

Edgewood Terrace water wins approval

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Residents on Edgewood Terrace and Stanley Street in West End will soon have the option of tapping onto the Moore County Water system.

The Board of Commissioners approved a construction contract for the \$82,545 water line extension during their Tuesday, August 20 regular meeting.

The winning bid went to a Moore County company, Atkinson Infrastructure, Inc. in a unanimous vote of the

Board. Bids ranged from Atkinson's \$82,545 low bid to a high bid of nearly \$150,000.

The project was initially expected to cost \$75,568, with a ten percent contingency on \$7,558. The winning bid falls within that total allocation.

The County applied for and won a \$41,563 grant from the NC Rural Economic Development Center to help fund the project.

Public Works Director Randy Gould told the Commissioners that the County Attorney's Office has already (See "Commissioners," p. 27)

Board of Ed knocks state schools budget

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Moore County Board of Education is not happy with the 2013-2015 budget recently approved by the North Carolina General Assembly.

During their Monday, August 12 meeting, School Board members unanimously approved a "Resolution Opposing The Treatment of North Carolina Children and

Professional Educators in the 2013-2015 State Education Budget."

The resolution charges that the state budget "reduces funding for teachers, instructional support and teacher assistants, textbooks, and instructional supplies." By dropping North Carolina to forty-sixth among the fifty states in teacher pay, and eliminating salary supplements for teachers with mas-

(See "Schools," p. 28)

Giddy-up, Sox!



Henry Koltik takes Sox for a spin at the Seven Lakes Stables.

Board debates stables growth

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Once upon a time, at the Seven Lakes Stables there was jumping, classes, camps, and trail rides. The stable was full of frisky horses, and kids were hanging on the fences waiting their turn.

"Back when I was twelve, and we moved here from Charlotte, there were jumping lessons, trail rides, schooling shows, and, at one point, a herd of seventeen horses," Northsider Samantha Baker said at the August 12 Work Session of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board. "The kids were getting off the buses and going

straight to the stables. It is a shadow of our former self."

Three generations of Bakers have ridden at the stables, beginning with Samantha's mother Audrey Baker.

"We moved here just for the horses," Audrey Baker told *The Times*. "We looked all over the county, and Seven Lakes met all our needs. The stables were a big advertising pull. It pulled people in here and put Seven Lakes on the map, because it was the only horse place around."

"I ran the stables after we moved here for a while in the early 80s," Baker said. "We had horse shows bringing in people from all over the state, an active 4-H group, after-school programs,

lessons, jumping, and schooling shows," Baker remembered. "We use to have community picnics at the stables. We had seventeen horses at one time. The herd size would vary due to age. When a horse would age out, we would always replace it."

A Stables Revival?

Over the last year, there has been renewed community interest in riding and lessons, with much of the enthusiasm spurred on by new Stables Manager Kate Pennington. And the increased number of rides is not just repeat customers.

"In July, we had over 200 different people ride," Pennington said. (See "Stables," p. 24)

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Volunteers needed for Biz Guild Concert

by Cheryl Darwell, Secretary
Seven Lakes Business Guild

The Seven Lakes Business Guild met in August at Seven Lakes Country Club to plan one of the biggest events of their year – the McKenzies Mill Concert to be held on Friday, August 30, from 6 pm to 10 pm. The warm up band will be Swain, starting at 6 pm, with McKenzies Mill performing at 7 pm.

This free concert will take place at Village Central, on Grant Street, next to Lake House Bar & Grill.

The Business Guild is in need of volunteers from the community to help with various tasks for what will be no doubt a fantastic turnout.

McKenzies Mill is a nationally recognized band from West End, who now live in Nashville with a huge following of fans. They were 2012 winners of Bud Light's National Battle of the Bands, and have performed and won awards around the country.

The Guild has received generous donations from: BVH Construction, Carolina Car Care, Cruise Planners, Ed Hill of Edward Jones, Barry Blasko of Farm Bureau, First Bank of Seven Lakes, Karen Simmons Designs, Lake House Bar & Grill, Seven Lakes Country Club, Seven

Lakes Family Dentistry, Quality Care Pharmacy & Whelan Realty.

Thanks also goes out to Greg Hankins of *The Seven Lakes Times*, for creating and publishing the beautiful ads and posters and to Harris Printing for printing them for distribution around town.

This is a great opportunity to assist the Guild and attend a great concert and have a lot of fun helping them out!

Please contact Cheryl Dar-

well at 910-673-7245, to volunteer or contact the SevenLakesBusinessGuild@gmail.com or CDarwell@Cruise-Planners.com

Sandy Berger at WSL

The Women of Seven Lakes will have their first meeting of the 2013 - 2014 year on Thursday, September 5, at 2:00 pm, in The Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall.

Sandy Berger, Computer Technology Expert will be the speaker. Bring your

smart phone or iPad and explore your options. Refreshments and social time following the program.

Call Pat Weber if you have any questions, 673-1457. See you there. The Chapel in the Pines is located at 581 Seven Lakes Drive.

Cooking naturally at SCC

A presentation by natural food chef Kathy O'Donnell, Founder of Real Foods in Fast Times is planned for Friday, September 6 from 10:30 until noon at the Ball Visitors Center—Sandhills Horticultural Gardens.

This will be a hands-on event. Come prepared to taste raw and cooked vegetables from the horticultural gardens and from local farmers markets.

Learn the benefits and differences between the two and end with a sweet treat of rosemary olive oil cake.

Bring a bottle of mild white wine (Sauvignon Blanc is good) and learn to make an herbal wine you can enjoy at home. Cost for Sandhills Horticultural Society members is \$15 and cost for non-members is \$20. To register, call Tricia Mabe at 910- 695-3882.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
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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— Shannon Stites, 7 Lakes West

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Board addresses decaying tennis courts

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



The deterioration of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] tennis courts has made it and amenity unavailable for use by most residents. The 2010 Reserve Study judged the courts to be in fair to poor condition.

During the SLLA Board's Monday, August 12 Work Session, Maintenance Director Chuck Leach presented a three-prong approach to address the problem: resurfacing of the three tennis courts; installing new fencing and painting light poles; and adapting two courts for bocce ball, shuffle board, and pickle ball.

"The tennis and basketball courts are in disrepair," Leach said. "It is important to understand that they have been for some time. We are looking at another landowner asset that been ignored over the years. The most recent study said that currently they have zero years of useful life remaining. If we do not act — and allow weather to widen the existing cracks — they will need to be completely replaced."

The Maintenance Committee's report identified needs

project components, options to be considered, and the project cost.

Phasing the Work

The Recreation Committee's surface of choice is a premium product that would come with a 25-year guarantee. With an estimated price tag of more than \$100,000, however, the new surface and other modifications and repairs could prove cost prohibitive.

"This is a big item, and that is why I am not making a formal recommendation," Leach said. "The Recreation Committee is suggesting a possible path to go forward over the next two to three years."

The To-Do List

The work that would need to be done to rehabilitate the courts includes:

- Sand blast and paint four tennis court light poles, four basketball court poles, and sixty tennis court poles.
- Remove and dispose of existing fence.
- Install 552 feet of green chain link fence.
- Resurface one tennis court with acrylic patch material and install a premier court surface with a 25-year war-

ranty.

- Resurface two pickle ball courts; install two bocce ball and one shuffle board courts on acrylic surface.
- Remove two tennis nets.

Leach did not have prices to address repairs at the basketball court.

Weighing all Options

The Recreation Committee discussed other options, including removing the tennis courts and eliminating that amenity. That would leave tennis players the option of purchasing a Seven Lakes Country Club membership to use the Club's clay courts. They explored other court materials, including cement, blacktop, and clay.

"The last option was to cover the entire area with the present tiles and kick the can down the road and let the next Board worry about the problem," Leach said.

After much deliberation, the Recreation Committee preferred the more expensive surface.

How Popular is Tennis?

"Do we have any idea how many people utilize the tennis courts," Director Rich Faraci asked. "Does anybody play tennis?"

Some players are going to the West Side to play, Leach replied. Others use the current courts, but find the conditions a deterrent.

Board members then weighed in with other options. Recreation Director Bob Darr had researched the existing plastic tile surface.

"The guy that I talked to said, if you have problems with that particular court, that it is under warranty," Darr said. "If we prove violation of warranty as it relates to appearance, then they will replace it at no charge. If we

could address the appearance and get it to looking good, then we could move forward with bocce ball."

However, the current tiles have been unpopular since installation. The new surface would meet all tennis federation specifications for courts.

"If the people want it, then let's move it forward," Leach said.

Good Enough is Just Not Good Enough

"Do they want a Cadillac or will they settle for a Pontiac?" (See "Courts," p. 29)



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A great day for the kids at Foxfire Village's



by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

In 2002, Foxfire Village Police Chief Rick Rhyne started a fishing tournament for kids.

Every one of the fourteen who attended won a prize.

One child asked him why.

"You came out, you participated, and you are coming back next year," Rhyne replied. "You are a winner."

The tournament has grown each year and is now a favorite event of Moore Coun-

ty youth.

Rhyne retired from his Foxfire post in 2006, but he didn't stay retired. Instead, he signed on as a County Deputy Sheriff.

"He wanted to work until

(Continued on page 5)



Boys and Girls Club kids and staff relax in the shade.

99 degrees and still smiling – Boys and Girls Club Member Mianne Elisibith Goforth cools down with some cold water.

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Rick Rhyne Memorial Fishing Tournament

(Continued from page 4)

he was sixty," Wanda Rhyne said. "He told me: 'Where else can I work, have a ball, and the schedule that I want to have.' I couldn't argue; he loved it. He was doing what he loved the most. He always

said if he could help one young person, then he was happy."

In December 2011, Rick Rhyne was killed in the line of duty. Wanda Rhyne has turned her grief into action, continuing to volunteer with

the Sandhills Boys & Girls Club, and continuing Rick's beloved fishing tournament.

She's assisted by the Foxfire Village Police Department, by Boys & Girls Club Director Caroline Eddy, and by local businesses, residents, clubs,

and civic organizations contributing time, funding, and prizes.

The 2013 Tournament was held on Saturday, August 10. In the Rhyne tradition, every child received his or her choice of a cane pole or rod and reel. Talbert's Catering provided free hotdogs, fruit, snacks, and drinks for each child. The NC Wildlife Resource Commission brought out a traveling aquar-

ium and "Sensory Safari," a interactive natural science museum.

Most visible among the volunteers were members of local law enforcement agencies, baiting hooks, untangling lines, and taking their turn in the dunking booth.

After Rhyne's death, Lieutenant James Furr was given the honor of being Wanda's escort.

(See "Rhyne," p. 11)



Best friends N. Jones and Jadin Baptist hanging out.




Anna Marie Dalton caught eight fish, winning the three year old age division.



Ruby Rhyne (center) swings with her first cousins Regan & Delaney Zieverink.

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GOP Women's Luncheon

The Moore Republican Women's Monday, September 9 luncheon speaker will be Representative Susan Martin.

A rising star in the North Carolina House of Repre-

sentatives, Rep. Susan Martin brings extensive experience in the private sector to her job serving the people of Wilson and Pitt counties in District 8.

Representative Martin

earned an MBA from the University of Richmond and worked for twelve years at IBM with clients as large as Philip Morris.

Registration begins at 11:30 am with Luncheon at

noon, held at Pinehurst Members Club. For reservations, email or call Joan Ward, at paward@embarq-mail.com or 295-6544. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, September 4.

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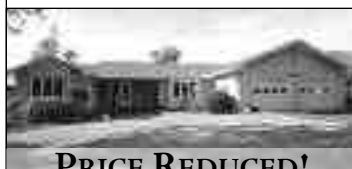
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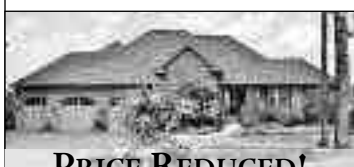
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Planning Board endorses new Land Use Plan

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The public was not in attendance at an August 8 public hearing held by the

Moore County Planning Board on the newly finalized Moore County Land Use Plan.

The twenty-seven-member Land Use Plan Steering Committee spent eighteen months studying the issues and drafting the document, under the leadership of Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter. There were nineteen voting members and six ex officio members.

They studied the 1999 Land Use Plan, which is still in effect; mapped out their vision of future growth in the County; heard from experts across a wide range of relevant fields, from wildlife biologists to municipal officials; and haggled over goals, recommendations, and action steps in a series of lengthy public meetings.

The final document, drafted by members of the Planning Staff, won approval in a sixteen-to-one vote conducted via email.

The next stop was the Planning Board's August 8 public hearing. Despite advance publicity, the meeting attracted only one member of the Land Use Plan Steering Committee — Harry Huberth — and one member of the public.

Huberth praised the staff "for the hundreds and hundreds of hours they put into it. It was a quality piece of work."

The four Planning Board members present then voted unanimously to recommend approval of the plan by the Board of Commissioners.

First of its kind

I believe this is the first of its kind in Moore County," Chairman Hayter said. "There is not a document like this in the breadth of the information it provides the public and the depth of information

that was used to craft it." He gave credit to the expertise of the planning staff and the advances in technology — particularly advances in geographic information technology that allows for the mapping of data.

The document is, in fact, far lengthier than the plan it is supposed to replace, principally because it includes a data-rich profile of the County's economics, demographics, infrastructure, school system, history, and cultural heritage.

That profile provides a rich context for the plan's goals and recommendations.

The Goals

The Steering Committee developed five goals for the development of land use pol-

icy in the County:

1. Preserve and Protect the Ambiance and Heritage of the County of Moore (inclusive of areas around municipalities)
2. Enhance the Union of the Built and Natural Environments to Improve Citizen Health through the Use of Open Space and Recreational Opportunities
3. Optimize the Uses of Land within the County of Moore
4. Provide Information and Seek Citizen Participation
5. Accommodate a Variety of Housing Types

Those goals are explained more fully within the body of the document, and then both recommendations and actions are spun out of them.

For example, Goal number 2 yields, among its recom-

mendations: "Provide both passive and active recreational opportunities for County residents by protecting natural resources that have recreational, environmental, or aesthetic value."

One of the actions suggested is to "Encourage the location of recreational facilities close to residential areas and transportation nodes to increase public awareness and accessibility to these facilities."

The Board of Commissioners will take up the draft plan at a Critical Issues Summit scheduled for Thursday, September 19, where they will also consider the draft Unified Development Ordinance.

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Dr. Mantila is board certified in Family Medicine and speaks English and Vietnamese. She takes pride in being a family doctor and having the privilege of providing health care to the entire family. Dr. Mantila, her husband and their three children make their home in Seven Lakes.

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SEVEN LAKES

Town Creek Indian Mound preserves a

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

The sun-bleached lodge poles stand tall against stark noon sky. The native blue and green stem grasses hum with insects. The sun glints off a skink's indigo and teal striped tail.

Unseasonable heavy rains have turned August lush, almost tropical. If there ever were a place where a resourceful person could survive in nature with ease, it would be on this bluff overlooking the Little River, which cuts through the heart of Montgomery County.

The fragrant essence of burning cedar hangs heavy on the humid air. In the shade of the oaks, David Alexi, a staff member at Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site, makes a dugout canoe from scratch. It takes a patient man to hollow out

a log with burning coals and a shell scraper.

Ten thousand years ago, this flood plain hosted biodiversity and resources that made it an oasis to nomadic Native Americans during the Archaic Period. Following the seasons, they dined on wild native foods: paw paws, acorns, sunfish, perch, shad, venison, chestnuts, walnuts, muscadines, squirrel, rabbit, cattail pollen, blueberries, bison, blackberries, and chinquapins.

The fertile Little River flood plain provided the perfect agrarian testing ground for the introduction of farming toward the end of the Woodland Period. Technology was soon to follow, as the first crude farm tools were manufactured.

Preschooler Bryson Darren Allen wears his dirt well. In the interpretive center, he

forms a ball of clay into a small bowl. With the help of Mason Williamson, site interpreter, he paddles a design around the perimeter. Allen says matter of fact, "It's cool. It's a lot like the mud in my backyard. But it's dried up right now. When it rains it will fill up again."

During The Mississippian Period, Native Americans became accomplished farmers, supplementing their diet

with beans, melons, pumpkins, sunflowers, and squash. The additional food source meant less time hunting and foraging. They could devote more time to religion and art, developing designated ceremonial areas, enclosing them in stockades.

The sun-baked clay stockade wall at Town Creek reveals thousands of handprints, fingerprints, and nail gouges that memorialize

countless hours of hard labor to recreate the Ceremonial Site. Inside one of the communal structures, Rianna Cress, age 9, and friend Lilliya happily plop handfuls of wet clay onto the walls and smear and pat it smooth. "It is so much fun getting to live history," laughs Cress.

The occasion that afforded them the opportunity was a special "Play in the Clay"

(See "Town Creek," p. 11)



Bryson Darren Allen holds a clay pot he made at Town Creek Indian Mound.

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In memory of . . .

Willie Ellis Martin, 91, of Eastwood, died Monday, August 12, at FirstHealth Hospice House.

He was born in Moore County son to the late Mattie and Lee O. Martin.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers Oscar, Fred, Clyde; and his sisters, Mary, Minnie, Blennie and Evelyn.

Mr. Martin attended school in Pinehurst, where he played basketball and drove school bus #39.

He joined the US Navy in 1942 and served on the USS Card Aircraft Carrier, CVE II as an airplane mechanic and sailed on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He was honorably discharged returned to Eastwood where he married. He was employed for 40 years until his retirement in 1989 with J.P. Stevens-Gulistan Carpet Company.

He is survived by his children, Patricia M. Bennett and Stephen W. Martin; and his grandson, Shawn C. Bennett.

Funeral services were held Thursday, August 15 at Culdee Presbyterian Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Dorothy Mae Freeman Pritchard, 86, of Eagle Springs, died Thursday, August 8.

She had worked as a Dietician with the State of North Carolina.

Funeral services were held Sunday, August 11, at Eagle Springs Baptist Church, burial followed at Eagle Springs Cemetery.

She was preceded in death by her parents John B. and Cora Britt Freeman, sister Mary Alice Howell, brother Wilburn Freeman and her granddaughter Kaci Pritchard.

Survivors include her sons, Lawrence of Eagle Springs, Bruce of West End, and Gary Pritchard of Biscoe; her brothers Pat Freeman and Allison Freeman both of Biscoe; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions be made to the: Kaci Pritchard Culinary, Baking and Pastry Arts Memorial Scholarship, c/o Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Irene L. DiRienzo, 86, of Seven Lakes, died on Wednesday, August 7.

A celebration of life was held Saturday, August 10 at Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church, Biscoe.

She was married in 1947 to Francis DiRienzo. They recently celebrated 66 years of marriage in July.

The family lived in Madison, WI where she worked for Eagle Foods until her retirement. After retirement, she and Francis relocated to Florida. In 1994, they moved to Seven Lakes.

Mrs. DiRienzo enjoyed painting, drawing, bingo, playing cards, mahjong and canasta, and participating in her bible study group.

Survivors include her husband Francis; sons, Paul, Mike and Mark; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to: First Health Hospice & Palliative Care, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374 or Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church, 298 Farmers Market

Road, Biscoe, NC 27209.

Joe Doster, of Seven Lakes, died quietly Wednesday, August 7, just three days after celebrating his 85th birthday.

Memorial services were held Saturday, August 10 at Pinehurst United Methodist Church, Pinehurst. Memorial donations may be made to the church.

Mr. Doster grew up in Spindale, in Rutherford County, where he developed a love of writing, fishing, and gardening. Moving to Charlotte after high school, he met and married his wife Ann. He served his country in Korea then attended UNC where he studied Journalism.

A newspaper man to his core, he became a political reporter, later becoming the Managing Editor and eventually the Publisher and President of the Winston-Salem Journal. During his journalism career Mr. Doster served in a number of journalism

and civic organizations.

He was a past president of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism, Mass Communication Foundation and the N.C. Press Association. He won several reporting awards from the N.C. Press Association, and the Journal won the first Duke University Award for Distinguished Reporting on Higher Education. He was a member of the board and president of the NC First Amendment Foundation and in 1993 he was inducted into the NC Journalism Hall of Fame.

Mr. Doster was a founding member of Pinehurst United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife Ann, his sons Mike, Tony, and Eric; their wives Maril, Nancy and Terri; his grandsons Joe, Ben and David; granddaughter Sara; and great-granddaughter Everett Indigo.

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Soup and Packaged Dinner Calendar for September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 CLOSED Happy Labor Day!	3 Lentil Soup ♥ Chicken Parmesan Dinner	4 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Two Bean Enchiladas Dinner ♥	5 Chicken Brunswick Soup Bourbon Salmon Dinner ♥	6 Shrimp & Corn Chowder Southwest Pork Dinner
9 Chicken Dumpling Soup Baked Spaghetti Dinner	10 Goldie's Chili Chicken Artichokes Dinner ♥	11 Potato Leek Soup Eggplant Parmesan Dinner	12 Italian Wedding Soup Tilapia Scampi Style Dinner ♥	13 Manhattan Clam Chowder ♥ Beef Burgundy Dinner
16 Tomato Basil Soup Salisbury Steak Dinner	17 Creamy Chicken Alphabet Soup Broccoli Manicotti Dinner ♥	18 Corn Chowder Soup Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	19 Summer Vegetable Soup ♥ Crab Cakes Dinner ♥	20 Tuscan White Bean Soup ♥ Walnut Pork with Cranberry Merlot
23 Curried Chicken Soup Turkey Meatloaf Dinner ♥	24 Split Pea with Ham Soup Baked Ziti Dinner	25 Mushroom Bisque Pot Roast Dinner	26 Beef Barley Soup ♥ Pecan Crusted Tilapia Dinner	27 New England Clam Chowder Swiss Steak Dinner
30 Chicken & Stars Soup Shepherd's Pie Dinner	<h2>We're Open Mondays!</h2>			
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West End Pres offers after-school program

West End Presbyterian Church is registering children for its highly popular after-school program on Wednesday afternoons throughout the school year.

The program is called W.O.W., an acronym for West End Presbyterian on Wednesdays. It is an after-school program that provides children an opportunity to grow spiritually and to nurture

their faith in God through fellowship with one another, community service and musical expressions of faith.

W.O.W. allows youngsters to experience the love that surrounds the congregation of West End Presbyterian through occasional participation in worship services, and helps them find their own place within God's community of faith.

The program runs from 2:45 pm to 5 pm on Wednesday afternoons beginning in September. It offers play, snacks, games, arts and crafts, and music all centered on the Bible story of the week. The group also takes field trips, plans service projects and presents a Christmas musical each year that usually attracts more than 200 people.

Children attending West End Elementary School have the advantage, too, of being picked up after school by the church van and transported to the church. The program welcomes children from all schools.

To register your child or for more information, please call the church office at 673-4341.

West End Presbyterian

Church is affiliated with the PC (USA). The church is located on Knox Lane, one block west of Highway 211 in West End. The church puts a special emphasis on offering programming for children and youth of all ages

Town Creek

(Continued from page 8)

Saturday at the Historical Site.

Around 1,000 AD the Native Americans known as "Mound Builders" built their earthen monuments above the horizon. The Pee Dee Culture grew into a complex society, refining utensils into art, creating art for art's sake, honing tools, nurturing their children, and delving into the origins of life. Their society would thrive for more than 400 years.

For the first time, the Mounds provided a long distance view of the Piedmont. But the Native Americans were unaware that beyond

that horizon, ships carrying Europeans had already landed. The systematic destruction of the North Carolina Piedmont Tribes — the Keyauwee, Occaneechi, Sissipahaw, Shakori, Eno, Tutelo, Saponi, and Sara people — was at hand.

The mounds are what is left.

"It is a one of kind place. There are precious few sites like it," Site Manager Rich Thompson says. "It is the only state historic site that

deals with American Indian history. It is a full scale model of what you could see if you had a time machine."

In the shade standing above the shimmering river, a refreshing breeze rustles the leaves. Down below, two children waded in the brisk water. Across the open field, an older couple makes their way up the side of the mound. At the top, a young woman stands, staring intently out toward the horizon, squinting into the glaring

sun.

Looking to the future, she would be wise to remember that an entire civilization arose here — and vanished here, leaving behind but a remnant of their own rich culture.

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Rhyne

(Continued from page 5)

"I can't thank him enough," she said. "He has escorted me to so many different functions and events that I have attended in Rick's honor."

A flash of hot pink, blue eyes, and gold hair races by. Wanda smiles. "That's Ruby. She was the apple of her granddaddy's eye. For Rick the sun rose and set in Ruby."

There is no time for tears, and Wanda gets busy. The buses and children are gone, but there is still work to be done: cleaning, packing up, and beginning to plan the 2014 Rick Rhyne Fishing Tournament.



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Hamilton is new owner at Goldie's Gourmet

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

After nearly nine years of serving up hearty soups and delicious dinners, Goldie Toon is hanging up her apron.

But fans of Goldie's food need not despair, because Seven Lakes North resident Marie Hamilton is taking over the kitchen and Goldie's treasure trove of recipes.

"When we announced that we planned to sell the business, we had no idea the perfect person was right here in Seven Lakes," Toon said.

Hamilton came on board August 1, working alongside the Toons to learn the recipes and get up to speed on the daily operation of the kitchen.

Not that she's any stranger to the kitchen. Hamilton was

raised in a Bay Ridge, Brooklyn household by a mother from Sicily and a father from Naples. She recently ran a successful business creating gourmet chocolate candies and was studying Baking and Pastry Arts at Sandhills Community College when she learned that Goldie's Gourmet was for sale.

Hamilton told *The Times* she plans no big changes, though Goldie's Gourmet fans might see a few Italian specialties gradually added to the menu.

"I'm really excited about continuing what Goldie started," Hamilton said.

Toon and her husband Alan opened the West End location of Goldie's Gourmet in 2005. Prior to that, Goldie's Gour-

met operated as a private chef service.

"I never expected that someone would want to continue what I have started," Toon told *The Times*. I feel I have found my Italian sister, and

I couldn't be happier. Marie will have our complete support until she's ready to kick us out!"

"We hope all our customers will embrace this change and give Marie the support you

gave us nearly ten years ago."

Goldie's Gourmet is located at 5050 NC Highway 211 in West End and is open Monday – Friday 11:00 am - 6:30 pm. The phone number is 910-673-2211.



Marie Hamilton with Goldie and Alan Toon of Goldie's Gourmet

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They have two sons, Steven Dunning and Edward Dunning; five grandsons: Ben-

jamin, Matthew, Jacob, Samuel and Thomas.

On July 10, 2013 they hosted their family on a Disney Cruise to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

The Dunning's are residents of Seven Lakes West.



Linda & Ron Dunning on their wedding day

West End Student is Phillips Ambassador

Landon Sherwood, a junior business administration major from West End, was selected as a UNC-Chapel Hill Phillips Ambassador this Spring.

Sherwood studied abroad this Summer in Hong Kong through UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School's international internship program. He graduated from Pinecrest High School in 2011 and is the son of David and Lisa Sherwood of West End.

The Phillips Ambassadors

activities, service and leadership roles in the classroom and community.



Landon Sherwood

scholarship program is designed to broaden awareness of Asia on and off campus.

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Seven Lakes hosts County Commissioners

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



From billboards to sewers, fracking to zoning, water to taxes, Moore County department heads worked their way through a raft of questions

posed by the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council [GSLCC] during a Thursday, August 15 meeting with the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

As GSLCC President Jack Stevens explained at the opening of the meeting, the group brings together the

Presidents of the landowners associations serving Seven Lakes West, Seven Lakes North and South, and McLen-don Hills, as well as the President of the Seven Lakes Business Guild. The purpose is "to identify concerns that are common to our communities and present them in a unified manner," Stevens said.

You'll find several articles across the next few pages that report on individual topics covered in the joint session, including: water and sewer, zoning and billboards, tax revaluation, fire insurance districts, and fracking for shale gas.

Saunders: Get involved

Commissioner Randy Saunders closed out the evening's discussion by urging citizens to become more involved in County decision making.

Noting that the crowd of more than one hundred in the Great Hall of the Community Center dwarfed the crowd at a typical Commissioners' meeting, Saunders said: "All of the issues that we talked about tonight, other than revaluation, we have discussed at our meetings for months."

"This kind of input, unfortunately, is usually needed then, at those regular meetings," Saunders said.

"Come to those meetings. Come be a part of the decision, before it is made. Because, once the gavel drops, the decision is made."

He noted that the Commissioners would soon be taking up the Unified Development Ordinance and the new Land Use Plan.

The Board will discuss both during a day-long Critical Issues Summit on September 19 and may hold a public hearing on the documents in October. All Commissioners meetings are open to the public.

Water: From Harnett County to Seven Lakes

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Though steady Summer rains have erased any concerns about drought this year, ensuring an adequate supply of water is always a top concern in Seven Lakes, which is served by Moore County Public Utilities.

So, it was no surprise that the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council [GSLCC] had some questions about water — and about sewer — when they met with the Moore County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, August 15.

Public Works Director Randy Gould reviewed a \$12 million project that will bring water to Seven Lakes from Harnett County's treatment plant on the Cape Fear River.

Currently, almost all of Seven Lakes' water comes from wells in Pinehurst, traveling in a water main that parallels NC Highway 211.

That system can provide about one million gallons per day, Gould said, and the community's 6,365 residents require a maximum daily supply of 881,000 gallons. By 2030, the County expects 9,125 residents in Seven Lakes, and a maximum day demand for 1.22 million gallons of water.

The County currently purchases up to two million gallons per day [MGPD] from Harnett County at a cost of \$2.40 per thousand gallons. A new initiative approved by the Commissioners will buy into an expansion of Harnett's water treatment plant at an upfront cost of \$5.25 million, providing up to 3.0

(See "Harnett," p. 20)



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Billboards, fracking, and zoning

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Expressing concern that dilapidated buildings in West End will not put the best face on the Seven Lakes area when thousands of visitors arrive to attend the 2014 US Open Golf Tournaments, the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council [GSLCC] asked Moore County Board of Commissioners to "insist, through inspections, that West End businesses on 211, comply."

The Council also expressed concern about a perceived proliferation of billboards on NC Highway 211 and asked whether Village Business zoning could be stiffened by including architectural standards.

Compliance in West End

Taking up the question of compliance in West End, Planning Director Debra Ensminger asked, during the Thursday, August 15 meeting of the Council and Commissioners, "Comply to what?" The County's zoning ordinance does not include architectural standards for West End — or for the Seven Lakes Business District.

Residents in attendance mentioned the old Stanley Furniture plant and the West End Theater as buildings in need of upgrade or demolition.

Ensminger explained that the County does have the power to condemn buildings, and it does not have money budgeted to pay for demolitions. While a lien could be placed on the property to cover that cost, Ensminger expressed doubt that the money would ever be collected.

Stiffer Standards in Village Business

Ensminger explained that it would be possible to add architectural and appearance standards to the Village Business zoning district, which covers the Seven Lakes business area.

The impetus to do that

"needs to come from that community," Ensminger said. "It would need to be started by property owners in the Business Village." She noted that, like all County zoning matters, any refinement of Village Business zoning would move through the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners, with ample opportunity for input from all members of the public.

Later in the meeting, Commissioner Randy Saunders, who served for a number of years on the Village council of Whispering Pines, noted that "especially when it comes to zoning . . . some of your concerns could be handled as a municipality. It's just something to think about."

Billboards & signs

Despite the perception that new billboards are blooming along NC Highway 211, Ensminger provided a pictorial inventory of the 25 billboards that actually line the route from the Montgomery County line to Pinewild.

She explained that all of those billboards were erected before Moore County was zoned, and so are "grandfathered" as existing non-conforming uses. Eight of the

25 had to be relocated due to the widening of NC Highway 211, she noted.

Under current County ordinances, Ensminger explained, new billboards are allowed only in the Industrial zoning district. And the only property currently zoned "Industrial" is the site of the Perdue chicken feed plant at the Montgomery County line. So, under current zoning, the portions of Moore County under County control are unlikely to see new billboards.

Ensminger noted that the Planning Board and planning staff are currently working through a revision of the County's sign ordinance, and offered to present the work done so far to individuals or groups at the Planning Department offices in Carthage.

The revised sign ordinance will be on the agenda of upcoming Planning Board meetings and is expected to reach the Board of Commissioners in early 2014.

Fracking

The Greater Seven Lakes Community Council asked the Commissioners to explain their position on the hydraulic

(See "Fracking," p. 21)



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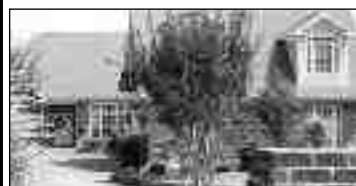
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Unfinished Song*, starring: Terence Stamp & Vanessa Redgrave. Tickets: \$7. Grumpy pensioner Arthur honors his recently deceased wife's passion for performing by joining the unconventional local choir to which she used to belong, a process that helps him build bridges with his estranged son, James. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

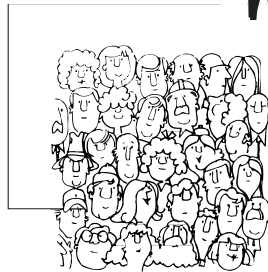
- **Nature's Treasurer Trail Adventure** – 9 am to 12 noon. Ball Visitors Center of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens at Sandhills Community College. All ages welcome, but geared to ages 5 to 12. FREE Upon arrival receive a treasure map and begin your adventure visiting 8 areas of discovery. Refreshments served. Tricia Mabe to register at 910-695-3882.
- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes, 910-673-4656.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *Unfinished Song*, starring: Terence Stamp & Vanessa Redgrave. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **Malcolm Blue Farm** – 2 pm to 4 pm, History of Ice Program & Ice Cream Social. Malcolm Blue Farm, 1177 Bethesda Road, Aberdeen. 910-944-7558 or 910-603-2739.
- **Piedmont Bridal Show** – 1 to 4 pm. Wedding expo will feature caterers, florists, photographers, bridal stores, cake makers and other area professionals to assist in planning weddings and other special events. Prizes. Admission is free.

Brides pre-register at www.piedmontbridalshow.com Expo at Cole Auditorium, Richmond Community College, 1042 W. Hamlet Ave, Hamlet. 910-331-9965.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 & 7:30 pm, *Unfinished*



What's When Calendar

Song,
star-

ring: Terence Stamp & Vanessa Redgrave. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Bug Bonanza** – 3 pm, Weymouth Woods has an awesome collection of insects, and they're bringing them out today! Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, 910 692-2167 weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – meet-

ing 7 pm, at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. "Past Reflec-

tions of Owl & Hawk banding in the Great Valley of Pennsylvania." Bob Ganis will chronicle efforts to locate and band raptors in Lebanon and Dauphin counties, Pennsylvania, including Long-Eared, Short-Eared, & Barn Owls along with Red-shouldered, Broad-Winged, and American Rough-legged Hawks and Kestrels. Visitors welcome! Call 910-692-2167 or visit online at www.sandhillsnature.org

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Unfinished Song*,

starring: Terence Stamp & Vanessa Redgrave. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

- **Freedom for All Exhibit** – 150th anniversary of the 1863 signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, a traveling exhibit of illustrated, informational panels that outline the struggle for freedom by the enslaved people in North Carolina and the nation. Exhibit on display at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex August 27 – Sep-

tember 21, 2013. For information about the exhibit, David Reid 910-486-1330, or email david.reid@ncdcr.gov. Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, corner of Bradford and Arsenal Avenues, Fayetteville, open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm.

- **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. All are welcome.

- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

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

- **"Science and Religion: Is It Either/Or Both/And?"** – 7 to 8:30 pm. Neil Shenvi, Ph.D., a research scientist specializing in theoretical chemistry at Duke University is the guest speaker. Christ Community Church series addressing the topic, "Culture Confronts Christianity." 220 Campground Road, just off of Highway 15/501, 910.215.8099

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- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship, devotion and a meal provided at \$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.com

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

- **McKenzie's Mill Concert** – 6:00 pm with warm up band *Swain*. At 7:15 pm *McKenzie's Mill* will perform. The band is here from Nashville for this special concert especially for Seven Lakes. Held at Lakes House Bar and Grill, Grant Street.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes, 910-673-4656.
- **Photography of Lewis Hine: Exposing Child Labor in North Carolina** – exhibit will be on view from August 31, 2013

through January 5, 2014, Admission is free. Forty of his images appear in *The Photography of Lewis Hine: Exposing Child Labor in North Carolina, 1908-1918*, 910-486-1330. Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, corner of Bradford and Arsenal avenues, Fayetteville. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.
- **"Bats of the Sandhills"** – 3 pm, Learn more about these delightful creatures and their huge benefit to our environment. Join a ranger in the Auditorium for this presentation. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines, (910) 692-2167 weymouth.woods@ncdenr.gov

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- **Labor Day**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- **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. Reverend Carol Burgess.

- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- **First Day of Rosh Hashanah**
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – at 2 pm, in The Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall. Sandy Berger, Computer Technology Expert will be the speaker. Bring your smart phone or iPad and explore your options. Refreshments and social following the program. Call Pat Weber for questions,

673-1457. See you there. The Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.

- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- **Presentation by natural food chef Kathy O'Donnell** – 10:30 am to 12 noon at the Ball Visitors Center, Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens. Taste raw and cooked vegetables. End the meal with a sweet treat of rosemary olive oil cake. Bring a bottle of mild white wine (Sauvignon Blanc) and learn to make an herbal wine. Horticultural Society members \$15, non-members \$20. Call Tricia Mabe- 695-3882.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, in the Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes, 910-673-4656.
- **Pinewild Garden & Home Tour** – 10 am to 4 pm, featuring nine unique Pinewild Golf and Country Club \$15 in advance at: Weymouth Center, The Country Bookshop, The Given Memorial Library, The Faded Rose and The Given Book Shop. Same day tickets are \$20, available in front of the Pinewild clubhouse. Directions available at both Linden and 211 gates. Clubhouse open for lunch to ticket holders, volunteers. lindengardenclub.com Proceeds benefit Weymouth.

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Commissioners in 7 Lakes: Property revaluation coming in 2015

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County property is due for a revaluation for tax purposes on January 1, 2015. The Greater Seven Lakes Community Council asked how foreclosures impact that process.

Basically, they don't, Appraisal Division Leader Gary Briggs explained during the August 15 joint meeting of the Council and the Commissioners.

Briggs explained that foreclosure sales are typically not good examples of an arm's length transaction, but

often involve financial incentives or accommodations that impact the price. Briggs said he had pulled data on seventy Seven Lakes property sales and found only nine that appeared to be foreclosures. "I tend to think the trend toward foreclosure sales has slowed down," he added.

Briggs explained that NC law requires that properties be valued for tax purposes at one hundred percent of their market value. In order to arrive at that value, the Appraisal Division has already begun collecting data on "every component involved in the pricing of property," Briggs said.

"There are dramatic differ-

ences in land prices from one end of the County to another," Briggs said. So, the appraisal staff divides the County into more than 600 neighborhoods. He noted that there would be several neighborhoods identified within Seven Lakes West, for example.

"Once we get the neighborhoods established," Briggs said, "we look at the improvements: whether it is a single family home, what type of siding, whether it is stick built." Additional considerations include whether a home is on the lake or golf course, or is simply on an interior lot.

What's the impact on taxes?

Ultimately, questions about revaluation often boil down to the simple question: "How much more will I pay in taxes?"

Chairman Nick Picerno provided some background on how the Board of Commissioners is likely to answer that question.

In FY 2008, before the last revaluation, Picerno said, Moore County taxpayers were contributing about \$38 million to the County's coffers. After the revaluation, the tax rate was dropped by one cent per hundred dollars of value. But County receipts increased to roughly \$48 million. Currently, County taxpayers contribute about \$54 million.

Over the last five years, Picerno said, as a result of the recession, sales tax revenues flowing to Moore County have decreased from \$18 million per year to \$13 million per year.

In addition, in 2008, voters approved a \$69.5 million School Bond, incurring debt that has to be repaid from tax revenues.

"The bottom line is this," Picerno said. "In the next revaluation, the County right now is pretty much balanced. In other words, the revenue we have is being spent fairly wisely. I think this fairly conservative Board would say that. The only unknown we have is the public schools."

"I can pretty much assure you," he continued "in the next revaluation, given no shock from the public schools, your taxes are going to stay pretty neutral to where they are right now."

The Moore County Board of Education has begun work on a strategic facilities plan, and is expected to ask voters to approve a new bond issue on Election Day 2014.

Changing fire insurance districts

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



It fell to Moore County Fire Marshal Ken Skipper, during the Thursday, August 15 meeting of the Board of Commissioner and Great Seven Lakes Community Council, to explain what may have been the most confusing topic of the evening: a change in County fire insurance districts that did not include a change in response districts or fire tax districts.

Skipper said Moore County Public Safety noticed in 2011 that some insurance companies were placing homes

in the wrong insurance districts when writing homeowners policies — for example, assuming that homes in McLendon Hills were covered by Seven Lakes Volunteer Fire and Rescue instead of by Eagle Springs.

When Public Safety notified the companies of the error, some residents saw their rates increase — and that produced complaints to both Public Safety and the Board of Commissioners.

The County's response was to commission a comprehensive study of the fire and EMS systems that may ultimately result in changes to the fire tax districts and the and fire and EMS response

districts. But that process requires coordinated planning among the County's eighteen fire, EMS, and rescue agencies.

NC General Statutes allow the Board of Commissioners, within limits, to shift fire insurance district lines so that they are not exactly the same as response district or tax district lines.

In order to provide relief from high homeowners insurance rates to some landowners, the Board recently voted

(See "Fire District," p. 21)

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Cochran takes the reins at Autumn Care

Autumn Care of Biscoe, Montgomery County's premier skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, announced the appointment of Jeffrey Cochran as Administrator. Mr. Cochran earned

a bachelor's degree in health-care administration from Appalachian State University and is licensed in North Carolina as a Nursing Home Administrator.

"I am excited to become a

part of such a devoted and passionate staff at Autumn Care of Biscoe," stated Jeffrey Cochran, Administrator. "As a newcomer to Montgomery and Moore counties and living in Seven Lakes, I look



Jeffrey Cochran

forward to becoming a part of the community."

Autumn Care of Biscoe is located in Montgomery County within a 25 mile radius of three major hospital systems, allowing residents to have a choice. This allows residents to have physicians they choose and trust. The facility provides many skilled services, including physical, occupational, and speech therapy, on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

For more information, call 910-428-2117.

Harnett water

(Continued from page 14)

MGPD at an ongoing cost of \$1.92 per thousand gallons.

Booster pump upgrades, a new water main on NC Highway 73, and a new water tank near West End will bring Harnett County water to Seven Lakes. In addition, the County plans to drill three new wells near Foxfire that will increase the supply of water to Pinehurst.

The County hopes to fund the entire \$12 million project with a zero percent interest loan from the State's revolving loan fund. Project designs, engineering reports, and environmental analyses are being assembled to meet a September 30 loan application deadline, Gould said. If all goes according to plan, the project would be completed by December 2016.

County water system customers will pay for the new water source with an increase in their water rates. Gould conservatively estimates a monthly increase of \$5.79 per customer, though that

estimate is based on a four percent interest rate.

Commissioner Larry Caddell said the increase will be smaller if the County obtains zero percent financing. Large residential developers seeking connection to the County water system must defray the County's cost of providing water, Caddell added, and those contributions could also lessen the cost to water system customers.

"This is the most affordable way to fix the water problem," Caddell said.

Developers may be the key to sewer for Seven Lakes

The GSLCC had asked about the potential for sewer service in Seven Lakes, noting that the expansion of the local business community is hampered by reliance on septic.

Gould offered little encouragement that Seven Lakes would be connected to the County's wastewater treatment facility in Addor — on the extreme other end of the

County.

He explained that the closest sewer line to Seven Lakes is a four-inch line that serves the West Pine schools, "but that's not big enough to handle Seven Lakes."

"There was a time when you could get grants to sewer communities," Gould said. "But those times are past."

The more likely option, Gould said, is if the developer of the Dormie Club (on NC Highway 73 near Beulah Hill Church Road) and the proposed Pine Forest subdivision builds the private wastewater treatment plant they have proposed to serve those developments.

Any such plant would be built to the County's specifications, Gould explained, and might, at some point, be taken over by the County. That would allow the formation of a sanitary district that could include Seven Lakes.

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Fire insurance districts

(Continued from page 18)

to change some lines. Skipper said the changes are projected to save homeowners as much as \$300,000 in insurance premiums.

Tax Districts remain the same — for now

One McLendon Hills resident noted that his recently received County tax bill still places him in the Eagle Springs district. Skipper explained that the tax district lines have not changed, because changing them would have shifted substantial tax revenues from the Eagle Springs to the Seven Lakes fire department.

Another resident said insurance companies are unwilling to recognize the change in insurance district lines unless it is reflected in a national database. Skipper said Moore

County GIS had created special maps to assist insurance companies. He estimated that roughly seventy percent of insurance companies have accepted the new lines, though there are holdouts.

"What we tried to fix first was simply insurance lines," Chairman Nick Picerno added. "The rest of it, we went through the study, and we're still looking at the actual tax district lines."

"The last thing the Board of Commissioners wants to do is to ruin what we have in our County," Picerno continued. "We have tons of volunteers that give their time, to go out in the middle of the night, to help people. And we do not want to hurt that morale by changing rates and so on."

"So, yes, the inequality still exists as far as how some

people are charged, as far as their tax rates. And yes, we don't think that's right, and it doesn't make good common sense. But that's the way it was. And sometimes these things take time to fix them, and you want to fix them properly, correctly, one time, without destroying what you've built up over the years."

What about EMS coverage?

Former Seven Lakes West Board members Jane Sessler and Ron Shepard both raised the issue of EMS response districts, which became a hot button issue last year when the County changed its EMS procedures such that Seven Lakes EMS was no longer being called to medical emergencies in the areas of Seven Lakes West that fall within West End Fire & Rescue's district.

After protests from Westsiders, Public Safety implemented a "dual-call" system, alerting both EMS squads

when a call comes in from anywhere in Seven Lakes West.

Shepard sought assurances that the dual-call protocol is still in place.

"That is correct," Skipper said. "it is not the most efficient way, but that is correct. In my opinion, we are wasting resources."

New Alzheimer's Group

A new support group to help those faced with a diagnosis of mild to moderate stage Alzheimer's disease is now convening to offer education and resources for coping. The group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 2 to 3 pm at The Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

Discussion is led by the Chapel's Rev. Fran Stark and Amy Natt, a certified geriatric care manager. They work as the group's leaders to help promote learning and sharing among those facing similar challenges.

The group also participates in a monthly social. The social is held the first Wednesday of the month during the normal support group meeting, all community members coping with mild to moderate cognitive decline and their family members are invited to socialize and enjoy the company of other active adults.

There is no charge for participation in the support group, and all information shared within the group is confidential. For more information about this support group, contact Rev. Fran Stark at 910-673-5493.

Fracking

(Continued from page 15)

fracturing method of drilling for natural gas, commonly known as "fracking."

Chairman Picerno explained that the Commissioners had passed a resolution on June 5 of last year asking the General Assembly to give local government some say in regulating fracking. The state legislators declined to do so.

"We have no authority when it comes to fracking," Picerno said.

Responding to a resident

who appeared to have a fairly firm anti-fracking perspective, Picerno encouraged citizens to "learn the facts. Don't just listen to the rhetoric."

"I hate to tell you this," Picerno continued, veering into a broader commentary on the American political landscape. "Our country unfortunately is divided. There's two agendas. It's almost like we don't have America anymore. We have this group, and this group. And we're not being led very well by the one at the top."

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I have a concern. The older I get, the older I sound.

Abe Lincoln immortalized the word “score” when he wrote “Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” Without that single opening sentence from the Gettysburg Address, I think nobody today would know what “score” meant in this context.

How old am I? Let me put it this way: “Three score and two years ago, my mother brought forth on this continent, a new son, conceived in.....”

If you can’t do the math, I am happy. Consider me young. If you can do the math, oh well. You know the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Regardless of what the truth is, I think I sound older. I keep fighting the temptation

to remind everybody “the way things used to be.” Does anybody really care the “way things used to be?” It is probably all revisionist history anyway. The way things actually used to be is ever elusive.



From the Lyon's Den

Larry Lyon

And yet here I go again. I am going to tell you that “back in the day” (that phrase alone tells you, oh oh, old dude getting ready to say something . . .), sidewalks were a way of life.

I miss them.

When we lost our sidewalks, we dropped a bit in our relationship with one another. That is not good. Relationship is at the very

heart of life.

I grew up in a neighborhood with sidewalks. Sidewalks were right in front of everybody’s houses. People used them. Older adults used them. Mothers and fathers used them. Children used them, all the time.

Dogs absolutely loved them.

Bicycles preferred them.

Sidewalks generated conversation. Sidewalks generated genuine eye contact, for heaven’s sakes. Sidewalks generated a sense of neighborliness, a sense of neighborhood, a sense of hey, we are all in this together.

Besides that, a young boy could work earnestly at avoiding stepping on the cracks, for everybody knew if you did, your mother’s back would be broken. Seriously,

don’t ask me how, but that was a gospel belief among all of us boys. I never did see a Mom with a broken back, come to think of it, obviously because none of us sons were stepping on the cracks.

Fast forward to the 21st Century, when I can instantly get a reaction from a celebrity across the country via Twitter, but I strain to remember my neighbor’s name.

A few years ago, they floated the idea of a walking path or trail in my Seven Lakes neighborhood. It was shot down quickly, with all the speed of somebody on Longleaf Drive who thinks she will be late to work. “Don’t you dare put a piece of concrete in the front of my house,” the thinking was, because, hey, that is where I grow my weeds, and they are my weeds, and nobody else’s weeds.

I begged to differ, but I didn’t say it very loud. The

weeds in front of my house remain. The few walkers and runners who go by in the course of a day all “pass by on the other side,” true to the spirit of the Parable of the Good Samaritan. I don’t know their names, and I probably never will.

As usual, lots of people will disagree with me on this. They have never experienced the value of a narrow strip of asphalt beside a street. Or, if they have, they don’t want to pay for putting one down. Most things seem to be about preserving pocketbooks these days. In 2013, pocketbooks always seem to win out over relationships.

I wish it was not so.

See? I sound old. Put me out to pasture, but preferably, one with sidewalks.

Larry Lyon is pastor of West End Presbyterian Church in West End, where sidewalks, too, are very hard to find.

Planning Board could use some diversity

The Moore County Planning Board could use a dose of diversity. And the Moore County Board of Commissioners made a great first step in that direction on Tuesday night.

If you look at the recently completed Moore County Land Use Plan, which awaits approval by the Board of Commissioners, you’ll find that men make up 47.8 percent of the County’s popu-

lation.

Until Tuesday night’s appointment of Julia Latham, men made up 88.9 percent of the nine member Planning Board — in other words, the Planning Board included eight men and one woman.

With Latham’s appointment, we now have a Board that’s only 77.8 percent male.

But it wasn’t the Planning Board that got me thinking about this; it was the Steering Committee that created the new Land Use Plan.

Our reporter Stacy Naughton covered most of the meetings of that body; I

came in at the very tail end of the process, attending only the very last meeting of the group.

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



Though I had seen the roster of members a number of times, it took being present in the room for me to realize that there were only two women among the nineteen voting members of the committee. That’s 89.5 percent male, 10.5 percent female.

If you add in the half-dozen ex officio members, you gain

two more women and improve the ratio to 84 percent male and 16 percent female.

Women make up 52.2 percent of the residents of Moore County. But, when it comes to land use planning, they have, at best, a token representation on decision making bodies.

The Land Use Plan Steering Committee included one person of color. One person in twenty-five amounts to four percent. Thirteen percent of Moore County’s population is African American and six percent is Hispanic.

If those groups had been proportionately represented, the Steering Committee would have included at least three African Americans and one or two Latinos.

(See “Diversity,” p. 23)

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Photo exhibit: Exposing Child Labor in NC

In the early 1900s, most child workers in North Carolina textile mills labored 10 to 12 hours, six days a week. They toiled in hot, humid, lint-filled air that triggered respiratory diseases. They endured the deafening roar of textile machinery. They

risked serious injury from dangerous, exposed gears and belts.

They forfeited a childhood.

In 1908, the National Child Labor Committee hired photographer Lewis Hine to document the horrendous working conditions of young

workers across the United States. That same year, he began visiting North Carolina's textile mills, where about a quarter of all workers were under age 16. Some were as young as 6.

Forty of his images appear in The Photography of Lewis

Hine: Exposing Child Labor in North Carolina, 1908-1918, an exhibit at the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex in Fayetteville. Peering from across a century, many of the children look much older than their actual years. Hine captured the harsh realities of their mill village lives in Cabarrus, Gaston, Lincoln, Rowan and other Tar Heel counties. His

compelling photographs range from girls running warping machines in Gastonia to boys covered in lint after long hours as doffers and sweepers in a Hickory mill. The exhibit will be on view from August 31, 2013 through January 5, 2014, and admission is free.

Diversity

(Continued from page 22)

The Planning Board, meanwhile, includes no African Americans and no Latinos.

As an over-50 white guy, it's been my experience that women and people of color often see the world from a point of view that is different from my own. Bringing those points of view to bear on land planning issues will add richness to the conversation and, I believe, result in better, more creative decisions.

But, is that fair? Should the Commissioners be trying to foster diversity or create a sort of demographic balance on the Planning Board?

It seems to me that question has already been answered, because the Commissioners already try to create a geographic balance, making sure that Planning Board members are drawn from all parts of the County.

In making their Planning Board appointments Tuesday night, the Board selected Aaron McNeill over another recommended applicant explicitly to make sure Northwest Moore was represented.

It's a short step from there to fostering other sorts of balance and diversity.

I'm not advocating some sort of quota system for Planning Board appointments. But I am encouraging the Commissioners to notice when they've filled up the room with white males over the age of fifty — and to think about whether that's the best they can do.

And I'm also praising their efforts on Tuesday night to take an important step diversifying the Planning Board.

The responsibility for fos-

tering diversity, however, extends beyond the Commissioners. Before making their recent appointments, the Board had seven applicants from which to choose. Only one was female.

So, we not only need more women and more people of color appointed to the Plan-

ning Board — we need more folks of all types to call up the Clerk or download the application and throw their hat into the ring.

Then, perhaps, over time, we can assemble a Moore County Planning Board that looks a lot more like Moore County.

Singers Wanted!

The West End Presbyterian Church adult choir program will resume their rehearsals on Wednesday, August 28, under the direction of Jennifer Danis. All new voices are always welcome. Rehearsals begin at 6:30 pm each Wednesday.

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Stables

(Continued from front page)

nington told *The Times*.

Pennington and two part-time employees have expanded on the Summer camp program and lessons and welcomed Prancing Horse — a therapeutic riding center for special needs children.

The Board of Directors is currently debating a proposal by Pennington and Recreation Director Bob Darr to increase the size of the herd.

Increased activity at the stables has increased the physical demand on the horses. One horse was recently treated for a cold brought on by exhaustion. At the July SLLA Open Meeting, Darr made the motion to purchase two new horses for the stables.

During the meeting, residents questioned the accuracy of the reported increase number of rides in 2013. The public's input carried weight among the Directors, and the motion died for lack of a second.

During the August Work Session Board member Chuck Leach said that lack of a second broke protocol — and was bad manners, to boot. Even though he strongly opposed adding two new horses, Leach felt Darr had been treated poorly by fellow

board members.

"At our last Work Session, one board member expressed a desire to purchase horses for the stables, and it was moved forward to the Open Meeting. At the Open Meeting, there was no second for his motion forthcoming. This placed a fellow member in an awkward and embarrassing situation. He is personal and friend of mine, and he should not have been placed in this situation, and I publicly apologize to him," Leach concluded.

Darr thanked him and made the case that the Board's decision needs to be based on facts, not passing perceptions.

Darr: The numbers are good

"I made an assumption about a month ago that the numerical data would lead you all to support the purchase of two additional horses," Darr said. "In all due respect, gentlemen, none of you know what is going on at the stables. Have you been inside? Or is all you know of it what you see when you pass by on Seven Lakes Drive?"

"Two years ago, I asked a lot of questions," Darr continued. "Why do we even have stables? It's expensive; all

we have are a bunch of horses standing around out there."

"In July and June of 2012 the previous stable manager's records show 423 trail rides," he said. "In June and July of this year, we have documented 1550 rides. The records support the numbers."

"I have been there every day for the last two months. I have ridden, observed, and studied to the point that I am confident these numbers are accurate and honest."

"We sit around and listen to the other committees," Darr said. "We defer to the committee member with the knowledge and expertise to move forward, because we do not have that background. Every case that goes around this table is open to the community. We allow for community input to determine where we are going and what we are doing."

"We have the Recreation Committee that brought forward documentation that recommends that the herd size needs to increase for the programs we are doing. I believe this group should give them the same deferential consideration that we do any other committee."

Darr cited a letter from

Nancy Paulson that appeared in the August 9 edition of *The Times*.

"There has also been a let-

ter published in *The Times* that said the numbers we brought forward were deceit-

(See "Stables," p. 25)



Alyssa Blondin and Star

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Stables

(Continued from page 24)

ful. Whatever," Darr said. Since then, he has provided the Board with a copy of the stable sign-in sheets. "The records back up what we are saying with facts," Darr said.

At the stables, Pennington showed *The Times* the meticulous hand written sign-in sheets. Each resident is required to record the date, as well as their lot number and card number. They also must show their guest card or identification when signing in themselves and guests. The activity they engaged in is also marked.

To be consistent with previous years, Pennington has maintained the previous manager's method of record keeping.

"The rides are counted by the members and the guests riding," Pennington said during the August Work Session. "You asked for these numbers, and then you didn't believe them. It felt like a personal blow to me. These numbers are correct, and I am not making them up, and this is how we do it."

Taking a toll on the horses

The increased number rides

are beginning to take a toll on the horses, Pennington explained.

"In twenty days, Charlie gave fifty-nine rides," she said. "It is almost to the point that we are overworking our horses. Cooper just came down with a cold. The vet examined him and said it was due to exhaustion."

Increasing the herd size by two horses would lessen the demand on the existing horses.

"We are wearing the hell out of those horses," Darr said. "We may have to pull back on the amount of stuff that we provide. We cannot continue to run these horses the way we do. We may have to drop Prancing Horses and the utilization of horses for that, because we do not have the herd to support it."

Leach asked Pennington asking why her original recommendation of herd size had increased. He also wanted to know if the wait period for trail rides was exaggerated, since he had friends that were able to get a ride on Thursday the week of the request.

Pennington responded: "I thought I had enough horses.

Since we introduced Prancing Horse, expanded camps and lessons, and publicized the jumping program, the interest

increased more than I expected. I also don't think the fall out from the Fall season will be what it was last year. I

already have five kids signed up for lessons through the next three months."

(See "Stables," p. 26)



Julia Koltyk and Charlie

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Stables

(Continued from page 25)

Turning to wait times, Pennington explained, "There is a two week's notice for Fridays. Thursday is the least popular day to ride. The most popular days are Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. For some of those days it can be up to a three week wait. On average we are turning more people away. I have turned away a total of fifty-three people. That's a lot of people that I am not able to accommodate. If we had more horses we could accommodate more."

Hirsch said, "I have been to the stables numerous times. My grandchildren have participated quite a bit. I have recently experienced trouble with too long a wait to get them in."

Hirsch had originally been one of the board members that had agreed to move Darr's motion to the open meeting. He explained his lack of a second.

"At the board meeting, I kind of got caught by surprise from property owners' comments," Hirsch said. "Most of the questioning of the numbers came from landowners. I found myself confused and felt like I could not make decision for it. I am in strong support of the growth of the stables. What is happening there is extremely good for the community."

Let's look at the financials

Over the Summer, fees collected for camps and lessons totaled nearly \$5,000.

"If we could see the financial numbers on this, then it might be easier to support," Hirsch said. "There was no fee prior, and now there is. The stable is generating income. We need to know how that relates as a budget expense. If it's unbudgeted expense, generating money and paying for itself that's a different thing."

Leach noted that at the end of Summer the activity is expected to decline.

"We are doubling in every case what we had last year versus what we had the year before," Darr said. "I doubt that we will have the drop

off this year from what we had year before. I think it's not going to happen because of the activity we got going on out there."

The stables will soon be adding late afternoon trail rides for children and a trail ride for adults after work.

"I am confident the numbers are going to go up," Pennington said.

The recorded number of rides do not include Prancing Horse riders.

"On Wednesdays, there are two groups of [Prancing Horse] riders," Samantha Baker said. "I would hate to see Prancing Horse go. I encourage you to come out on Wednesday morning and help. See what is going on with the kids involved. It will change your day and the way you think."

How much to invest

"The stables are already pushing ten percent of the budget," SLLA Manager Ray Sohl said. "What percentage can you afford to give to this project? It is a huge expense

for the community."

Recognizing that it does come down to numbers, Darr said he would make available all income records for the Summer to the board. He then suggested they move the purchase of two horses at a cost not to exceed \$4,000 to the open meeting. Hirsch seconded the motion.

Board Member Conrad Meyer suggested that the numbers need to be given to the Directors a few days before the Open Meeting.

"Some of the confusion at the last meeting was that numbers were handed to us before the meeting," Meyer said.

The lengthy discussion was finally brought to a close.

President Steve Ritter said: "My head is about ready to explode. But I can't bite my tongue. It has been a very interesting discussion this morning. I would like to emphasize a few things. The Board has grappled with things over the stables. As such we have taken an action."



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"This discussion has been very interesting as a microcosm of what is going on at a much greater level in D.C. We have an amenity and we like it. The question is can we afford it? The budget is rapidly approaching ten percent of what it costs all of us to run Seven Lakes."

"I trust what you are doing is the correct thing, and I don't have a problem with that. I also see that it has been inflated on one hand

in that we are offering all these different additions to the program that we didn't have in the past, and now we are arguing do we have a number of horses that will support increase of usage."

"The stables have become much more popular. Part of me says that's all nice the other part questions can the community afford it. I am glad to see we are going to get some numbers and bring a resolution to this."

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

approved the construction contract, "So we should be able to start quickly."

More than a dozen residents of the area signed a petition asking for County water, and others can sign up by contacting Moore County Public Utilities. The regular tap-on fees will apply.

7 Lakes Rezoning Approved

The Commissioners approved the rezoning of a quarter-acre triangle of land from gated Community Seven Lakes to Village Business at the request of landowner Jim Kirkpatrick.

The sliver of land in question is part of a 1.77 acre parcel that runs along the entrance lane of Lakeway Drive and includes the real estate office at the corner of Lakeway and West Plaza Drive.

Surveyor Ronald Graham told the Board that the original zoning map for the area may have followed some old property lines, inadvertently placing portions of the parcel in two different zoning districts.

The Commissioners approved the rezoning unanimously.

Dog Tags of Moore County

The Board heard a presentation from Mary Jo Morris on a two-year-old program she founded that brings Wounded Warriors from Fort Bragg together with hard-to-

adopt dogs from the Moore County Animal Shelter.

Working with Ft. Bragg's Warrior Transition Battalion, Dog Tags of Moore County identifies soldiers who would derive therapeutic benefit from interacting with and training dogs that need to improve their socialization and obedience skills in order to be adoptable.

Fifteen soldiers have participated in the program in its two year history, and the eighteen dogs enrolled were all ultimately adopted by new owners.

Beyond the therapeutic benefits, the soldiers involved learn marketable training skills. Matt Godwin, A graduate of the first year's class is now employed full time by K2 Solutions, a local company that specializes in the training of military dogs.

"Working with dogs was a new way to expand my horizons after the military," Godwin told the Commissioners. "It showed me that I have all the options in the world. I am not lost."

The Board unanimously endorsed the continuation of the Dog Tags program.

Pinebluff ETJ Expansion Deauthorized

The Commissioners took the unusual step of rescinding two previous actions regarding the Town of Pinebluff's Extraterritorial Zoning Jurisdiction [ETJ].

State law provides estab-

lishes an ETJ that extends one mile beyond the city limits, giving municipalities some control over development in the area right outside of town. With the consent of the County Board of Commissioners, the ETJ may be extended to two miles.

Because of their proximity, the ETJ areas of Pinebluff and the Town of Aberdeen overlapped, leading to protracted negotiations to set the ETJ boundaries. Once an agreement was reached, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution consented to it in November 2012, and then approved what they thought was a minor modification in April of this year.

Unbeknownst to the Commissioners, that modification included providing Pinebluff with a full two-mile ETJ.

"This is all a big misunderstanding," Chairman Nick Picerno explained. "The process has to be that we hear from the people in that two mile ETJ before we render that permission to Pinebluff. That step has not been taken by this Board. The whole process was not done in accordance with what we think is the proper sequence of events."

"The door is open to Pinebluff to come back and do this in a way that we would normally do it," he added.

The previous resolutions were rescinded in a unanimous vote.

Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday, August 20 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Approved a change order to the construction contract with D.H. Griffin for the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center, resulting in a reduction of \$719,708. Chairman Picerno noted that the originally budgeted price for the project was \$27,224,000, "Not some other number that others want to make up." The just-approved change order brings the actual cost down to \$24,776,726.

- Approved Zoning Ordinance text amendments that regulate the placement of solar panels on residential lots, requiring that ground-mounted panels be placed in the back or side yard and screened and requiring that roof-mounted panels not extend beyond the roof's edge.

- Adopted a revised reso-

lution accepting a low interest loan from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources [NCDENR] for the replacement of a sewer lift station, increasing the principal from \$1 million to \$1.1 million.

- Awarded a \$788,062 contract to Insituform Technologies, LLC for the rehabilitation of the County's main sewer interceptor, nearly the Pinehurst Traffic Circle. The cost of the project is expected to total \$1.3 million.

- Approved a five percent increase in the base sewer rates charged to customers in Pinehurst — 31 cents per month for the typical 3/4 inch residential meter. The Commissioners approved an increase in the rates the County charges its municipal sewer customers that was built into the FY 2013-2014 budget. Commissioner Cadell said the rate increase is necessary to pay for the unexpected repair of the Traffic Circle Sewer interceptor.

- Reappointed Bill Bateman and George Parker to the Moroe County Airport Authority.

- Appointed Julia Latham and Aaron McNeill to the Planning Board.

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Schools

(Continued from front page)

ters degrees, the budget “limits Moore County Schools’ ability to attract and retain quality teachers,” the budget “diverts needed resources for public schools to other programs,” the resolution states.

As a result, the “budget hinders the Pre-K-12 preparation of students for a successful post-secondary transition to the workforce so that North Carolina might compete in the global economy.”

“I can’t begin to express how disappointed I am in the 2013 Legislative Session,” Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence told the Board. He mentioned the expansion of charter schools and the inclusion of up to \$10 million in vouchers that will allow some parents to use state funds to send their children to private schools — among the programs that are diverting funds from the public schools.

Summing up the legislative session Spence said: “In my estimation, these ‘reforms’ do not reflect a true effort to make our schools better. Instead, they significantly constrain our work.”

Worried about politics

Though the Board ultimately approved the resolution opposing the budget unanimously, prior to the vote Board member Charles Lambert expressed concern that, given the recent ascendancy of the Republican Party in North Carolina State government, the resolution might be seen as a partisan document.

“It seems like one year goes by and then there is a resolution,” Lambert said, noting that Moore County Schools [MCS] has seen state budget cuts over the past several years, no matter which party was in power.

“I am real concerned about keeping the Board bipartisan,” he said.

The slide in education funding and teacher pay has been “a trend in North Carolina,” Kathy Farren admitted, “but, at some point, you have to say ‘Enough is Enough.’”

Laura Lange noted that the state rank in teacher pay has dropped from 26 to 46 over the past decade.

Earlier in the meeting, Lambert had suggested that the Board should revisit providing local subsidies for teacher

salaries.

Referring to the persistent drop in teacher pay, he said, “it seems like it is just beating teachers and employees to death . . . The last supplement we talked about was ten years ago. I hope this board in the future will look at supplements. We complain about the state, but we haven’t done anything either as a Board. We need to take a good look at that. We are losing a lot of people. We just have to find some way to keep them.”

“I think we’re saying to the people that we serve that we are concerned about this and letting them know that we are aware of it,” Enola Lineberger said. “This formalizes letting the needs of Moore County be known at the state level.”

“Children are not Democrats and Republicans,” Lambert said. “I know some of the boards that are doing this are very partisan. Kids are just kids; they want to learn.”

Chairman Ed Dennison said he had edited the resolution to make it specific to Moore County in order to avoid the appearance that

the Board was simply jumping on a partisan bandwagon.

“It’s a shame about the salaries,” Lambert said. “A starting teacher in Virginia is a fifteen-year teacher down here. I just took issue with doing it this year.”

“I’m a Republican and I have no trouble bashing Republicans,” Lang said. “I am, too,” Lambert replied.

“For me, this is not a partisan resolution,” Superintendent Spence said. “It is about educating our children. If these kinds of decisions keep being made, we are going to drive public education to the end of the track. Sometimes you have to say: ‘Enough is enough. Our children can’t be treated this way.’”

Board member Dale Frye called for the question and the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Waiting for the numbers

The precise impact, in dollars and positions, of the new state budget on Moore County was not available in time for the August 12 Board of Education meeting. Chief Financial Officer Mike Griffin

was still awaiting details from the state; those should be available in time for the September 9 meeting.

At the state level, folks on either side of the school funding debate are making their case using differing sets of numbers.

Members of the GOP majority in the General Assembly noted that the just approved 2013-2015 budget for education is not only larger than the last budget, but that it spends more on K-12 education than has ever been spent before in the state. Overall funding is up 4.8 percent.

That is, in fact, true, so far as it goes.

But, it involves a bit of slight of hand that ignores both population-driven growth in the number of students that must be served and the way in which budgeting has traditionally been done in the state.

In preparation for the legislative session, the State Budget Office prepares a “Continuation Budget” that projects what it will cost next year to deliver the same level of services delivered this year.

(See “Schools,” p. 29)



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Courts

(Continued from page 3)

tiac?" board member Bob Racine asked.

"When you have maintenance problem in a building or on the grounds," Leach said, "then it should be repaired to its original specification or better. Lake Echo has new footings, a stronger substructure, and that facility is better than the way we found it."

"No matter what we do, we want a community we can be proud of. If we put crap on a field and say 'That's our amenity' then new people visiting will drive by and say 'I don't want to live here.'"

"Can we afford it?" Racine demanded.

"Can we not afford it?" Leach countered.

Responding to that impasse, Treasurer Conrad Meyer referenced the Reserve Study. "The study has list of things that need to be maintained or replaced this long," said Meyer, indicating a very long list. "Our revenue goes nowhere near funding that big long list. That's pretty typical, and you see it in

communities throughout the country these days.

"It is an issue of priorities. What do you do first?" Meyer continued. "To me the answer is: we can't afford it. Which leads to the next question: what subsection of the list are we going to do? You are kind of both right. Can we afford it? Yes. Can we not afford it? Yes. The answer lies some where in between."

Pretty Practical

SLLA Manager Ray Sohl reminded the Board that first impressions are important to residents' property values.

"It will add value," Sohl said of the court rehab. "It is a highly visible area. From a curb appeal standpoint, it is something that should be at top of the priority list. It does add value to the community and enhances the resale values of homes."

This is a high visibility item," Board Member Bill Hirsch said, referring to the tennis courts. "You drive by and see a ratty fence."

"Providing additional amenities for property owners —

bocce ball, pickle ball, and shuffle board — also seem to be important things to consider. My personal preference? If we are only going to defer this for a year, then we might as well do it. I don't see how we can't do these projects."

"I think the one question is what surface are we going to use? Will it buy us good value in long run? We don't want to be a community in decline; we want to be a community on the rise."

Use It or Lose It

"An amenity is an amenity as long as you are going to use it," President Steve Ritter said. "If you are not a tennis player, then you might not really care. Some people are going to question why we are going to spend this much money."

"My point is this is an amenity to only those that want to use it. We are also talking about amenity that everyone on the North Side

drives by once a day. It is an eyesore whether you use it or not."

"I wasn't here when the tennis courts were resurfaced with the tiles," Ritter continued. "That was a pretty sore bone of contention, \$50,000. That was five years ago and there are still people complaining that the board spent that amount of money. We are talking about doubling that now."

Moving Forward

For the moment, resurfacing was put on the back

burner. Ritter pointed out the wisdom of conducting the work in order. He made a motion to remove all fencing and sand blast and paint all light poles — and to install temporary bocce and pickle ball courts.

Darr agreed with Ritter that it would be wise to install the temporary courts to better gauge interest and use. The board voted unanimously to take Ritter's motion to the August Open Meeting.

Schools

(Continued from page 28)

That becomes the starting point for budget crafting by state legislators.

This year, the Continuation Budget for education put the dollar figure required at \$7.99 billion. Among other issues, as the state's population continues to increase, there are more students to educate each year.

The legislature funded \$7.87 billion — or two percent less than what the Budget Office would need to provide the same level of services.

Critics of the state education budget point to this shortfall, as well as the failure to restore what were supposed to be one year cuts in funding for textbooks and instructional materials imposed in last year's budget, as evidence that the General Assembly actually cut funding for education this year.

Other Business

In other business during the August 12 Board of Education meeting:

- Dr. Spence announced that MCS will continue "to push into the digital learning frontier . . . By the end of year students in nine schools will have daily access to digital technology."
- Schools will be implementing a new online communications portal called HomeBase that will link teachers, students and parents.
- Spence announced that the County graduation rate fell from 83.4 percent to 81.7 percent, which is below the state average, North Moore High School was a bright spot, with an 11 percent increase in its graduation rate. "I take it seriously and take it personally that the graduation rate fell," Spence said.

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4tp 7/12

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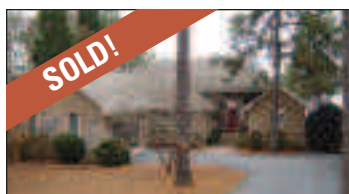
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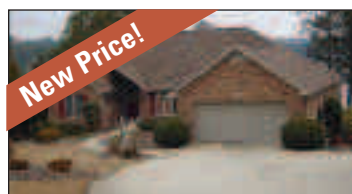
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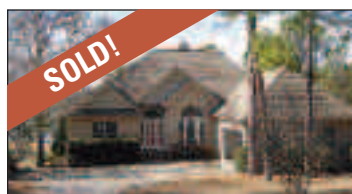
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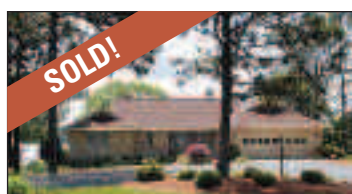
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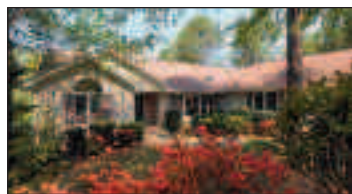
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