

SLLA considers ban on Sequoia Dam sledding

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



A couple of rare snowy days gave Seven Lakes kids the rare chance to play in the snow.

Sequoia Dam is always the hotspot for sledding, having the steepest, fastest slope. But sledders had to avoid metal poles and drainages at the bottom of the dam.

"We had a very serious accident in January," Manager Sohl told the Seven lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] during their Monday, April 7 Work Session. "A

young girl injured her back sledding on Sequoia Dam. Since then, we have put cones up as a temporary measure."

Press reports on the incident indicated the 18-year-old broke her back in two places, but is expected to recover fully.

Sohl recommend the board consider a motion to approve a ban of all unauthorized traffic on dams. "They are not designed for sledding," he said.

Sohl argued that there is no good way to make safe the potential hazards.

"You cannot cover drains or pad posts," he said. "If you have a lot of traffic on thin snow, then it can cause erosion. It is a very serious issue for an earthen dam."

He recommended putting up no trespassing signs and limiting access to authorized personnel. Since the injury occurred, he argued, the Association has a responsibility of taking measures to prevent a recurrence.

Director Chuck Leach was sympathetic to the injured girl; however, he did not agree with prohibiting sledding.

(See "SLLA," p. 36)

Foxfire Council approves Rural Estate zoning district

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



A new Rural Estate zoning district was added to the Village ordinance books

after a vote by the Foxfire Council during their Tuesday, April 8 regular meeting.

The new district is the brainchild of the Village's

Planning and Zoning Committee [P&Z], which over the Winter months reviewed, researched, and proposed updates to existing zoning and ordinances.

Among those was the task of finding appropriate zoning for a large parcel of unzoned property that fronts on Foxfire Road east of the Village proper, but lies within the Village limits. The parcels in question

are owned by Robert & Dianne Edwards, Phillip and Sheila Perrotta, and Charles E. Bolton, Jr. The Council approved rezoning those parcels to Rural Estate,

Working with landowners, P&Z developed a better understanding of their priorities, which included sustainable farming, husbandry, and other various hobbies and interests. The committee determined that a New, Rural Estate zoning district would best meet their needs.

The recommendation was reviewed in two Council Work Sessions and made the focus of a public hearing during the April 7 regular meeting. Also on the agenda was a hearing on recommended modifications to the animal ordinance.

At the beginning of the meeting, P& Z Chair Mary Gilroy was asked to explain

(See "Foxfire," p. 34)

Hotcakes for Lent



Shrove Tuesday Pancakes – Easter is around the corner, and with it, the end of Lent. McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church began the season with their Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Francine Smarrelli serves up some hotcakes. More photos on page 37.

One-Stop Voting Begins April 24

One-stop absentee voting for primary elections begins on Thursday, April 24 at the Moore County Ag Center, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 6:30 pm and Saturdays 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Saturday, May 3 is the last date to take advantage of one-stop voting prior to Primary Election Day on Tuesday, May 6

The Old West End School Gym will open for one-stop voting from Wednesday,

April 30 through Friday May 2, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm each day.

Barring any candidates added to the November ballot by petition, the results of the GOP Primary will seat two County Commissioners and the Sheriff of Moore County.

The Moore County Board of Elections number is 910-947-3868, and the Board maintains a webpage at moorecountync.gov.

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Business Guild plans Spring Fest for May 3

by Cheryl Darwell, Secretary
Seven Lakes Business Guild

Join in the Seven Lakes Business Guild for their Derby Day & Spring Fest on Saturday, May 3, from 1 pm to 6 pm (or on Sunday, May 4, in the event of rain).

Join the guild for a Derby Hat Contest, Kids' Horse Race and other activities, games and prizes, and DJ Randy will spin the tunes for everyone.

Refreshments will be available for purchase, with the proceeds supporting Guild projects to enhance the Village,

Derby Day be held in the

Village Central grassy area on Grant St. between Lake House and TempControl.

Following the Derby event, the Guild will feature live music by songwriter Tony Barnes at 6 pm, followed by an outdoor screening of the hit Disney movie *Frozen* at dusk, complete with popcorn.

If you have a storefront or home based business in Seven Lakes, if you are a craftsperson, organization or vendor servicing the Seven Lakes area, or if you have a food truck; or make crafts; or if you are an artist, then you need to be at this event

and show the community what you have to offer.

The Guild invites you to register now for a booth to showcase your business in what will be a big event.

Space at the Derby Day & SpringFest is only \$35 for non-Guild businesses, and is Free to all members of the Business Guild.

Don't wait! Get your space now.

Contact Cheryl Darwell at sevenlakesbusinessguild@gmail.com or 910-673-SAIL.

Contact Ed Hill at Edward.Hill@EdwardJones.com or 910-295-0307.

Scat Band at April Lunch Bunch

All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall on Wednesday, April 23, at noon.

There is no cost. Reservations would be appreciated. Transportation will be provided if needed.

The program this month will feature The Sandhills Community College Story-Telling Scat Band.

This is a group of professors and deans, from the

college, who get-together to play for local gatherings and other venues.

As they say about themselves, "we get together for fun, fellowship and a lot of laughs. . . but every musician wants an audience!"

The Scat Band will be entertaining the group with bluegrass, folk tunes and some original compositions written by band members.

To make a reservation for lunch or transportation, call 673-2156.

Lions Plant Sale

The Seven Lakes Lions Club will be holding their annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 3, at the corner of Seven Lakes Drive and Hwy 211.

This year's selections include hanging baskets of Bougainvillea, New Guinea Impatiens, Ivy Geranium, Boston Fern.

Containers of Mandevilla Vines, Knockout Roses, Butterfly Bushes. Geraniums, Angelonia, Gerber Daisies,

Lantana, Million Bells, Wave Petunias.

Flats of Begonias, Vinca, Marigolds, and some herbs including Rosemary and Parsley.

There will be something for everyone. Quantities limited.

Preorder forms can be picked up at The Seven Lakes Prescription Shoppe from Rob Barrett and many other local businesses.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue	Deadline	Issue
Fri, Apr 25	Fri, May 2	Fri, Sep 26	Fri, Oct 3
Fri, May 9	Fri, May 16	Fri, Oct 10	Fri, Oct 17
Thu, May 22*	Fri, May 30	Fri, Oct 24	Fri, Oct 31
Fri, Jun 6	Fri, Jun 13	Fri, Nov 7	Fri, Nov 14
Fri, Jun 20	Fri, Jun 27	Thu, Nov 20*	Fri, Nov 28
Thu, Jul 3*	Fri, Jul 11	Fri, Dec 5	Fri, Dec 12
Fri, Jul 18	Fri, Jul 25	Thu, Dec 18*	Fri, Dec 26
Fri, Aug 1	Fri, Aug 8		
Fri, Aug 15	Fri, Aug 22		
Thu, Aug 28*	Fri, Sep 5		
Fri, Sep 12	Fri, Sep 19		

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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- I will work to make sure our government is transparent and open to community concerns and ideas.

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- A Criminal Justice Degree from the University of SC, Veteran of the U.S. Marines, BLET ethics instructor at Sandhills Community College.
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Mayors weigh in on school facilities priorities

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



Two mayors, two mothers, and one Robbins citizen addressed the Moore County Board of Education during its Monday, April 7 meeting.

Aberdeen Mayor Robbie Farrell and Southern Pines Mayor David McNeill both urged the Board to rearrange its priorities in addressing outdated and overcrowded facilities.

Last Autumn, Moore County Schools [MCS] formed a 21st Century Facilities Task Force to review facilities needs. Several mayors served on the committee, including McNeill and Farrell.

The Task Force provided the School Board with a laundry list of new facilities to be built, existing facilities to be expanded or upgraded, and aging facilities to be closed. They were not asked to prioritize the items on that list, a task that was instead undertaken by the School Board.

The Board decide to deal first with overcrowded schools.

Top priorities set by the Board, to be completed in

the first three years of the plan, included expanding Union Pines and Pinecrest High Schools, building a new elementary school in the Union Pines area, and Building a new, smaller "concept" high school providing early college credits or technical education.

An upgrade to Pinehurst Elementary — which is also considered overcrowded — was included in the plan for years 1-3.

Building two new elementary schools to serve Southern Pines and Aberdeen were left to years 3-5 of the plan. That decision did not sit well with the Southern Pines and Aberdeen Town Councils.

Southern Pines: Replace dilapidated schools first

"The committee provided you with the recommendation in January based on extensive amount of research and information from staff and consultant Moseley Architects," McNeill said. "Under all six elementary options in Area Three [the area that feeds Pinecrest High School]

that were presented, the consultant recommended that the use of Southern Pines Primary and Aberdeen Primary Schools be discontinued. That recommendation was unanimously endorsed by the Task Force."

McNeill said Southern Pines and Aberdeen citizens and members of the facilities task force were disappointed in February when they learned that the Board had given other projects higher priority.

McNeil said, "We were disappointed enough to join with our colleagues in Aberdeen to adopt a formal resolution requesting that Moore County Schools revisit the issue and reconsider replacing both of the outdated facilities with new buildings and campuses."

Noting that the static enrollment in Area 3 Primary Schools is inconsistent with continued growth in the rest of the County, McNeill reported, "Also, as an alternative to public education, there are eight private and religious affiliated schools that have chosen to serve families in

our two towns. In the past two years, two of those private schools have approached Southern Pines Council with expansion plans."

The dilapidated primary schools are beyond repair, McNeill said.

None of the Southern Pines or Aberdeen Schools, with the exception of Pinecrest High School, are considered over-crowded. Both Farrell and McNeill suggested that the lack of over-crowding is a result of parents choosing newer public or private schools.

Choosing a home based on school district

"In 2014, parents of school

aged children shouldn't have to decide what town they want to live in due to the plusses and minuses of particular aging school buildings — yet this happens every year," McNeill said. "In 2014, student performance reflected on state websites should be more consistent among schools serving Area 3. The Southern Pines Council is supportive of Moore County Schools' effort to have great schools . . . Taking proactive action and giving these schools higher priority, it will allow these goals to be achieved much sooner."

Real estate agents understand the draw of up-to-date

(See "School Board," p. 32)



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- Military veteran with 27 years of management experience in private industry.
- Since Mr. Ritter's appointment in May 2013, the Board of Commissioners, with the help of employees and citizens, has accomplished much for Moore County. Some of the major achievements are:
- Adopted a sound fiscal year 2014 budget, holding the tax rate and increasing the capital reserve for projects by \$6.4 million.
- Approved new Glendon/Carthage Fire and EMS substation, which will improve service and response times for citizens in that area of the County.
- Identified and approved 20-year water source for Moore County — a 99-year, no minimum purchase water purchase capacity agreement with Harnett County (for 3 million gallons per day). Also approved 3 new wells.
- Devised moves and building renovations, made possible by the completion of the new Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center, that will save the County \$93,271 in lease payments annually and approved relocation of County Human Resources and Veterans Services Departments, making them more accessible and convenient to the public.
- Sponsored installation of cell towers in north Moore County to enable contact with 911 Center.

— Vote May 6 —

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Zoo-phonics® pays off big as Bright Meadow

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

Learning is a real zoo for preschoolers at Bright Meadow Christian Preschool in Seven Lakes. It's a zoo populated by twenty-six animals, from Allie Alligator to Zeke Zebra, each representing a letter of the alphabet.

When Bright Meadow owner Shirley Ptak introduced the Zoo-phonics® program to her preschool classes in the fall of 2010, she never dreamed that four-year-old students would be reading three letter short vowel words by December.

Animals drawn in the shape of letters grab the tots' attention. Each letter is associated with its own movement and sound. In no time, kids are sounding out words.

"I switched to the Zoo-phonics® program, because it was very attractive multisensory kinesthetic approach to learning," Ptak said.

"We started the program the first week in October. Six weeks later, the teacher came and said that I had to come and see. Preschoolers were actually putting words together. I just couldn't believe it," Ptak said.

A related body movement is given for each letter. In the brains of the young students, this concrete approach cements the sounds to the shapes of the letters. Lowercase letters and their sounds are taught first, because lowercase letters make up ninety-five percent of all the letters in typical text. Capital letters and letter

names are taught later.

Stephanie Vega Bravo teaches the two and three year olds. Within seconds, the excited kids channel their energy into sounding out the letters. It is fun to watch. They wave their arms with Ollie the Octopus and make the short "o" sound. For Nigel

the Night Owl, they use their fingers to make the large rims around Nigel's Eyes and make the "n" sound.

Directing physical energy into learning is not a new concept.

"Brain Gym, education kinesiology — that has been

(Continued on page 5)



Avery Atkins imitates the big rimmed eyes of Nigel the Night Owl — and learns the "n" sound in the process



Bright Meadow teacher Ashley St. Onge helps Tanner Massey work phonetically through the word "map"



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Students start Kindergarten well prepared

(Continued from page 4)

around for many years. The philosophy is what you do with your body can trigger

certain brain points and direct a certain learning," Ptak said. Her oldest son, as a child, benefitted from this

type of learning.

Bravo agrees that the exercises help prepare the children mentally for learning.

"When we first introduced brain gym in 2008, I noticed the children had a longer attention span and were less

fidgety, just by doing the exercises five to ten minutes each day. After just a few moves, they are grounded. After four different moves, suddenly everybody is looking and ready to learn."

As the two-years-olds

matriculate up to Ashley St. Onge's four-year-old class, they are more than ready to read.

"They can read and understand sight words," St. Onge said. "When they leave to go

(See "Zoo-phonics," p. 29)



Zoo-phonics® gets students like *Tori Brumbles* and *Trent Parks* up and moving while they learn



The Zoo-phonics® Alphabet demonstrated by *Bright Meadow* students *Cameron Clark*, *Avery Embry*, *Leila Brown*, *Charlie Mabry*, *Addie Scott*, and *Owen Baker*



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Vote Hicks May 6

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Guild President speaks at 7 Lakes Kiwanis

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

In late March, Edward Hill, President of the Seven Lakes Business Guild, spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club regarding the Guild's schedule of summer activities.

During the summer months they will be sponsoring several events including: a May 3 Spring Fest, an informal meeting with Seven Lakes Merchants followed by a free out-door movie; on May 30, a Summer Concert

Series program with music provided by McKenzies Mill; a July program featuring music by The Sand Band; a September program yet to be finalized; and an October 7 Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off.

As the first native-born Seven Laker to serve as the Guild's president, Hill feels highly qualified for the job.

"My parents discovered Seven Lakes in 1972, and built the third house constructed on Lake Echo. I was

born a few years later," he said.

When businesses first began with the growth of Seven Lakes, they joined the Moore County Chamber of Commerce. Regrettably, the Chamber took the merchants' money, but never paid anything back out to the community towards their roads or other service costs.

"Therefore," said Hill, "the Seven Lakes Business Guild was formed."

Edward Hill received his degree from NC State University, and later, added an associate degree in Real Estate Finance from Florida Atlantic University.

Currently, he works as a Financial Advisor for the Edward Jones Company and is a resident of Seven Lakes North.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis meets Tuesdays at the Seven

Lakes Country Club at 11:30 am. Their motto is, "Serving the Children of the World."

The Kiwanis are seeking new members. Both men and women are welcome.



Seven Lakes Business Guild President Ed Hill with Kiwanian Bob Racine

Summer Baseball

The Parks and Recreation program is offering:

T-Ball, Ages 5-6 Age as of May 1, 2014. Deadline is Friday, May 2. Cost: \$25. (\$10 late fee after deadline, if space available). All Games played at Hillcrest Park.

Coach Pitch, Ages 7-8 as of May 1, 2014. Deadline is Friday, May 2. Cost: \$25. (\$10 late fee after deadline, if space available). All Games played at Hillcrest Park. Leagues: 7-8 Boys and 7-8 Girls

13-14 Baseball, Ages 14 and under. Deadline is Friday, May 2. Cost: \$30 (\$10

late fee after deadline, if space available). Middle School Playing Distances, Bases: 80 feet, Pitching distance: 54 feet.

Interested in Coaching in T-Ball, Coach Pitch or 13-14 Baseball Leagues – call 910-947-2504.

For information on any of the teams listed: Call 910-947-2504 or www.moorecountync.gov/rec Registration Forms are available at: www.moorecountync.gov/rec and can be mailed to Moore County Parks & Recreation, PO Box 905 Carthage, NC 28327

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Commissioners honor top volunteers

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Volunteers from across Moore County were honored during the Tuesday, April 15 Board of Commissioners meeting.

RSVP Director Tommy Deese presented the ten recipients of the 2014 Moore

County Volunteer Service Awards.

Deese explained that volunteers are nominated by community members and the award recipients are selected by a twelve-member panel that included Commissioner Randy Saunders.

This year's award recipients included:

- Jocelyn Slaughter, who volunteers in the Friend to

Friend gift shop, The Butterfly Boutique.

- Jennifer Carbon, who works with the St. Joseph in the Pines mobile free dental care clinic.

- James Johnson, a longtime volunteer with the Boys & Girls Club.

- David Kling, who works with The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina and Backpack

Pals.

- Shelia Henderson, a Backpack Pals volunteer.

- Betty Hurst, a 25-year volunteer working with a team at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital who cut, sew, and deliver stuffed toys to provide comfort to children at the hospital,

- John McKenzie, a volunteer with the American Red Cross.

- The team of Bob Rigsby & Davis Clark, who have, for seventeen years, organized an annual golf tournament benefitting Moore Buddies,

which has merged with Communities in Schools.

- Earl Wright, known locally as "The Bicycle Man," who collects, repairs, and delivers bicycles to children at Christmas.

One Moore County volunteer is nominated for one of twenty Governor's Awards given each year. This year, Bicycle Man Earl Wright was selected for the Governor's Award.

"I have been so privileged over the last year and a half to be the County Commissioner," p. 25)

Vision Van here Friday



Area residents are welcome to take advantage of a free eye and hearing screening on Friday, April 18, from 9 am to 3 pm at The Seven Lakes Food Lion Parking Lot. This service will be provided by a state-of-the-art mobile screening unit.

The Vision Van is owned

and operated by the Lions of North Carolina through the North Carolina Lions Foundation. It travels throughout the state visiting communities at the request of local Lions Clubs. The Seven Lakes Lions Club is sponsoring this screening.

The mobile screening unit

will provide screening for a variety of visual and audio disorders. Early detection of these disorders is the mission of the van.

Residents of all ages are welcome, but persons under 18 must have a parent or guardian provide written consent for screening.

New Project Linus Workshop

Project Linus invites you to a Machine and Hand Sew Workshop on Wednesday, April 30, at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse, 10 am - 2 pm. Bring your sewing machine or use one provided.

Make blankets, cut fabric, put kits together, or do simple hand sewing. Project Linus has all the supplies for you to use – fabric and supplies. No Fleece at this workshop. Drop by, check us out and plan to stay for a while.

Call Pat Weber, 673-1457 with any questions.



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- ★ Licensed Certified Bookkeeper

- ★ Served in the US Navy, including 18 months at the US Embassy in Singapore

- ★ Served in the North Carolina National Guard

- ★ Taught Accounting, Auditing, & Economics at the Community College level

- ★ Volunteered on the Moore County Rescue Squads of Whispering Pines and Vass

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- **SERVED** as a member of the Moore County Schools Task Force

- **SERVING** on the the Board of Trustees of Sandhills Community College

- **SERVING** as Town of Carthage Commissioner

- Appointed by Chief Justice Sarah Parker to **SERVE** on equal access to Civil Courts

- Carthage Rotary Citizen of the Year

- Inducted in the Moore County Graduates' Hall of Fame.

- A wife, mother, and grandmother and a resident of Moore County for 58 years

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In memory of . . .

Dr. Paul Pressler, Jr., 89, of Seven Lakes died Saturday, April 9.

Dr. Pressler received his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Dentistry from The Ohio State University in 1947. A US Army veteran of the Korean War, he was awarded the Bronze Star and earned a Purple Heart while performing dentistry on the front lines.

Dr. Pressler served in numerous leadership positions including President of the International Prosthodontists Society, President of the Akron Ohio Area Dental Society, President of the Norton Ohio School Board, and President of the Barberton Ohio Kiwanis, where he had a perfect attendance record for 25 years.

He also served on various committees at the Seven Lakes Country Club and was an active member of the Chapel in the Pines in Seven Lakes.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years Nancy Pressler; sons, Dr. Roy Pressler of Wadsworth, OH; Paul Pressler of Lancaster, OH; daughters, Cheryl Goodman of Columbus, OH; Janice Wottle of Germantown, TN and Patricia Tackett of Columbus, OH; nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, April 12 at the Chapel in the Pines in Seven Lakes.

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

Leslie M. Jackson, 62, of West End, died Friday, March 28, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, April 5 at Fairview Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. Steven Johnson.

A native of Moore County,

he was a son of the late Robert Monroe and Ester Jernigan Jackson.

He is survived by his adopted family, who cared for him during and after the loss of his mother and father: momma Joann Lowery; brothers Daniel Lowery and wife Gerita; Wayne Lowery and wife Lois; and Franklin Henderson, all of West End.

Memorials may be made to the Life Care Pregnancy Center of Carthage, PO Box 519, Carthage, NC 28327.

Fry and Prickett Funeral Home assisted the family.

Dorning "Dee" Prideaux Jenkins Metzler, died December 2, 2013 at her home in the Seven Lakes.

She was the daughter of the late Dorning Prideaux and James Sidney Jenkins of Greenville.

Mrs. Metzler was a 1956 graduate of Greenville High School and a graduate of East Carolina University.

She was a stewardess for North West Airlines before teaching in elementary schools in Montgomery County until her retirement in 2002.

Survivors include her brother, James S. Jenkins of Plantation, FL.; three children, Jourdan Calderon; Lance Metzler; Ty Metzler; and six grandchildren.

A celebration of life was held on April 12, at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

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Help the Sandsharks

The Sandhills Sandsharks Swim Team is hosting the 18th Annual North Carolina Open Water Swimming Championships June 6-7, in Seven Lakes.

This event will feature Age Group and Open (18 Yrs.-plus) level races, drawing an expected 600+ participants (plus their families, bringing approximately 1,500+ visitors to Moore County in a single weekend). This is one of the largest amateur sporting events in Moore County. This event is also Sandsharks major

fundraiser for the year.

Sandhills Sandsharks Swim Team needs sponsors, volunteers, and potential swimmers.

The Sandhills Sandsharks are looking for good people who are willing to donate time, as well as, pontoons, jet skis, and kayaks to be used on Lake Echo. The donors do not have to live in Seven Lakes.

Anyone who can help can send an email to susan-necooper@gmail.com

Swimmers, contact susan-necooper@gmail.com



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Zack Smith attains rank of Eagle Scout

Zachery Clayton Smith received his Eagle Scout award during a Court of Honor ceremony at West End Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 22.

Zack, 17, is a junior at Pinecrest High School, where he plays on the tennis team. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 98 in West End, with Jason Joyce serving as Scoutmaster and Steve Schrodtt as Assistant Scoutmaster.

During his time as a Boy Scout, he earned twenty-seven merit badges. He is also included among the five percent of all Boy Scouts who earned a religious emblem award, as he earned both the "God and Country" and "God and Life" religious emblem award.

Zack's Eagle Scout project was renovating and adding new equipment to the playground at his church, West End Presbyterian. He raised money to help fund the project through organizing a chili and hot dog lunch following a Sunday worship service.

"Our playground needed considerable sprucing up," Larry Lyon, pastor of West



Zachery Smith Eagle Court of Honor recipient and Chip Pope, Associate Pastor at West End Presbyterian Church

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End Presbyterian Church, said. "Zack showed tremendous initiative in coming to us with this project and then making it happen. Our playground is a far safer and better place for our church's many children to play. It is used routinely in our after school music program each Wednesday and our "Tuesday Tutoring" program for Hispanic youth in the community. He just did a tremendous job."

During the ceremony, Zack was recognized and presented the prestigious "Good Citizenship Award" by John

Harding and members of the Marine Corps League.

Zack currently serves as a youth elder on the West End Presbyterian Church Session, the church's main governing body, and is an active member of the church's vibrant youth group.

The Court of Honor ceremony was attended by many friends, family members and Scouts. A reception following the ceremony was catered by friend and neighbor, Mary Parsons.

Zack is the son of John and Kelly Wilson of Seven Lakes West.

West End Methodists host Luminaria Service

West End United Methodist Church will be hosting a very special community wide service on Sunday, April 27 at 3 pm.

The church is holding the luminaria service to lift up friends, neighbors, family and co-workers who have battled any form of cancer.

The service will involve testimonies, prayer, special music and lighting of a candle in celebration of all survivors and in honor of those whose struggle is over.

Join West End United Methodist Church for this heart-warming celebration.

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Sandhills peaches: A sweet, tasty delight

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

Peaches don't just happen. Any peach farmer will tell you that. Year round work, worry, and luck go into making a successful peach season. It is not for the faint of heart, and patience is a virtue.

Moore County Cooperative Extension Agriculture Agent Taylor Williams is the local go-to expert on Commercial and Consumer Horticulture, Field Crops, and Pesticide Education.

Contrary to what Southerners might be excused for believing, peaches are not indigenous to the United States. The Chinese cling variety was brought to the Americas by the Spanish in the 16th century.

"China was the origin of the peach," Williams explained. "The peach grew from a pit and was an open pollinated variety."

Peaches bruise easily in transit.

"In the 19th century a Vermont grower J. H. Hale started developing the iconic split wood baskets that allowed peaches to be shipped by rail," Williams said. "That, with the invention of ice cooled refrigerator cars, allowed for the development of a thriving industry in the late 19th century."

Peach Boom in the Sandhills

"At the turn of the century, we had thousands of acres put in peach farming," Williams said of the Sandhills. "Roger Alden Derby and people like that developed huge acreage. [The town of] Derby was built around the peach farm."

By the mid-20th century peach farming had become a science. "There was a very gifted plant breeder, Dr. C. N. Clayton," Williams said. "He developed all these NC peaches: Candor, Derby, Ellerby, Windblo, Norman, and Pekin. The peach and the town Clayton were named after him. All of these different varieties are still grown by people here in the Sandhills."

No peach tree lives forever

A peach tree does not produce fruit during its first three years, yet the farmer is lucky to get fifteen productive years out of a tree.

"In the Sandhills that is about all you can get," Williams said.

The root stock is vulnerable to nematodes, root failure, and root rot. Then there is fungal disease and drought.

"Or a tree just ups and dies for no good reason," Williams said. "Watts Auman had some peach trees that were productive into their thirtieth season."

But productivity beyond fifteen years is rare.

"The orchards start losing trees," Williams explained. "The trees lose their scaffold-

(Continued on page 11)



NC Agricultural Extension Agent Taylor Williams demonstrates the fine art of peach tree pruning during a workshop for growers

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in the mouth, a risky business in the field

(Continued from page 10)

ing. Eventually the orchard becomes so unproductive that you have to push up the old trees. An orchard has to produce 500 half bushels per acre to be successful."

The planting seasons are staggered so that new trees will be in full production when the older fields are taken out of production. The fields are left dormant and treated for several years before replanting.

Choosing Good Stock

A peach tree is grafted on to the root stock of a different tree. The root stock is matched to the soil, temperate zone, and moisture. The different peach varieties are grafted on. Pruning below the graft will result in a tree of the root stock.

The longer the growing season, the more variety of peach trees to plant. The clingstone peaches ripen first. The more popular freestone peaches ripen in late June. The peak production of each variety is, on average, a week.

"You would have to grow Windblo and Candor peaches just to have a complete season of peaches," Williams said. "You will have between twelve and fifteen weeks of peaches. Some growers go closer to twenty weeks, from late May to picking the last in the middle and end of September."

To Be a Peach

Once the tree has bloomed, there are three stages critical to growing a juicy peach. During the first fifty days, cell division takes place in the fruit. The second stage allows for the pit to harden; the peach does not expand in size during this stage. During the final four weeks the peach swells to eating size.

If the final swell starts too soon, the pit does not have time to harden and breaks apart. The peach is still edible — just extract the stone.

Peaches need a good cold winter. The varieties to be grown are determined by calculated the number of cold days projected.

"No one here would dare grow an early variety of peach that needs fewer than 850 chill hours," Williams said.

Peach Economics

The goal is to produce about 300 peaches per tree — approximately 5.5 half bushels. The standard unit is a half bushel. "

The trees yield five to seven half bushels, but in some parts of the state they may harvest ten half bushels per tree," Williams said. "I don't know too many growers that do that."

The going price for a half-bushel of peaches is \$20. An average tree has \$120 of peaches on it. Each tree cost

around \$10 for pruning and thinning; \$10 to harvest; and another \$5 to \$10 for the

packaging. That does not include the purchase price of the tree, insurance, the

three years waiting for the tree to produce, or the occasional loss of the tree. (See "Peaches," p. 29)



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The sweet payoff — ripe peaches

A thriving village in North Moore once shipped

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

There is little that can hold back the perennial creeping vines in the hot, humid south. Left to the elements, neither wood nor metal stands a chance. Rust and decay hue the sandy soil leaving only a stain of what once stood.

Parkwood once was a booming mill town in north-

ern Moore County. Literally, a millstone manufacturing town.

There is more to mine in Moore County than sand. Within the Pekin geological formation is a distinctive gray, quartz-rich conglomerate up to ten meters thick.

In the early 1800's William Donnelly looked beyond the dense forest of North Moore and saw the stone exposed

in the ancient creek beds. He struck pickaxe to millstone grit and laid claim to his quarry.

As early as 1824, Geologist Denison Olmsted made note of the demand for this type of stone, "a hard, greyish-red Sand-stone, in which are thickly imbedded water-worn pebbles of white flint or quartz. These millstones are very much valued for grinding, and are sought for from distant parts of the State, and bring from thirty to one hundred dollars per pair."

The Civil War interrupted the production of millstones,

Devotion Davis took over the twelve-acre quarry, later selling it to Louis Grimm.

Grimm, whose trade was the installation of boiler and engine equipment, went back North and shared his plan for making money from the quarry with his Baltimore-based employers, Ed and George Taylor. They formed the North Carolina Millstone Company on November 9, 1880.

From the stream beds, the company mined rock to make millstones. They called the rock "bluegrit," a "cement stone" impregnated with

chips of white flint unusually suited for grinding corn. The claim was made that the bluegrit stones could grind a bushel of corn into a bushel and a half of meal.

Whether it was that implausible claim or just good marketing, Southern farmers wasted no time putting in orders, creating strong demand for Moore Blue Grit Millstones.

The Taylors established a thriving development beside the mill, with a hotel, post office, large general store, and approximately fifty

(Continued on page 13)



In addition to millstones, the NC Millstone Company offered ready to run self-contained grist mills

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'Moore County Grit' millstones far and wide

(Continued from page 12)

homes, housing the families of their seventy-five employees. They even installed a telephone line that linked Parkwood to Carthage and Cameron.

The telephone, still in its infancy, had roughly the accuracy of the childhood game "Operator." A form was provided for written messages with the disclaimer: "All messages sent at risk of sender. Company will not be responsible for delays or errors in transmission from any cause."

The telephone operator did all the talking. The operator called the Carthage or Cameron office and relayed the message. The operator on the other end of the line wrote down the message and delivered it to the receiver, who was charged two cents. It worked like a telegraph without the Morse Code.

The NC Millstone Co. produced two products: finished millstones and portable and stationary grist mills constructed around finished millstones. A derrick was constructed to lift the cut stone from the quarry. The stone was then hauled to a factory building, where it would be cut into a finished millstone. An iron foundry was constructed to provide the iron necessary for constructing portable and stationary mills. The completed products were hauled twenty miles to Cameron, where they were shipped by railroad.

The going rate for a forty-eight-inc quarry-dressed grit millstone was \$185; a banded, plastered, and balanced iron grit millstone was \$215; and a banded plastered, furrowed, and four balance iron grit millstone went for \$240.

J. T. Seawell was Parkwood's Assistant Postmaster. In 1933, at the age of 83, Seawell told an interviewer: "Dissension between the Taylor brothers on points of business policy caused the business to go into the hands of a receiver around 1880 and finally to be sold to the manager Lewis Grimm. It was operated by Grimm for a

while; but, evidently, he couldn't make it pay and in turn sold the entire property to one T. W. Stemler of New York City."

"Stemler decided to shut up shop and to sell some of the personal property that wasn't essential to the running of the business. The goods in the store were auctioned for \$25,000. From the

machinery in the three-story roller mill used by the company to advertise the fine grade of flour that could be produced by the blue grit stone, \$35,000 was realized. The remainder of the property was left intact."

It is next to impossible to break a millstone, so folks generally buy only one in a

(See "Parkwood," p. 29)



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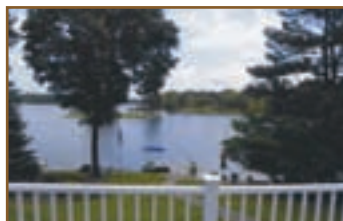
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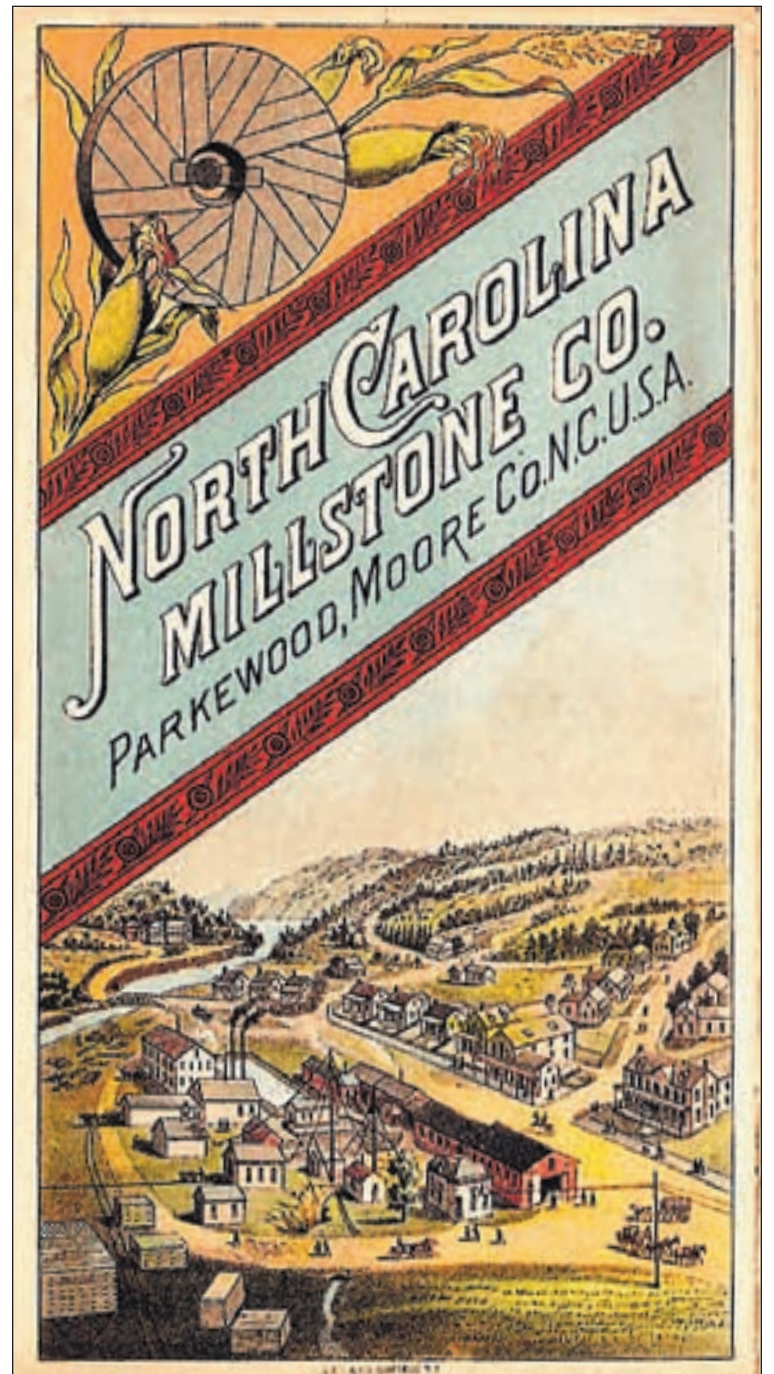
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Lecture: Civil War medicine – myth or reality

On Sunday, April 27 at 2 pm, Dr. Matt Farina will present Civil War Medicine: Myth and Reality at the Museum of the Cape Fear. Dr. Farina returns for a fourth year as he delves into many aspects of the Civil War.

In the past, Dr. Farina has presented on Dr. Mary Walker, Union surgeon who was given the Medal of Honor, and on the death of Stonewall Jackson, who had been shot mistakenly by NC troops.

This year, Dr. Farina will deal with some of the truths and myths about 19th Century medicine and will cover the practical advances that occurred during the war, but are often overlooked. "Civil War medicine has been described as the 3 "B's" –

butchery, barbaric and brutal," says Dr. Farina, who is a physician.

He thinks that everyone must look at medicine, and even soldiering, in the context of the time in which it

occurred. Civil War medicine was flawed; but whether we believe it or not, great advances occurred in medicine because of the war.

A replica capital amputation kit and other medical items

will be on display as part of this presentation.

This is a free event open to public.

This program is held in conjunction with the NC Civil War 150th commemoration.

For more information, go online to: <http://www.nccivilwar150.com/default.htm>.

For more information about the museum and other programs, please visit <http://www.ncdcr.gov/nmcfc>

Moore Philharmonic Spring Concert

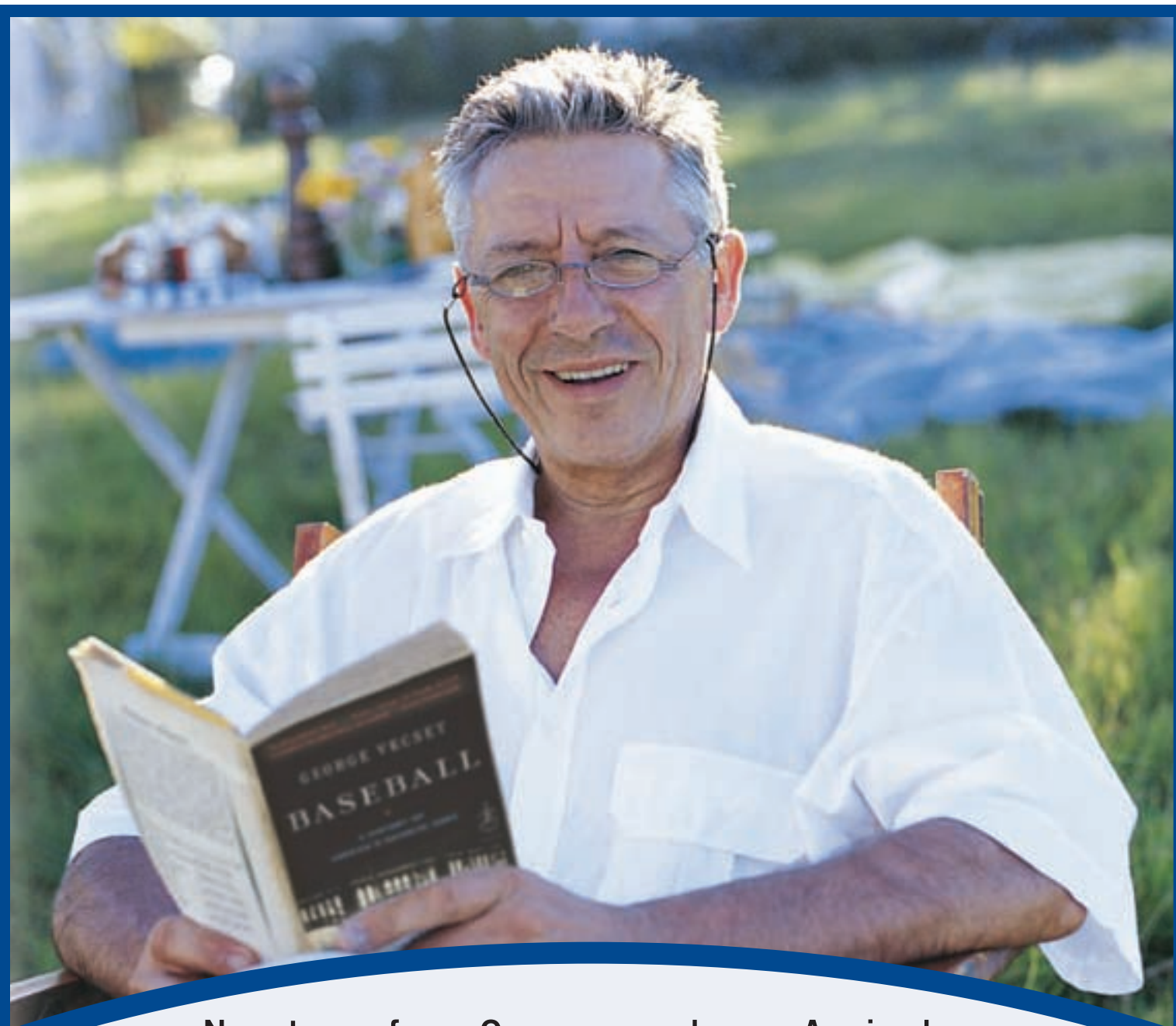
Celebrate the sweet sounds of Spring by attending the Moore Philharmonic Orchestra concert on Thursday April 24, at 7 pm.

The performance will be at Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst. Featured soloists are world-renowned pianist Sophia Pavlenko and guest conductor Paul Chandley.

In addition, scholarships will be awarded to winners of the Orchestra's annual student scholarship competition. No tickets required, but tax-deductible donations are always welcome.

Composers of some of the featured pieces will be available for the audience to meet and greet at a reception immediately following the concert.

For more information, visit the Moore Philharmonic Orchestra website at www.mporchestra.com



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Dosters donate pontoon to Mattamuskeet

Mrs. Ann Doster and her son, Michael, donated a Sweetwater pontoon boat with a Yamaha outboard motor to the Mattamuskeet Foundation of eastern North Carolina in memory of her late husband, Joseph C. Doster Jr., who died in 2013.

Mrs. Doster lives in the Seven Lakes community and her son Michael lives in Raleigh.

After serving in the US Army in the Korean War, Joe Doster started his career in 1957 as a reporter for the Charlotte Observer where he eventually became assistant state editor. He left the Charlotte Observer in 1968 and joined the Winston Salem Journal as the capital correspondent in Raleigh where he specialized in covering

governmental affairs at the state level.

Doster was also an environmental advocate and conservationist. He was a member of the Winston Salem Journal's staff when the newspaper won a Pulitzer Prize in 1970 for coverage of environmental problems, as exemplified by a successful campaign to block strip mining operations that would have caused irreparable damage to the hill country of northwest North Carolina.

Before retiring, Doster had become the publisher of the Winston Salem Journal and its sister publication, The Sentinel, as well as president of Piedmont Publishing Company. He served as president of the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Commu-

nication Foundation and the NC Press Association, and received several awards and recognitions from the latter.

In 1993, the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame inducted Doster, which was a fitting climax to thirty-six successful years as a journalist.

This is the second boat the Dosters have donated to the Mattamuskeet Foundation. Proceeds from the sale of the boat will support the foundation's educational mission of preserving and interpreting the history of Lake Mattamuskeet, which is North Carolina's largest natural lake. For more information about the work and support of the Mattamuskeet Foundation, contact Forrest, at 252-746-4221.



Ann & Michael Doster

Seven Lakes EMS Annual Chicken Dinner

Seven Lakes Emergency Medical Services, Inc. will hold their Annual Chicken Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, May 2.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 am through 2 pm and dinner between 4:30 pm until 7 pm.

The dinner will consist of your choice of chicken breast or drumstick and thigh and include coleslaw, baked beans, roll, dessert, and beverage.

You can dine in at the EMS building while visiting with your friends and neighbors or purchase take-out dinners. The price is \$8 per dinner.

The EMS will also be accepting baked goods for dessert at the building beginning on April 30. Cakes, cookies, brownies would be greatly appreciated.

Seven Lakes EMS. is a volunteer organization of emergency medical technicians that serves Seven Lakes and the surrounding area twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.



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The rare warm, wet nights of late Winter

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

A solitary gopher frog is a homebody, content to stay on its old stumping grounds in the Sandhills. "Home" is a nice, little, sandy, dark hole with a clean-swept shady stoop at the base of an old longleaf pine stump.

With no place to be, the gopher frog waits patiently for nature to serve up its

supper. Dinner is any insect that scurries across the gopher frog's pad.

But the warm rains at the end of winter stir deep within the frog a longing for company. It's an gnawing ache that won't let the frog alone.

Gopher frogs move only on rainy nights in late winter, when the temperature remains above 50 degrees. Evidently, the frogs possess

some sort of internal annual rain gauge; they intuitively know whether or not the ponds have filled.

If the temperature's right and the internal rain gauge says go, the gopher frog strikes out toward the seasonal shallow breeding ponds. If it is more than a night's journey — and it often is — the little gopher frog will hide under a tuft of wire grass,

waiting for the next rain before continuing the journey. Gopher frogs have been known to hop over two miles to congregate and breed.

The males arrive first at the breeding pond and rejoice in song with a mating call that sounds like low snoring. The serenaded females hop in shortly after.

The breeding pond is not just any old mud puddle. It

must have the proper amenities. The first requirement is a nice pool of water that will be dry in the Summer. No water in Summer means no fish in the Spring to eat the frog's eggs or young tadpoles.

Also, the pond should have plenty of tall grasses, but no trees. Trees transpire water, lowering the water level. Leaf litter smothers the grasses

(Continued on page 17)

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inspire the gopher frog

(Continued from page 16)

and also lowers the water's pH. Tadpoles cannot survive if the pH is too low.

The tall, stiff marshy grasses provide cover from predators and are a food source for little froglets.

The female frog attaches her eggs to the stems of the grasses. Leaving her offspring in the care of Mother Nature, she waits for a rainy night and hops directly back to her own little dry hole.

The male frog hangs out, in hopes that another female frog might come along. When mating season is over, the frogs scamper out into a spring night downpour. The mature frogs return to their homes. The little froglets

must find their own stump with a comfortable hole to call home.

There is a balance in nature. Gopher frogs, like other native creatures, have slowly adapted over thousands of years and are dependent on these ephemeral ponds. These small oases attract a wide range of creatures: the chicken turtle, herons, wood ducks, water snakes, and many species of frogs and salamanders, including the neon orange and black spotted tiger salamander.

The ponds, like the longleaf pine forest itself, are dependent on fire. It seems counterintuitive that fire is responsible for healthy wetlands

and forest.

A lightning strike brings life to the forest. The intense blaze moves quickly through the wetland basin, dry in the Summer months, burning back the trees and competitive understory, and stimulating the growth of grasses.

Just thirty years ago, there were at least thirty-two documented breeding populations of gopher frogs in North Carolina. At one time, the Seven Lakes area would have provided a healthy habitat for them.

With the suppression of
(See "Gopher frog," p. 27)



The gopher frog has a familiar approach to dealing with unpleasantness: cover you eyes and hope it goes away



Home sweet hole — a gopher frog sits in front of its den, located under a longleaf pine stump [Mike Sisson photo]

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World War II vet speaks to Auman Sports Club

by David Lamon

VP, Lake Auman Sports Club

On March 11, the Lake Auman Sports Club members were treated to an enjoyable hour listening to a local veteran speak of his time serving in the US Army during World II. Retired Sgt. Eugene "Doc" Diebler of Pinehurst shared recollections of his time helping to defend the USA.

Diebler initially joined the US Army Air Corps at age 18 in Bradford, PA, with all

intentions of becoming a fighter pilot. After his enlistment, he was shipped to Fort Niagara, New York.

He failed the eye exam and was told he would be trained to be a radio operator in a B-17 bomber. He didn't want that position — then, he saw a poster for the paratroopers. He joined up with the 101 Airborne Unit.

After 17 weeks of basic training in Toccoa, GA, he was shipped out to Glasgow,

Scotland and later Newburn, England. Diebler was a participant in the D-Day invasion, being dropped off behind enemy lines.

He fought his way from Normandy, France onto Bastogne, Carentan (Battle of the Bulge), and Holland, then into Germany.

Listening to Diebler's stories — and those of others who fought in that war — you realize why these veterans are part of the "Greatest Gen-

eration."

Accompanying him was Nick Reed, a local college sophomore from NC State, who has spent the past few years interviewing veterans of WWII, gathering first-hand recollections from them and documenting them in a 2012 collection entitled "World at War: First Hand Accounts

from America's Greatest Generation."

The book is soft cover, printed in a large, legible font, for every age to enjoy. All profits from the sales benefit the National WWII memorial in New Orleans.

Ron McGaughey was responsible for inviting Diebler to speak to the Club.



Don Smith, Sports Club President; Ron McGaughey; Sgt. Eugene "Doc" Diebler, Author; Nick Reed; and Dave Lamon Sports Club Vice President

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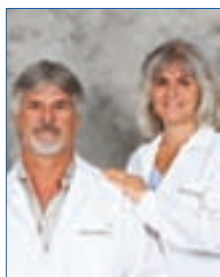
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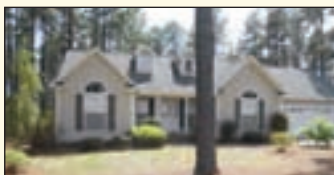
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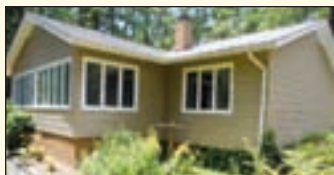
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FRIDAY, APRIL 18

- **Good Friday**
- **Lions Vision and Hearing Van Screening in Seven Lakes** – 9 am to 3 pm, free eye and hearing screening, Seven Lakes Food Lion Parking lot. Unit will provide screening for a variety of visual and audio disorders. Residents of all ages are welcome, but persons under 18 must have a parent or guardian consent.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – 7 pm, Good Friday Service.
- **West End Presbyterian Church Good Friday service** – 7 pm in the sanctuary. crucifixion story, and music.
- **"For the Love of Christ"** – 8 pm, Faith Baptist Church conducting an outdoor Easter drama. Free. 2180 Carthage Rd, West End. Refreshments and seating provided.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Le Weekend*. Tickets: \$8 Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

- **Spring Bird Walk at Weymouth Woods** – 8 am. Spring migration is in full swing. Join the Ranger for a Guided Bird Walk with Ornithologist, Susan Campbell. Meet at the Visitor Center. Free. Weymouth Woods, Sandhills Nature Preserve, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd. Southern Pines. 910-692-2167 www.ncparks.gov
- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 am to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Easter Egg Hunt** – 11 am, at the SL North Clubhouse for resident children. Event includes Egg hunt, pony rides, bouncy castle, snacks, refreshments, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. (*Hiding of the eggs begins at 9 am*)
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm, *Le Weekend*. Tickets: \$8 Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St, Southern Pines.
- **Seven Lakes Baptist**

- Church** – 11 am, Easter Egg Hunt & hot dogs. Community is welcome! Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **"For the Love of Christ"** – 8 pm, Faith Baptist Church conducting an outdoor Easter drama. Free. 2180 Carthage Rd, West End. Refreshments and seating provided.

- **Grace Church Seven Lakes - Living Hope** - Easter Experience 2014 – 10 am, at Seven Lakes Plaza. Contemporary worship, Nursery and Children's Ministry. (910) 639-5617.



What's When

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

- **Easter**
- **Orthodox Easter**
- **West End United Methodist Church** – 6:45 am, Easter Sunrise Service at West End Cemetery. Easter Breakfast at 7:30 am, Easter Services begin at 8:30 am and 11:00 am.
- **McDonalds Chapel Easter Sunrise Service** – 7 am, attendees can also participate in the church's annual "Flowering of the Cross" Service outside in the church's cemetery. Gather in fellowship hall for covered dish breakfast. McDonalds Chapel, 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen. Jill McCloy (910) 692-5094.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am, Easter Sunday service. The acolytes will lead a procession of singers entering the sanctuary.
- **West End Presbyterian Church Easter Celebration** – 10 am, morning will begin with an Easter egg hunt for the congregation's children. Worship service 11 am in the sanctuary.

- **Seven Lakes Baptist Church Easter Service** – 10:30 am, Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm, *Le Weekend*. Tickets: \$8 Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.
- **Easter Egg-stravaganza** – 3 pm, Join the Ranger today Sunday for an Easter egg hunt in the woods. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

MONDAY, APRIL 21

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Le Weekend*. Tickets: \$8 Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

- **Earth Day**
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven

Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & troubled, those in harms way or bereaved.

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, meeting. West Side Park Community Center.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Le Weekend* Tickets: \$8 Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Chapel April Lunch Bunch** – 12 pm, All single seniors are invited to attend at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall. Free. Program features The Sandhills Community College Story-Telling Scat Band. Reservations for lunch or transportation, call 673-2156.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. For children age 3 to 5th grade.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema,
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *Le Weekend*. Tickets: \$8 Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines 692-3611.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

- **Division of Services for the Blind Mini Center** – 9 am - 2:30 pm, classes to help teach people with low vision the safe skills needed for shopping, preparing meals, clean-up and basic chores. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors. 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
- **Moore Philharmonic Orchestra** – at 7 pm, at Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst. Spring Concert Free.
- **Save Our Sandhills Presents: Herbal Remedies** – at 7 pm, the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe St and Pennsylvania Ave. Hosting Brenda Quinones, with a program on "Herbal Medicines of Native Americans and Their Significance in the Health and Wellness of Frontier Settlers." Public welcome.



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- **Temple Theatre presents "Cats"** – show runs Thursday, April 24 to Sunday, May 11. For tickets or information, call the Box Office at 919-774-4155 or visit templeshows.com Tickets: \$23. Temple Theatre 120 Carthage Street, Sanford.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

- **Arbor Day**

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

- **Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** – 8 am until 10 am, Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, 1403 N. Sandhills Blvd., Aberdeen. Enjoy delicious pancakes. Tickets \$7/person.
- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 am to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center.
- **Celebration of Spring Kiln Openings of Seagrove Pottery** – Studio Tours of Seagrove. Large variety of events scheduled throughout the weekend. Stop at any shop or download a pdf of shops, hours, a map from DiscoverSeagrove
- **Pinehurst Garden Club** – 10 am to 3 pm, annual plant sale at the Pinehurst Fire Station. Pre-order with any Garden Club member or call 295-1358.
- **Middle Cross Baptist**

Church – 12 noon to 6 pm, *Cruise-in and Kid's Festival*. Free and open to the public. Games, antique tractors, bouncy house, puppet shows, food, and old cars. Come and enjoy the fun. 440 Lucas Road, West End.

- **Earth Day Celebration** – 2 pm, Party For The Pine! See the oldest longleaf pine tree in the world. Celebrate with cake and punch. Meet at the Visitor Center, wear comfortable shoes, bring water, sunscreen, bug spray. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Civil War Medicine – Myth and Reality** – 2 pm, Dr. Matt Farina will present Civil War Medicine at the Museum of the Cape Fear. www.nccivilwar150.com
- **Luminaria Service** – 3 pm, West End United Methodist Church. The church is holding a luminaria service to lift up friends, neighbors, family and co-workers who have battled any form of cancer. Service involves testimonies, prayer, special

music, lighting of a candle in celebration of all survivors and in honor of those whose struggle is over.

- **The Nature of Color and Disguise** – 3 pm, Come and learn how nature uses color to survive and prosper. Program 1 hour. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.
- **EXPLORERS! Ministry for Children at West End United Methodist Church** – 5 pm, Grades K-5, crafts and activities before eating dinner with the youth.
- **WEUMC Youth Group** – 6 to 7:30 pm, West End United Methodist Church Youth Group, Youth in 6th – 12th grades.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

- **Selecting Plants for Success** – 12 to 1 pm, Free program with the Sandhills Horticultural Society. Janet Peele will discuss plants for the Sandhills. Bring your lunch to the Ball Visitors Center at the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens. Gardens will provide drinks. Register email: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal

Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm, meeting Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. "Wetland Restoration in the Sandhills" Jeff Humphries, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, will speak. Visitors welcome. 910-692-2167 or www.sandhillsnature.org

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

- **The Game of Life's Journey Part 3** – 9 am - 1 pm, Topics will include: Skilled Nursing, Payment Sources, Alzheimer's & Dementia, Hospice vs. Palliative Care. An Advanced Directives event scheduled from 12 pm - 1 pm, Notaries and Witnesses will be available. Moore County Senior Enrichment Center, 8040 US Hwy 15-501, West End.
- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Project Linus New Workshop** – 10 am - 2 pm, a Machine and Hand Sew Workshop at Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Bring your sewing machine or use theirs. Make blankets, cut fabric, put kits together, or do simple hand sewing. Project Linus has all the supplies for you to use – fabric and supplies. No Fleece at this workshop. Drop by, and stay for a while. Call Pat Weber, 673-1457 for questions.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.
- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. For children age 3 to 5th grade. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema.

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Tournament benefits Sandhills Children's Center



Low gross score winners: Adam Morris, Mark Dutton, Robert Bortins & Rick Lee

Seventy-two golfers participated in the 16th Annual Kelly Cup Golf Championship at Pinehurst No. 8, The Centennial Course. In a tournament that is all about having fun and coming together for a good cause, players braved cold, wet conditions and a difficult golf course to help raise over \$15,000 to benefit children throughout the Sandhills Region.

"This is a simple tournament," said tournament Co-Chair Tom Stewart. "All the money goes directly to Sandhills Children's Center; it's all about playing golf with friends and helping children."

Stewart, who owns and operates Old Sport & Gallery, located in the Village of Pinehurst, donated golf artwork from his store as trophies for the tournament winners.

"We are blessed to have someone like Tom [Stewart] chair our tournament each year," said Teresa Copper, Director of Events and Com-

munity Relations at Sandhills Children's Center.

"His golf connections, his personality and his commitment to our mission make him critical to the success of the Kelly Cup."

Pinehurst Resort played a big role as well. The famed No. 8 is a great representation of the mystique that defines Pinehurst.

The Resort graciously contributed to the Kelly Cup by hosting this year's event at no cost to the Children's Center.

The Tom Fazio designed No. 8 provided a challenge for the golfers playing in the best ball competition.

The top overall net winners were Gary LaRouche, Ron Tenbroek, Larry Clatchey and James Ferguson.

The winners for top gross score were Robert Bortins, Mark Dutton, Adam Morris and Rick Lee, playing for Classical Conversations. Bortins, Dutton and Morris were part of last year's loss gross score winning team.

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Ed Hill opens West End investment office

Ed Hill hosted a Grand Opening on Tuesday, April 8 of his new Edward Jones office in West End at 7647 NC Highway 211, Suite B. Hill has been working to serve investors throughout the Pinehurst and Seven Lakes area.

Jim Weddle, managing partner of the St. Louis-based financial services firm, said the firm wants to extend its reputation for unparalleled client service to West End, which is why Hill is opening the office.

"Ed has proved that he possesses the characteristics we want in our Edward Jones financial advisors," Weddle said.

"Ed knows how to help clients invest to help meet their financial goals, and he has the dedication and enthusiasm it takes to do the job right. We are confident that Ed will continue his exceptional record in West End."

"Edward Jones is the largest financial services firm in the nation in terms of offices, but it maintains its commitment to individuals," Hill said.

"I have been impressed with the interest the firm's headquarters in St. Louis has shown in this new office. West End and the investors who live here are very important to the firm, and I really like that."

Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed

to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. The firm's 12,000-plus financial advisors work directly with nearly seven million clients to understand their personal goals - from college savings to retirement -- and create long-

term investment solutions that emphasize a well-balanced portfolio and a buy-and-hold strategy. Edward Jones embraces the importance of building long-term, face-to-face relationships with clients, helping them to

understand and make sense of the investment options available today.

Hill can be reached at 910-295-0307 or via email at edward.hill@edwardjones.com



Ed Hill, with family and supporters, cuts the ribbon at the Grand Opening of his new office on NC Highway 211



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Bedding Plant Sale

The landscape gardening students at the Sandhills community College will have their bedding plant sale April 25 and 26. Annuals, herbs, tomato and pepper plants are available. Proceeds from the sale benefit the student's annual educational field trip.

Pre-orders are recommended to get the best selection. Order forms are available at the Ball Visitors Center or order by phone

910-695-3882.

You may email rodriguezr@sandhills.edu or fax 910-695-3894.

Pickup and pay for your order Friday, April 25 between 1 & 5 pm or Saturday April 26 between 10 am and 2 pm at Steed Hall the Landscape Gardening Building. Enjoy your flowers and vegetables even more this year, knowing that you have given the students a helping hand.

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'Cats' comes to Temple Theatre

Temple Theatre presents *Cats*, the show runs from Thursday, April 24 to Sunday, May 11.

There will be an Opening Night celebration on Friday, April 25, featuring hors d'oeuvres from Davison's Steaks.

Inspired by the universally popular poetry of T.S. Eliot, *Cats* tells the story, in song and dance, of the annual gathering of Jellicle cats, at which time one special cat is selected to ascend to the Heaviside Layer. A musical theater phenomenon, *Cats* opened at London's New London Theatre in 1981 and ran for a record-setting 21 years. *Cats'* London success was nearly matched on Broadway where it ran for just over 18 years. This enchanting musical features the immortal ballad "Memory," as well as a collection of other whimsical tunes enjoyed by audiences young and old.

Peggy Taphorn directs a marvelous cast that has been brought together from all

across the country for the show. Taphorn said, "*Cats* is traditionally done in a junkyard. It's a huge, elaborate set and I wasn't sure how we'd make it work. I spoke to a friend of mine and found out that they had directed the show and set it in an old theatre. I thought, 'Well, I've got an old theatre!' And that's the direction we've gone.

This promises to be another in a long line of big hits for the Temple. The whole family should come out to see *Cats*. For tickets or information, call the Box Office at 919-774-4155 or visit templeshows.com. Tickets: \$23. Temple Theatre 120 Carthage Street, Sanford, Box Office hours are 2-6pm Monday thru Friday.

Advertise in The Times
Call 673-0111

Chapel honors Andy Lowe



Andy Lowe

Andy Lowe was honored by the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines for his many years of service as head of the Chapel sound crew.

He has recorded the Sunday morning services, weddings, memorial services, Bible studies, and all other Chapel events for nearly twenty years.

At left, Andy is holding a picture, made by Jim Davis, and presented to him by the Chapel in the Pines in recognition of his dedication.

Now Accepting New Patients

Amanda Martin, ANP (Adult Nurse Practitioner)

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



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 7)

sioner on the RSVP Board," Saunders said. "The volunteerism is a massive amount of hours, a massive amount of work done every single day in Moore County, that I had no idea was done."

Dog Tags Program

Mary Jo Morris presented the most recent crop of soldiers from Ft. Bragg's Warrior Transition Battalion who are participating in the Dog Tags program at the Moore County Animal Center.

The soldiers work to socialize dogs that are "adoptable but not desirable." Morris said the program began the year with fourteen soldiers and eight dogs. More dogs were quickly added — and eight were soon adopted into new homes — replaced in the program by other animals to be socialized.

Tom Israel, who has a background in training search and rescue dogs, is the lead trainer in the program. He told the Commissioners that he was "Honored to be able to assist in saving dogs lives and in serving guys who have served us."

Honoring Foster Parents

The Board proclaimed May Foster Parent Appreciation month.

Forty-two children are currently in foster care in the County, and the Commissioners met and thanked foster parents Mary Rogers, Sharon O'Sullivan, Tammy

Cole, and Clarkie & Dustin Hussey.

A special recognition was given to Alice Caldwell, who has fostered more than fifteen children.

Sandhills Center

The Board accepted the FY2105 budget request from Sandhills Center, which included \$261,706 for the Center itself; \$292,543 that is funneled through the Center to local non-profit agencies; and \$13,250 in ABC revenues.

CEO Victoria Whitt noted that the Center requested no increase in its allocation — and had not requested an increase in the past ten years.

One of the local non-profits, Monarch, had requested a \$50,000 increase to fund a teacher and supplies for its creative arts center. Other non-profits that receive passthrough funding include Bethesda, Inc., Drug Free Moore County, Arc of Moore County, Northern Moore Family Resources Council, and Sandhills Children's Center.

The Center's request will be evaluated by the County Budget Team for inclusion in the FY 2015 budget.

Triangle J Withdrawal

The Commissioners took the first step toward withdrawing from a regional local government planning cooperative known as Triangle J, approving a letter of intent that serves notice of the

County's plan to leave the organization.

"The Chairman and I met with the Triangle J Director prior to this meeting," Commissioner Nick Picerno said, "and asked him to identify something tangible that would justify spending \$17,500 of taxpayer money with that organization. I didn't hear anything that would justify spending that kind of money."

Chairman Larry Caddell noted that none of the County's three largest municipalities — Aberdeen, Pinehurst, and Southern Pines — are members of Triangle J.

Noting that the Triangle J Director had described the organization as an extension

of the local County staff, Picerno said that, if any County department feels that Triangle J services are necessary to completing their mission, the Board could reconsider its decision to withdraw effective July 1.

Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, April 15 Board of Commissioners meeting:

- The Board approved the addition of three new roads to the Moore County database, Mountain Run, Carousel St, and Pristine Ct, all within the Juniper Ridge subdivision off Murdocksville Road. Also approved was the renaming of State Route 2053 as

Council Way.

- Project budget ordinances for work at the Moore County Airport were approved at the request of Airport Manager Steve Borden. This item had been tabled during the April 1 Commissioners meeting, when the Board balked at matching a federal grant with local funds. Borden said the Airport Authority had paid the local match. The projects include the installation of a waterline to serve a new hangar and some tree clearing.
- The Commissioners approved a contract amendment for the Soil and Water Conservation (See "Commissioners," p. 27)

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Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines was founded in 1976
to serve the Seven Lakes Community and beyond.

Fox Hollow & AOS offer Alzheimer's seminar

With a growing older population, there is a growing need for education on important aging issues like dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Fox Hollow Senior Living, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines and Aging Outreach Services have joined together to bring Duke Medicine's Dr. Mitchell Heflin to Moore County as a guest speaker and host an informational seminar entitled "Alzheimer's: Is it or isn't it?" The seminar is free and open to the public on Tuesday, May 6 at 6:30 pm, at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.

Amy Natt, a certified senior adviser, geriatric care manager and owner of Aging Outreach Services in Southern Pines, was instrumental in securing Heflin for this event.

"At a recent chapter meeting for regional geriatric care managers, I met Loretta Matters, RN, who was speaking about the Duke Dementia Grand Challenge Approaches and education they provide through the Duke School of Nursing," says Natt. "Through our connection, I learned that Duke provides many valuable educational resources and information to the community."

Heflin, associate professor in the Department of Medicine and Program Director for the Donald W. Reynolds Program for Faculty Development to Advance Geriatrics Education at Duke, will present on the following: epidemiology and identification of dementia, a discussion of different types of dementia, an overview of diagnosis and management and a review of ongoing research.

"My interest in geriatrics originated with my interactions with older adults while working as a clerk in my father's pharmacy as a kid," says Heflin. "I enjoyed their wisdom and stories, and felt compelled to help them with

the myriad of ailments that they encountered. My current practice includes care of people with a variety of common conditions of late life, including dementia and other cognitive disorders."

"Dementia and Alzheimer's disease are going to significantly impact our community," adds Natt, "as the baby boom generation continues to age and the number of aging older adults reaches

numbers higher than we have ever seen. Our nation and this community is preparing for a 'silver tsunami,' and the more we educate ourselves on topics, such as Alzheimer's Disease, the bet-

ter prepared we will be to face the challenges."

For more information or to register for the May 6 presentation, contact Aging Outreach Services at 910-692-0683 or info@aosnc.com

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Run for the Roses benefits Children's Center

This year, the Run for the Roses Wine, Beer & Food Tasting, a benefit for Sandhills Children's Center, will feature a silent auction for the first time in its 15-year history.

The event will continue to include wine offerings courtesy of Mutual Distributing along with an outdoor beer garden hosted by the Sly Fox Gastropub and Underground

Beer Co., as well as samplings of delicious cuisine from a variety of local chefs. This year, though, patrons will have the opportunity to bid on 20 donated items in a first digital silent auction.

The reason for this change is twofold says Teresa Copper, Director of Events & Community Relations at Sandhills Children's Center. "Adding a silent auction gives guests

another way to participate in giving to our mission," says Copper.

"Additionally, we are hoping to convert our much larger Festival of Trees Silent Auction to a digital format this year; Run for the Roses is a chance to test this technology on a smaller scale to ensure we can manage the change."

Laptop computers will be set up around the auction

tables at the Pinehurst Fair Barn on Friday, April 25.

There will be no additional charge for patrons who wish to register and place bids in the auction; they will simply need to have a valid email address. The auction will open on Wednesday, April 16 at noon.

Those who want to register can do so online at www.32auctions.com/roses. The online format will allow individuals to participate without attending Run for the Roses. The auction will close during Run for the Roses on Friday, April 25 at 8 pm.

"With an auction that large, doing everything by hand and on paper is taxing," says Copper. "If we can make

the conversion to a digital paperless auction, then we can devote more time, energy and resources to raising money for the little ones we serve at Sandhills Children's Center."

Tickets are now available for the Run for the Roses Wine, Beer & Food Tasting. General admission tickets are available by advance purchase only and are \$50.

Jockey Club tickets, which include access to an exclusive area with 30 additional premium wines, are \$75 in advance and \$100 at the door.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (910) 692-3323 or online at www.SandhillsChildrensCenter.org

Commissioners

(Continued from page 25)

District, allowing the County to accept a \$30,183 state grant.

- At the request of Planning Director Debra Ensminger, the Board approved an amendment to the contract with the County's technical consultant on wireless communications towers in

order to accommodate an increased number of tower applications. Ensminger noted that the applicant ultimately reimburses the County for the cost of the technical evaluation.

- The Board approved a twenty-foot utility easement that will allow utility service for the STARS Charter

School and neighboring homeowners.

- The Commissioners reappointed Sue McDuffie to the Nursing and Adult Care Home Advisory Team.
- During Public Comment, Ernie Hussey praised the Board's maintenance of the facilities at Sandhills Community College and the public schools. He argued that all the schools in the county are "in good shape" and suggested that, contrary to the facilities plan laid out by the School Board, none need to be closed.

Gopher frog

(Continued from page 17)

fire and increased development, the number of populations have been reduced to only seven in the state. Most of these populations are small and isolated from one another, which means they are very vulnerable to being extirpated from the Sandhills.

As the earth faces more intense cycles of drought, due to climate change, gopher frogs and other local native species are threatened.

The last three years have been a bust for gopher frog breeding. The rains did not come soon enough, and the frogs stayed home.

But with good management, the remaining populations located on the Game-lands and Fort Bragg might hold steady.

And who would want anything less for a small, quiet, lonely frog pining away for an overcast winter night and the sweet warmth of an early spring rain to go a-courting.

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St. Joe offers scholarship to Catholic school

St. Joseph of the Pines (SJP) is pleased to announce a partnership with Pope John Paul II (PJPII) Catholic School in Southern Pines for the Middle School Scholarship at Pope John Paul II Catholic School in memory of Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, Bishop Emeritus of Raleigh.

"We believe that a rigorous, faith-based education in a caring environment provides students with the tools they need for academic and lifelong success," said Dr. Janice R. Jett, PJPII Principal. "As a small Catholic school, PJPII would like to offer a quality education to everyone who desires it, and the St. Joseph of the Pines scholarship will assist us in this goal."

SJP will award two rising sixth grade students residing in Moore County with three years of full tuition (excluding transportation to and from school), to cover middle school learning at PJPII. One

of the scholarships is based on financial need.

In addition to a completed application, candidates must provide documentation of an A/B grade average for the current school year, accompanied by two reference letters, one of which should be from a current teacher whereas the other one may be from a personal acquaintance such as a family friend, pastor, or coach.

"We want to hear how attending PJPII Catholic School will change a student's life," Dawn Wilson, Interim CEO for SJP explained. "We're looking for what a private school education course means to the applicant. And, of course, why the candidate wants to attend PJPII."

The SJP PJPII Middle School Scholarship will be granted for the 2014-2015 academic school year and is renewable for three years provided the student main-

tains an A/B grade average. The deadline for completed applications is April 30, 2014.

"To ensure that as many Moore County families have access to this opportunity as possible, we are contacting area churches and youth organizations to request their assistance in disseminating the scholarship information to current fifth grade students and their parents," said Jett.

To learn more about the SJP PJPII Middle School scholarships or the school itself, visit the PJPII website at www.jp2catholicsschool.org or call (910) 692-6241 during

school hours.

Walk-in tours are offered every Tuesday at 10:00 am, as well as personal tours by appointment.

St. Joseph of the Pines is an aging services network

offering a full continuum of retirement housing, health care and community-based services for older adults as well as community outreach to those in need.

SLLA Easter Egg Hunt

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association will hold their Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19, at 11 am, at the SL North Clubhouse for resident children.

The event will include an Egg hunt, pony rides, bouncy castle, snacks, refreshments, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! (*Hiding of the eggs begins at 9 am*)

(*Stuffing eggs will be on Friday, April 18 at 9 am*)

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Peaches

(Continued from page 12)

sional spring cold snap that can wipe out the harvest.

"Three half bushels will get you close to breaking even, depending on how you market them," Williams said.

Winter is not over until it's over.

"The reason we fear this period of time is a late cold snap can take us out," Williams said. "Up until the 80s, we had fairly reliable crops. During that whole decade, we had only a couple of good crops. Some of the bigger outfits that shipped

to the North just completely went out of business."

"We use to dominate a large window of the peach industry," Williams said. "That has declined quite a bit. Peach growers are voting in a peach referendum in April. It will take two-thirds of the votes

to promote the industry and to keep research going at research station," Williams said.

"If it fails to pass, the peach production will suffer. If growers want university support and research, then we need to have a peach society and

the referendum. The question is going to be put before them — Whether they are willing to pay to have an assessment so that production and marketing that the state provides will continue."

Zoo-phonics

(Continued from page 5)

to kindergarten, they can read short books."

The students are ready to back up their teacher's claims, and happily show off, taking turns sounding out one and two syllable words. The older class is no longer reliant on recognizing the animal alphabet or acting out the sounds. They have graduated to being sight readers.

Kindergarten teachers immediately recognize when

incoming students have been exposed to preschool. They are amazed when they have been taught through Zoo-phonics®, St. Onge said.

Justin Martin, the son of Kim and Steve Martin, attended Bright Meadow for three years and is now at West End Elementary. He was in the first group of students introduced to Zoo-phonics®.

"He only had it for seven months," Kim Martin said,

"and, when we took him to register for kindergarten, there was already a difference the teachers could see. During the assessment, which included what shapes and colors you know, they were surprised to see that Justin could sound out words. He also knew the continents and planets."

Justin's younger brother Nathan is in his third year of Zoo-phonics®. Kim is amazed at how much further ahead he is than Justin was at this age.

"It's amazing to see the transformation and the confidence they get from simple things," Ptak said. "When they write a word on a piece of paper or just practicing site words. Any advantage you give a child is actually giving them the world, just

by starting them earlier."

The Bright Meadow team makes sure that learning is well rounded. Bravo is introducing patterning number recognition and quantity and St. Onge is teaching the four year olds more complex math.

"The kids don't get bored with it," St. Onge said. "It is

fun and more engaging. We incorporate it into play time."

That's the beauty of a hands-on active classroom — the kids are learning through experience. What child doesn't love the zoo?

Parkewood

(Continued from page 13)

lifetime. Falling demand, the financial panic in the 1890s, and the 'spendthriftedness' of Ed Taylor, as one historical account put it, ground the North Carolina Millstone Company to a stop.

Little is left to mark where the abandoned town once stood on NC Highway 22. The quarry has filled with water and is no longer active.

John A Leland, wiring for

the Aberdeen and Southern Pines Pilot newspaper in 1933, reported:

"A deserted village in Moore County! Forsaken by man for over 40 years, It is claimed today by the wildlife of the forest that it has become. Birds cry out that any intrusion of their domain is unwarranted. Snakes greasily glide along where once were streets teeming with activity."

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Time to end Foxfire Council 'work sessions'

When I first began attending meetings of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA], a decade and a half ago, all of the Board of Directors' decisions were made in a Work Session, held behind closed doors, to which neither the public nor the press were invited.

No decisions were made in the monthly "Open Meeting," which instead featured reports from the directors on their areas of responsibility. There was no way of knowing which director voted for what, or what thinking and debate underlay Board decisions.

It was a flawed process.

Fast-forward fifteen years. All SLLA Board decisions are made in formal votes in the Open Meeting. The Board still holds Work Sessions, but those too are open to the membership and the press, with an agenda published in advance of the meeting.

A few civic-minded folks show up at every Work Session. Put something of particular interest on the agenda, and the public will pack the meeting room.

That's real progress. SLLA decisions are debated and voted on in front of the folks they will affect, as they should be.

Back in the bad old days, when everything was decided behind closed doors, *The*

Times would regularly editorialize against the SLLA's closed door decision making. We'd often hold up the Foxfire Village Council as an example of good government.

that time.

More recently, a different set of Council members found that single meeting insufficient and instituted a "Work Session."

That session is held in a Village Office conference room that doubles as a break room and is scarcely larger than a walk-in closet.

There's barely room for the Council members, and essentially no room for the public. A chair is provided for *The Times'* reporter, and sometimes another is provided if some member of the public has business to be discussed.

The slippery slope of work sessions

There is no provision under North Carolina law for "Work Sessions." A meeting of a public body, like the Foxfire Village Council, is a public meeting, plain and simple.

An attorney advising the SLLA Board, whose practice focuses on homeowners associations and local government, remarked in a Board meeting that his firm had seen an increasing number of municipal councils implement "work sessions" that

looked very much like a strategy to skirt around the state Open Meeting laws.

I don't think the Foxfire Village Council's objective is to skirt around Open Meetings laws with their Work Sessions.

I think the members of the Council, who have far more life experience in the private sector, are simply doing what comes naturally to them. They try to find a way to talk openly about issues facing the Village, without worrying about how what they say will sound to the public.

That's completely understandable.

But it has no place in the governance of a village in the state of North Carolina, where there are quite specific laws mandating that all such deliberations take place in full view of the public.

"Work Sessions," unfortunately, can be a slippery slope for public officials, leading almost inevitably to more and more secrecy and closed door decision making.

Closed door deliberations

Here's a good example. The Foxfire Council recently held a Closed Session prior to its Work Session in order to consult with Village Attorney

Michael Brough.

We don't know everything the Council discussed with Brough during that meeting. But we do know, based on statements made by Council members during the Work Session that followed, that they discussed various general policy matters — that is, some of the fine points of the proposed Rural Estate zoning district and its provisions affecting the keeping of animals.

That discussion was almost certainly improper under North Carolina law.

Public bodies like village councils can in fact consult with their attorney in Closed Session, but not for the purpose of discussing "general policy matters." Here's the relevant portion of NC General Statutes

"A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required . . . (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege . . . General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to

(See "Council," p. 31)

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins

A sterling example

The Council, being constrained by the North Carolina Open Meetings and Public Records laws, was required to do all its deliberating and decision making in the open.

The Times' reporter would arrive at the meeting to find members arrayed at the Council desk, with support staff on hand, plenty of public seating, and extra copies of the agenda at the door.

The Council met twice a month; both meetings were conducted in exactly the same manner. It worked well.

Just as times have changed for the SLLA Board, times have changed in Foxfire.

Several years ago, the Council cut back to one meeting a month, feeling that it could complete its work in

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You could help save a life on May 7

Dear Seven Lakes
Community:

Thanks to all who donated during the last blood drive. The campaign succeeded in exceeding the goal of 28 units.

The Red Cross appreciates the response and hopes that we can achieve or exceed the goal again at the next Blood Drive on Wednesday, May 7 from 1:30 - 6 pm at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

You may either make an

appointment by calling SLLA at 673-4931 or walk-ins are always welcomed and encouraged. Remember to bring your donor card or photo ID. Donors must be 17 years of age to donate (16 years of age with parent's consent).

The blood drive is sponsored jointly by the Kiwanis Club of Seven Lakes and the Women of Seven Lakes.

Bob Racine, Chairman

Why is it called 'Good' Friday?

Have you ever wondered why the Friday before Easter is called Good Friday? I used to wonder that all the time when I was a kid. It was the most infamous day in history, the day that the creature killed the Creator. Consider what happened on that day.

Jesus endured the most horrific death that man has ever conceived, crucifixion. He was brutalized, beaten and hung on an old rugged cross. I know that people in polite society don't like to talk about the blood and the cross; however, they were necessary. Jesus was not on that cross for the sins that He had committed, but for your sins and my sins he suffered that cross.

Council

(Continued from page 30)

close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant." [NCGA 33C.143-318.11(a)(3)]

In other words, the Council can have a closed session with its attorney when it's being sued, but not to hash over the fine points of a new zoning district.

An over-reliance on "work sessions" inevitably leads to transgressions like this.

The bottom line is this: If the Foxfire Village Council needs two meetings a month to get its work done, then those meetings should be full-fledged Council meetings, held in the Village Hall, with staff support, an agenda published in advance, and plenty of seating for the public.

I would like to be in a position, once again, when I can hold up the Foxfire Village Council as a sterling example of how to do the public's business in plain view of the public.

"God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.

When we think of the death that Jesus endured for us on the cross, the question

never take away the need for the cross. In fact, what the world calls foolishness, is called powerful and necessary by the apostles.

In 1 Corinthians 1:18 Paul tells us "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are

perishing, but to those who are being saved by it, it is the power of God." He says again in vs. 23-24



comes as to why He would do this. The reason is simple and straightforward. Jesus suffered and endured the agony in order to manifest the love of God to the lost sinner. The payment for sin is death, according to Paul in Romans 6:23 and because all of us are sinners, someone had to pay the debt of sin. That is the purpose of the cross. Jesus came to pay the sin debt for mankind.

John said in 1 John 2:2 "And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." Why did He go to Calvary? He went to the cross so that mankind can be reconciled to God.

There seems to be a movement today that would take down the cross and undermine the necessity of blood atonement for sin. However, try as they might, men can

"But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Man can try to sanitize the Gospel to make it more appealing, but if you take away the blood and the cross there is no gospel message left. There is only some religious message that doesn't have the power to save one sinner from eternal separation from God. I don't know about you, but I will take the old rugged cross and the blood that Jesus shed as payment for my sins.

The only reason that we can call it "Good Friday" is because the good news is that Jesus paid the price for my sins and yours. It is Good Friday because the debt of

sin was satisfied by Jesus. It is Good Friday because now Salvation is available to everyone. It is Good Friday only because it was followed by Resurrection Sunday.

As we celebrate Easter this year, let's not forget about

the cross where our debt was paid.

Chris Hrabosky is pastor at Seven Lakes Baptist Church. You may send him your question or comments at chrabosky@mac.com

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FOOD FOCUS: NATURAL SWEETENERS

"Eat less sugar. (You're sweet enough already!)"

Who among us doesn't love sweets? The sweet flavor releases serotonin in our brains, the chemical responsible for our sense of well-being and contentment. But when it comes to sweeteners, not all are created equal. There are side effects and health risks from refined sweeteners like white table sugar and high-fructose corn syrup, and from artificial sweeteners like NutraSweet, saccharin and Splenda. Because they have been stripped of vitamins, minerals and fiber, refined sweeteners can spike blood sugar, which can often lead to cravings and mood and energy fluctuations. Instead, using naturally and minimally processed sweeteners can reduce cravings for sugary things, level blood sugar ups and downs, stabilize moods and have a dramatically positive effect on long-term health.

Here are a few natural sweeteners to substitute in drinks, food and baking. Since they are all approximately 1.5 times sweeter than refined sugar, you can use less. You can find them in most supermarkets or natural food stores. When replacing sugar with liquid sweeteners in a recipe, reduce the amounts of other liquids.

Raw Honey

Everyone seems to love honey, one of the oldest natural sweeteners on the market. Honey will have a different flavor depending on the plant source. Some are very dark and intensely flavored. Wherever possible, choose raw honey, as it is unrefined and contains small amounts of enzymes, minerals and vitamins.

Agave Nectar

Agave is made through the extraction and purification of the juice of the agave cactus. It does not stimulate insulin secretion as other sugars do, so it does not create a "sugar rush." It has a delightfully light and mild flavor.

Maple Syrup

Maple syrup is the concentrated extract of the sap of maple trees. It adds a rich, deep flavor to foods and drinks. Make sure to look for 100% pure maple syrup, not maple-flavored corn syrup. As with all sweeteners, organic varieties are best.

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School Board

(Continued from page 3)

schools. Moore County's demographics are changing, with younger families replacing retirees.

Farrell pointed to a real estate ad in a local magazine. "For years we have all seen the Realtors ad exclaiming 'Buy or build your next home in the Sandhills Farmlife School District.' This has been a self-fulfilling prophecy, as more homes are built where better facilities are located, thus created the very overcrowding you are living with," Farrell said.

Farrell assured the Board, "Contrary to what you might have heard or read, the Aberdeen Board of Commissioners are in fact in support of a bond referendum or any other mechanism that will address the schools facilities issues in Aberdeen. The population in Aberdeen has doubled since 2000 census, yet this is not reflected in schools. We have, for lack of a better word, an under-crowded problem in primary and elementary school."

Appealing for fairness, Farrell said, "The schools facilities in Aberdeen are approaching the seventy year mark, with

no relief in sight. They are old, hard to maintain, and have absolutely no curb appeal. At one overcrowded school in the center of the County, a thirty-year-old modern brick classroom building was torn down to create space to erect an addition for this school to alleviate overcrowding."

"What we are asking in Aberdeen and by extension Pinebluff are for equity and parity in Moore County Schools facilities and not continue dealing with overcrowding issues, when we have empty seats in our schools," Farrell said. "At the end of day, we have children in Aberdeen attending antiquated schools on landlocked campuses, and, only a short drive away, children are attending new or renovated schools."

"What the Aberdeen Board of Commissioners is asking for is the replacement of school facilities at the beginning of any new construction — not years down the road. Then we will have a beginning for equity and parity for all children in Moore County Schools," Farrell concluded.

Support for Teachers and a Strong Superintendent

Katrina Denza has been more than pleased with the education her sons have received in Moore County Schools. She credited teachers for their knowledge, dedication, and skills.

"I have a deep admiration for the Moore County Public Schools," Denza said. "My eldest, now a young man, received a progressive education and it has served him well. My youngest went to Southern Pines Primary and Elementary, and both schools had excellent leadership."

A prolonged search for a qualified seventh grade science teacher at Southern Middle, however, left her frustrated.

"He lost a wonderful science teacher at the beginning of the year and gained a brilliant science teacher a couple of months ago," she explained. "The time in between, when there was virtually no science being taught, no one was qualified to teach, is something I don't want my son or any other child to ever have to experience again."

"If teachers aren't given the support they need," Denza said, "then we will have more

vacancies through attrition. I know this Board supports our teachers. I am urging you to keep them foremost in your minds when you choose our next superintendent."

"Dr. Spence brought transparency and innovative ideas to the County, for which I am grateful," she said. "Now we are facing a change in our district leadership."

"Now more than ever we need to focus on the welfare and morale of our teachers. The teachers are the reason my sons are so engaged in learning. As you know, the state is presently hard on teachers. We need to mitigate on their behalf. We need a superintendent who sets the tone and insists that teachers are treated like the professionals they are, and give them autonomy — as much as they can under the law. A leader who understands that teachers are education's most precious resource."

Year Round Tentative

Christen Parker's oldest son attended the year-round Academy Heights School the year it was closed. She and

(See "School Board," p. 33)

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School Board

(Continued from page 32)

her husband decided to buy a home in Southern Pines, so that their sons could continue in the year round program.

"Looking at the [Superintendent's proposed] budget, I was sad to see that dual track [having both traditional and year-round calendars in the same school] is being considered and probably will be eliminated," Parker said.

Parker spoke on the educational benefits of year-round school and of the Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Program.

"My children have been lucky enough to receive dynamic education through the AIG program," Parker said. "I appreciate the resources and the time faculty and staff have put in making those opportunities available. So, I would like to encourage you to make sure those opportunities are available to children."

A Concept High School in North Moore?

Ernie Hussey, a native of northern Moore County, told the Board that he attended the 21st Century Facilities Task Force meetings out of interest and concern.

Noting the overcrowding at Pinecrest and Union Pines High Schools, Hussey said, "You have a crisis in Moore County Schools. The biggest problem is the biggest school, Pinecrest High School. The

school was built for 1600 and has 2158 kids. If Jesus Christ came back, he couldn't handle that number of kids. I just don't how anyone could control that many kids."

Hussey suggested that the Concept High School be located at North Moore High School, which he believes is underutilized. The campus of Sandhills Community College [SCC] is often cited as a desirable location for the school. Hussey argued that upgrading existing buildings at North Moore could save the district \$10 million when compared to the estimated \$20 million cost of building a new facility at SCC. *[The facilities plan approved by the School Board puts the cost of the concept high school at \$10-\$14 million. - GH]*

Priorities Matter

Later in the meeting, during the Board Member comment period, Member Bruce Cunningham acknowledged those who spoke during the Public Comment period.

"We like every comment we get," Cunningham said. "Tonight we heard a lot of good ones. To respond to speakers who dealt with facilities issues, the facilities plan was put together through extensive work, study, and collaboration by professionals, citizens, staff, parents, and school administrators to come up with a plan. We are proud of it, but don't proclaim it to be perfect."

"We appreciate the comments that we have heard tonight," Cunningham continued. "Changing the plan that was derived at after much extensive discussion, study, work, and research is nothing to be done lightly and overnight."

He then made a motion "that the issues that were brought before Board be referred to staff, in order to study those questions and return as soon as reasonable possible to Board with recommendation with respect of priorities."

The Board agreed that now was the time to reassess priorities and voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Year Round a Choice?

Chairman Kathy Farren explained to year-round parents that the year round program might still be an option.

"Do not stress too much about dual track going away," she said. "The dual track is going away — not year round. The schools will choose which

one they will want to do."

Spence: Facilities do not make schools

Superintendent Aaron Spence expressed concern that local real estate agents would promote one school over another. Spence remarked, "I was disturbed about the ads in paper. This simple fact indicates that our Realtors have something to learn in Moore County."

Spence has two children who currently attend Southern Pines Primary. "Farmlife is an outstanding school," he said, "but I can tell you that Southern Pines is also

an excellent school — and I would say the same thing about the Aberdeen schools. I hope that the public will pay attention that we have great schools across Moore County."

"Facilities do not make schools," Spence said. "The people, the children, and the support of our community makes the schools. We have wonderful schools in each of our areas. Our Realtors have a lot to learn, and I think it is a shame to play those games when we are trying to help our entire community lift all ships in Moore County Schools."

Pancakes for Veterans

The Moore County Vietnam Veterans of America will be hosting their Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Saturday, April 26, 8 am until 10 am. Bring your friends and family and enjoy delicious pan-

cakes with your community. Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, 1403 N. Sandhills Blvd., Aberdeen. Tickets at the door: \$7 per person. All proceeds will be used "to serve the needs of local Veterans from all conflicts."



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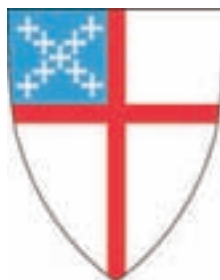
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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

Rural Estate to those present.

"The Rural Estate district is designed as a new zoning district," Gilroy said. "It acts as a bridge between what is now the Village and the neighboring rural agricultures areas. The design is the best of both worlds."

The zoning will give landowners more freedom and the opportunity to farm their land, have animals, or even the room to collect classic cars.

"It's just allows for increased latitude," Gilroy said. "These are good size parcels. The minimum lot is six acres."

Morgan Morris, who resides in Foxfire's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction [ETJ] and owns chickens, asked if the zoning would also apply to the ETJ.

"I live on Reynwood Court, but I am in the ETJ," Morris said. "I feel like some of the rules might be getting into an area that would affect people like myself. I am just trying to figure it out."

Foxfire Mayor George Erickson assured Morris that the zoning would apply only to properties within the Village. With no others signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed.

During the Council's deliberations, Councilwoman Leslie Frusco referred back to Morris's question.

"Any zoning can also be applied to the ETJ," Frusco said. She reassured Morris that she couldn't think of any reason to do that, but wanted him to understand that legally it could be done.

Morris replied that his con-

cern was simple: "I just want to make sure that I can have a couple of roosters."

Councilman Mick McCue noted that several edits suggested during the Council's March 27 Work Session had not been made in the final draft.

"What I have in my packet I don't think reflects all of the discussion and changes that were contemplated at the last Work Session," McCue said.

The Council had sought advice from Attorney Michael Brough, who had suggested changes specific to the language concerning animals.

"Originally, when we did RE, we matched it with what Equestrian Zoning said in terms of horses," Gilroy replied. "That was changed when Mr. Brough did the animals."

McCue agreed, "You are exactly right, we got things jumbled up when Mr. Brough gave his recommendations."

Mayor Erickson said the Council could modify the new ordinance language and approve it with those modifications, even though that

was not exactly the content advertised in the public hearing notice.

"In the past, when we have had public hearings," Erickson said, "and had comments such as you make, we have been able to agree to do the things suggested and go ahead and approve the amendment."

The Council members agreed that the sections dealing with animals still needed to be better defined.

"We know the extent of how many animals and what types of animals we want in RE," McCue said. "I would certainly volunteer to work with Mary and help provide . . . something that would keep equine animals as they are in the Equestrian district and allow for additional bovine and livestock in the Rural Estate."

McCue asked whether it would be better to wait and vote at a later meeting. Both Frusco and Erickson agreed that, excluding the portions dealing with animals, the Council should go ahead and vote on the RE zoning.

Erickson made the motion

and the Council voted unanimously to adopt the Rural Estate District.

Too much litter

The Council allows for public comment prior to and at the end of the meeting. Greg Regan shared his frustration that Moore County had a litter problem. Regan, a real estate agent, commented that the trash strewn roadways had cost him a sale.

"I can tell you our streets are the filthiest streets," Regan said. "Foxfire Road and Hoffman Road are disgusting. We want to attract investors, but we can't do it if we have trash on our roads," Regan said.

"We say we are a conservative, Christian community," Regan asked, "What is con-

servative and Christian about leaving trash all over roads?"

Opposed to Grande Pines Annexation

Regan then raised a second issue, involving annexation.

"It has come to my attention that our State House Representative Jamie Boles put forth a bill that if passed will create an exception for Foxfire regarding annexation," Regan said.

"The current rule applies to all counties in North Carolina," he continued. "For some reason, Representative Boles thought it was important to put forth a bill and get it accepted in the House to exempt Foxfire from the rules. All counties have to live with these rules except

(See "Foxfire," p. 35)



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Join Save Our Sandhills for an informative and interesting evening, Thursday, April 24, at 7 pm, the Southern Pines Civic Club at the corner of Ashe Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

They will host Brenda Quinones, whose program on "Herbal Medicines of Native Americans and Their Significance in the Health and Wellness of Frontier Settlers" grew as a result of her

family roots.

Quinones was born and raised in southwestern Texas, where her mother and grandmothers taught her the ancient art of foraging and using herbs to heal the family's sicknesses. She continued studying her Hispanic and Native American roots in order to reconnect with her ancestors' healing knowledge. Along the way, she learned which herbs were

shared between the various Native American nations and the early American settlers, and how they were used in various parts of the country.

Now living in Moore County, Quinones has become a Moore County Master Gardener Volunteer in order to further her herbal knowledge and to share her knowledge and interest in growing and harvesting herbs with others.

The audience will learn herbal remedies and will receive a list of herbs that can benefit modern families in their quest for natural remedies for

health and wellness.

The public is welcome. Refreshments served.

Foxfire

(Continued from page 34)

Foxfire."

Regan noted that the rule was written specific to the subdivision Grande Pines and will allow the Council to annex a piece of property that is noncontiguous.

What the bill, identified as H569 actually does is exempt Foxfire Village from a requirement that municipalities must annex all of a subdivision if they annex any part of the subdivision. The developer of Grande Pines wants the Village to annex the subdivision, but some landowners within the community prefer not to be annexed. The Bill has been approved by the NC House and awaits approval by the Senate.

"You are here to protect the values of this community," Regan told the Council. "If you allow for non-contiguous annexation you have devalued my property. If you do that then you working against what you pledged to do and protect our property values."

It's Budget Time

It's time to create and approve a Village budget for FY2015, and Councilwoman Frusco invited citizens to participate in the process.

"The meetings are May 6 and 15," Frusco said. "There will be two citizen participation meetings here at town hall at 6:30 pm. It's not a public hearing, but provides us a chance to listen to and consider what citizens simply have to say before we vote on it."

Water Water Everywhere

2013 was a wet year for Moore County, leading Councilman Steve Durham recommended lifting water restrictions that have been in place for a number of years.

"I have an interest in lifting the mandatory water restric-

tions and going to a voluntary water conservation efforts," Durham said. "We have been on Phase 1 [restrictions] for seven years."

The Council voted unanimously to lift the restrictions.

Devil's Advocate

At the end of the meeting, McCue assured the public that he was not favor of prohibiting fences on Foxfire's golf courses as was reported in *The Times'* April 4 report on the Council's March 27 Work Session.

McCue told *The Times* that he was simply attempting to get all options on the table during the Work Session discussion and that his suggestion that fencing be disallowed along the golf course was an instance of playing "devil's advocate."



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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

"If I were younger, I would have went down the hill myself," Leach said.

Director Rich Faraci, who lives next to the dam, said he enjoyed watching the kids sledding and had welcomed parents of smaller children to use the gentler slope in his back yard.

However, Faraci agreed with Sohl, "I understand Ray's point and we can't condone sledding on the dams. The young lady could have been paralyzed or worse."

"The dams are not a recreation area," Sohl said, "and it needs to be controlled and managed."

"We authorize and support a guy building submarines for our lakes, but we won't let kids sleigh ride?" Leach asked.

The Board voted four to one, with Leach opposed, to move the motion to disallow sledding on dams to the Open Session.

Taking the Plunge

A few years ago, SLLA lost a dedicated pool manager. Since then, SLLA has contracted out maintenance of the pool at \$2500 for the season.

Leach recommended that the board consider training the SLLA staff in pool maintenance.

"A fourteen year old kid can clean a pool," Leach said. "If the motor breaks down,

then take it and get it fixed. What I would suggest is that we have one of our maintenance men accompany the pool worker, so that we can know exactly what the company does and then turn it over to our maintenance department."

Director Sandy Sackman reported that, when her daughters worked as SLLA lifeguards, pool maintenance was their responsibility.

Director Faraci questioned the wisdom of giving the maintenance staff more to do during the busy Summer season. "There are three people on staff," he noted. "They have a schedule that has to be done on daily basis."

Both Leach and Faraci agreed it was too near open-

ing day for the pool to make any changes for this year.

"If we don't have anyone in line, we need to keep this company," Faraci said. "I am all for saving a dollar when we can. But, if we want to have a successful pool season, then we need to go with what we have in place."

President Bob Racine reminded the Board of the backlash from the community two years prior when the pool didn't open on time.

Leach made the motion to proceed with approving the pool maintenance contract, "with the contingency that staff shadow the pool company." The motion passed unanimously.

The Board voted unanimously by email to approve

the installation of a second drain in the wading pool at a cost not to exceed \$8450.

Lot Combinations

"We have a real problem here, that there are 'combined' lots that do not appear on county records as combined," Manager Sohl reported.

Sohl recommended that the Association charge a flat rate of \$2,000 for subdividing a previously combined lot. The current policy requires that the owner must pay all back dues to the year the lots were originally combined.

Making the process less costly for landowners may encourage more subdivisions, adding to the inventory of dues-paying lots.

Lot owners of combined properties need to make sure they are listed as combined with Moore County. They have 120 days to have their lots surveyed and listed correctly.

Faraci noted, "We are not penalizing people for not originally doing it right. It's giving lot owners 120 days to get it right."

The Board voted unanimously to move Sohl's proposal to the Open Meeting for a vote.

Happy Trails with a Full Herd

In late March, a local military couple that was relocating offered to gift SLLA one of their horses. Since

(See "SLLA," p. 37)

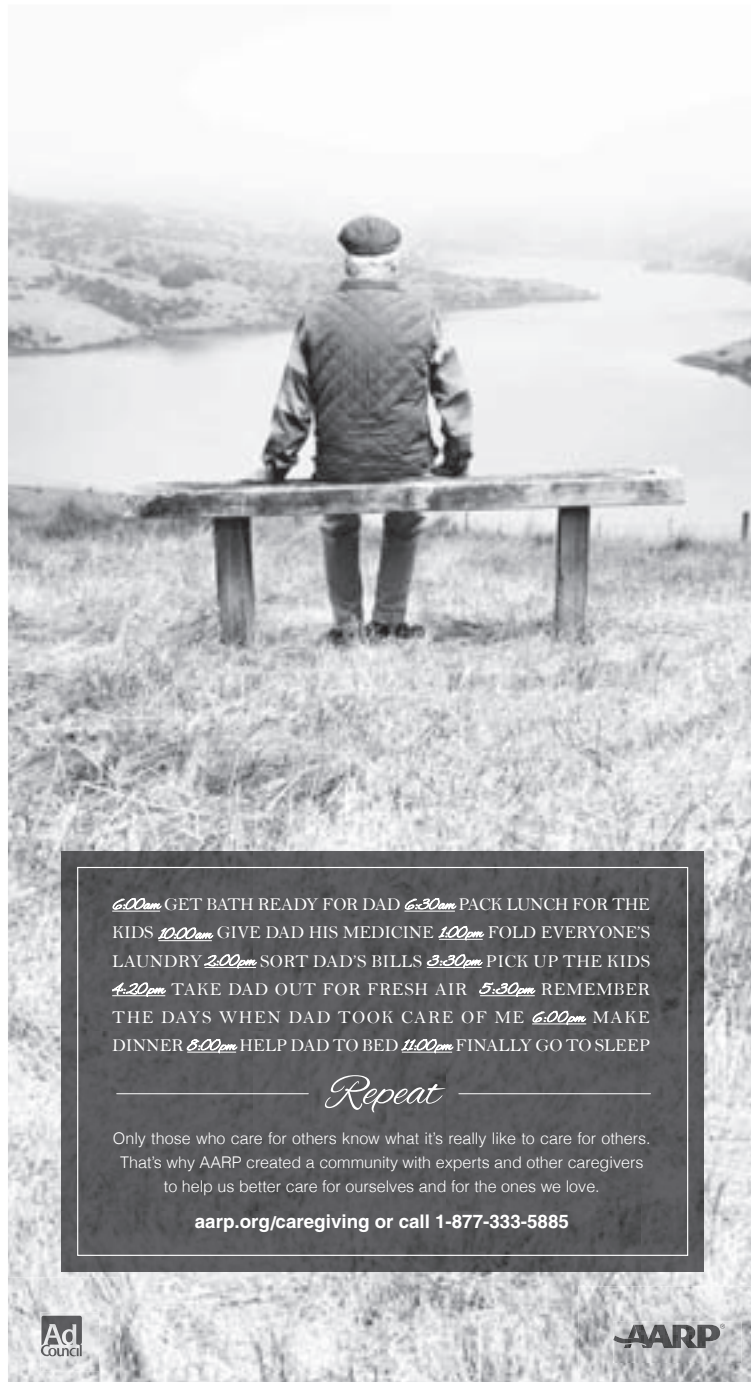
Director Darr resigns, replacement sought

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] began its new fiscal year shy one board member. Director Bob Darr tendered his resignation by email earlier in the week, President Bob Racine reported during the Board's Monday, April 7 Work Session.

"Bob Darr has resigned; and, under the bylaws, we need to appoint a replacement," Racine said. "We

need to immediately make it known with an association news blast, in the paper, and on the board at the mailroom. Members have until April 23 to come forward."

"Interviews will be completed by April 28," he continued. "We hope to make a selection and have him or her in place by April 30. We don't really want an empty space on the Board."



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Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

The beginning of Lent is time for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at McDonalds Chapel Presbyterian Church.

At right, Amy McDonald samples some hotcakes, decked out in Mardi Gras beads.

At far right, Ann Hartsell, Barbara Okula, Angell Crisp, and Rev. Bob Whitehouse.



SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 36)

then, the owners have had a change of heart.

The horse was to replace the free lease horse Bandit that has developed a medical issue and at times can be temperamental.

To bring the herd up to size, speed, and geniality Stable Manager Amanda Duggan has recommended the purchase of another horse for roughly \$1500.

Racine agreed that "ridership at the stables needs to be kept consistent." He also made available to Duggan contact information for a horse dealer that is familiar with the Association.

"Amanda is agreeable to talking with him," Racine said. "He is a good local contact and has purchased horses here before. It's worth the

phone call."

"My feeling is that this is a no-brainer," Director Bill Hirsch said. "We have already determined the size of the herd. It is our obligation to maintain it. We have tried free lease horses with mixed results. At this point, we can complete the herd with purchased horses."

The board voted unanimously to move the question to the April 30 Open Meeting for a vote. They agreed that the horse will be given a thorough go over by a vet before it is purchased.

Referring to the earlier offer, Hirsch said, "This brings to mind a phrase never look a gift horse in the mouth."

Better Beach Maintenance

Over the years, benches and picnic tables along the

SLLA beaches have been weathered and misused, Racine said, adding that the beaches were often not raked and the sand was washing into the lakes.

"As you know, our demographics are changing," he said. "There are more young kids, families, and mid-age kids and teenagers."

With families spending more time at the beaches, Racine argued that upkeep of the beaches should be a higher priority in upkeep. "If we can spend money everywhere else, then why can't we spend some money on the beaches?" Racine asked.

"What I would like to see is the Recreation Committee, Facilities and Maintenance

Committee, and the Lakes and Dams Committee work together on this as a triple project," he recommended.

Bocce is a Hit

Landowner Les Sommers told the Board that the one bocce court built on the SLLA tennis courts has proven to

be a popular past time.

"I would like financing to build another bocce ball and shuffle board," Sommers requested. "People are having to sit around and wait to play. We are trying to work it out so that everyone gets a chance to play."

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Seven Lakes Times
April 18, 2014

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YARD/GARAGE & ESTATE SALES

YARD/MOVING SALE - Sat. April 19 -7:30 am to 2 pm, 255 Firetree Lane, Seven Lakes North. Furniture, including reclining love seat, full-size bed, household items, kitchen items, tools, patio furniture, cherimoya, lawn mower and other yard tools.

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BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME – on this North Side Lot, 4 tenths of an acre 115 Pinecone Ct. \$10,000. Call 910-420-2919.

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SL WEST 1/2 ACRE – 237 Longleaf Dr. \$19,500. Tammy Lyne, Keller Williams Realty www.TammyLyne.com 910-235-0208.

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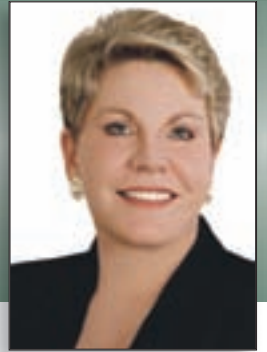
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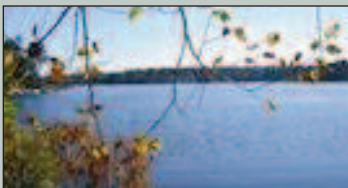
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Wonderful 2-story home on cul-de-sac
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Outstanding Lake Auman Lots



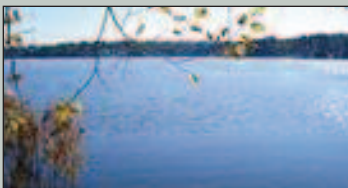
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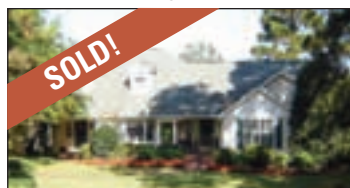


107 Butterfly Court \$395,000

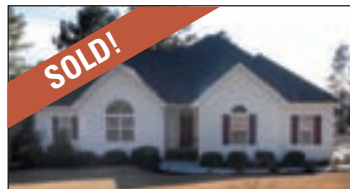
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Seven Lakes West \$440,000
Custom home on wooded cul-de-sac
4 BR / 3 BA
109 Timber Ridge Court



Seven Lakes West \$199,000
Charming cottage with water views
3 BR / 2 BA
136 Otter Drive



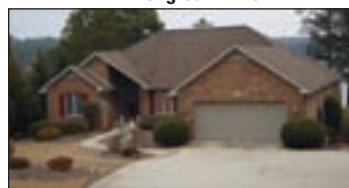
Seven Lakes North \$325,000
Gorgeous lakefront on Lake Sequoia
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181 Firetree Lane



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Charming ranch home in private setting
3 BR / 2 BA
105 Fox Run Court



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5 BR / 3.5 BA
129 Shaw Drive



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Stunning custom waterfront home
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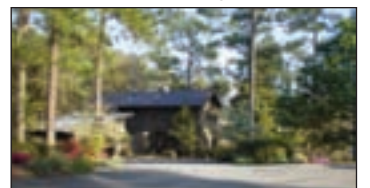
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