

## Heavy rains complicate SLLA lake management

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



It was only this past winter that the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] was rushing to complete valve repairs on Lake Echo in time for early Spring rains to refill the lake — rains that proved unequal to the task.

Little did the board know, as they paid the hefty sum to pump water from Lake Sequoia into Lake Echo in

March, that Mother Nature was planning a continuous deluge during month of June.

Seven Lakes' 2013 monsoon season has continued into July with a daily chance of thunderstorms. For the first time in recent memory, the lakes have been as much as six to eight inches over full pond.

During their Monday, July 15 work session the SLLA Board discussed issues raised by the full-to-the-brim lakes. Recognizing that the discus-

sion would benefit from professional advice, they tabled several items until the following night, during a special meeting (scheduled to discuss bylaws). The day's delay would give SLLA management and the Lakes and Dam Committee time to seek recommendations.

### Ramapo overflow pipe needs work

SLLA Manager Ray Sohl reported that a recent engi-

(See "Lakes," p. 28)

## Schools start laying the groundwork for bond vote

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



A Moore County school bond referendum looks likely for November 2014, based on a consensus reached by members of the Board of Education during their Monday, July 15 Work Session on facilities.

Phillip Boles, MCS' Executive Director for Operations, presented the Board with two timelines, one aimed at

the May 2014 Primary Election; the other at the November 2014 General Election.

Though Board Members expressed a desire to move forward as quickly as possible — and some saw a tactical advantage in May in terms of voter turnout — the desire to have ample time for public input prior to any vote ultimately carried the day.

It is too early in the process to say exactly how large a bond issue voters will be asked to approve. Public

input will ultimately determine the design of a new Master Facilities Plan that aims to meet MCS needs for the next twenty years, and the details of that plan will determine the funding level needed.

However, options discussed during the Board's earlier

(See "Schools," p. 27)

## Back to School Greeters



*It's only July, but students in Moore County's Year-Round programs are already back at their desks. Clara and Greta Noll, daughters of West Pine Elementary School teacher Adrienne Noll, were on hand to welcome year-round students back to school on Monday, July 15.*

## Foxfire may vote on paper ballots

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



It will be three candidates for three seats in Foxfire Village elections come November.

Incumbent Council members Leslie Frusco, Vic Koos, and Mick McCue were the only candidates to file by the deadline of noon on Friday, July 19.

An election must nonetheless take place, Moore County Elections Director Glenda

Clendenin told *The Times*.

But, because Foxfire Village is a small town, and the election is uncontested, State Board of Elections rules may allow the use of simple, old-fashioned paper ballots.

Clendenin told *The Times* that her office has asked the State Board to allow the use of paper ballots in Foxfire Village, Cameron, Vass, and Taylortown, none of which has a contested election this year.

She said the new State Board had recently informed

county boards of election that the use of paper ballots is an option.

Using paper ballots will save the towns the expense of programming voting machines, Clendenin said.

In 2009, only 32 voters cast ballots in Foxfire Village's municipal elections. That number increased to 77 in 2011. The Village Council earlier this month passed a resolution eliminating the use of absentee ballots in the municipal election as a cost-saving measure.

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# Board debates adding horses to stable herd

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Recent warm summer nights have tempted several unknown campers to sleep under the stars on Lake Sequoia's Island. The Board of Directors agreed during the Monday, July 15 Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Work Session that camping is prohibited.

"There are safety and health issues," President Steve Ritter said. "There are also no toilets."

Many SLLA common areas already have signage informing residents and visitors of the hours of use.

"We already have a sign at Sequoia Point, and I see the island as an extension of Sequoia Point," Director Conrad Meyer said.

Enforcing the no camping policy will be carried out by

the nighttime roving patrol.

"If the North Gate gets a call, then the patrolman is capable of taking the security boat. That is one way we can enforce it," Ritter said.

## Giddy Up or Whoa?

The number of residents taking trail rides has doubled since last year. Balancing the size of the herd with riders continues to be a challenge.

The stables have grown in popularity as Stable Manager Kate Pennington has increased the number of summer camps, added classes in beginning jumping, and brought new energy to the arena.

As a new hire, Pennington had based her original proposed herd size in part on the number of trail rides recorded in past years. Director Darr reported that there are seven people on the Recreation Committee that are in favor of adding two more horses.

"With some caveats, quite frankly, our primary object is to provide trail rides to the community," Darr said. "We are looking for a horse or two horses that can provide trail rides but also can provide jumping. We are not getting a separate group. We are looking at horses that can give us the ability to do this and match our trail rides."

Referring to a chart Darr had provided, President Ritter said: "It is interesting, since we have raised the rates, we thought trail rides would go down; but they have gone up, according to this. May to June we have gone from 60 to 180 trail rides, and we only charge non-residents. This is that big increase in our trail rides."

Several Directors questioned whether numbers recorded from previous years were collected in the same way as this year's numbers — and whether or not the guides were being counted.

"If something increases 100 percent in a month, then someone is doing something right," Director Bob Racine said.

"Or is this an anomaly?" Ritter asked. "I could have sworn she was going to try and have two separate kinds of horses. She assured us if we did this our numbers

would be okay with the horses that we had."

Darr agreed that that had been Pennington's original intention; but, with the increased interest, it is necessary to modify the proposal.

"The situation at the stables is we are going to do trail rides before we do anything

(See "SLLA," p. 26)

## CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be e-mailed to mail@sevenlakes.com, dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, mailed to P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376, or faxed to 888-806-2572.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, Aug 2	Fri, Aug 9
Fri, Aug 16	Fri, Aug 23
Fri, Aug 30	Fri, Sep 6
Fri, Sep 13	Fri, Sep 20
Fri, Sep 27	Fri, Oct 4
Fri, Oct 11	Fri, Oct 18
Fri, Oct 25	Fri, Nov 1
Fri, Nov 8	Fri, Nov 15
Thu, Nov 21*	Fri, Nov 29
Fri, Dec 6	Fri, Dec 13
Thu, Dec 19*	Fri, Dec 27

\*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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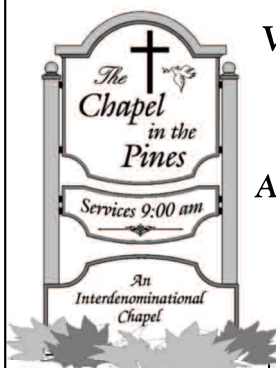
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# Committee formed on viability of BRCC

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Economically, it's a tough time for golf courses in Moore County.

Beacon Ridge Golf and Country Club, tucked into Seven Lakes West, is no exception.

At the Tuesday, July 23 general meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association [SLWLA] President Jack Stevens expressed his concern about the health of the club: "We should all agree that failure of the club will have a profoundly deleterious impact on our community."

Stevens then made a motion to approve the formation of an ad hoc committee for the purpose of "Facilitating the Ongoing Viability of Beacon Ridge Golf and Country Club."

After reading a long list of volunteers who had agreed to serve on the committee, Stevens recommended Ed Silberhorn as chair. "The

members of the committee, all who have agreed to serve, represent an excellent cross-section of our community, with members and nonmembers of Beacon Ridge," Stevens said. "Some have prior board experience." [The Times was unable to secure a copy of the membership list by press time.]

The ad hoc committee will report directly to the SLWLA President. Two motions were made and passed unanimously. [Director Rosemary Weber was not present for the meeting.]

The first was to approve the creation of the ad hoc committee, and the second was to have Board approval for the Committee to operate legally under SLWLA auspices.

## Committee Appointment Process Questioned

During the public comment portion of Tuesday's meeting, resident John Lattin asked, "Did I miss a notice asking for volunteers for the ad hoc

committee? Where was it advertised? And, as a resident, how would I know if you don't publish it?"

"We are just forming the committee and attempting to give it structure. As it is formed, they are going to report back to us," Stevens replied.

"It sounds like to me you just voted on members of that committee," Lattin replied.

Stevens reiterated: "It is in its initial starting point. As it gets formed they will report back to us and if other members are interested in volunteering."

## Pay Up

The budget is in good shape, reported director Dale Erickson. However, delinquent dues continue to be a concern.

"We still have problem with delinquent property owners," Erickson said. "The total amount delinquent is \$82,581. Thirty one property owners are delinquent right

now. It is a slight decrease to what it was last year."

"It hurts all of us," he said. "It creates additional administrative costs and hinders our cash flow process."

## Rehabilitation of Roads

Jim Pierman updated the board on the Roads Committee's progress in developing an action plan to rehabilitate roads in poor condition. The proposed six-year plan will cost approximately \$2.5 million.

"We are going to set it up and schedule to do maintenance every twelve years,"

Pierman said. "So, if we do the twelve-year maintenance, we are going to be keeping our roads right around that 70 paving condition rating (PCR)."

Stevens asked how the rehabilitation would fit into the SLWLA budget.

Erickson replied, "I have reviewed with Jim and looked at the long term plan and working it into the budget. It is a doable project and can be done with the plan Jim has laid out."

(See "Westside," p. 21)

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# It's back-to-school time for students in West

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter



Just when Summer gets long, hot, boring, and kids are waterlogged, bug bitten, sunburned, and whining from swimmer's ear . . .

Just when parents think they can no longer endure the endless drone of the Disney Channel and their child's lethargic malaise. . .

Just when summer isn't so much fun anymore, the bell rings and year-round school is back in session.

Back to school night in July is a party without ice cream. Students run to each other hug like long lost relatives, They hold hands and skip down the hall. They share adventures and schedule play dates.



Molly Kuzma

Kim Bullard is West Pine Elementary School's new principal. A seasoned Moore County employee, she has spent the past several years as the principal of Highfalls' K-8 Elementary School and brings years of experience with her.

"I am very excited about being here," Bullard said. "I enjoy working with the kids, and it is a good opportunity to grow professionally."

The schedule that Moore County Schools sets for stu-

dents in the year-round program recognizes that Summer is a time when families often take weekend trips to the beach or mountains. The kids buckle down for four days of study and relax over a three day weekend.

"I love the schedule; is it wonderful for the kids," fifth grade teacher Adrienne Noll said. "They are always ready to go on break, and they are always ready to come back to school."

(Continued on page 5)



Crystal Watts brought daughters Kaylan and Emma to the first day of year-round school at West Pine Elementary



Shyler Truman greets West Pine Elementary teacher Stephanie Monroe.

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# Pine Elementary's year-round program

(Continued from page 4)

Resource teacher Stephanie Monroe works with both the year round and traditional program. She works with reading groups, assists teachers with curriculum and resources, and accesses data.

"I think the year round is a great program for the students," she said. "It provides needed breaks through out the year."

Fifth grader Shyler Truman agrees: "I love the shorter breaks. I am doing better than I was in traditional."

## A Visitor from Afghanistan

Summer School is the routine for Afghani children. Ajmal is one of six children from Afghanistan that have been flown to the United States through Solace International. It is a secular, humanitarian program that promotes world peace by providing medical services for

children.

Eight-year-old Ajmal is currently missing school back home. He has accepted an invitation to attend West Pine Elementary with his host family's daughter fifth grader Abby Marcus.

Fellow fifth grader Nick Petero wanted to make sure that Ajmal was ready for school on Tuesday. Over the weekend he opened his closet to Ajmal and gave him an Iron Man backpack and super hero T-shirts.

Assistant Principal Sharon Castelli led Ajmal to class. Ajmal is sporting his backpack and carrying a 1970's Super Heroes lunch box.

It's a sweet moment for Castelli, who is retired from the Air Force. Her husband Robert, a retired Army officer, completed five tours in Afghanistan.

"This is such an awesome opportunity," Castelli said.

"I just personally feel that this represents what our country was working towards and shows the fruits of our labor."

Castelli, who has worked in Moore County Schools as a teacher and later an assistant principal since 2006 always wanted to be a teacher. She has experienced the best of both worlds.

"I joined the military really for college purposes," she explained. "At that time, it would have been a huge expense for my family, so I enlisted when I was seventeen."

The Castelli's met while deployed to Bosnia.

It is a small world. Ajmal listens intently and follows direction well — an amazing feat, since he came to Southern Pines four weeks ago speaking no English. He is happy to be at school sitting right next to Abby.



West Pine Elementary teacher Adrienne Noll welcomes eight-year-old Ajmal.

## CULTURE

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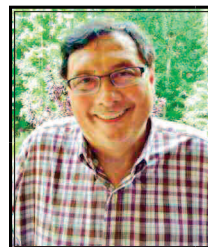
## New Age Religions: Counterfeit Christianity?

Rev. James Walker is a Baptist minister and president of Watchman Fellowship with over 25 years of ministry experience in the fields of Christian counter-cult evangelism, apologetics and discernment. He has shared his expertise on religious movements and cults on a variety of television shows including Nightline, ABC World News Tonight and The News Hour with Jim Lehrer. Rev. Walker has also spoken at numerous churches, colleges, universities and seminaries throughout the United States and abroad. He holds a BA in Biblical Studies and an MA in Theology from Criswell College in Dallas. Rev. Walker currently serves as an adjunct professor at Arlington Baptist College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Criswell College and is a member of the International Society of Christian Apologetics, the Evangelical Press Association, and the Board of Directors of Evangelical Ministries to New Religions.



## Universalism: Do all paths lead to God?

Hendrik (Hank) Hanegraaff, president and chairman of the board of the North Carolina-based CHRISTIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, hosts the nationally syndicated "Bible Answer Man" radio show aired daily across the United States and Canada and around the world via the internet at [www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org). Widely regarded as one of the world's leading Christian authors and apologists, Hanegraaff believes every Christian should know how to identify counterfeit religions. His live call-in radio broadcast offers effective methods for reading the Bible with understanding as well as interviews with some of today's most significant Christian leaders and apologists.



## Democratic Pluralism: Constitutional vs. Traditional values?

Kevin Lee, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Law, Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University, Raleigh, is a multidimensional legal scholar and teacher with advanced degrees in Christian ethics, religious studies and philosophy. He couples his long-standing interest in the phenomenon of human religiousness with an interest in the emerging networked, globalized society. Dr. Lee is concerned with how religious experience has contributed to the understanding of law and politics and how religiousness is shaping the future. He is a featured speaker on the topics of religious ethics, the moral philosophy of Pope John Paul II, the philosophy of economics, the legal profession and legal education, as well as social and political ethics of the international trade regime.



## Science and Religion: Is it either/or or both/and?

Neil Shenvi, Ph.D. is a research scientist specializing in theoretical chemistry at Duke University. He holds an A.B. degree in chemistry from Princeton University and a Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley. Dr. Shenvi worked in Yale's Chemistry Department before moving to Durham, North Carolina in 2010. He holds certificates in Computer Science, Applied Mathematics, Material Science, and Engineering and has published over 37 scholarly articles in respected scientific journals. His interest in apologetics grew out of an encounter with a childhood friend who challenged him to defend his belief in Christianity. Dr. Shenvi has spoken on such topics as the implications of quantum mechanics for faith and the existence of miracles. Today he encourages others to learn how to engage the culture with conviction and understanding.





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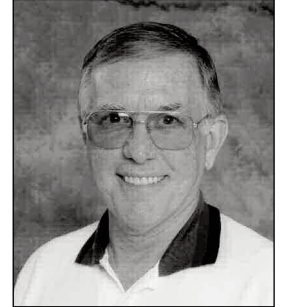
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# In memory of . . .

**Anne (Margaret Anne West) Warren**, 87, formerly of Pittsford, NY and Seven Lakes died Tuesday, July 16.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Clark Russell; children Wayne (Claudia) and Mark (Rebecca); granddaughter Patricia Burns (Scott Dibble); great-grandchildren, Alexis, Rebecca, Michael, Patrick and Wyatt; her niece and nephew and several cousins.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 7, at 2 pm at Aldersgate Retirement Community in Charlotte, NC.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

**Patsy June Padgett Davis**, 79, of Seven Lakes died Sunday, July 21 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Funeral services will be held in Purvis, Mississippi on Friday, July 26.

She was born in Purvis, MS, daughter of the late John Henry Padgett and Mirtie Estelle (Odem) Padgett.

Mrs. Davis was preceded in death by her daughter, Deniece Bolin; brother, Bill Padgett and sister, Mary Nell Keith.

Survivors include two daughters, Dianne B. Dann and husband Michael of Seven Lakes; Beth Barrett of Purvis, MS; her sister, JoAnn Gipson of Purvis, MS; six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be made in memory of Patsy Davis to: Corinth Baptist Church, 712 Corinth Road, Purvis, MS 39475.

**Douglas Madison Marshall**, 88, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, July 20, at the FirstHealth Hospice House.

Mr. Marshall was born in Charleston, WV son to the late Schuyler Benjamin Marshall and Pearl Caldwell Marshall. He graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School, and was a member of the Charleston Reds Basketball Team and Baseball Team.

He served as Lieutenant in the US Army Air Corps during WWII where he flew B-29 bombers while stationed on Tinian in the Mariana Islands. He was the recipient of the Air Medal awarded for meritorious achievement.

After his return from the war, he went on to earn his Masters of Science in Mining Engineering from West Virginia University. He was married to Margaret Shonk.

In 1958, he joined the faculty of Rochester Institute of Technology as Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, and in 1972 he was promoted to Associate Dean of the College of Engineering where he remained until his retirement in 1981.

In 1985 he and his wife, Margaret moved to Seven

Lakes where he served as President of Seven Lakes Townhouse Association, Vice President of Seven Lakes Landowners Association, and Vice President of the Lions Club. He was a member of Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines.

Mr. Marshall was preceded in death by his brother Benjamin Hunter Marshall.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Margaret Shonk Marshall; two children, Connie Marshall and Don Mar-

shall and four grandchildren. Memorial services were held Saturday, August 17 at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, with Rev. Donald Welch and Rev. Fran Stark officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care, 150 Applecross Road Pinehurst, NC 28374 or Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, NC 27376.

## Patricia Koss Memorial Service

A service will be held in memory of Patricia [Pat] Koss on Sunday, August 11, 4:30 pm at the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines. Mrs. Koss died at home on May 7. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bud. They were married for 70 years.

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Mrs. Martin comes to Seven Lakes from Richmond Family Medicine, where she had been a provider since March 2008. Her approach to wellness and the special needs of women define her as a practitioner and keep her patients, even those living in Rockingham, coming back. As a new resident of Seven Lakes, where she now lives with her husband and two sons, she provides the community with an excellent nurse practitioner.



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# Candor's Peach Festival offers peaches,

by Ellen Marcus  
Times Reporter

The Candor Peach Festival is a fusion of Carolina BBQ, Southern Peach Pies, Polish Funnel Cakes, and Mexican Carne Asada. It's a street fair with a youthful flair that offers mechanical bull riding, wall climbing, bouncy houses, jungle gyms, games, and just hanging out.

## Peaches to Pork Rinds

Hangin' out is just what T.J. Turner and Jonathan Saunders, best friends at West Montgomery High School, are doing. Turner, dressed in faded jeans and Red Wing work boots spends his summer working with his dad.

"They used to peach farm," Turner said. "Now we lay floor and sell pork rinds."

Farming doesn't hold either boy's interest; they prefer to be out in the woods.

"I am going to be a game warden," Turner said.

Saunders nods: "Well, I guess I am too."

## Fresh Baked Pie

The heady smell of fresh baked peaches draws everyone down to the very end of the street.

The Ladies Auxiliary raises money each year for the Eagle Springs Volunteer Station 62 Fire Department.

"We have been doing this for six or seven years," Cathy Blake said.

"We raise money for equipment and gear. It's all about the firemen."



Cathy Blake

## Working a Festival

In the rural South, the combination of determination,

homemaking skills, gardening, and creating something out of nothing, has become



T.J. Turner and Jonathan Saunders

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a viable career for many women and men.

Brenda Moon sells purses, tote bags, and pocketbooks from her booth.

"I go to one, sometimes two festivals a month," she said. "It just depends on where

they are."

Shawn Dezern of Dezern Farms in Pisgah is on hand with baskets full of cucumbers, cabbages, and a host of peppers, from jalapeños to Scotch Bonnets.

(Continued on page 9)



Brenda Moon offers purses for ladies of all ages.

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# funnel cakes, fun, and much, much more

(Continued from page 7)

Leslie Covington has turned her Pennsylvania recipes into a successful business: Ole Time Bake Goods. Her neat and tidy booth is dressed in crisp red and white picnic cloths. Her fresh baked hearty breads and cakes stand at attention.

"This is an outstanding event," Covington said. "This is my first year, and I am just amazed at how many families and children have come through."

What do NC teachers do in their spare time? School Teachers Judy Fowler and Vicky Schrock work their

summer job promoting *Our State* magazine. We really enjoy working for *Our State* and promoting our love of North Carolina," Fowler said.

Mike Kyser and Chef Grady are demonstrating their amazing peeler. Zucchini, tomato, cucumber, potato, and even butternut squash

easily yield to this sharp rust-proof utensil.

## Senior View

Marie Parson from Trinity is dressed for the weather and the day. In a straw brimmed hat with a large russet colored Gerbera daisy, cool cotton long sleeve shirt

and pants. She sits perched on the high cement wall catching the breeze and taking it all in.

## Next Year?

The Candor Peach festival is held every year the third weekend in July. Mark your calendar for next year.



Shawn Dezern of Dezern Farms



Marie Parson



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# School Board approves final FY13 budget

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



A last minute change to state funding rules cost Moore County Schools [MCS] nearly \$1.5 million in the FY 2012-13 budget year.

MCS Chief Financial Officer Mike Griffin provided a final report on the FY 2012-13 budget during the the Moore County Board of Education's

Monday, July 15 regular meeting.

As a result of the rules change, Griffin told the Board, MCS was able to use only 98 percent of its funding from the state — not the 100 percent used in previous years.

The \$1,441,000 million difference had to be made up by drawing down the MCS fund balance — the district's savings account. [See story

below for an explanation of the state's last-minute rule change and why it cost MCS so much.]

## Progress despite cuts

Despite the hit, MCS was able to make progress toward a number of goals, Griffin told the Board:

- Combination classes were eliminated in early grades.
- Several initiatives were undertaken to improve

reading skills, including the addition of teachers and reading coaches.

- Phase 1 of MCS' Digital Learning Initiative was implemented, placing laptops in the hands of every teacher, providing laptops to students at Pinckney Academy, and supplying Carthage Elementary students with iPads.
- The internet bandwidth available to MCS was increased tenfold, while the cost of bandwidth was reduced overall.

Looking ahead to FY 2013-2014, Griffin noted that the Board has budgeted a \$2.0 million to \$2.2 million draw-down of fund balance. But the state budget has yet to be finalized, leaving open the possibility of further cuts in

state funding.

Griffin noted that the district is experiencing an increased demand for services for Exceptional Children, driven by an increase in the number of students and the cost of those services.

The FY 2013-14 budget funds Phase II of the Digital Learning Initiative, including adding three facilitator staff positions to help teachers make the best use of the technology in the classroom.

New teaching positions are being added to expand gifted and Advanced Placement programs, and West End Elementary is initiating a Spanish Immersion kindergarten program.

Nine new reading coaches will be hired, so that one is (See "School Board," p. 20)

## Last minute rule change proves pricey for MCS

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Why did a last-minute state rule change cost Moore County Schools [MCS] nearly \$1.5 million?

The State of North Carolina provides approximately 63 percent of MCS' operating budget, with the County picking up 26 percent, and federal funding accounting for the remaining 12 percent.

But the \$65 million in state funding does not come in a single lump sum. Instead, MCS Chief Financial Officer Mike Griffin told *The Times* in an interview on Wednesday, July 17, the state budget is broken into 20-25 different allotments.

In other words, the state money comes in a bunch of different buckets, and each bucket of money has its own purpose and its own rules.

Most of those allotments are just what you would expect: a certain number of dollars directed to a specific use.

"If they are dollar allotments," Griffin explained "they give you the money. There are allotments for at risk students, teachers assistants, exceptional children. Those work like any other budget."

## Buckets of teachers

But four of the allotments are for personnel, with by

far the largest — valued at \$31.6 million last year — designed to pay for classroom teachers. That bucket doesn't

come filled with dollars, but with teachers.

Griffin explains: "Rather (See "Rule Change," p. 18)

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# Firms selected for water supply projects

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



The design phase of a project that will bring water from Harnett County to the Seven Lakes area has begun, with the selection of McGill and Associates as the engineering firm that will both design the project and prepare an application for state funding.

During its Tuesday, July 17 regular meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners authorized County staff to negotiate a contract with McGill.

The Board also authorized the negotiation of a contract with Hobbs Upchurch and Associates for the design of a second water supply project: the drilling of three new wells near Foxfire Village.

Public Utilities Director Randy Gould told the Board that the engineering firms will be on a fast track in order to meet a September 30 application deadline for the state revolving loan fund, which may allow the County to fund the projects with a zero-interest state loan.

## Choosing Harnett

Commissioners Larry Cadell and Jimmy Melton assembled a task force on water late last year, with the goal of sifting through the half-dozen or so water supply options available to the County, which ranged from placing an intake in the Deep River near Robbins to purchasing an intake on the Lumber River near Wagram.

They recommended Harnett County as the best option for securing additional water.

Harnett draws its water

supply from the Cape Fear River at Lillington, and is expanding the capacity of its water treatment plant from 27 to 42 million gallons per day.

Moore County plans to purchase a portion of that plant expansion for \$5.25 Million, securing up to three million gallons per day of Harnett County water. Moore has an existing contract with Harnett for up to two million gallons per day and currently uses about 750,000 gallons per day.

Buying into the plant expansion will both increase the available supply and lower the cost, from the \$2.40 per thousand gallons the county is paying now to \$1.92 per thousand, potentially saving the county hundred of thousands of dollars each year.

New water mains and

pumps, as well as a new water tank in the Seven Lakes or West End area, is expected to bring the total cost of the Harnett County project to \$10.8 million.

## New Wells

The County acquired three well sites along Linden Road from the developer of Stonehill Pines, a golf course resort development proposed for Foxfire Village.

Two test wells have been

drilled, providing good quality water and adequate flow. The three wells that Hobbs Upchurch will design are expected to yield up to 500,000 gallons per day and cost the County approximately \$1.2 million to bring into service.

The new water from Harnett County, along with the new wells, is expected to meet Moore County's water needs through 2030.

(See "Commissioners," p. 24)



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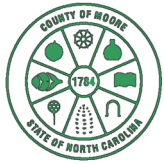


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# County launches campaign to Fix'M

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Fix'M!

That's the snappy name selected for Moore County's latest effort to reduce its population of unwanted pets.

The advisory Committee to the County's Animal Operations Department unveiled Fix'M during a Friday, July 12 press conference aimed at getting the word out about their plans and progress.

The Fix'M program creates a county-managed fund that will provide free spay-neuter services to citizens who are on public assistance.

"The real barrier to getting this done is an economic barrier," explained Tom Daniel, an equine veterinarian and member of the Animal Operations Advisory Board. "They don't have the money to get these pets altered. That is a big part of solving the problem."

Daniel also chairs the Board of the Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic of the Sandhills, near Vass, which offers low-cost spaying for \$65. But many low-income residents can't afford even that fee, he said.

## Using local contributions leverage state program

The State of North Carolina, through the Department of Agriculture, will reimburse counties for the cost of spaying and neutering pets that belong to low-income households. The state program is funded through the purchase of "I Care" license plates. But the County has to put the money up and then wait to be reimbursed by the state on a quarterly basis.

Last year, Daniel explained, Animal Operations director Al Carter carved \$10,000 out of his budget to fund \$2,500 in no-cost spay-neuter procedures. In the just approved FY 2013-14 County Budget, the Commissioners set aside \$30,000 for the fund.

The beauty of the system is that the \$30,000 will not be "used up," as long as the

state continues to provide reimbursements.

That \$30,000 will pay for 120 spay-neuter procedures per quarter, but even that

isn't enough to fully address the problem, Daniel explained.

So, the Animal Operations Advisory Board is seeking

donations from concerned citizens to increase the size of the fund, and the number of operations that can be performed. Deductions are tax deductible, and, like the County's contributions, will

be leveraged by state reimbursements.

Donations may be made by credit card by calling the Animal Center, at 910-947-2858. Checks made out to

(See "Fix'M," p. 14)



Patricia Dunne-Towne gets acquainted for a very cute, very, adoptable kitten at the Moore County Animal Center.

## MENTAL ILLNESS & LAW ENFORCEMENT: AN UPFRONT LOOK



An Educational Meeting featuring Sheriff Neil Godfrey and Major Ricky Whitaker, Supervisor, Detention Unit.

Monday August 5, at 7:00 pm

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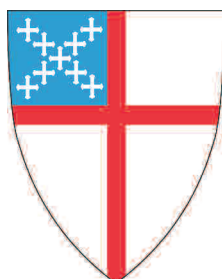
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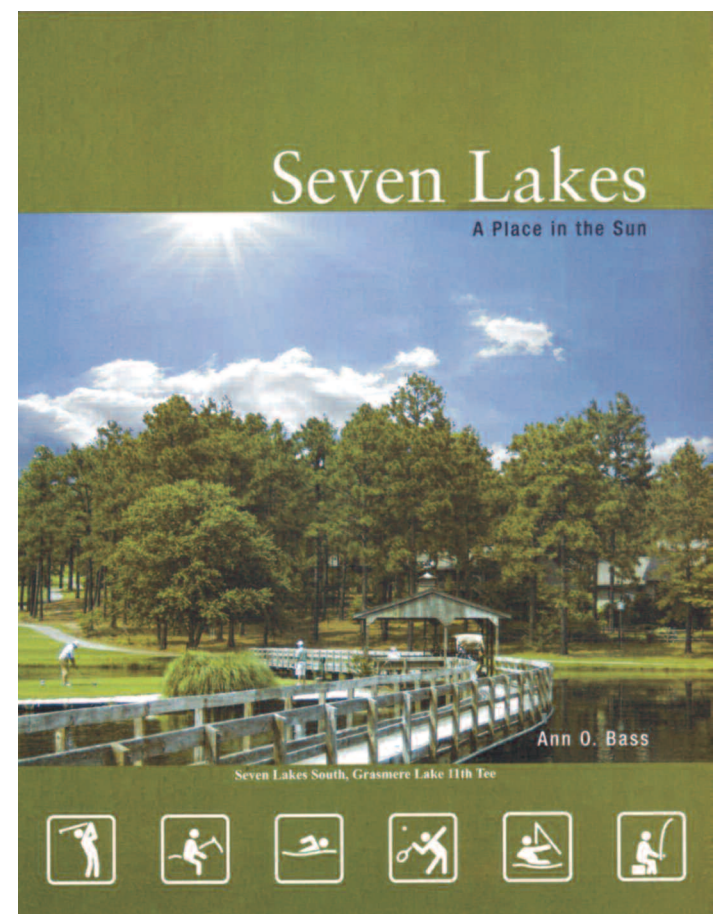
Holy Communion - 9:30 am  
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# Youth from West End Pres attend conference

West End Presbyterian Church's active and vibrant youth groups have been traveling this Summer, ranging from the mountains of Virginia and North Carolina as far as Mexico.

Members of the middle school youth group attended a Presbyterian middle school conference in Massanetta Springs, VA, last month. The conference attracted middle

school youth groups from around the country to a Presbyterian conference center located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

While there, the middle schoolers participated in worship, bible studies, and fellowship activities.

The high school youth are attending a similar conference this week, only it is at Montreat, a Presbyterian confer-

ence center located near Asheville in the mountains of North Carolina. The occasion is a national Presbyterian youth conference with youth groups from around the country attending.

While at Montreat, the youth will participate in twice

daily worship services, small group discussions, and a wide variety of fellowship activities.

Earlier this month many of the same West End Presbyterian youth went along on a mission trip to Chetumal, Mexico.

West End Presbyterian has been sending mission groups to a sister Presbyterian church in Chetumal throughout the 21st Century.

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



Six youth from West End Presbyterian Church recently attended a national middle school conference in Virginia: Jackie Drummond, Riley Campbell, Maegan Pigg, Adam Robins, Grayson Oldham and Kevin Fletcher.

## Mental Illness Support Group

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Moore County holds its monthly meetings at the Community Room at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Specialty Clinic Building, at the corner of Memorial Drive and Page Street, Pinehurst. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. All meetings and programs are free and open to the public. For information call (910) 295-1053 or [www.nami-moorecounty.org](http://www.nami-moorecounty.org)

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## Fix'M

(Continued from page 12)

"Fix'M Animal Operations Moore County" may be mailed to Director of Animal Operations, 5235 Hwy 15/501, Carthage, NC 28387.

Daniel himself made the first donation to the Fix'M fund, donating \$500 on behalf of Southern Pines Equine Associates.

### Attacking on multiple fronts

The Fix'M Fund is just one aspect of the Advisory Committee's push to reduce the number of unwanted pets in the County.

The problem is a large one. The Animal Center took in nearly 4,000 animals last year; 3,000 of those were euthanized. Of 2,032 dogs taken in, 1,309 were put down — 64 percent. Eighty-seven percent of the 1870 cats taken in were euthanized.

Co-Chair Angela Zumwalt explained that The Advisory Committee has developed a set of goals and objectives that aim to address those

grim statistics on both ends of the problem: reducing the number of unwanted pets born and abandoned and increasing the number of adoptions from the Animal Center.

And, for those pets destined to spend their last days at the Animal Center, the Committee wants to ensure they receive the greatest level of care.

### Initiatives underway

Action is already underway to accomplish many of those goals:

- During the just-completed budget process, the Committee supported the department's request to have a part-time shelter assistant and an administrative assistant. That will allow the shelter to be open on Saturday — prime time for adopting pets, Animal Operations director Al Carter said.

- Also funded were enhancements to the Animal Center itself, Carter said, with the goal of making it a

more "retail-friendly" environment, in order to increase adoptions.

- Modifications are being undertaken to separate pets waiting to be adopted from those who have just been taken in. The lobby has been modified to showcase adoptable cats. And an outdoor play yard has been constructed to allow volunteers to assist in socializing adoptable pets.

- The Animal Operations

Department has also designated a part-time volunteer coordinator, who will play a key role in directing a substantial anticipated increase in volunteer labor at the Animal Center.

- Volunteers and staff will be able to take adoptable pets to offsite events and adoption locations, including PetsMart.

- New Animal Center software will assist in both identifying lost pets and posting

adoptable pets to online sites like PetFinders.

- Volunteers with the Pet Placement Project will take high-quality photos of adoptable pets and pursue placement through Petfinders, Facebook, and other social media sites.

### Fee flexibility?

It currently costs \$85 to adopt a dog or \$65 to adopt a cat from the Animal Center,

(See "Fix'M," p. 15)

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#### 104 AMBERWOOD COURT

All brick single level with walkout on Lake Echo with dock. Oversized lot. **\$349,900**



#### 105 THOMAS PT, LOT 3089

Lakefront on Auman with 194' of bulkheaded frontage. Onsite system approved. **\$285,000**



#### 630 McLENDON HILLS DR

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#### 104 FOGLEMAN COURT

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#### 114 OWENS CIRCLE

Immaculate and recently-updated 3BR, 2 BA Split Plan. **\$219,900**



#### 147 EDGEWATER

3 bedroom 3 bath w/walk out, move in ready on Echo in SLN **\$299,900**



#### 277 MACDOUGALL DRIVE

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#### 120 ZIEGLER COURT

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#### 102 THOMAS POINT

3 BD, 2 BA, screened porch close to Johnson Pt and BR Country Club. **\$175,000**



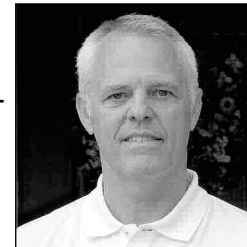
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# 7 Lakes Chapel offers VBS

Children entering kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to attend the "Everywhere Fun Fair" Vacation Bible School at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines August 5 through August 9.

Bible School will begin at 5:30 pm each evening with a child-friendly supper followed by crafts, singing,

games, and story time. Sessions will end at 7:45 pm.

There is no charge and all children are welcome to attend even if their family does not attend the Chapel.

The Chapel is located at 581 Seven Lakes Drive across from the entrance to the Seven Lakes North gate.

To make sure that the

Chapel has prepared enough food and are ready for the children who will attend, please register your child by calling the Chapel Office at 673-2156 during office hours, Monday - Friday 9 am until 1 pm or call Dora Lancaster at 673-0166 or email her at dlancaster72@nc.rr.com

## Fix'M

*(Continued from page 14)*

and, Carter explained, that covers a small percentage of the \$200-\$250 the Center has invested in shots, worming, microchipping, and spaying or neutering the pets it adopts out.

Asked whether that fee might be an impediment to adopting out as many pets as possible, Carter said "There's an argument to be made that someone who can't afford \$85 for a dog can't

afford the dog."

However, he said, the Advisory Committee has been looking at the possibility of having reduced-cost specials on adoptions.

Daniel noted that a large portion of the adoption fee winds up going back to the Spay-Neuter Clinic and suggested that the Fix'M program might be used to help cover a portion of the fee, in the case of adoptions to households on public assistance.

### The ultimate goal

Commissioner Jimmy Melton has been the Board of Commissioners point man on animal issues, intimately involved in the Citizen's Pet Responsibility Committee, in the recent move to make Animal Operations a stand-alone department, and in the New Animal Operations Advisory Committee.

"I've never seen such a dedicated group of people," Melton said of the committee members and volunteers.

"One of the highlights of my career as a Commissioner is getting involved with animals," Melton said. "But it is one of the hardest problems that we have as Commissioners. And a lot of the problem with our animals is with our people."

"Before I leave as a County Commissioner, I would like to see that our animal shelter no longer has to put animals down."

"Hopefully, a year from now or so, we can stand and say that Moore County is a light on a hill for the state of North Carolina in terms of animal control."

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**FRIDAY, JULY 26**

- **Moore County Library - Carthage** - 4:30 to 6 pm, Concerned about the Zombie Apocalypse? Hey, join the club! Teens are invited share their survival plans at the Library. 910-947-5335. Moore County Library, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage. Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 6 pm, Sat. 10 am - 4 pm. [www.srls.info](http://www.srls.info)
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** - *Kings of Summer*, starring: Nick Robinson & Gabriel Basso, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**SATURDAY, JULY 27**

- **Succulent Container Workshop** - 10 am to 12 Noon, "The Plant Diva" Linda Hamwi will host an entertaining and instructive class in the art of creating a succulent container garden. Sandhills Community College, Steed Hall/Stephens Laboratory. Sandhills Horticultural Society members \$27, non-members \$32. Space limited. Call Tricia Mabe to register at (910) 695-3882.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** - *Kings of Summer*, starring: Nick Robinson & Gabriel Basso, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

ater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

**SUNDAY, JULY 28**

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



Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** - *Kings of Summer*, starring: Nick Robinson & Gabriel Basso, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Weymouth Woods** - 3 pm, The Best of Nests. Don't miss this opportunity to see first hand just how amazing birds are as builders. Meet at the Visitor Center Auditorium. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.
- **VBS at WEUMC** - West End United Methodist Church will be hosting Vacation Bible School this Sunday, July 28 through Thursday, August 1, from

6 pm to 8:15 pm each night. VBS is for children ages 3 through the 5th grade. The students will be studying "Athens - Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth." Registration at 5:30 pm. 673-1371 for information. West End United Methodist

Church, 4015 NC 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. *Will Kimbrough*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, [www.theroosterswife.org](http://www.theroosterswife.org) (910)-944-7502.

**MONDAY, JULY 29**

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** - 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** - *Kings of Summer*, starring: Nick Robinson & Gabriel Basso, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**TUESDAY, JULY 30**

- **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.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 31**

- **Moore County Library** - summer readers grades K-5 will discover why having the "Worms Crawl In" is a good thing. Join in at the Library, Carthage at 10:30 am or at Robbins Area Library at 3 pm. Moore County Library, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage. 910-947-5335.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** - 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** - 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** - Classic movie night: *Pretty Woman*, starring: Richard Gere & Julia Roberts, at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$5. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 1**

- **Bread of Life Ministry** - West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship, devotion, and a meal \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** - 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** - 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes

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- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *What Maisie Knew*, starring: Julianne Moore & Steve Coogan, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

- **Sunrise First Friday** – Summer concert presented by Theater. Musical Guest is Desert Noises. 5 pm - 8:30 pm. *Free Admission!* Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *What Maisie Knew*, starring: Julianne Moore & Steve Coogan, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *What Maisie Knew*, starring: Julianne Moore & Steve Coogan, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

ater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 5

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Chapel in the Pines Vacation Bible School** – held August 5 – August 9. The theme this year is "Everywhere Fun Fair." All Seven Lakes and West End area children who will be going into kindergarten through grade six in this year are invited to attend. Light supper will be served at 5:30 pm and Vacation Bible School will end at 7:45 each night. To register for VBS, please call the Chapel at 673-2156 during office hours, Monday – Friday 9 am until 1 pm. The last date for registration is August 1. Questions: contact Dora Lancaster at 673-0166 or dlancaster72@nc.rr.com.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *What Maisie Knew*, starring: Julianne Moore & Steve Coogan, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

- **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.

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Classic movie night: Amadeus*, starring: F. Murray Abraham. Tickets: \$5 Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

- **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.

- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.co
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise – Mud**, 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

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

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

- **Memorial Fishing Tour-**

**nament** – dedication in the park at 9:30 am. Fishing 10 am until 4 pm, held in honor the late Rick Rhyne. Tournament is on Lake McKenzie in Foxfire. Ages 3 to 16 years. Rods available or bring your own. Displays, prizes, and lunch for kids. Bait furnished. Contact The Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills, 910-692-0777.

- **Caribbean Beach Party at Seven Lakes Country Club** – Cocktails at 5:30 pm, buffet dinner at 6:30 pm, entertainment 7:30 pm to 10 pm. Call 673-1100 details and for reservations.



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## Rule change

(Continued from page 10)

than a set dollar amount, they say you are going to have this many positions based on the number of students in each grade."

For FY2012-13, Moore County was allotted 535 classroom teachers. The system has more teachers than that, but those are funded out of other buckets.

After deciding how many classroom teachers the district needs, the state calculates the average cost of a classroom teacher across the state. Last year, that number was \$57,000. That's not what teachers get paid, but is rather the total cost of a teacher, including salary, benefits, payroll taxes, and so on.

That \$57,000 is a statewide average. But not all districts are alike, Griffin explained. A district with a large number of senior teachers with advanced degrees might come in above the average — and have to make up the differ-

ence in its teacher costs with local funds.

A district with younger teachers might come in below the average. Moore County fits that description. So, if the state is allocating more per teacher than teachers actually cost the district, what happens to the extra money?

### Converting teachers to cash . . . to teachers

That's the heart of the matter, Griffin explained. "In the past . . . if you had 100 teachers at \$50,000, the extra \$7,000 could be converted to cash. We could use it pay for even more teachers" — teacher that normally would have been funded by county taxpayers.

In fact, the money saved from the teacher allocation could be used for anything: textbooks, classroom materials, library books, technology. MCS used it to pay for more teachers, saving money in its local fund.

"So, we could use one hundred percent of the money the state gave us for classroom teachers," Griffin said.

The state gave local districts that flexibility in FY 2009-10, right after the recession kicked in and school funding was cut dramatically — in Moore County's case, dropping from \$67 million to \$60 million in one year.

The extra flexibility was a way to help cushion the blow of budget cuts.

The state eliminated that flexibility in the FY 2012-13 budget year, and they did so at the very last moment, after budgets were already set.

"We received no advance notice," Griffin said. "Word came in the night the budget was approved. It was unex-

pected. We will have to deal with it and react to it. But we are one year behind being able to react to the change."

Because it came at the last minute, the only option was to make up the difference by pulling \$1.44 million out of the MCS fund balance.

## 2014 Seven Lakes Telephone Directory Update

The Seven Lakes Telephone Directory is updated each year by the Seven Lakes EMS to ensure the community has the latest contact information. Directory information is updated through the efforts of a dedicated group of community volunteers and net proceeds from the directory sales support the Seven Lakes EMS Squad.

To ensure the directory has the most accurate contact information, please check to make sure your information is correct.

If corrections are necessary, please submit them as follows by October 15:

- Drop by your Landowners Association

office and fill out an EMS Telephone Directory Change form:

- Drop by the Seven Lakes EMS station, on Seven Lakes Drive, and fill out a Directory Change form or:
- You can also E-mail your information to: [emsbook69@gmail.com](mailto:emsbook69@gmail.com). You will receive confirmation that the information was received.

The Seven Lakes EMS expect the 2014 directory to be available in December — just in time to provide the directory as an important Christmas gift for family and friends.

## What's Your Back-Up Plan?

Disaster can strike at any time, leaving you uncertain and confused; and, when it comes to filing a claim, "assumptions" have left thousands of people in the dark.

I see too often individuals who purchase a homeowner's policy "assuming" all policies are alike — and, if they suffer a loss, the claims adjuster just writes them a check. It's a little more complicated than that.

Have you actually read your insurance policy? Do you know what is covered, the special limitations, what is excluded, and ultimately, your responsibility in the event of a loss in order to collect?

You need to make sure that you have enough insurance to replace the things you own and the information necessary to have your claim settled faster, in addition to substantiating your losses for your tax return.

I want to share a website with you where you can sign up for free online software that makes creating and keeping a home inventory easy: [www.KnowYourStuff.org](http://www.KnowYourStuff.org)



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This is an eight-week program held on Mondays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The program includes an initial individual assessment, group therapy, classroom materials, follow-up assessment and a one-day workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 5. Space is limited.

Medicare and most major insurance companies cover group sessions. Our admissions personnel will verify your health insurance coverage and discuss rates and payment options with you. Payment is expected at the time of service unless other arrangements have been made.

To register, please call (910) 715-5217.

Elizabeth Manley, MSN, R.N., C.S., Clinical Coordinator

[www.firsthealth.org/behavioral](http://www.firsthealth.org/behavioral)

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## Second Saturdays at Poe House

Celebrate history, heritage and the arts at this summer's third and final 2nd Saturdays Arts Fest at the Museum of the Cape Fear on Saturday, August 10, from 11 am to 4 pm. A vari-

ety of artists and craftspeople will set up shop on the grounds of the 1897 Poe House to display and sell local handmade crafts and creations.

The event also features

music by local musicians and food. Admission to the event is free. Come prepared to shop.

Items for sale include handmade baskets, mesh wreaths, custom jewelry,

children's hair bows, hand painted novelty items, pottery, baked goods and more.

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**SOLD!**

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**BIG JWATERFRONT!**

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

101 PITTMAN RD • 7LW



WATERVIEW, 3 BD+LOFT \$349,900

270 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW



4 BD+BONUS+LOFT! – \$325,000

102 PINEDALE • 7LN



185' LAKE SEQUOIA WATERFRONT!

3BD+DEN, CAROLINA RM – \$315,000

119 ANDREWS DR • LAKE AUMAN



CUSTOM WATERFRONT, MINT CONDITION! \$899,000

459 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW



**AUMAN WATERFRONT**

WATER VIEW IN EVERY ROOM –\$515,000

115 BAKER • 7LW



**WATERFRONT!**

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112 ANCHOR PT • 7LW



2 MASTER SUITES & WATERVIEW – \$399,900

116 JAMES DR • 7LW



4 BD + MANY UPGRADES! • \$286,000

124 SHAW DRIVE • 7LW



**WATERVIEW!**

CLOSE TO MARINA! – \$245,000

135 E DEVONSHIRE • 7LW



**MUST SEE!**

3BD+2 BA, MANY UPGRADES – \$245,000

106 SIMMONS • 7LW



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

113 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW



4 BED + BONUS! –\$275,000

108 SMATHERS • 7LW



**MANY UPGRADES!**

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112 CLAY • 7LW



SPACIOUS WATERFRONT! –\$599,900

119 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW



3 BD + 2 BONUS RMS – \$240,000

138 WINSFORD CIRCLE • 7LS



3/2 GOLF & LAKEFRONT – \$199,000

101 HAMPTON CT • 7LS



3 BD + 2.5 BA BRICK – \$210,000

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## School Board

(Continued from page 10)

available in every elementary school.

### Strong fund balance important

Despite unexpected state rule changes that caused an unanticipated drawdown of MCS' fund balance in FY2012-2013, Griffin said the fund balance totals a healthy \$9.5 million.

The size of that fund balance has attracted scrutiny from the Moore County Board of Commissioners during budget negotiations, but Griffin defended the importance of a strong MCS fund balance.

"There are two primary purposes of a strong fund balance," he told Board of Education members. "It allows us to absorb funding reductions without immediate drastic cuts. And it provides the ability to implement new initiatives. We are still moving forward toward realizing our goals, despite funding reductions."

After Griffin's presentation, Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence praised his management of MCS finances. "

"One of our core beliefs is the strategic allocation of resources," Spence said. "We have to look at funding needs and priorities and make sure we are continuing to move this district forward. We have a great leadership team. . . . Because of Mike's conservative approach to the budget, we have been fortunate to be able to move forward despite budget challenges."

At Griffin's request the Board unanimously approved the final FY 2012-2013 budget.

### New hires

Dr. Spence introduced a to the Board a number of new MCS employees, and announced new positions for existing employees, including:

- Kim Bullard, former principal at Highfalls Elementary, who will become principal at West Pine Elementary.
- Shelia Gilliard, who previously served as a principal in Hoke County, who will

become principal at Southern Middle School.

- Michelle Bennett, moving from Scotland County to serve as assistant principal for West End and Carthage Elementary Schools.

- Diane Fey, moving from New Century Middle School to serve as Specialist for Social Studies and Advanced Studies.

- Melanie Hamblin, moving from the Department of Public Instruction to serve as MCS' Director for Instructional Design and Innovation.

### Other Business

In other business during its July 15 regular meeting, the Moore County Board of Education:

- Renamed Pinckney Academy "The Community Learning Center at Pinckney," reflecting its mission to serve students when they don't succeed in a traditional high school setting.

- Named the library at Southern Pines Primary "The Mary Scott Harrison Library," in honor of the school's recently retired principal, who served twenty-nine years as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. The Board had to first waive a standing policy that prohibits naming facilities for individuals.

- Approved a \$138,400 expansion of a parking lot at Pinecrest High School, with the goal of using funds from the state education lottery to cover that cost. Board Chairman Ed Denison explained that the construction on an auxiliary gym at the school will reduce the number of spaces available to students. The expansion is expected to help with that problem, as well as provide additional parking for after hours events at the school and a practice space for the marching band.

- Replaced a carpentry instructor position at North Moore High School with and Agriculture educator.
- Allocated \$10,000 in unused Board training funds to begin the construction of a picnic shelter and arboretum near the MCS Administration Building in honor of former superintendent Dr. Susan Purser. Board Member Enola Lineberger said the intent is to create an inviting space that MCS classes can use for field trips and functions.
- Was thanked by Becky Cameron of St. Andrews University for MCS participation in the university's student teacher programs.
- Heard from Lineberger that she, Associate Superintendent Kathy Kennedy, and West End Elementary Principal Leigh Ann McClendon had spoken to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club.

## HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

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# SLWA

(Continued from page 3)

Pierman reminded the board, "We are not talking about unknowns; dam repairs or other emergency situations. None of us can address that because nobody knows."

Approval of the necessary funding would occur during the annual budget process and be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

## Grad



**Michael Greco**  
Officer Candidate School  
Newport, Rhode Island

Michael Greco, son of Karyn and John Greco, of McLendon Hills, graduated from Officer Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island, on July 12.

Ensign Greco received the Honors Student Award for demonstration of the highest averages in academics, physical training, and military bearing within his class.

### Communication is Key

"Communications has been my focus over the last month," Secretary Brian Benjamin reported. "Since our last meeting, I have been working on ways that we can strive to put more people on our website."

Benjamin noted it would be a considerable unbudgeted expense to contact all residents by mail to encourage website use. The mailing would not only encourage them to use the website, but also provide a guide to logging on and navigating within the website.

It would be a worthwhile expense said Director Bruce Keyser. "My personal feeling is that it should get mailed out to everyone," Keyser noted. "We have people that are listed on the website that don't go there very often. Second, we have people that get on website, get logged in, and then accidentally log out and don't know how to log back in. I think we should go ahead and get that sent out to all the members as quickly as possible."

### President's Corner

Stevens encouraged residents to regularly check the

President's Corner on the SLWLA website.

"The website is a very effective form of communication," Stevens said. "I make frequent additions to it throughout the week and month. I will be editing on a continual basis, adding new and removing old information."

### Retrieving Records

The SLWLA archives are currently incomplete, and the Board asked that anyone who might have access to old minutes from the years 1991 to 1999 contact them. The minutes are being collected for the archives.

### Meeting with County

On Thursday, August 15 at 7:00 pm the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council will meet with the Board of Commissioners in the Great Room of the West Side Park Community Center. The meeting is a special meeting of the Commissioners and is open to the public.

### Johnson Point Closure

Community Manager Jeanette Mendenhall reported that Johnson Point beach will be closed July 29 and 30 for the addition of sand.

The boat ramp will not be closed, but boaters might experience delays as trucks and equipment are moved in and out.

Mendenhall reported that a boat was observed by the lake patrol speeding and cutting doughnuts in the no wake zone. "This is not allowed on the lake and it is dangerous to all of us," she said.

### Four Wheelers are not legal

Residents have reported four wheelers being operated on Westside roads. SLWLA is in the process of addressing the problem.

Mendenhall said it is not legal to operate a four wheeler on

public roads in North Carolina, and it is a violation of the Association's rules. The four wheeler offenders include residents, renters, and trespassers who come in through the woods, she added.

### Used Trailer Sale

Residents of unattended boat trailers have been given ample time and notice to claim their property. The SLWLA attorney advised that the trailers can now be declared abandoned and be offered for sale; as is, where is, and without any warranty of title. The Board voted unanimously during Tuesday's meeting to approve the sale of unattended trailers.

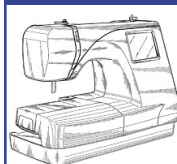
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# OPINION

## The end is near!

I do not think the end is around the corner, but I do think it may be in sight, up ahead.

I am referring to the road construction surrounding the widening of NC Highway 211, between downtown West End and the beloved traffic circle in Pinehurst. For anyone living in Seven Lakes who ever travels to "town," that road construction has been a thorn in our side for two years now.

It has been a fascinating construction to watch. They have had us switching lanes often, with new lane configurations sprouting up with regularity. I have grown to know the faces of the flag men. When the sun beats down on a hot day, I feel compassion for the workers.

I count how many large caterpillars and bulldozers I see, in honor of our grandson Xavier, who thinks caterpillars and bulldozers totally rock. I try to avoid those nasty curbs, which seem an inch or two higher than the road itself, because they upset my

engineers know more than me, or, at least, I sure hope they do.

Anyway, I see progress, steady progress, and I tell myself, soon a better, smoother and faster drive to "town," will be the case. I tell myself that even while I am

sitting waiting for the flagmen to tell us it is our turn to proceed.

Our family travels to Northern Michigan each year for vacation,

and up there, they say there are only two seasons: "winter" and "road construction" season.

When I see a sign saying something like "under construction," I always think it is a metaphor for our lives at large. I never have considered myself a "finished product." I remain perpetually "under construction." Or, to put it another way, "God ain't through with me yet." I take comfort in that.

I even have a construction project for my life, and honestly, it has been a work in

progress for many years. The acronym for it is the "LIP." The LIP stands for the "Larry Improvement Project." If you know me, perhaps you are frustrated with the slow pace of the "Larry Improvement Project," but, hey, even to widen 211 to four lanes over eight miles has taken more than two years.

The tentative date for the conclusion of the "LIP" has been pushed back to say, 2031, when, if I am blessed enough to still be kicking, I will be 80. By then I will be one wide, smooth road, I hope.

These construction projects need our patience, which is, truly, a fruit of the spirit, as the Apostle Paul reminds us in his letters. I see lots of things on cars these days. I see all kinds of things, bumper stickers advocating this and that, literally every cause under the sun. Some seem to express complete impatience with everyone else, as in, I am right about this, and you are wrong about this. I even see hate expressed in bumper stickers. Imagine going around all day long advertising the fact you are a hater.

The other day, I was behind a car, and I realized it had the fruits of the spirit literally etched into the rear bumper — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It didn't even say what they were, or where they came from, or send along a message something like "I got Jesus, and you don't." It just listed them. I wonder if anyone ever beeps at that car to get moving when the light turns green.

Patience is so absent these days.

Yet people need our patience. Our children need our patience. Our spouses need our patience. Our state transportation departments need our patience. Few things happen overnight, and sometimes the things that do happen overnight, don't happen very well.

Patience is truly a fruit of a good spirit.

Next time you are waiting for the flagman to say "go," remember that.

*Larry Lyon is pastor of the West End Presbyterian Church in the "West End Historic District."*



**From the  
Lyon's Den**  
Larry Lyon

## The 'Rev' will return

Rev. Don Welch is taking a few weeks off from writing his regular column for *The Times*. We expect he will be back on this page in mid-August or early-September.



**Ask the  
'Rev'**  
Rev. Don Welch

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## Board of Ed says Thanks!

*Thank You Moore County!*

Your Board of Education thanks our Moore County Community for supporting our public schools. Thanks to all the organizations, clubs, churches, businesses, municipalities, the media, and individuals who have given their time, talents, and resources for the benefit of our children.

A special thank you to all Moore County School employees for their passion, dedication, and commitment toward helping our students succeed.

Together, with your sup-

port, we look forward to another year of continued improvement in our journey of "Growing to Greatness."

*Ed Dennison  
Chairman  
Moore County Schools  
Board of Education*

## Home sweet home

*Dear Community,  
Thank You!*

A few lines to express our gratitude to our family, friends, and neighbors of Seven Lakes and Foxfire Village for their love, comfort and concern during my cancer treatments in 2012 and

my hip replacement in July.

Five years of living in Seven Lakes has shown us the generosity of the residents, and we are very proud to call this "home sweet home."

*God Bless you all,  
Ed and Sharon Sanchez  
Seven Lakes South*



# Ministering across five generations

I have been asked so many times: "So, why are there so many styles of worship?"

We live in a diverse world. Today, we have the potential to have five different generations in any of our services. Sometimes it is difficult to try to reach across the generations, because they view things very differently.

First we have Seniors, anyone born between 1900 and 1928. They have a different view on the world, as they usually did not travel frequently or move any distance from their childhood homes.

Seniors are loyal, with traditional value systems, many times staying with one employer for life. They probably never dealt with divorce until their children and grandchildren began to divorce. Their view of the future is uncertain, as they are nearing the end of their time. They often don't embrace technology, because they have never had to do so.

We have the Builders: the people who were born between 1929 and 1945.

These people usually have more conservative values and viewed their careers as a means to a living, not something that they necessarily loved to do. They want to stabilize the future, because they want to retire. Their view on technology is rather indifferent. They probably hope that they will outlive it, but they don't usually embrace it. They usually endure it.

Then we have the Boomers, who were born between 1946 and 1964. The Boomers are very different from the previous generations, because

they helped shape what America is today. They transformed America and their careers have been very central

can text, twitter, and facebook all at the same time, with the other hand in their pocket on their phone. They are ready to transform the

world, because they believe that they can. They are very optimistic of the future because they have

never experienced failure — and many received a trophy every time that they did anything, win, lose or draw.

So, you ask, "Why are churches doing multiple services with different music and programs?"

The answer lies in the fact that there are many interesting generations in our congregations, that all have a great deal to offer. We should embrace them in our

churches and get to know them.

Rather than being upset that they are different from you, invite them to lunch and find out why they think a certain way. We can learn a lot from each other.

*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

and focused in their life. Their value systems are self-based because they view authority as something that they will replace. They usually embrace technology, because they have mastered it. Their view of the future is that they will create it.

The next generation is the Busters. This is my generation, born between 1965 and 1983. The Busters enjoy technology because they grew up with it. The "Busters value system" was shaped by the television. The role of the Busters career is that it is an irritant, because they can do much of their work from wherever they are. Busters are interested only in how things relate to themselves, and many have a fatalistic view of the future.

The last group, one that we know little about, are the Millennials. They were born between 1984 and 2004. They are going to choose their own authority, and their life paradigm is "Life is a cafeteria." They are very global. They will shop around for a value system, which is usually a mixture of many different value systems. They have volatile schedules, because they employ technology for everything. They

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# Commissioners

(Continued from page 11)

## Revised Water Ordinances

The Board approved revised ordinances for Moore County Public Utilities and the East Moore Water District during Tuesday's meeting. Public Utilities Director Gould said the ordinances had not been updated in a number of years, and credited staffer Megan Owrey for managing the revision and the research that went into it.

Noting that the current Water Ordinance allows a fairly short window from the time bills are mailed to customers until a late fee is imposed, Chairman Picerno asked whether the new ordinance addresses that issue. Owrey explained that the new ordinance extended the window from fifteen to twenty-one days.

"I think that will alleviate a lot of the calls that we have," Picerno said.

In other Public Utilities business, the Commissioners:

- Accepted a \$1.3 million zero interest loan from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources to pay for the rehabilitation of a collapsed sewer interceptor near the Pinehurst traffic circle.
- Approved a \$136,000 contract for the purchase of flow monitoring equipment

for the County sewer system. Public Utilities Director Gould explained that some demonstration monitors had allowed staff to detect problems with pump timing. "You are confident you can save money down the road?" Picerno asked. "Yes," Gould replied.

- Awarded a \$136,000 contract to Lime-Chem for the purchase of lime slurry used to adjust Ph at the wastewater treatment plant.

## Long-term Lease Proposed at Airport

At the request of Moore County Airport Executive Director Steve Borden, the Commissioners called a public hearing for Tuesday, August 6 on a long-term lease of a 28,669 square foot parcel of land at the airport to Time Saver Aviation, LLC, a private jet charter company.

Time Saver plans to construct a 100 foot x 100 foot hangar on the property. Lease payments for the land would total \$7,167 annually and the company is seeking a twenty-year lease with a five year optional extension. At the end of the lease, the property and hangar would revert to County ownership.

NC General Statutes require a lease of greater than ten years to be treated

in the same way as a sale of property. In this case, the County is using an "upset bid" process, which will allow a competing offer to be put forward prior to the August 6 public hearing.

## Linden Lodge Seeks Support

Marianne Kernan, Executive Director of Linden Lodge, a home for men and women with a serious and persistent mental illness located in Aberdeen, asked the Board for support in four areas:

- Endorsing a letter to Governor McCrory opposing legislation that would require preauthorization of prescriptions for psychiatric drugs. Kernan said this adds a layer of bureaucracy between doctor and patient that will reduce patient compliance, which is critical for those dealing with mental illness.
- Offering support for an effort, still in the early stages, in which local Presbyterian churches may band together to create a safe place for those with serious mental illness to spend their day.
- Waiving solid waste disposal fees for material cleared from an area that Linden Lodge is transforming into a park that can be used by both Lodge res-

idents and members of the wider community.

- Waiving the customary \$50 fee that supporters of Linden Lodge and the Moore County Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness were charged when they recently staged a demonstration outside the Historic Courthouse.

"We will look at each of the four issues," Commissioners Chairman Nick Picerno assured Kernan." Linden Lodge is privately funded, and receives no financial support from the County.

## Virtual Computing

Information technology Director Darlene Yudell provided the Board with an update on the Virtual Computing Project, which allows

county employees to log into their accounts on the County network and access their business applications from any computer.

Virtual computing also allows the County to purchase "thin clients" instead of fully capable desktop personal computers. Yudell said the thin clients cost \$365 each, versus the typical \$900 cost of a PC. Chairman Picerno noted that the expected life of a thin client is ten years, versus three or four years for a PC.

The Virtual Computing Project began six months later than expected, Yudell said, but has been consistently on track and under budget since. Users in eleven County departments are cur-

(See "Commissioners," p. 25)



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## Commissioners

(Continued from page 24)

rently testing the system and, by year end, she said, "we will consider it normalized — it is a part of our normal operations."

Yudell requested, and the Board approved, an amendment to the contract of the consulting firm assisting in the rollout of the Virtual Computing project reflecting the delayed start of the project.

### Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday, July 17 meeting the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Heard from Interim Tax Administrator Johnnie Emondson that the Tax office had achieved a 99.6 percent collection rate for Fiscal Year 2012-13, which he said is likely among the highest collection rates in the state. It is the twenty-second year in a row that the tax office has collected more than 99 percent of taxes due.
- Heard a progress report from the Animal Operations Board.
- Honored retiring 911 communicator Charles Radcliffe for his seventeen years of service.
- Recognized EMS, fire, and public safety personnel and volunteers who participated in a Public Safety Leadership Institute coordinated

by Sandhills Community College.

- Called a public hearing for Tuesday, August 6 on the addition of four roads and the deletion of one from the County Road Naming and Addressing Ordinance.
- Tabled consideration of an agreement with the Town of Aberdeen and International Tray Pads and Packaging, Inc. that would award the company \$15,500 in support of an expansion that will create thirty-three new jobs. Aberdeen would provide an additional \$15,500, with both the County and Town contributions defraying the cost of connecting the company to the County's sewer system.
- Approved a contract with Sandhills Propane, Inc. for up to 53,200 gallons of propane at \$1.309 per gallon for the FY 2013-14 budget year.
- Approved an \$8,276 change order to a contract with Oral's Construction Company for the rehabilitation of a home near Carthage. Planner Tim Emmert said the discovery of mold and termite damage increased the cost of the project.
- Revised a project budget ordinance for single family housing rehabilitation program that will increase the

County's share of federal funds from \$160,000 to up to \$500,000.

- Accepted \$75,000 in federal funds for an urgent repair program that Emmert says is directed toward disabled, low-income homeowners, over the age of 62, and is used to install ramps, accessible showers, and similar accessibility enhancements.
- Amended a contract with cellular telephone companies that will have them cover the cost of installing cellular equipment on the two McLean Road elevated water tanks. County Attorney Misty Leland explained that the Village of Pinehurst has required a "stealth" design for the cellular equipment, increasing the cost by \$226,000. A related revised contract with Utility Services Company, Inc. was also approved.
- Appointed Chairman Picer-

no the voting delegate to the Annual Conference of the NC Association of County Commissioners.

- Reappointed Max Muse and Bob Hunt as ETJ representatives to the Carthage Planning Board.
- Reappointed Theron Bell and Clara Bernicken to the Library Board of Trustees.
- Tabled the appointment of a Commissioner to the

Department of Social Services Board.

Commissioner Randy Saunders was on vacation and did not attend Tuesday's meeting.

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## SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 2)

else," Darr said. "We have a requirement to provide the amenity of trail rides before jumping.

Purchasing two well-rounded horses that could be used for trail rides and jumping could meet the demand, Darr explained. The money earned from day camp enrollment fees could be used to pay for the purchase of additional horses.

### More time needed?

Director Chuck Leach suggested taking more time, in order to better gauge the need.

"I have supported all of the stable's requests," Leach said, "Prancing Horses, leasing, and jumping; but I cannot support the purchase of two more horses at this time. By all available data, July is the busiest month; and, by the time we vote on this, it will be end of July. We will have additional time to collect more data."

"We are very early in the new budget year, and we have already spent unbudgeted funds for maintenance, security, Lake Ramapo and dam repairs," Leach added. "At this time, can we support additional expenditures for horses?"

At least one resident had expressed concern about Board priorities.

"I received a phone call from a resident," Director Racine reported. "She was very vocal in the fact that we took so much time to spend extra money for security, and are now are considering spending \$6,000 for a couple of horses. If we continue to have this problem, then that is one thing — or if it is an anomaly for one or two months, then that's another. I don't know at this time."

A majority of the Board voted to move the question to the July 31 Open Meeting, with Leach and Racine voting in opposition.

### Tennis Courts in a Pickle

Pickle Ball is a new craze that has already established itself in resorts across the

South. Leach said he had a chance to play on a recent trip to Florida, and was hooked. The Recreation Committee has had numerous requests for several years to provide bocce facilities as well.

All three existing tennis courts are in deplorable condition and need to be resurfaced. The Board discussed ways to offer tennis, bocce ball, shuffle board, and pickle ball without extending the courts' original footprint.

Leach proposed resurfacing one tennis court. The other two courts would be converted to pickle ball and bocce ball courts with minimal structural work, necessary patching, reuse of the existing plastic surface, and long-term fade resistant paint. New fencing and modification of existing fencing would be required.

Leach referenced the Reserve Study, which calls for resurfacing of all the tennis and basketball courts, and replacing the fence.

"A survey was also done in January 2009 with several

hundred respondents from this community," Leach said. "The item that generated the most consistent comments was that the tennis courts are unplayable and something must be done."

The new recreational amenities would also make the community more desirable, Darr said: "The new courts would add to our curb appeal. It is already lit so that you can play into evening. On the bocce ball court there is room to have little tables with umbrellas for sitting and waiting their turn to play."

The Board agreed that the details would need to be researched and ironed out before proceeding.

### New Club House Fees Proposed

Currently, both the Game Room and the North Club House are available for use by residents. The board discussed the use of both buildings. They agreed that smaller groups should be encouraged to use the game room, with the expectation that they do

their own set up and clean up after themselves. There would be no fee to use the Game Room.

In the future, a fee would be required to rent the Club House. Non-Profits such as Kiwanis Bingo and the Red Cross Blood Drive would be allowed to continue and use the North Club House for free.

The board will bring the proposed fees to a vote at the July 31 Open Meeting.

### Slow Lane Surfing

The board discussed a new recreation opportunity, Sandhills Stand-up Paddle Board Class — a form of recreation that combines paddling and yoga on a floating board rather like a surfboard.

Lessons are already offered

through Pinehurst Resort and the Town of Southern Pines. Confirmation of the independent contractor's insurance and credentials must be completed before the classes can be approved.

Director Bob Darr agreed that, if everything checks out: "This is another fun recreation activity we can do in our community."

### Back in the Lake

SLLA will be hosting its second Open Water Swim event of the year September 6 – 8.

Director Conrad Meyer suggested giving the local swim team — the Sandhills Sharks — blanket approval for future scheduling.

"It would take a little bit

(See "SLLA," p. 27)



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## Schools

(Continued from front page)

June 13 Facilities Work Session suggest that voters could ultimately be asked to finance \$120 million to \$140 million in improvements. But those totals — and the bonds and associated referendums that fund them — could be spread across several phases.

The Board of Education last asked Moore County voters to approve education bonds in November of 2007, when a \$54 million bond issue was approved by seventy percent of those casting ballots. That \$54 million was designed to fund only the first phase of a three phase Master Facilities Plan.

MCS was able to accomplish Phase 1 of that plan for approximately \$42 million, and has been using the

remaining \$11 million to fund items from Phases 2 and 3 of that plan.

The remainder of the 2007 Plan will be tabled in favor of a new plan based on updated growth projections and new input from the community.

MCS Chief Financial Officer Mike Griffin told *The Times* that public input will influence the projects funded, the size of the bond request, and any phasing.

The ultimate decision about whether and when to schedule a school bond referendum rests with the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

### To build new or enlarge?

The starting point for a new Facilities Master Plan is a comprehensive study of

MCS facilities needs, prepared by Moseley Architects and delivered in May.

Looking one by one at individual schools throughout the system, assessing their condition and potential for student body growth, Moseley prepared cost estimates for scores of options.

Superintendent Aaron Spence told the Board during its June Work Session that MCS staff had winnowed those options, asking whether they were educationally sound, whether they met needs throughout the County, and whether they addressed issues of overcrowding and traffic backups.

That winnowing yielded two primary options for the North Moore and Union Pines High School attendance areas, and three options for the Pinecrest High School attendance area.

A key decision point in the North Moore area is whether the aging Elise Middle School should be taken out of service and Robbins Elementary School converted to serve grades K through 8.

In the Union Pines Area, the key question is how much capacity to add to Union Pines High School, with the

answer somewhat dependent on whether a new smaller high school is built in the Pinecrest attendance area.

### New large High School not in the cards

The current scenarios developed in the staff review do not envision adding another full-sized high school to the County system. Spence explained that high schools are much more expensive to build, adding that none of the County's three high schools are so significantly over capacity that anticipated growth can't be addressed onsite.

In addition, Spence noted, building a new high school creates a major disruption,

by requiring that district lines be redrawn.

"Our elementary infrastructure is old and needs some support," Spence said, noting that the average age of Moore County Schools is forty-five years, compared with the national average of twenty-five years.

Options for the County's southern tier include the construction of three new elementary schools or two elementary schools and a middle school. Which of those options prevails will depend on whether MCS moves from a grade 6-8 middle school to a grade 7-8 middle school in the Pinecrest attendance area.

All of the options presented

(See "Schools," p. 28)

## SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 26)

of leeway out of the process," Meyer said.

### Better Communication

The Board will vote at the Open Meeting on whether to purchase two illuminated outdoor kiosks that would be placed in front of the North

and South mailhouses. The purchase price for both would not exceed \$3,500.

"One of our biggest challenges is getting the word out to residents, Community Manager Ray Sohl said. "We need to make every effort we can to improve communication."

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## Lakes

(Continued from front page)

neering study found that one of the outlet pipes on Lake Ramapo dam had failed. The engineer reported to Sohl that the three drain pipes that are still working are not sufficient to lower the water level at the recommended rate.

The engineer recommended a thorough structural assessment of Ramapo; and a repair proposal would then be presented to the NC Dam Safety Office with a request that the dam be released from the state's jurisdiction for necessary repairs.

"The engineer would provide a cost option to repair the overflow systems or to redesign the overflow with a siphon installed for drainage,"

Sohl said.

The Dam Safety office of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources has jurisdiction over dams.

"Releasing the dam from the state's jurisdiction for repairs would be ideal," Sohl said. "The cost should be infinitely less to design it and repair it."

Sohl reminded the Board that, during the repair of Little Juniper Dam, "the state required an engineer at \$50 per hour to be on site."

### Cost versus need

The engineering assessment, proposal for repairs, and request for state clearance is estimated to cost \$17,152.

Board Members questioned whether the repair was even necessary at all.

Weighing the odds of continued heavy rainfall against the cost of repairing the pipe, Director Bob Darr said, "Every week to ten days, we are pumping to fill it [Ramapo Lake]. We haven't had this kind of problem before, because we haven't had this kind of rainfall. We are looking at thousands of dollars to do this — to correct a problem we have not had, in my estimation, in thirteen years. I don't understand spending this kind of money on a situation we can take of ourselves."

In order to more quickly release water from Ramapo, the pump used to add water

to the lake was reversed to pump water out of the lake.

"Water is running out of it right now and is bringing the lake back to level," Director Rich Faraci reported.

Until the recent rainfall the lake level in Ramapo has always held several inches or more below full pond, with water continuously being pumped into the lake.

Resident Chuck Stephenson said during the Monday work session, "I have been living here 16 years and that area has always been wet. It never dries up and it never stops leaking. That dam leaks all the time. That's why you have to pump water back up to it. It just leaks all the time."

Sohl agreed: "Earthen dams always leak. What you have to look for are seep areas down below. When leaks

develop, channels cut through and get larger over time. You have to watch what happens downstream. When seep areas start to grow you have to address them."

"Here is my question," President Steve Ritter said. "When the water level is at its normal level, is it below the level of that overflow pipe? If not, and you have the water seepage going, could that cause catastrophic failure?"

"The normal pool level sits right flush at the bottom of the pipe and flows along the bottom of that pipe," Sohl said.

The Board agreed that, with the water levels on Lake Ramapo subsiding, immediate action is not critical, but the collapsed pipe would have to be addressed in the future. Once the Board decides on

(See "Lakes," p. 29)

## Schools

(Continued from page 27)

by staff envision decommissioning the current Aberdeen Primary, Aberdeen Elementary, and Southern Pines Primary Schools.

At the High School level, the question is whether to enlarge Pinecrest from its current 1600 capacity to 2300 or instead to build a new smaller high school with a capacity of 500 while enlarging Pinecrest to accommodate 2000 students.

Among the ideas discussed for the smaller high school include creating a "freshman

academy" or creating a career-oriented magnet school that could perhaps be linked to Sandhills Community College.

### Time to talk to the public

Members of the Board authorized Spence and his staff to develop a presentation based on the options they had developed and use that in a series of public meetings to gather input that could be used in developing a Master Facilities Plan. Public input sessions are planned for September and October.

Board Chair Ed Dennison cautioned the press and those viewing the June 13 Work Session online that all the options and dollar figures discussed as very preliminary.

"These are really, really rough figures," Dennison said. "They're just options to consider. The community will have a lot of involvement in our decision making."

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## Lakes

(Continued from page 28)

a course of action, they will have the engineer contact the state.

### Lakewide no wake zone proves unpopular

A less easy fix is deciding the lake level that should trigger a no-wake rule over the entire lake. Lake Echo is currently more than five inches over full pond. Wake action caused by speed boats is putting some lakefront residents' bulkheads and docks at risk.

Enforcing a no wake policy during the prime Summer boating season has proven unpopular with several residents.

"There have been a lot of issues lately, especially concerning the lakes and rain," Director Faraci reported. "We need to take another look at the approved four-and-one-half-inch level: it's not working." The Board had previously agreed that 4.5 inches above full pond could trigger the no-wake rule.

Some residents have expressed their concern that the full lakes could cause structural harm to the dam.

"The lakes are six inches over full," said Ritter. "The extra amount of water in the lakes gets turned up by speed boats and can cause issues to bulkheads due to wake action. To me, it is normal wear and tear. The biggest issue: what is it doing to that dam? Have we gone to our engineering firm and asked the question to them: What

are we doing to our dams, if the lake is six inches high and we allow waves from speed boats?"

After much deliberation and input from the audience during Monday's work session, the Board decided to refer the question to an engineer.

### No Threat to the Dams

During Tuesday night's special meeting, Manager Sohl reported that the engineer had assured him that, as long as water was not breaching the dam, then no structural damage was being caused to the dam.

However, several lakefront residents had reported that the high wake levels were causing damage to low-lying bulkheads and docks, prompting a Board discussion on the appropriate level to trigger the no wake rule.

Ritter asked Director Conrad Meyer, who lives on the lake, his opinion of an appropriate level.

"In my opinion the three-inch level is too low a number, and it could be more like five or six," Meyer replied. "It is difficult to know where to draw the line. I would draw it there personally, but it is based only on my opinion."

"There are several types of bulkheads, and they were built at different times," Ritter said. "It is the same for docks. Some are high and some are low. Since we know that the high wake level is not damaging the dam, we should kick it back to Dams and

Lake Committee to review. I am finding myself agreeing with what you [Conrad Meyer] just said."

"I grew up on the Northern New Jersey Shore," Director Chuck Leach said. "We had a dock where ice came up on it in the winter and damaged it. We were responsible for it. Where is the responsibility for people that live on lakefront property?"

"I don't believe it is fair to restrict their fair use of lake if it is not damaging the dam," Director Bill Hirsch said. "I find myself having less sympathy to people that didn't build theirs high enough. We might want to have rules give a recommended height."

Meyer agreed; "There some logic in that. If someone is building on a lot today he should take a look at what height his bulkhead should be. Knowing what I know now, I would put it as high as I can."

Regardless of the decision, it will be impossible to please

everyone, Faraci said.

"You can kick that back to the Lakes and Dams Committee, but it will not stop all the complaints," he warned.

"It's imperative for us to look at as many things from different directions that we can and come to a fair compromise," Ritter said, forwarding the matter to the Lakes & Dams Committee.

### Drainage along Seven Lakes Drive

Rain has also been responsible for flooding problems

along Seven Lakes Drive. "When we met with the County," Ritter said, "they indicated that there were some issues caused by berms and split rail fences along the highways."

Sohl suggested the matter should be discussed in closed session due to referencing specific residences.

There has also been considerable flooding near the North Gate exit lane. Ritter said the flooding could be resolved by redirecting water. "It is an easy fix."

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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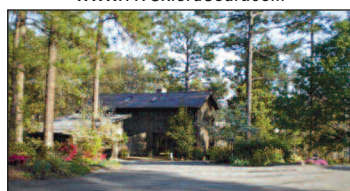
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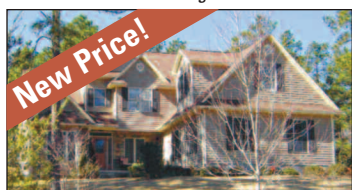
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