," Chairman Nick Picerno, who

serves on the ESAC panel with Ritter, told *The Times*. "He won't vote on something before he really studies it and has a good grasp of it."

"I think he is very conservative by nature," Picerno added. "He will be a very good watchdog and fit in with our Board real well. We're glad to have him."

Because he will be appointed to fill out an unexpired term, Ritter will need to decide in less than a year whether to stand for re-election in 2014. Asked whether he expected to run, Ritter told *The Times*: "That will totally depend on how my health is." He noted that his health, and the health of his wife Elizabeth, are currently good.

"If it stays that way, I will file," he said.

## Commissioners

(Continued from page 28)

work along NC Highway 211 to repair a sewer interceptor.

- Authorized the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to accept \$2,828 in additional grant funding, which will be matched and used by Moore Buddies to purchase a Spanish-language edition of the "Strengthening Families" curriculum, offered to families twice a year.

- Transferred the committee assignments of former Commissioner Craig Kennedy to Commissioner Ritter, with the exception of the Heart of NC MegaPark Board. Going forward, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners will serve on that Board.

- Named Ritter to represent the Commissioners on the Emergency Services Advisory

Committee, which he has chaired for a number of years.

### Appointments

The Commissioners made a large number of appointments during the Tuesday, May 21 meeting, including:

- Catharine Graham to the Sandhills Community College Board of Trustees.

- David Byers, George Little, and Kelly Miller to the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board.

- Emi Allen to the Human Resources Appeals Committee.

- Ken Skipper, Sarah Foster, and Robert Wittman to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

- Jeremy Rust to the Transportation Advisory Board.

- Nick Picerno, Teri

Williams, and Patrick Coughlin to the Workforce Development Board.

- Molly Boggus to the Planning Board.

- Oscar Carl Romine to the Board of Adjustment.

- Shannon Cagle to the Whispering Pines Planning and Zoning Board as a representative of the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction.

- George Parker to the Moore County Airport Authority Board.

- Sandy Stewart, Matt Wimberly, David Riley, Tony Chriscoe, Tim Priest, and Harry Huberth to the Voluntary Agricultural District Board. The Commissioners also appointed alternates for each position.



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# Martha Gentry's Home Selling Team

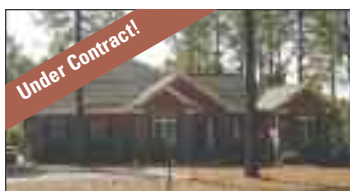
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**Seven Lakes West \$525,000**  
Lovely Lake Auman waterfront home  
3 BR / 2.5 BA  
[www.163MorrisDrive.com](http://www.163MorrisDrive.com)



**Seven Lakes South \$239,000**  
Immaculate and charming golf front  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.108DevonshireAvenue.com](http://www.108DevonshireAvenue.com)



**Seven Lakes South \$279,500**  
Completely renovated golf front home  
3 BR / 3.5 BA  
[www.1170xfordCourt.com](http://www.1170xfordCourt.com)



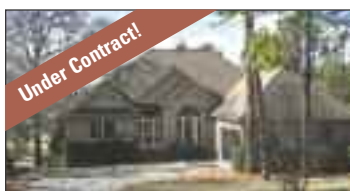
**Seven Lakes West \$550,000**  
Stunning brick water front home  
3 BR / 2 full & 2 half BA  
[www.149VanoreRoad.com](http://www.149VanoreRoad.com)



**Seven Lakes South \$215,000**  
Charming brick ranch w/front porch  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.188DevonshireAvenue.com](http://www.188DevonshireAvenue.com)



**Seven Lakes West \$745,000**  
Gorgeous lakefront custom home  
5 BR / 3.5 BA  
[www.129ShawDrive.com](http://www.129ShawDrive.com)



**Seven Lakes North \$215,000**  
Pristine lake front cottage  
3 BR / 2.5 BA  
[www.114SunsetWay.com](http://www.114SunsetWay.com)



**Seven Lakes West \$349,000**  
Rustic retreat on Lake Auman  
4 BR / 3 BA  
[www.105TuckerCourt.com](http://www.105TuckerCourt.com)



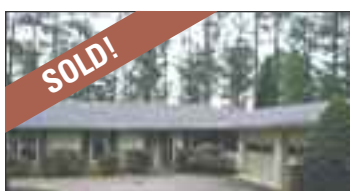
**Seven Lakes North \$175,000**  
Cute brick ranch home  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.112CottageGroveLane.com](http://www.112CottageGroveLane.com)



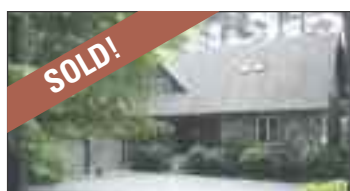
**Seven Lakes South \$279,000**  
Water view with upstairs bonus room  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.252DevonshireAvenue.com](http://www.252DevonshireAvenue.com)



**Seven Lakes South \$159,900**  
Fully updated home on oversized lot  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.110SherwoodRoad.com](http://www.110SherwoodRoad.com)



**Foxfire \$139,900**  
Great ranch on cul-de-sac  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.22CardinalDrive.com](http://www.22CardinalDrive.com)



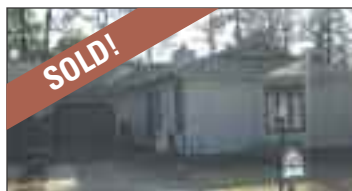
**7 Lakes West \$615,000**  
Stunning waterfront on Lake Auman  
4 BR / 3.5 BA  
[www.123VanoreRoad.com](http://www.123VanoreRoad.com)



**Seven Lakes North \$249,900**  
Lovely lake front cottage  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.122CardinalDrive.com](http://www.122CardinalDrive.com)



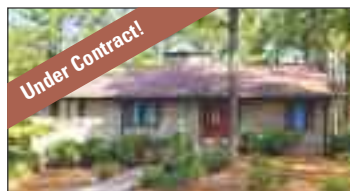
**Seven Lakes West \$315,000**  
Great home with open floor plan  
3 BR / 3.5 BA  
[www.128OwensCircle.com](http://www.128OwensCircle.com)



**Seven Lakes South \$138,500**  
Easy living - beautifully updated condo  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.118SandhamCourt.com](http://www.118SandhamCourt.com)



**Seven Lakes West \$619,000**  
Lakefront cottage w/custom upgrades  
3 BR / 3.5 BA  
[www.103FeatherstonPoint.com](http://www.103FeatherstonPoint.com)



**Seven Lakes South \$179,000**  
Golf Front w/Oversized Screened Porch  
3 BR / 3 BA  
[www.223DevonshireAvenue.com](http://www.223DevonshireAvenue.com)



**Seven Lakes North \$249,000**  
Single level waterfront w/great privacy!  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.126CardinalLane.com](http://www.126CardinalLane.com)



**Seven Lakes North \$175,000**  
Picture perfect w/beautiful updates  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.129ShagbarkCourt.com](http://www.129ShagbarkCourt.com)



**Seven Lakes West \$317,000**  
Gorgeous brick on #3 hole  
3 BR / 3.5 BA  
[www.158BanbridgeDrive.com](http://www.158BanbridgeDrive.com)



**Seven Lakes West \$650,000**  
Stunning custom on prime lake frontage  
3 BR / 3 BA  
[www.123McCrackenDrive.com](http://www.123McCrackenDrive.com)



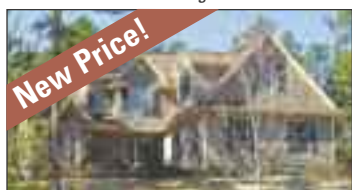
**Seven Lakes West \$289,000**  
Immaculate golf front w/open floor plan  
4 BR / 3 BA  
[www.244LongleafDrive.com](http://www.244LongleafDrive.com)



**Seven Lakes North \$425,000**  
Completely renovated lakefront home  
4 BR / 3 BA  
[www.165FiretreeLane.com](http://www.165FiretreeLane.com)



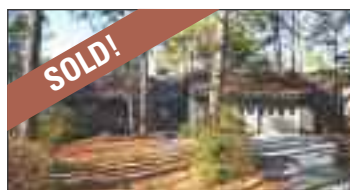
**Seven Lakes South \$199,000**  
Charming golf front w/panoramic view  
3 BR / 3 BA  
[www.122DevonshireAvenue.com](http://www.122DevonshireAvenue.com)



**Seven Lakes West \$298,000**  
Wonderful 2-story home on cul-de-sac  
4 BR / 3 BA  
[www.108RectorDrive.com](http://www.108RectorDrive.com)



**Seven Lakes North \$357,700**  
Beautiful lakefront cottage w/open plan  
3 BR / 2.5 BA  
[www.105CottageGroveLane.com](http://www.105CottageGroveLane.com)



**Seven Lakes West \$269,000**  
Super condition! Lake Auman waterfront!  
3 BR / 2 BA  
[www.116OtterDrive.com](http://www.116OtterDrive.com)



**Seven Lakes West \$645,000**  
Stunning All Brick Water Front  
3 BR / 4.5 BA  
[www.135AndrewsDrive.com](http://www.135AndrewsDrive.com)

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