

Rhyne Fishing Tournament



Fisherfolk came in all sizes (and sported a variety of fashion choices) when trying their luck at the 2013 edition of the Rick Rhyne Memorial Fishing Tournament in Foxfire Village. This year's event will be held this Saturday, August 9. [See page 15 for details.]

Judicial facility upgrades to cost county \$3.2 million

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Construction contracts have been approved for \$3.2 million in renovations to the Moore County Courthouse and the

Currie Building in downtown Carthage.

During their regular, Tuesday, August 5 meeting, the Moore County Board of Commissioners approved a \$1,448,000 million contract with Greensboro's H.M. Kern Corporation for renovations

to the courthouse.

That will include converting space on the ground floor, once occupied by the sheriff's office, for use by the clerk of court. An additional courtroom will be added, and the structure modified to provide better security for the judge and jury, as well as additional meeting rooms for attorneys and their clients. An elevator will be added to the front of the building.

Kern's bid was the lowest of four received; the highest bid totaled \$1,708,800.

Asked about Kern's qualifications by Chairman Larry Caddell, Charles Pearce, the architect on both projects, said Kern had been the contractor on renovations at the Orange County health center, (See "Courthouse," p. 25)

Sequoia Island lighthouse will get a makeover

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



A Seven Lakes landmark will soon get a facelift.

The Lake Sequoia lighthouse will receive a new roof and new coat of stain. The \$3,000 contract with Genesis Home Services was approved by the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors during their Wednesday, July 30 Open Meeting.

Director Bill Hirsch, an architect by trade, inspected the lighthouse and found it structurally sound. Facilities and Maintenance Director Chuck Leach explained. Leach said some strapping will be added to reinforce the roof.

New asphalt shingles will replace the current cedar shingles, which have deteriorated. Leach explained that

using asphalt shingles will eliminate the need to make annual repairs to the roof to replace loose shingles.

The lighthouse siding will be pressure washed and then coated with a Cabot bleaching stain, which Leach explained would weather to an attractive gray color. He noted that there are quite a few holes in the siding, which were initially thought to have been made by squirrels, until someone questioned whether a squirrel could swim out to the island.

A new door was ordered, but sent back, when it was found to be unsuitable. Instead, the SLLA maintenance department will fabricate a screened iron door that will both prevent entry and allow the structure to be well-ventilated.

Former SLLA President Bob Darr asked whether the board (See "Lighthouse," p. 28)



The Sequoia Island Lighthouse in Seven Lakes North. This grainy shot is from a postcard printed sometime early in the history of Seven Lakes — note the scarcity of homes along the shoreline. From the collection of Northsider Conrad Meyer.

Free small business seminars from SCC

Sandhills Community College is offering free small business seminars in August and September. They include:

Free Money from the Government?

Demystifying Small Business Financing, will be facilitated by April Gonzalez of the Small Business Administration. She will clear up the confusion of grants and finances for those starting a business.

Learn the why's and how's of financing a business on Tuesday, August 19 from 4 pm until 5:30 pm, at the Pinehurst Campus, Sandhills Community College, Van Dusen Hall, Room 103.

Fueling Your Business

Fueling Your Business is being offered by the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center.

This seminar is designed to help small business owners

and prospective entrepreneurs understand how to access credit and capital for their businesses.

It will review the six basic principles many lenders use to make credit decisions and provide an overview of the resources available in North Carolina for small businesses.

Finally, the seminar will cover the Rural Center's Microenterprise Loan Program and provide details about its lending criteria and application process.

This seminar is on Wednesday, August 20 from 3 until 5 pm, at the Pinehurst Campus, Sandhills Community College, Van Dusen Hall, Room 103.

Nonprofit Entrepreneur Writing

The Nonprofit Entrepreneur Writing and Discovering Grants seminar helps those trying to raise funds and invest in the future. Your aim should be to build a net-

work of foundation and corporate funders, many of which give small gifts on a fairly steady basis and a few of which give large, periodic grants.

By relentlessly pursuing the various steps of the process covered in this seminar, each year you can retain most of your regular supporters and strike a balance with the pool of larger donors.

Learn to fund your new nonprofit business. Facilitated by Sam Gore. This seminar will be at the Aberdeen Fire and Rescue Building, Thursday, August 21 from 6 until 8 pm.

501 (C)(3) Seminar

This seminar teaches the benefits of 501(C)(3) status and empowers the group or with the ability to apply for government and foundation grants that are vital for many to become a successful nonprofit organization.

The Internal Revenue Service receives tens of thousands

of applications each year. "In 2008, one IRS official estimated that organizations not represented by attorneys, accountants or other tax professionals account for 70% of the exemption applications submitted," cites Sam Gore, facilitator of this seminar.

Gore will carefully guide participants through the 1023 form and provide vital information concerning how to respond to statements and questions needed to satisfy IRS reviewers.

This seminar is Monday, September 29, at the Aberdeen Fire and Rescue Building, from 6 until 8 pm.

Registration

Register for these and other free seminars by visiting www.sandhills.edu/sbc and then click on the Register Now icon.

Pre-registration is encouraged. Or you can register by calling (910) 695-3938 or emailing williamslo@sandhills.edu

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Deadline	Issue
Fri, Aug 15	Fri, Aug 22
Thu, Aug 28*	Fri, Sep 5
Fri, Sep 12	Fri, Sep 19
Fri, Sep 26	Fri, Oct 3
Fri, Oct 10	Fri, Oct 17
Fri, Oct 24	Fri, Oct 31
Fri, Nov 7	Fri, Nov 14
Thu, Nov 20*	Fri, Nov 28
Fri, Dec 5	Fri, Dec 12
Thu, Dec 18*	Fri, Dec 26

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County's first solar farm ready to generate

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Moore County's first solar farm is just a few weeks away from producing electricity.

Motorists traveling along NC Highway 211 near Montgomery County line have already become accustomed to the undulating rows of solar panels, all tilted away from the road, toward the south, to catch the sun.

If all goes according to plan, those panels will begin pumping electricity into the Duke Power distribution grid by the end of the month, according to Blair Schooff, a spokesman for Strata Solar, which built the project.

The five megawatt commercial solar facility is called "Spicewood Solar," because of its sits on 41.3 acres of a 46.7 acre tract between NC 211 and Spicewood Road, in front of the Perdue feed mill. The land, owned by members of the Harris family, was previously used by Sandhills Turf, a Harris-owned company, for turf grass production.

More money from sun than from grass

Moore County's Planning Board signed off on a conditional use permit for the project on February 6. At that time, property owner and High Point Attorney Bill

Harris said the lease payments provided from the solar farm would provide family members with more income than is generated from harvesting turf grass. He added that his sister lives on a tract adjacent to the field.

A second solar farm of similar size is planned for a nearby Harris-owned tract on Samarkand Road. The conditional use permit for that project was granted in November. Harris told *The Times* that construction on that project, which is being handled by Argand Energy Solutions, is expected to get underway in the next few weeks.

Both facilities are rated at five megawatts, each producing enough electricity to serve 300 homes over the course of a year. The electricity generated will be sold to Duke Energy. A third Strata Solar project originally planned for Moore County in no longer on Strata's list of active projects, Schooff said.

Harris told the Planning Board that said his family's land has attracted solar companies because of its proximity to high capacity power lines, which he attributed to the power needs of the nearby feed mills.

The two companies actively pursuing Moore County solar

projects, Argand and Strata, are both North Carolina companies.

Low-impact construction

The Spicewood farm's solar panels are mounted on metal racks that were driven into the ground, rather than being set in concrete. The panels are tilted toward the south at a twenty-degree angle. They are roughly nine feet from the ground at their highest point, in the back, and three feet off the ground in front.

Schooff explained that Strata's approach to construction is designed to minimize any permanent impact to the site, so that, in the future, it could be easily returned to agricultural use.

Sod was harvested from the tract prior to the installation of the racks and panels, but the bermuda grass is expected to grow back. The entire tract is surrounded by a six-foot high chain link fence topped with three strands of barbed wire.

A fifty foot vegetative buffer, including both shade trees and understory trees, will ultimately screen the facility

from NC Highway 211. The buffer along the eastern and western sides uses understudy trees and shrubs, in order to avoid casting a shadow on the solar panels.

There is currently a large drainage basin between the solar farm and NC Highway 211. Moore County Planner Jeremy Rust told *The Times* that the structure was required by the state, to capture runoff during the construction phase. When the soil is again covered with grass, that basin will be filled in.

Solar subsidies sparked initial skepticism

The activation of the Spicewood solar farm will cap an interesting chapter in the annals of Moore County land use planning.

When solar companies first expressed an interest in establishing generation facilities in the county, there was no provision for commercial solar facilities in the zoning ordinance.

The Planning Department studied the approach other counties had taken in zoning and permitting the facilities,

presenting a draft ordinance to the planning board in March of last year. Prior to their April meeting, some board members visited commercial solar facilities. Representatives of solar companies were on hand for the April meeting, to answer questions about the industry and solar installation.

In May, the board voted unanimously not to endorse the proposed ordinance amendments, largely due to concerns that the industry is viable only because of substantial government subsidies. Opponents of the solar farms proposed for Moore County worried about contamination of water supplies, and questioned the wisdom of taking agricultural land out of production.

However, the Board of Commissioners has the last word on proposed amendments to county ordinances. By the time the proposed ordinance amendments reached the commissioners, in June of last year, solar supporters, and Bill Harris himself were on hand to urge to commissioners to allow commercial

(See "Solar," p. 28)

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License required to drive golf cart on streets

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



You need a driver's license to pilot a golf cart on the streets of Seven Lakes North and

South.

That's already state law, but, during their Wednesday, July 30 Open Meeting, the Board of Directors of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] made that requirement part of the Association's rules and regulations.

The Board approved several additional amendments to the rules to ensure that carts are operated safely on Seven Lakes streets.

The new rules specify that:

- Golf carts may be driven on the streets only by licensed drivers.
- Golf carts may be operated on the streets during daylight hours only, unless they are equipped with headlights and tail lights.
- Carts must be operated in a safe manner, with all passengers seated at all times. Carts may not be used to pull trailers or tow anything else.

Director Bill Hirsch noted that the new regulations conform to and are not any more restrictive than current state law.

North Carolina General Statutes already limit the operation of golf carts on public streets to licensed drivers, and, under a Local Bill passed a number of years ago, state traffic laws are enforceable within the gates of Seven Lakes.

Community Manager Ray Sohl noted that a deputy from the Moore County Sheriff's office was present when the Security Committee crafted the rules revisions.

Resident George Temple asked the board whether the new rules included a require-

ment that golf carts be registered with the Landowners Office.

Sohl said that requirement was already in the rules, but hadn't been enforced for many years.

"Are you charging?" Temple asked. He had suggested during the Board's July Work Session that the SLLA should charge a fee for golf cart registration, similar to the fee for boat registration.

"That hasn't been discussed," Sohl replied.

Becky Oldham, who described herself as a avid walker, asked how the board planned to enforce the new golf cart regulations.

President Racine explained that the roving security patrol would assist in enforcement, but added that landowners who see a violation of the rules should report it to the North Gatehouse. If the violation is confirmed, it will proceed through the standard judicial process.

Abbreviated Agenda Packet

During the board's discus-

sion of new golf cart rules, George Temple noted that neither those rules, nor the other items discussed in the meeting, had been included in the agenda packet mailed in advance to landowners.

"We didn't get this stuff with the agenda like we usually do," Temple said.

Manager Sohl said the board had agreed to limit the content of the landowners' packet to the simple agenda and financial statements. Previously, the SLLA office had produced a document, included in the email, that provided pertinent details for each item on the agenda.

Sohl said the meeting packets provided to board members include far more detail than the meeting packet provided to members, which could lead to misunderstandings. Also, the Board's packet includes "sensitive information" that could be inadvertently included in the members' meeting packet.

"I agree," Temple replied, "but a lot of this stuff is not sensitive. And you guys are

passing stuff that we have no idea what you are passing."

President Racine suggested that the abbreviated packet for the July 30 meeting was the result of both he and Sohl being out of town when the packet was to be assembled.

"We need transparency and openness," Racine said, "and we will try our best to do that."

"I think you just covered it, but I'd like to reinforce, former Director Meyer said. "When we started three years ago on the board, when we were going to make changes to the rules and regulations, or policies and those kids of

things, that affected the community, we wanted to get that language out to the community in the open meeting packet, before it was voted on, so that, at least we could see what it was. I think that is really what George is getting at here. We don't see it at all, until it is passed. I don't want to see the whole packet, because it is way too thick."

In the days following the meeting, President Racine announced that the contents of the agenda packets provided to the board and to landowners would be a topic of discussion during the Monday, August 11 board work session.

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New website vendor approved for SLLA

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] website is difficult to administer and woefully out of date. During the Association's Wednesday, July 30 Open Meeting, the SLLA Board of Directors agreed to hire a new website design and management company.

Community Manager Ray Sohl explained that the current site is hosted by Association Voice at a cost of \$1500 per year. The site is out of date, and the SLLA staff has not been trained to update it. Having the vendor implement changes to the design is billed at \$85 per hour; and navigation changes are billed at \$105 per hour, Sohl said.

"I have managed other sites, and this is one of the worst I have ever seen, in terms of day-to-day admin," Sohl added.

He recommended that the website be moved to the HOA Sites company, noting they handle website design and hosting for homeowners associations nationwide. HOA Sites is the vendor for the website of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association.

The cost for the new company is \$450 per year, plus a one time \$200 setup fee, Sohl said. That will include establishing both a publicly accessible website and private areas only accessible by registered landowners.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the move to the new website company. Sohl explained that the existing contract has another sixty to ninety days to run, which will provide time to get the new site up and running.

Prancing Horse Contract Renewed

The Board also voted unanimously to approve a renewal of the contract with Prancing Horse Therapeutic Riding Center. Director Mary Farley said the agreement included no major changes.

Prancing Horse will continue to pay the SLLA \$50 per riding lesson and \$25 per horse per day. A twenty-four hour notice of cancellation is required.

Yard Debris Contract Renewed

An annual agreement with Superior Tree and Hauling for removal of debris from the yard debris disposal site was renewed during the July 30 Open Meeting.

Manager Sohl explained that Superior has been the SLLA's vendor for this service for since 2012. The rates charged have not changed in the new contract, he explained, but new procedures have been added that should make it easier to verify

incoming invoices.

The North Gate will record Superior trucks coming in to collect debris, and those visits will be matched with disposal tickets from the Moore County Landfill. Neither the dollar value of the contract nor the rate per ton charged by the vendor was disclosed during the meeting.

Financial Report

Treasurer Sandy Sackmann said the Finance Committee had discussed a new policy for fees on rental properties. They will propose that owners who rent their properties for longer than thirty days will be charged an administrative fee. The renter will be responsible for other SLLA fees;

guest pass, mailbox fee, boat registration, bar codes, etc.

Manager Sohl reported that the SLLA's year-to-date operating income was \$38,800 ahead of budget of June 30.

A few expense items are running ahead of budget, Sohl said, including:

- \$3,494 in office supplies, which reflects the annual purchase of barcodes stickers, and boat and trailer stickers.
- \$1,500 in legal fees.
- \$5,930 in repairs and maintenance, of which \$3,500 went for pavilion repairs.

• \$2,281 in dam repairs, reflecting work to reestablish and stabilize the Little Juniper Lake embankment including topsoil and reseeding.

• \$1,563 in stable expenses that reflect the purchase of a horse.

Sohl reported that outstanding receivables total \$298,000, some portion of which reflects ninety-three landowners who are on payment plans. \$54,000 is over ninety days, and Sohl said the Association has "a very aggressive attorney who is

(See "SLLA," p. 26)

SLLA Pool Party

The Seven Lakes Landowners Association invites all residents to a Pool Party, hosted by the Seven Lakes Lifeguards, on Saturday, August 23, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Games, food, and fun are planned.

In order to provide enough food, the Recreation Committee needs everyone planning to attend to email the

landowners office with the number of children and the number of adults. Please remember, no glass is allowed by the pool.

RSVP by August 20th: sevenlakes@ncrrbiz.com.

Special thanks to Lori and Kayleigh Wachter and the Recreation Committee for organizing this community event.

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Pine Forest developer seeks extension

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The developer of Pine Forest is looking for an extension on his zoning permit, and the Moore County Board of Commissioners appear, at best, somewhat skeptical.

Pine Forest is a planned unit development proposed for 1,652 acres in the north side of NC Highway 211, stretching from West Pine Middle School to West End, that would include 700 homes, 300 hotel rooms, two-

golf courses, and a shopping village.

The commissioners approved a PUD-Hamlet rezoning for the development on September 6, 2011. That permit is set to expire on September 6, 2014, thirty-six months after it was initially approved.

Planning Director Debra Ensminger told the board, during their Tuesday, August 5 regular meeting, that the developer, MHK Ventures, has not filed a preliminary plat for even the first phase of the development, as required in the rezoning

approval. Nor has MHK provided the planning department with annual progress reports stating any circumstances that might delay the project.

MHK did, however, file a request for a one-year extension of the deadline for filing a preliminary plat. That request notes that the developer has been working with county staff to develop an agreement for bringing water to the PUD, as well as options for wastewater treatment.

Moore County requires that developers defray the county's cost of providing water to

new subdivisions; that cost was expected to be approximately \$3 million in the case of Pine Forest. MHK had proposed building a private wastewater treatment facility to serve Pine Forest.

The skepticism expressed by the commissioners, when presented with MHK's request for an extension, had less to do with Pine Forest and more to do with a second MHK golf course development, the Dormie Club, on Beulah Hill Church Road near its intersection with NC Highway 73.

The county paid to extend water to that development by obtaining a grant from

the NC Center for Rural Economic Development — a grant that was secured by MHK's pledge that the project would generate a given number of jobs.

MHK fell short of that pledge — though exactly how short has been a difficult matter to determine. The amount of the Rural Center grant will be reduced proportionately for each job that MHK failed to create — and MHK will have to repay that portion of the grant. If the developer fails in that repayment, the county will have to make up the shortfall.

(See "Pine Forest," p. 25)

'No-shows' create problems for county transport service

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County Transportation Services is "in dire need of some policy changes, Planning Director Debra Ensminger told the Commissioners. MCTS, which provides transportation for clients of the Department of Aging, the Department of Social Services [DSS], and other social welfare agencies, became a part of the Planning Department in March.

Ensminger noted that the Commissioners "might have been getting some calls," because MCTS has begun enforcing policies that were previously ignored, including its policy for handling "no-shows," riders who no longer need a scheduled ride but fail to provide advance notice

of cancellation to MCTS.

Ensminger said riders who simply fail to show up when the MCTS van arrives increases the cost for other riders on that route. The current no-show policy is unfair, she said, because it treats clients unequally. For example, the Department of Aging is charged for no-shows, but DSS is not. Yet DSS was responsible for 627 no-shows over a twelve month period.

No shows also increase the overall cost of operating the system. Because MCTS has a limited budget, no shows ultimately reduce the number of trips the system can handle each month.

"The no-shows are the biggest problem with our budget," Ensminger said.

Ensminger said she has begun tracking the budget weekly to determine the number of trips that can be offered

each day — currently approximately 200 per day.

Despite the urgent need for policy revisions, Ensminger said, the fifteen mem-

(See "MCTS," p. 25)

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County opts for enhanced aerial photography

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County citizens, the tax assessor's office, and public safety and law enforcement will soon have access to a new high tech tool for investigating the physical landscape of the county.

The Board of Commissioners voted, during their Tuesday, August 5 regular meeting, to move forward with a \$201,484 six-year contract with Pictometry, a company that provides upgraded aerial photographic mapping of the county that can be integrated with the county's existing GIS system.

Pictometry's system, called "oblique imagery acquisition," takes photos from an angle, providing three-dimensional images of buildings and terrain features. It allows the measurement of length, height, and area across those images.

The system is expected to be valuable for both the tax assessor's office, allowing closer inspection of properties without requiring a field trip, and the sheriff's office and public safety, which can use the images to preplan response to emergencies. The images will also be available

to citizens on the county's public GIS mapping system.

Funding for the Pictometry service is likely to be drawn from the budgets of several departments.

On Commissioner Nick Picerno's recommendation, the Board instructed Manager Vest to write a letter to the state E911 board asking to use E911 funds — taxes that are rolled into consumer telephone bills — to pay for the Pictometry imagery, since it will be used extensively by law enforcement and public safety.

Public Comments on Animal Center

The Commissioner heard from three citizens who expressed concerns about the Moore County Animal Center during the public comment portion of the meeting:

Tom Leen of Foxfire, a candidate for Commissioner in the November elections, suggested that the county adopt regulations mandating the spaying or neutering of pets, as well as pet licensing, in order to reduce the euthanasia rate that the Animal Center and cut the cost to taxpayers of maintaining the facility.

Celeste Watson of Southern Pines questioned, as she had during the July 15 commis-

sioners meeting the process by which Betsy Ficarro was relieved of her responsibilities as the part-time volunteer coordinator at the Animal Center.

Michelle Livingston of Southern Pines raised questions about the county's internal investigation of the unauthorized euthanasia of a cat and kittens at the Animal Center.

County Manager Wayne Vest and Tami Golden, who has served as interim director of the Animal Center since the termination of Director Al Carter in February, pro-

vided the commissioners with an overview of improvements made to the center in over the past few months.

Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, August 5 regular meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Recognized four interns who have been participants in the County Government Leadership Academy a 4-H program in its fifth year in Moore County. The students spent a week volunteering in the Soil and

Water, Cooperative Extension, Public Safety, and Animal Operations departments.

- Recognized the county's GIS Department for winning a Government Innovation Grant Award. GIS worked with Public Utilities to develop a comprehensive hydraulic model of the county's water system that can be used to project the impact of various improvements or modifications to the distribution system.
- Approved the names of seven new roads, including (See "Commissioners," p. 24)

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County hires new Animal Operations Director

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County has hired a new director for its Animal Operations department, an organization that has seen its substantial progress in increasing pet adoptions and reducing euthanasia overshadowed by the termination of high-profile staff members in recent months.

The new director, Brenda Ann Sears, comes to Moore County from her position as supervisor of the City of Asheville's Animal Services Unit, a division of the police department, where she has served since 2002.

A county press release on Sears' appointment indicates that she has worked with animal welfare agencies since 1995, serving in both Oregon and Pennsylvania, working in both enforcement and shelter capacities. It credits her

with establishing Asheville's animal control program.

Sears' first day on the job in Moore County is expected to be Monday, August 25.

Personnel turnover

Al Carter, who headed up Moore County's animal operations for many years, was fired early this year. The County's Internal Auditor Tami Golden has served as Interim Director of Animal Operations since then.

More recently, veteran animal control officer Frank Ringelberg was terminated.

Last month, part time volunteer coordinator Betsy Ficarro was let go, generating an outcry from many of the volunteers she had recruited. That prompted prompted County Manager Wayne Vest to organize a meeting between county staff and animal center volunteers.

Finally, the county announced that it had disciplined animal center staffers

involved in the unauthorized euthanasia of a cat and kittens.

Significant progress

The apparent turmoil risks obscuring significant improvements in the county's animal operations over the past two years.

In January of last year, the Board of Commissioners, acting on the recommendation of the Citizen's Pet Responsibility Committee, removed Animal Operations from the Health Department, making it a standalone department with a director who reported directly to the county manager.

At the same time, the commissioners created a twelve-member Animal Operations Advisory Board with members that included both county staff and citizen representatives.

The new advisory board moved quickly to develop strategies aimed at reducing

the number of animals coming to the shelter, increasing the number of shelter animals adopted, and improving living conditions for animals while they are in the facility.

They advocated for additional staffing, the hiring of a part-time volunteer coordinator, and extended shelter hours to support pet adoptions. They upgraded the shelter lobby to showcase adoptable cats, implemented programs to socialize animals in order to make them more adoptable, and significantly upgraded the presence of the animal center in online venues for pet adoption.

In March of this year, committee member Angela Zumwalt was able to report to the Board of commissioners that pet adoptions from the shelter had significantly increased.

Comparing January 2013 to January 2014, Zumwalt said adoptions were up from twenty-nine percent to fifty-

seven percent. Looking at comparative data for February, adoptions increase from twenty-seven percent to fifty-nine percent. For the first time, the shelter was adopting out more pets than it was euthanizing.

Asheville Ordinances

Perhaps because it is a densely populated city rather than a rural county, Asheville's animal ordinances are more restrictive than Moore County's.

Asheville requires the spaying or neutering of dogs and cats that are six months of age or older. Residents who prefer to keep an unaltered pet must acquire a license, which costs \$100 for each unaltered pet. The fine for keeping an unaltered pet without that permit is \$200.

The city also requires that every dog be licensed, at a cost of \$10 per year. And the tethering of unattended dogs, outdoors, is prohibited.



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The pine snake is a noisy, frightening, but

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

You can jump out of airplanes or dive in a shark cage, but there's nothing quite like the intense adrenaline rush that comes from the rare encounter with a native pine snake. Though the pine snake carries no load of venom, the mottled gray serpent can grow to four feet and offers up a loud, deep-throated hiss while striking a defensive pose when threatened.

Thrill seekers, be warned: keep your boots snugly tied. Deep woods hikers have been known to jump out of their boots when encountering one of the Sandhills' most unique creatures.

Your best bet, however, is to simply step back, away from the snake, giving your-

self a moment to recover, and the snake time to slither away.

A native of the longleaf ecosystem

Like all creatures great and small, the pine snake plays a vital role in its pine forest ecosystem. It spends most of its life underground. Following the burrows of rodents, it catches and constricts its prey, then swallows them whole. With a subterranean network full of delicious moles, voles, mice, ground squirrels, and other ground burrowing animals, the pine snake rarely comes up for fresh air.

The preferred pine snake residence, if one can be found, is an old stump hole. But the snake's territory far

(Continued on page 11)



The pine snake can grow to more than four feet [Photo by Jeff Hall, NC Wildlife Resources Commission biologist]



Loud, menacing, and harmless [Photo by Jeff Hall, NC Wildlife Resources Commission biologist]

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(Continued from page 10)

exceeds its stumpy home. A single pine snake can cover more than 200 acres.

Rarely do male pine snakes cross one another's borders. But the males are more welcoming to females. To get a better grip the male pine snake will secure its position by biting into the supple neck of the female. If all goes well, procreation ensues.

Once eggs are laid, mommy dearest loses all interest in her offspring, and departs, never to return. She does, however, take one measure to preserve her young, taking advantage of a most unusual skill. By crooking her neck to the side, she is able to replicate a spade and dig a hole in which she will lay her eggs.

Sometimes, to save herself the trouble, a lucky pine snake mother will borrow the already excavated nest of another, already departed, mom.

Pine snake eggs are unusually large, and the young pine snakes can be a foot long when they hatch. As a result, the unhatched eggs are considered a delicacy by many foraging creatures. If, by luck, the eggs hatch, the snakelets are on their own.

They dine on insects, until they grow large enough to constrict a plump mouse.

Development reduces pine snake territory

Pine snakes are indigenous to the Sandhills and prefer an open longleaf savannah with wire grass and a lot of stump holes. Like all native Sandhills species, they are dependent on a fire-managed, longleaf pine ecosystem.

Pine snakes stay underground when fire sweeps through the forest. They might do better to always stay underground. The deadliest natural enemy of a pine snake is an automobile.

With increased development in longleaf pine territory across the South, the risk increases that a pine snake will find its territory bisected by a road. The long, heavy snake doesn't move very fast. Those two things make the native species very vulnerable to highway crossings.

Populations in Foxfire and Seven Lakes

In the North Carolina sandhills, the best populations are found on Fort Bragg, and the Sandhills Gamelands. There are also small populations throughout Moore

County.

Pine snakes are seen somewhat frequently in the area around Roseland Road, and population densities are higher in the area from Pinebluff to north of Foxfire Village.

There is currently a population of pine snakes in West End and Seven Lakes. As the northern end of the Sandhills becomes more fragmented, Seven Lakes residents may lose the chance to see a pine snake.

Of course the missed opportunity can be a tough sell. As most humans prefer not to walk up on a bellowing snake.

So why not grab a hoe and chop the snake in two? The pine snake plays an important role in controlling rodent populations. They are also one the area's largest and least sneaky snakes, which make them easy to spot and back away from. They are not harmful to humans.

So, if you have the honor of being scared out of your boots by a pine snake, back away, recover your dignity, and recognize that you've enjoyed a rare treat, and let the pine snake be.



There's more than a little beauty in the patterns and colors of a pine snake [Photo by Jeff Hall, NC Wildlife Resources Commission biologist]



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In memory of . . .

Hunter Stovall, 59, of West End, died Saturday, August 2.

He was born in Atlanta and graduated from the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA. He earned his degrees from the University of Virginia, and Campbell Law School.

Mr. Stovall was on the boards of the Southern Pines Land Trust, the Coalition for Human Care and also a member of the Kiwanis Club of the Sandhills.

A celebration of life for Mr. Stovall will be held on Thursday, August 7, from 3-4:30 pm, at the restaurant where he lunched and bantered with friends, Nature's Own 195, 195 Bell Avenue, Southern Pines.

Survivors include his wife, Sue Stovall, of West End; his parents, Harwell and Wilda Stovall, of Southern Pines; children, Ariel Davenport of Pinehurst; Kassia Stubbs of Pinehurst; Michael Kowalick, of Lima, Peru; and granddaughter, Charlee Rose Stubbs.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care, 1500 W. Indiana Avenue, Southern Pines, NC 28387.

Boles Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Martha Lee Carpenter Clayton Thomas Swaringen, 83, of Aberdeen, died Thursday, July 31, at Saint Joseph

of the Pines.

Funeral services were held Sunday, August 3, at Old Bethesda Church in Aberdeen.

Mrs. Swaringen was a native of Moore County the daughter of Charles Commodore Carpenter and Lydia Lee Bobbitt Carpenter.

She apprenticed with Dr. R. Bruce Warlick as a dental assistant, and worked with him until she accepted a job in 1954 with the UNC School of Dentistry in the Children's Clinic. Her job was to teach dental students how to work as an assistant.

In 1955, she married Grant Clayton a fighter pilot stationed at Pope Air Force Base and they were stationed at Del Rio, TX; Las Vegas, NV; Victorville, CA; Toul Rossieur, France; Hahn, Germany; Clovis, NM.; Phoenix AZ; and Alexandra, LA.

She and Grant returned to Aberdeen in 1972, and worked with Clifton H. Blue and A.P. Johnson to develop a plan to preserve the 1825 Malcolm and Flora Blue Homestead.

Mrs. Swaringen gathered enough support to create the

Malcolm Blue Historical Society. She oversaw the restoration and preservation of the farmhouse, buildings, and barns and with Malcolm Blue Historical Society and raised money to purchase additional land and build the Clayton Blair Museum.

She was preceded in death by her last husband Sam Swaringen, and her brother, Charles Carpenter.

Survivors include her daughter, Virginia Lee Carpenter, of Aberdeen; sister-in-law, Sally Carpenter of Washington; friends and caregivers Jeff, Ellen, Emma and Abby Marcus; nephews and cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made in honor of Mrs. Swaringen to the preservation of the Malcolm Blue Farm Grist Mill.

Boles Funeral Home of Southern Pines assisted the family.

Michael Harley Dann, 65, died Tuesday, July 15, at his home in Seven Lakes.

Funeral services were held Sunday, July 20, at Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Elizabeth Forester

officiated. Burial followed at the Jackson Springs Cemetery.

Mr. Dann was born in Detroit and was the son of Marshall W. and Carol M. (nee Tiedeman) Dann, and the family moved to Glenview, IL., when he was eleven.

He graduated from Loyola Academy Jesuit College Preparatory School in Wilmette and was active on the golf team. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from the University of Illinois, Urbana, where he played on the golf team, and was a reporter and then editor of the journalism newspaper.

Survivors include his wife

of 30 years, Dianne (nee Boutwell); children Gregory, Megan and Kevin; sisters Barbara (Kim) Chapman; Patricia (George) Kichinko; Margaret (Steve) Mitchell; and Maja (Urs) Freiburghaus; and several nieces and nephews.

Donations may be made in memory of Michael Harley Dann to the Carolinas Golf Association, PO Box 319, West End, NC 27376 to support Carolinas Golf House, the new headquarters and museum for the CGA, with whom Mr. Dann worked for 22 years.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

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Mark your calendars for the Third Annual Children's Treasure Trail Adventure.

This free and exciting event will take place at the G. Victor and Margaret Ball Visitor Center of the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst on Saturday, August 23, from 9 am – Noon.

It will be an outstanding morning of fun and adventure for children of the Sandhills which shouldn't be missed.

Kids will have the opportunity to visit a Plant Education Station where they will be shown edible and ornamental plants plus experience the texture and aroma

of plants.

What child can resist playing with worms? The children will get to have hands-on experience in learning about vermiculture.

A Planting Station will be set up for children to learn how to plant. Each child will receive a plant to take home.

Local beekeepers will teach the children about raising and caring for bees and their contribution to the environment as well as honey production.

A return of the Birds of Prey exhibit will give the children an appreciation of these beautiful and essential birds.

Participants and their fam-

ilies will also be treated with the music of The Army Ground Forces Band "Loose Cannons" from Fort Bragg.

There's even more—crafts and games plus free refreshments! It will be a fun morning for all, so bring the kids

and have a wonderful time!

Please register for this free event by calling Tricia Mabe at (910) 695-3882.



Plants, wildlife, and plenty of opportunity to get your hands dirty — the Children's Treasure Trail Adventure is just the thing for little gardeners.

Family Movie Night at Seven Lakes Chapel

Be the guest of the Chapel in the Pines on Friday, August 15, at 7:00 pm.

The movie "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" will be shown in the Fellowship Hall.

The most delicious event since macaroni met cheese, a town where food literally falls from the sky like rain. From the title to the end this film is a roller-coaster ride of absolutely ridiculous fun that will have kids and adults alike doubled over

with laughter.

"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" is rated PG and is 90 minutes long. Popcorn, snacks and drinks will be provided.

What better way to enjoy quality time together with family and friends.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Mark your calendar and join in for a casual evening of fun.

Call the Chapel office at 673-2156 if you have any questions.



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The new school year for traditional schedule students will kick off Monday, August 25, with approximately 12,704 students expected to enter the doors of Moore County's 23 schools.

The coming school year represents the first for Dr. Bob Grimesey, who replaced Dr. Aaron Spence as Moore County's School Superintendent.

"I am beside myself with excitement," Grimesey said. "How many people can say that their job gives them the chance to meet over 13,000 new friends in the course of one week? By the time you

account for all of our students and our employees, that's exactly what I get to do. Add the fact that all of these wonderful people come together for the purpose of learning, and who would not be thrilled about that!"

Grimesey reaffirmed his commitment to the many innovative programs that were established under Spence's leadership.

"As with all programs and initiatives, there is always room for refinement and improvement," he said.

"Rest assured that our teachers and principals have invested a lot of time and effort during the summer months to make sure that we continue to provide our children with the very best education. Our innovative programs, including digital learning, STEM infusion and entrepreneurship, remain at the forefront as we also continue to seek ways to ensure that all of our students build their basic skills in reading, math, science and social studies."

Year-round school began for more than 800 students in grades K-5 on July 16. Pinehurst welcomed approximately 138 year-round students in grades K-2, and West Pine opened its doors to approximately 105 students in grades 3-5. At Southern Pines Primary, 209 students were welcomed July 15 and 263 students arrived at Southern Pines Elementary on the first day. All four schools offer a dual track, that is, a choice of either the year-round track or the traditional track.

Schools with traditional programs will have Back to School Night for parents and students according to the following schedule:

Wednesday, August 20

Primary Schools — 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Elementary Schools, including K-8 Schools — 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Thursday, August 21

Middle Schools — 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Project Linus Workshop

Project Linus will be holding a work shop on Wednesday, August 20, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the North Clubhouse, Seven Lakes North.

The group will include two workshops: a no-sew fleece class in the Clubhouse and down the hall, a hand and sewing machine class in the Activities Room. Use our supplies and equipment or bring your own machine. Pack a lunch and spend the day or drop by for a short time.

Everyone is welcome to help the make blankets for children in need. Just tell the gate guard you are attending the Project Linus workshop.

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High Schools — 6:00-7:15 p.m.

The State of North Carolina requires that all schools provide a minimum of 180 days and 1,000 hours of instruction exclusive of breaks, lunch periods and other times between classes. A printable calendar for both the traditional schedule and the year-round schedule can be found

under the "Calendar" link on the main page of the school district's website at www.ncmcs.org

Copies of these calendars will also be available at each school's Back to School Night.

The school district's current school fee schedule can also be accessed on the "Student and Parent Resources" page of the school district's website.

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Call Phil

105 Dennis Circle \$29,900
High Corner Lot, SL West
Call Larry

186 Longleaf Drive \$56,000
Scenic Golf Front Lot
Call Larry

109 Pittman Drive \$60,000
Across from Lake Auman
Call Larry

Need to register for school? Here's the scoop



Have a child who will be attending Moore County Schools for the first time this year?

Here's what you need to know about registration.

Any child who will be entering kindergarten must be enrolled at the school he or she will attend.

Parents of new students to

the system, whether kindergarten or otherwise, must show proof of proper immunization and provide a birth certificate. New students who were born outside the United States may provide other documentation of birth, such as a foreign birth certificate or baptismal records.

Parents who are unsure as to the school attendance area in which they reside should

call Moore County Schools' transportation department at 947-5481.

New residents are reminded that enrolling a student in school takes place at the school designated for the area of residence. Parents or guardians should bring with them the following:

- The student's birth certificate;
 - The student's immunization record;
 - Proof of residence (such as, but not limited to, a Moore County property tax statement, current lease or rental agreement, or current closing statement for property purchase);
 - The student's last report card (unless the student is a kindergarten student); and
 - Proof of legal custody or guardianship.
- High school students enrolling for the first time in school should bring a high school transcript as well.

For more information, visit the "Students and Parents Resources" page of the Moore County Schools' website at www.ncmcs.org

Lunch & Learn – Fall Perennials

Join the Sandhills Horticultural Society for its August Lunch & Learn Program which will feature Matt Whittiker of Green Haven Plant Farm who will speak on Fall Perennials and their care.

The program will be Monday, August 25, from noon to 1 pm at the Sandhills

Community College Horticultural Gardens, Ball Visitors Center. The lecture is free.

Bring your lunch and the Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens will provide drinks.

Space is limited, register by email at: landscapegardening@sandhills.edu

Reading Matilda

Did you know that a mouse's heart beats at the rate of 650 per minute?

Matilda knew, because she read it in a library book. Kids in grades 3 through 5 are invited to join the new book club at Moore County Library Carthage.

Read *Matilda* by Roald Dahl between now and September and then come to the discussion and movie on September 19 at 4:00 pm. Copies of the book are available at the check-out desk. For more information, call 947-5335.

Moore County Library Carthage, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage. www.srls.info

West End Presbyterian Church

*A place to love,
and a place to be loved
A place of grace,
for all ages*



Summertime means 10 a.m. worship, casual dress, and very special music! Join us!

Larry Lyon, Pastor

Kris Adler-Brammer, Director of Christian Education

Worship – Sundays at 10 a.m.

673-4341

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

Rick Rhyne Memorial Fishing Tournament

The 2014 Memorial Fishing Tournament in Memory of Deputy Rick Rhyne will be Saturday, August 9, 10 am – 4 pm at Lake McKenzie in Foxfire.

NC Inland Fisheries and the Southern Pines Parks and Recreation Department are providing many of the fishing poles that will be used that day.

Families are encouraged to bring their own poles. If anyone has extras to share with kids that might not have one, please contact

692-0777.

Talbert's BBQ will be providing food for each child and there will be food available for purchase.

Exhibits include the Wildlife Mobile Aquarium and the Sensory Safari trailer and the Fire Safety trailer. Aberdeen Coca Cola will provide water. Prizes will be awarded throughout the day, and every child will receive a prize. The day will end with a balloon release.

Registration is requested by calling 692-0777.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

- **Underground Wonders** – Join the park ranger to find out what life is like underground. The ranger will read a book, play some games, and make an educational craft to learn about some of the animals that may burrow below us. All activities will be geared towards 3 to 5 year-olds and meant for parents to do with their children. Program should last about 30 minutes. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.
- **Casual Friday Seven Lakes Country Club** – at Tufts Bar & Grill. Cocktails at 5:30 pm; buffet dinner at 6:30 featuring Chicken Cordon Bleu with Basil Veloute Sauce, Garlic Whipped Mashed Potatoes and Boston Cream Pie. Stay for games until 9 pm. Call 673-1100 X3 for details and reservations. Open to everyone.
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – *Jersey Boys*, 7:30 pm. The story of four young men from the wrong side of the tracks in New Jersey who came together to form the iconic 1960s rock group The Four Seasons. Director: Clint Eastwood. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **Rick Rhyne Memorial Fishing Tournament** – 10 am – 4 pm, in Memory of Deputy Rick Rhyne at Lake McKenzie in Foxfire. NC Inland Fisheries and the Southern Pines Parks and Recreation Department are providing fishing poles that will be used that day. Families are encouraged to bring their own poles. Talbert's BBQ will be providing food for each child and there will be food available for purchase. Exhibits include the Wildlife Mobile Aquarium and the Sensory Safari

trailer and the Fire Safety trailer. Aberdeen Coca Cola will provide water. Prizes will be awarded and every child will receive a prize. Registration requested calling 692-0777.

- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – *Jersey Boys*, 2:30 & 7:30



What's When

pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

- **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. 673-3838.
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – *Jersey Boys*, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Nifty Nests** – 3 pm, Come discover just how amazing birds are as builders. A ranger will show you the park's bird nest collection and you'll see the incredible variety of shapes, sizes, and materials that are used by different species. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort

Bragg Rd., Southern Pines 910-692-2167. Free and open to the public.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room.

Weight Watchers

Meeting – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, 7 Lakes.

Group leader Armeicia Medlock.

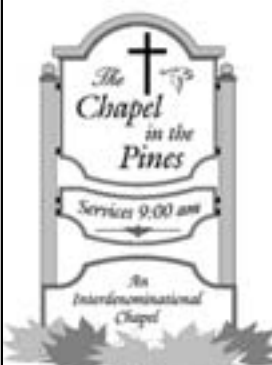
- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – *Jersey Boys*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

- **Sandhills Photography Club Meeting** – 7 pm. Competition: Creative; Side by Side. Guests welcome. Hannah Center Theatre Center at the O'Neal School, 3300 Airport Road, Southern Pines. www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

- **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, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Reverend Carol Burgess. All are welcome.
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7 pm, meeting. at Foxfire Village Hall.

Come & Worship with Us!



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August 10th
"Preaching the Good, Hard News"
(Romans 10:5-15)
Special Music

August 17th
"The Good, the Bad, the Redeemed"
(Romans 11:1-2, 29-32)
Special Music

Rev. Paul James
Chapel Minister

Rev. Fran Stark
Associate Minister

We welcome young families
and their children.

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

- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – *Jersey Boys*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **The Truth Project** – Wednesday Evenings at 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. The bible study will offer an in-

depth Christian World View Experience each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. The lecture will be led by Dr & Rev. Won Namkoong and Larry McCune. Please let the church know if you would like to join the group. Call or email the Church office at 673-1371 or weumc@earthlink.net to register.

- **SunFlix at the Sunrise** – *Jersey Boys*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

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

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- **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
- **SunFlix Summer Classic Movie** - *The Big Labowski*, 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

- **Family Movie Night at the Chapel** – 7:00 pm. "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" will be shown in the Fellowship Hall. From the title to the end this film is a roller-coaster ride of absolutely ridiculous fun that will have kids and adults alike doubled over with laughter. Rated PG, 90 minutes long. Popcorn, snacks and drinks provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Chapel office at 673-2156 if you have questions.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

- **Seven Lakes North, South & West Golf Tournament** – at Seven Lakes Country Club. 8:30 am shotgun start. Sign up for golf and

lunch at 673-4653.

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.
- **An Evening With Elvis And Chagall** – 7 pm, Vivian R. Jacobson, will lecture on the life and art of Marc Chagall, and demonstrate how Chagall's and Presley's great passion for their art gave these two artists a profound commonality. Owens Auditorium, Sandhills Community College. The lecture is free with ticket general seating. Tickets will be available at the Boyd Library - SCC Main Campus, 3395 Airport Road, Pinehurst.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

- **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. 673-3838.
- **Bats in the Sandhills** – 3 pm, Learn more about these delightful creatures and their huge benefit to your environment. Myths and truths will be dis-

cussed, as well as practical methods for removing them from your home. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines 910-692-2167. Free.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

- **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, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Reverend Carol Burgess. All are welcome.
- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5:30 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **How to Help Resistant Seniors** – 6 pm - 7 pm. A free workshop for family caregivers of seniors at Sandhills Memory Care, 292 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes. Speaker Barbara Stender, Caregiver Specialist. Refreshments served. Call 673-2230 or 673-2045 to reserve a seat.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Project Linus Workshop** - 10 am to 2 pm, North Clubhouse, Seven Lakes North. The Group have two workshops: a no-sew fleece class in the Clubhouse and, down the hall, a hand and sewing machine class in the Activities Room. Use Linus supplies and equipment or bring your own machine. Pack a lunch and spend the day or drop by for a short time. Everyone is welcome to help us make blankets for children in need. Just tell the gate guard you are attending the Project Linus workshop. See you there Questions? Call Pat Weber 673-1457.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **The Truth Project** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Bible study will

offer an in-depth Christian World View Experience each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. The lecture will be led by Dr & Rev. Won Namkoong and Larry McCune. Let the church know if you would like to join the group. Call or email the Church office at 673-1371 or weumc@earthlink.net to register.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time for fellowship and devotion, a meal provided \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, *free* class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 910-673-4656.

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Doles donate pontoon boat to Mattamuskeet

Richard and Lois Dole of the Seven Lakes West have donated their 20 foot Sweetwater pontoon boat and Yamaha 55HP outboard motor to the nonprofit Mattamuskeet Foundation of eastern North Carolina.

The Doles have lived in Seven Lakes since 1993, when Richard retired from Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. He had a rewarding career as a software engineer.

The Doles are avid birders and have traveled to Lake Mattamuskeet several times

to enjoy their hobby of bird-watching and have also traveled extensively in the United States in their motorhome, following their birding interests.

Dr. Lewis Forrest, executive director of the nonprofit organization, said that more than 200 different species of bird are found on the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, including a huge winter migration of Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, Canada Geese, and twenty-two species of ducks.

In recent years, the annual winter migration brings about 300,000 migratory birds to Lake Mattamuskeet from the Alaskan tundra.

Lake Mattamuskeet is located in Hyde County, just west of the Outer Banks, and is the largest natural lake in North Carolina.

Mattamuskeet has been a national wildlife refuge since 1934. The mission of the Mattamuskeet Foundation is to preserve and interpret the history and ecology of the lake and surrounding area.

According to Forrest, the foundation uses the proceeds of the sales of donated boats, vehicles, campers, and other items to fund its educational projects about the lake.

Forrest volunteers his time for the work of the foundation, and explains that the Mattamuskeet Foundation does not pay a third party to handle its donations, resulting in a larger percent-

age of the proceeds going directly to the work at Lake Mattamuskeet.

For more information about the the Foundation or about

donation, contact Forrest at 252-341-7882 or www.mattamuskeet.org



Richard Dole donated his pontoon boat to the Mattamuskeet Foundation.

Class of 2014



Steven Thomas Heerema

Richard Stockton College
Galloway, New Jersey

Steven is the son of Thomas and Nancy Heerema of West Milford, NJ. He is the grandson of Jack and Virginia Heerema of Seven Lakes.

Steven earned a Master of Science degree in Audiology and Speech Physiology.



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Beginning September 8, 2014

Please register by August 22.

This meditation-based program has been proven to help people with:

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- High Stress Levels
- Recurrent Depression
- Cancer
- Fatigue
- High Blood Pressure
- Skin Disorders
- Chronic Pain
- Heart Disease
- Panic Attacks
- Sleep Disturbances

This is an eight-week program held on Mondays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The program includes an initial individual assessment, group therapy, classroom materials, follow-up assessment and a one-day workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 18. Space is limited.

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

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

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



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Adult Education classes offered at SCC

Adult Basic Education is offered through Sandhills Community College's Continuing Education & Career Readiness department.

High School Equivalency, Adult High School, Family Literacy, and English as a Second Language are other programs under the CCR umbrella. Basic Skills Plus is also included and it allows a student to earn a high school equivalency credential plus a Nursing Assistant I credential at the same time.

For more information refer to the CCR section of the Continuing Education website (www.sandhills.edu/coned/) or call (910) 695-3980.

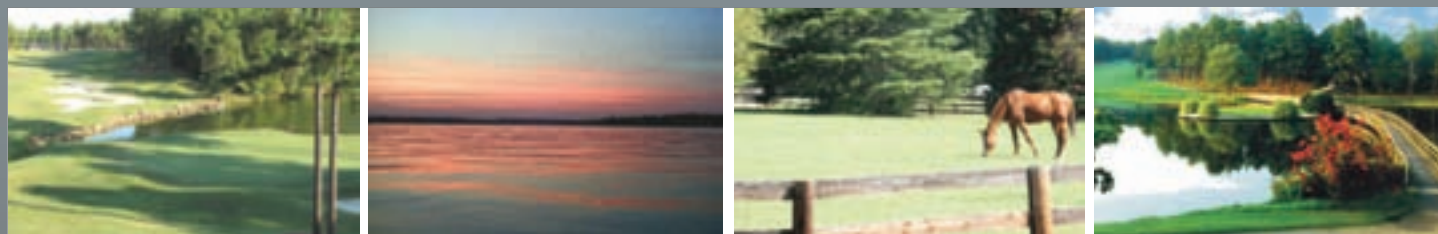
Personal and Home Care Aide Training

Personal and Home Care Aide Training classes are taught in Southern Pines and in Raeford at the Hoke Center. Classes for Introduction to Direct Care Work – Phase I begins on August 18 and runs through September 3. It is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 until 4 PM. A Key Train Computer Lab begins on September 8 and the Direct Care Basics – Phase II class begins September 29. Complete information can be found on the website under Continuing Education Career Development.

Fall Semester

Fall Semester registration for Continuing Education classes begins on August 4 and carries on throughout the semester.

Curriculum/college credit classes begin on August 18 and class registration is on August 14.



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108 Fawnwood Dr, 7 Lakes West
Gated Community. Spacious home w/ large backyard. Master on main level and tons of storage areas!
3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 3000+sqft
MLS# 160202 \$289,900



106 Sunset Pt – Beacon Ridge
Custom home on Lake Auman! Water views & living areas on all 3 levels. Trek deck, boat ready with beach area.
3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, 4000+sqft
MLS# 160130 \$789,000



REDUCED!

36 S Shamrock Dr, Foxfire
Ranch house in Foxfire. Open floor plan with spacious bedrooms. Flooring installed in crawl space for extra storage!
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 2200+sqft
MLS# 159936 \$195,000




REDUCED!

114 Sage Ct, Pinesage – West End
Cul de sac lot w/ fenced backyard. Small deck off back and available immediately!
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1400+sqft
MLS# 159874 \$164,000
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1747 NC HWY 73, West End
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4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 3500+sqft
MLS# 159850 \$550,000



130 Simmons Dr, 7 Lakes West
Custom Built, water frontage, gourmet kitchen, open floor plan, large deck and private boat dock. Country Club Amenities.
3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, 2200+ sqft
MLS# 158361 \$425,000




24 S Shamrock, Foxfire
Custom built! Hunter Douglas window treatments, open split floor plan, beautiful views of the water and lovely backyard.
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1800+ sqft
MLS# 158448 \$219,900

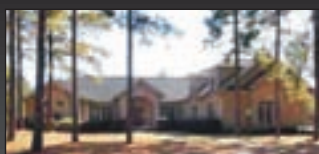


REDUCED!

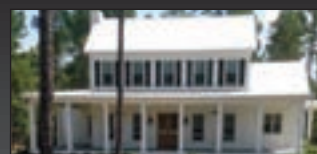
112 Winsford Cir, 7 Lakes South
Lovely Golf Front Home with Updated Kitchen. Deck & Hot Tub. Fabulous Golf Views.
3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1800+ sqft
MLS# 159111 \$179,900




114 Timber Ridge Ct, 7 Lakes West
Master Suite & Guest Suite on First Floor. Pool/Hot Tub. 3 Fireplaces. Fenced back yard and nice cul-de-sac location.
4 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, 4500+ sqft
MLS# 159214 \$500,000



225 Windswept Vista, Grande Pines
A gated community! Near Pinehurst, this brick home sits on 15 acres. 4 Master Suites & views of the woods in Grande Pines!
4 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, 4500+ sqft
MLS# 153964 \$895,000



115 Reynwood Ct, Jackson Springs
Low Country Farmhouse! Wrap around front porch, MB downstairs, Massive backyard, Oversized garage with guest suite.
4 Bedrooms 4.5 Baths, 3000+ sqft
MLS# 158491 \$575,000



460 Broken Ridge Trail, McLendon Hills
Custom built! Crown moulding, architectural windows, hardwood flrs, vaulted ceilings. 2-story, fenced 3 acre lot. Run-in shed.
4 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, 4000+ sqft
MLS# 153536 \$550,000

Superb Building Lots – Seven Lakes & Foxfire

FOXFIRE		
14 Green Valley Lane .86 Acres	...	\$29,900
1 Dogwood Ct	...	\$37,000
27 Eagle Drive	...	\$38,000
23 S Shamrock	...	\$80,000
365 Jackson Springs Road	...	\$110,000
SEVEN LAKES SOUTH		
107 Devonshire Ave	...	\$13,000
104 Bexley Ct .63 Acres	...	\$18,500

SEVEN LAKES NORTH		
146 Cardinal Dr 1.17 Acres	...	\$49,500
SEVEN LAKES WEST		
235 Finch Gate Dr	...	\$15,000
245 Finch Gate Dr	...	\$15,000
110 Grace Ct	...	\$15,000
118 James Dr	...	\$17,500
139 Beacon Ridge Dr .47 Acres	...	\$35,000
104 Myrick Ct	...	\$25,000
106 Myrick Ct	...	\$25,000

SEVEN LAKES WEST		
126 Baker Cir	...	\$49,900
117 Baker Cir .45 Acres	...	\$295,000
113 Banbridge Dr 1.38 Acres	...	\$99,500
159 Morris Dr	...	\$399,000
176 Morris Dr	...	\$35,000
117 James Dr	...	\$32,000
124 Vanore Rd	...	\$38,900
109 Phillips	...	\$6,900
221 Pebble Dr	...	\$16,000

SEVEN LAKES WEST		
205 Pebble Dr	...	\$17,000
530 Longleaf	...	\$16,000
108 Baker Cir	...	\$20,000
103 Dennis Dr	...	\$110,000
103 Owens Cir	...	\$125,000
111 Clay Circle	...	\$49,500
EAGLE SPRINGS		
335 Dorilee Lane	...	\$14,000
214 Dorilee Lane	...	\$17,000

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Mann joins FirstHealth Convenient Care

Brian Mann expected to spend his professional life in firefighting, "the family business" that has also provided careers for his father, brothers, uncles and cousins.

In the Cleveland, Ohio, suburbs where Mann grew up, firefighters are trained EMT/paramedics and he was committed to the work.

That was before his father showed him a magazine clipping about the emerging role of physician assistants in health care, however.

"My dad handed me a clipping out of an EMS Journal and said, 'I think you need to look into this. I think this is the future of medicine, and I think you should go for it. If I were younger, I would do it,'" Mann recalls.

Mann took his father's

advice, applied for and was accepted into physician assistant school at Cuyahoga Community College in Parma, Ohio. He trained as a surgical physician assistant and graduated cum laude. On August 4, he became a physician assistant with FirstHealth Convenient Care in Whispering Pines.

"We are excited to have someone with Brian's professional background join FirstHealth Convenient Care," says Lisa Cowan, M.D., the program's medical director. "He brings a wealth of experience as well as a demonstrated regard for people to his work, and that's just what we need in convenient care."

Whispering Pines is a long way from Ohio, and convenient care is very different

from emergency and surgical medicine, but Mann is ready for his new role. It will involve people who need his help, and that is his professional calling.

After completing the community college physician assistant program, Mann earned his B.S. degree in Health Sciences from Touro International University in California, graduating summa cum laude, and then an M.S. degree in Advanced P.A. Studies, with a concentration on emergency and family medicine, from A.T. Still University in Arizona.

Before relocating to North Carolina, he was a physician assistant in pulmonary, critical care, express care and emergency medicine with the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. He has been certified with special recognition in surgery with the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants since 2002.

A devoted family man, Mann moved to North Carolina when his wife, a physician, became chairman of the pediatrics department at Campbell University's School of Medicine. The Manns have

two children: a son, whose interest in swimming prompted his dad's interest in USA

swimming; and a daughter, whose interest in gymnastics led to Mann's volunteer work with USGA-sanctioned gymnastics events.

"I am really excited," Mann says of his new professional direction with FirstHealth Convenient Care. "Life is about meeting people. It's the bigger picture for me. It always has been."

FirstHealth Convenient Care in Whispering Pines is located in the Food Lion Shopping Center at 7473-C Highway 22. Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Appointments are not necessary, and walk-ins are welcome.



Brian Mann, PA-C

Small Gems of Art

An Exhibition of Small works and Fine Art Miniatures at the Gallery.

During the month of August, the Artists League of the Sandhills will showcase the exquisite small and miniature works of art from Full Members.

These two-dimensional works of art, done in oil,

acrylic, watercolor, ink and other media, measure 8 x 10 inches or less.

The exhibition and sale will continue through Friday, August 29.

Artists League of the Sandhills, 129 Exchange Street, Aberdeen.

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Freshwater Mussels

The Sandhills Natural History Society will meet Monday, August 25 at 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

Jennifer Archambault, Research Associate in the Department of Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University, will give a presentation introducing everyone to native freshwater mussels and their ecology, followed by some highlights of her mussel research, including thermal ecology and toxicology. Visitors always welcome. Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit www.sandhillsnature.org



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FirstQuit helps woman quit tobacco for good

Ebony Russell, a 25-year-old Aberdeen resident, started smoking when she was 14 years old.

"I've worked in the food and beverage business for so long," she says. "People tend to smoke in this industry, and it just came natural for me."

Russell also grew up in a family environment with heavy smokers. So what was the turning point for her to finally quit smoking?

When notice of a six-week FirstQuit tobacco-cessation program was being offered at her workplace, St. Joseph of the Pines, Russell didn't hesitate to sign up.

"I've seen so much harm because of tobacco," she says. "When the FirstQuit class was offered, I knew it was the time for me to stop – not just for me but for my family. I want my kids to grow up in a different type of home than I did."

FirstQuit is a comprehensive program offered through FirstHealth Community Health Services that uses the latest techniques to assist tobacco users through the process of quitting smoking, chewing and other forms of tobacco use. The program was established more than 10 years ago, and has helped countless individuals in Moore, Montgomery, Richmond and Hoke counties quit tobacco.

For Russell, actually

enrolling in the class was the hardest – and most shocking – part of her FirstQuit experience.

"On the first day, I sat there and couldn't believe I was taking the class," she says. "To know that in just six weeks I would no longer be a smoker...that made it all worth it."

Russell says the class and process of quitting came naturally. Because of the encouragement and motivation from her FirstQuit certified tobacco treatment specialist, Lynn Antil, it was actually somewhat easy.

After six weeks, Russell had not only accomplished her goal to quit smoking, but had also accomplished other goals she set at the beginning of the quit class: finish her GED, enroll at Sandhills Community College and get healthy by enrolling in an Employee Health Improvement Program offered through her FirstCarolinaCare insurance.

On top of all that, after the class ended, she got a promotion at work.

"Since quitting, good things have happened for me," she says.

Russell hopes to encourage her two young children never to start smoking.

"If I had to tell them one thing, it would be that they are stronger than any cigarette – Lynn taught me that," she says.

According to Antil, her job is to support people who want to quit.

"All I did was encourage Ebony to start the quit process," she says. "She had to do the hard part and actually quit. I'm so proud of her success and how she has carried that over into other parts of her life as well. She exemplifies what can be accomplished if one sets goals and works hard."

FirstQuit helps participants create a quit plan that will work for them. The program can be offered at a worksite or at one of the FirstQuit offices. Participants can meet in a small group or one-to-one setting.

"We cover several different topics during the class," Antil says. "We teach that tobacco use is an addiction; we discuss the benefits and barriers of quitting; we help identify triggers; we find alternative strategies to cope with cravings and stress; and, of course, we are there for support. The hardest and most important part is making the decision to quit."

Nicotine patches, gum and/or lozenges are available to assist with the quitting process.

FirstQuit fees run from \$5 to \$50, based on household income, unless covered

through a worksite employee wellness program. The program is offered in Hoke, Moore, Montgomery and Richmond counties.

For assistance in quitting tobacco or for more informa-

tion on the FirstQuit program, call toll-free (888) 534-5333 or visit www.firsthealth.org. FirstQuit also offers a teen tobacco cessation program, FirstQuitY, for teens 13 to 18 years old



Lynn Antil, FirstHealth FirstQuit certified tobacco treatment specialist and Ebony Russell, a FirstQuit participant.



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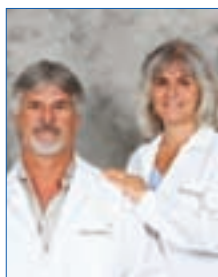
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Raspberry-picking at the end of the ridge

There are tastes and smells that can bring your whole childhood flooding back. For Proust, it was a little lemon-flavored cookie. For me, it's black raspberries.

When I was a boy, a great tangle of raspberry briars lay just across the dirt road from my grandmother's house on Smith Ridge. When the berries were ripe, my cousins and I would carry our empty coffee cans across the road and brave the briars to capture the sweet fruits.

"Don't you get on a snake, now!" Mawmaw would call after us. "If you smell cucumbers, you better run." There's a common notion, in our corner of the Appalachian Mountains, that copperheads smell like cucumbers.

That raspberry thicket is long gone, and so is the dirt road. It was paved years ago. There's even county water on the ridge now. When I was a kid, drinking water for the house was piped from a spring hundreds of yards down the steep mountainside. We caught rainwater in a cistern for laundry and the bathrooms. Outside the kitchen door was a hand-cranked well.

Often, none of those sources was quite sufficient, so we crammed the trunk of my mother's car with plastic milk jugs full of water collected from the taps of kinfolk

who lived in town.

The well still produces water; I haven't been under the hill in years to check on the spring.

Having county water available took away the greatest challenge of life on Smith Ridge: the lack of ample water. And, for a time, new folks were moving in — building homes or bringing in doublewides.

So, it's surprising, when you ride down the ridge these days, looking for raspberries, to see so many houses gone.

Betty Young's house, just around the curve from Mawmaw's, is gone. Gone is the house up on the hill above

the big curve, the home of Uncle Jim Al Smith, who played Great Grandpa's banjo. Aunt Fannie's house, and her store, both gone.

Dozens of homes have vanished — even some new ones. Berry-picking this summer, Mom and I came upon neighbors

disassembling their house — less than five years old — and the barn they built behind it, hauling off the

windows and doors, the siding and framing lumber.

My mother worries, sometimes, that she might be the

The folks who sold their homes were all well paid; they've moved to town or to some other ridge. They moved out of their own free will.

In the process, a community that stretches back 150 years or more is slowly dying. The churches are empty. The pastures are full of poplar saplings.

When folk talk about the dangers of fracking, they talk about groundwater contamination, air pollution, silica dust, roughhewn roustabouts, and brothels.

Smith Ridge has seen none of that. But the demand for well sites, access roads, and pipelines is killing Smith Ridge just as surely as if it had been ripped apart by a massive pipeline explosion.

I don't know if this is a common price communities pay when gas companies come to town. If it is, I don't know whether it is a price too high for the cleaner energy gas can produce.

I do know that I have seen the price of fracking with my own eyes, out picking black raspberries.

I know my mother has seen it, too. And I know, if she could have her wish, she'd have her neighbors back. She would have her church full. And she wouldn't have to worry that she may be the last Smith on the ridge.

Digging Deeper

Greg Hankins



Smith Ridge Black Raspberries

last one left on the ridge.

It's not a plague that's hollowing out Smith Ridge. It's not a lack of jobs. It's not even that folks really want to move to town.

It's fracking.

Underneath Smith Ridge lies a rich seam of coal. It's pretty much all mined out now, but the gas is still there, and hydraulic fracturing — fracking — can retrieve it.

Betty Young's house has been replaced by a gas well. So has Aunt Fannie's. There are gas wells everywhere.

People aren't leaving because they're afraid of the gas. No one's well has dried up; there have been no accidents, no spills.

What there have been are offers too good to refuse. The gas company buys up the land, knocks down the houses, and puts in wells.

SEVEN
LAKES TIMES

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Letters to the
Editor



Your letters
welcome!

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached. We prefer letters that are concise and to the point; please make your case in 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters.

We prefer to receive letters to the editor via email at mail@sevenlakestimes.net, but we also accept letters delivered by the US Postal Service, or left in our drop box at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, The Executive Center.

The constancy of sand

I thought of putting gravel in my driveway. Sand just gets tracked in and out. I am forever sweeping up grit. But, then I went over to a friend's house and forgot my shoes. I prefer to drive barefoot. My tender spring feet were not ready to walk on the hard pebbles of her driveway.

When I was younger, and light as a feather, I skipped barefoot on anything. Taking the road to Grannies in the summer I would quickly walk the painted yellow line. It didn't get as hot as the asphalt and was smooth on the bottom of my feet. Where the line ran out, I would hop and skip on the asphalt to give my feet cooling time in between contact. In the evenings I would take my little Schrade pocket knife and scrape the tar off the bottom of my feet.

I preferred the sandy path through the pasture, worn smooth by kids, cows, horses, dogs, and the occasional loose pig. Or a network of paths through the woods that we ran year round. For a few short winter months, we would leave fancy tennis shoe tracks or heel toe cowboy boot tracks.

One year, my daddy bought us all smooth soled leather moccasins. I could run all day without leaving any sign that I had been there. The leather was tough enough to go off trail through grass burs, stickers, and stobs.

My best friend had a fancy garage with cement floors. You could eat off their floors.

We had a long, bumpy, white sandy drive and a Kirby vacuum, and it was my job to vacuum the floors every day after school.

My mother couldn't stand gritty floors. The way she carried on about them was something awful. The only

one needed something, and then I would run up the hill to Mama's.

I was surprised that everyone else drives the short distance these days. I couldn't understand why they wouldn't take advantage of the freedom of more than a hundred acres of trails that back up to the Sabine National Forest.

During my visit, my 19-year-old cousin died. As casserole after casse-

role was dropped off, along with chicken and dressing, homemade bread, gumbo, beans, dirty rice, chicken, spaghetti, and Seven-Up pound cake, my daughters enjoyed the comfort foods I grew up with.

There were no comfort foods soothing enough for my hurt. The sandy path, the chilly, sunny, windy, blue sky, the lush green pastures, spring green sycamores, the soft butter yellow of the climbing bank rose, and the white of the bride's wreath hedge brought me my only peace.

You can't ever go home again. Everything is changing: from the dress shop where I bought my school clothes, that is now a worn out relic with overpriced vintage, to the god-awful, brand spanking new, wide mouth bass statue that graces the hill above the sluggish muddy river that has been drained

for fracking.

Back home, the sand clings to my bare feet damp from the wet grass. I don't mind it so. A cement carport or garage would be nice, gravel would be more attractive, but I believe we all need a little grit and an occasional pothole in life. It keeps things in perspective. We can either waste our lives nagging over

the little things or we can sooth our soles in the cool soft sand.

We must save grief for the real tragedies, like a boy who had been told one time too many that "boys will be boys." And now he will forever be a boy robbed of the chance to grow into a man, lying under a mound of dark red clay gouging the surface of

Stirring the Pot

Ellen Marcus

thing she disliked worse was sand in the carpeted floorboard of her car.

I thought I had escaped sand. Then we moved to the Sandhills. We looked at a sweet little house in Pinebluff that sat in a yard of sand. As we walked onto the cement porch my shoes were sandpaper on rock. I could almost hear the nag of mama and the hum of that Kirby.

I told Jeff there had to be another house. I truly think it is why I can't bring myself to completely enjoy the beach — because I can't abide sand in my swimsuit, in my sandwich, and stuck to my sunscreen.

The last time I was back home in Texas, I ran the trail back and forth through the pasture. It was still too chilly for barefoot, so I wore my flip flops. Granny, all of 99, is sharp as always. I would sit at her bedside until some-

Attention Men Bowlers!

The Seven Lakes Mens Bowling season is starting soon and they are looking for new bowlers.

The season will begin on Thursday, September 4, at 10 am and ends on April 30, 2015.

Teams will be formed soon. If you are interested in joining the league, contact Ed Nuti by phone at 673-7565 or at cenuti@nc.rr.com. An organization meeting will be arranged in August. Details will be announced.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 7)

- Heath Ct, in the Stonegate Subdivision in Seven Lakes West, and the renaming of three roads.
- Approved interlocal agreements with the municipalities of Pinehurst, Taylor-town, Carthage, and Foxfire that will allow the County to take the lead in overseeing the naming of roads. The goal is to execute similar agreements across the county, in order to ensure that road names are not duplicated, which can create a problem for emergency response.
- Approved several adjustments to the county's pay plan, including the creation of a Communications/Placement Specialist for the Animal Center at grade 155, paying \$32,224 to \$50,416 per year. The position is expected to be filled only on a part-time basis. Other changes increased the rate that employees in several departments are paid for being on call on Fridays from the \$10 week-day rate to the \$20 week-end rate.
- Approved changes to the contract with Southern

Health Partners, which provides medical care for inmates at the county detention center. Chief Deputy Jerrell Seawell explained that the changes reflect an increased inmate population in recent months and will ultimately save the county money over the existing contract.

- Authorized the purchase of nine Dodge Charger patrol cars for the Sheriff's Office from a High Point dealer, at a total cost of \$203,900.
- Accepted \$50,000 in state funding to provide a school health nurse to Moore County Schools.
- Accepting the close-out change order for the rehabilitation of the sewer interceptor at the Pinehurst traffic circle. The \$1.3 million project came in nearly \$51,000 under budget.
- Heard from Manager Vest that the county and the Carthage Fire Department are discussing with the Village of Pinehurst the possibility of acquiring a used pumper truck from the village for use in the new Glendon-Charthage Road Fire/EMS Substation.

- Appointed Whispering Pines Mayor Bob Zschoche to the Moore County Airport Authority, in a three-to-two vote. Commissioner Melton said he felt Zschoche was an excellent choice for the position, but that his position as mayor would inevitably lead to conflicts of interest and the need to recuse himself from some deliberations.
- Appointed Eli Schilling to the planning board. Schilling is a restaurant server and cook from Vass who has been active in the Republican Party and GOP

campaign work.

- Named current planning board member Buck Mims to a one-year term as chairman.
- Appointed Warren Lewis to the Board of Health. Lewis is a chef and owner of Chef Warren's restaurant in Southern Pines.
- Appointed Ernest Hooker to the ABC Board. Hooker retired from a 35 year career in law enforcement and resides in Pinehurst.
- Reappointed Commissioner Otis Ritter to the Board of Sandhills Center for Mental Health.

"Is it Possible to Help Resistant Seniors?"

Family members providing assistance and care for older family members are at risk to develop high levels of stress and anxiety.

A major stressor when providing care is when the family member is not willing to accept assistance. "How to Help the Resistant Senior" is the topic for the Tuesday, August 19 discussion at

the monthly Caregiver Workshop held at the Sandhills Memory Care, 292 McDougall Drive, Seven Lakes, 6 to 7 pm. Refreshments served.

The presenter is Barbara Stender, MEd Gerontology. For more information and to register call 673-2230 or Sandhills Memory Care at 673-2045.

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Pine Forest

(Continued from page 7)

During the Commissioners August 5 meeting, County Manager Wayne Vest said MHK had used both regular employees and contract employees at the Dormie Club. Vest said it is not yet clear whether the Rural Center will count the contract labor as employees for the purposes of the grant.

Vest explained that MHK had recently forwarded documentation of employment to the Rural Center, but that information had yet to be reviewed.

"What kind of money are we talking about, if all of that is denied?" Commissioner Nick Picerno asked Vest.

Vest explained that the

shortfall could require repayment of \$180,000 to \$230,000.

"I would only feel confident approving the extension if that money is in escrow," Picerno said, seeking to ensure that MHK had provided sufficient funds to cover any shortfall on their job creation commitment.

County Attorney Misty

Leland indicated she would need some time to research exactly how such an arrangement would need to be structured.

"Can we table this to the next meeting?" Picerno asked. "To give the attorney time to figure it out and the Rural Center time to figure it out?"

Ensminger noted that the

commissioners have two more meetings before the September 6 Pine Forest deadline.

With that, the Board voted unanimously to table the matter to their August 19 meeting.

Courthouse

(Continued from front page)

which was fully occupied as construction took place. Moore County's courthouse will be in continuous use while it is being remodeled.

Progressive Contracting Company, Inc., which has offices in Sanford, submitted the \$1,253,000 million lowest bid for the renovation of the Currie Building, which will

house the district attorney's office and juvenile services. The high bid on that job was \$1,347,800.

County Property Manager Bobby Lake said the renovations to both structures are expected to take five to six months.

Turning to the question of how to fund the renovations, County Manager Wayne Vest

was able to find more than \$1 million by drawing on excess funds related to the construction of the Rick Rhyme Public Safety Center. Another \$2 million will be pulled from the county's reserves for governmental projects.

The total projected cost of the renovations is \$3,171,076.

MCTS

(Continued from page 6)

ber MCTS Board has been unable to achieve a quorum in the last three of its monthly meetings.

"If the committee members we appointed for you are not attending, then we need to get you new members," Chairman Larry Caddell told Ensminger.

Other commissioners

expressed support for that point.

Ultimately, on Caddell's motion, the Board instructed Ensminger to develop a list of recommended policy changes to present to the MCTS board at its next regular meeting on August 21, and, as the Chairman put it, "if they won't show up, you come forward with the

recommendations and we will fix it."

The commissioners applauded Ensminger for her work on MCTS.

"We had some issues," Caddell said. "We took one of our best people and put her in charge of it. When we hand-pick somebody, you can bet it is going to get fixed. My thing is: go fix it."

7 Lakes Country Club offers 'Golf for Women'

Women's Ready, Set, Golf will be held at Seven Lakes Country Club at 4 pm, on Tuesday, August 12, 19 and 26.

Each session includes 15 minutes of golf theory with a PGA professional and 3 holes of playing lessons with a female member. The fee

is \$10 per session. It's a chance for women to learn the rules of the game and refine beginner golf skills with someone other than a spouse or significant other. Seven Lakes Country Club membership is not required to participate. Call 673-4653 to reserve your space.



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583-115-14

SLLA Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

producing some good results" in collecting those balances. Forty-one accounts are before the attorney.

Community Standards and Judicial Committee

President Racine reported that the Community Standards Committee had sent "beautiful yard awards" to twenty-nine residents.

Fourteen letters were sent out to landowners who had failed to register their boats," Racine said. All but three complied, and those three were fined \$50 each by the judicial committee. They have five days after that decision to register their boats and avoid the fine.

"We don't want to fine; we want folks to follow the rules," Racine said.

Racine noted that failure to obtain approval from ARB before starting work on a project can subject a landowner to a \$100 fine. He said fourteen cases are scheduled to go before the judicial committee.

Other Business

In other business during the Wednesday, July 30 Open Meeting of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association:

- Director Farley reported that a family pool party is planned for August 23, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Games, music, and refreshments are planned.
- Director Chuck Leach reported that someone trespassed on the boat slips and damaged a boat docked there.
- The board heard from Sohl that the landscaping contractor has placed a new site manager in Seven Lakes, as well as an extra crew to help catch-up after delays caused by equipment problems and rain.
- The board approved five lot recombinations, all of which, Director Sackman reported, have warranty deeds recording the combinations.
- The directors approved revisions to the SLLA policy on the capitalization of fixed assets. Sackman said

the Finance Committee had spent substantial time and effort on the revisions. However, the revised text was not made available to landowners before or during the meeting.

- The directors voted down a set of revisions to the policy on financial controls and signature authority, so that the revised document could be reviewed by

the Finance Committee and presented to the Board during its August 11 work session. The revised text was not made available to landowners before or during the open meeting.

- Steve Ritter was absent from the meeting. The Board voted unanimously to confirm his appointment as Vice President.
- The Board voted to retain

attorney Hunter Stovall to represent the SLLA in unspecified negotiations with Moore County involving former well sites. [Stovall died a few days later; see obituary on page 12.]

- Racine praised the teamwork of the office staff after lightning struck the Landowners Office prior to

the July Fourth Holiday.

- Members of Boy Scout Troop 98 attended the meeting, receiving credit toward their citizenship merit badge. President Racine paused several times during the meeting to explain the proceedings to the scouts.

Library Book Sale

Book Sale bargains abound at the main Carthage library during August 20-23.

The annual Friends of Moore County Library book sale will run from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Wednesday August 20 through Friday, August 22 and on Saturday, August 23, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Most hardbacks will go for \$1 and paperbacks for 50 cents. Books-on-tape and DVDs will also be for sale.

All proceeds benefit the

Friends of Moore County Library and will be used for library programs, books, or building improvements.

Friends members and Moore County employees will be able to shop early, on Wednesday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

If you have books you would like to donate to the sale, please drop them off at the library by Friday, August 15.

Moore County Library Carthage, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage. www.srls.info

Library goes digital

Moore County Library and the Sandhill Regional Library System are pleased to announce the launch of OneClickdigital, an online service that allows patrons to check out eAudiobooks and eBooks, including best-sellers, Recorded Books exclusives, classics, selections for children and young adults, and much more. Library cardholders in good standing have free access

to eAudio and eBooks at home, in the library, or on the go.

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<p>165 LANCASHIRE LN • 7LS</p> <p>SOLD!</p> <p>GOLF FRONT - WATERVIEW! ON SLCC SIGNATURE HOLE! - \$238,000</p>	<p>115 BAKER • 7LW</p> <p>INSPECTIONS COMPLETE!</p> <p>LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT! RV/BOAT STORAGE - \$374,750</p>	<p>418 LONGLEAF DR • 7LW</p> <p>INSPECTIONS COMPLETE!</p> <p>SPACIOUS, GREAT LOCATION \$324,500</p>	<p>103 EDGEWATER • 7LN</p> <p>REDUCED</p> <p>WATERFRONT LAKE ECHO \$190,000</p>	<p>111 JOSEPH'S POINT • 7LW</p> <p>SUPERIOR LOT ON LAKE AUMAN \$375,000</p>
<p>119 DARTMOOR LN • 7LN</p> <p>3/2 GRANITE, HARDWOODS! \$213,000</p>	<p>107 PINWOOD CT • 7LN</p> <p>LAKE SEQUOIA WATERFRONT! SPACIOUS WITH AMAZING VIEWS - \$369,000</p>	<p>271 LONGLEAF DRIVE • 7LW</p> <p>2800 SQ FT, WELL MAINTAINED! \$240,000</p>	<p>109 SANDHAM CT • 7LS</p> <p>TOTALLY RENOVATED TOWNHOME - \$159,000</p>	<p>134 SIMMONS DRIVE • 7LW</p> <p>LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT, ALL BRICK, GREAT VIEWS - \$585,000</p>
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<p>176 SIMMONS DR • 7LW</p> <p>NEARLY 4000 SF, CUSTOM CRAFTSMAN \$379,000</p>	<p>134 OTTER DRIVE • 7LW</p> <p>LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT! SPACIOUS, PRIVATE! - \$725,000</p>	<p>103 THISTLE LN • 7LN</p> <p>SPACIOUS WATERVIEW, MANY UPDATES! \$200,000</p>	<p>GREAT HOMESITES!</p> <p>INTERIOR STARTS AT \$15K GOLF FRONT STARTS AT \$20K WATERFRONT STARTS AT \$110K EMAIL FOR A FULL LIST!</p>	

Lighthouse

(Continued from front page)

had considered lighting the structure and allowing access, so that residents could utilize the viewing platform at the top of the lighthouse.

Leach explained that the structure would be lit from the inside, using a solar-powered light to conserve energy, giving the structure a warm glow. It will not be outfitted with a rotating beacon that might disturb lakefront property owners.

Hirsch said making the tower accessible would be cost prohibitive. The railings on the "very steep" spiral staircase "don't come close to complying with building code," he said. "There would have to be dramatic changes to make it fit building codes." Hirsch added that opening the structure to the public

would create an opportunity for mischief.

Former Director Conrad Meyer asked whether the Architectural Review Board [ARB] would review the planned rehabilitation, and Hirsch, who chairs that panel, said he felt that would be appropriate.

"I realize that \$3,000 doesn't require an RFP and three bids," Finance Committee member George Temple said. "But, with some basic construction like this, where there's dozens and dozens of people around capable of doing this project, I don't understand why we don't send out an RFP. Maybe someone would do as good a job for \$2,000. Is there a reason we don't bid out stuff, just because it's not required?"

"The project margin is so

low," Community Manager Ray Sohl replied. "And, based on the work performance of the contractor we would like to award this to, we're certain we will get a quality product. Certainly anything close to \$5,000, we'll bid it out."

During his manager's report, Sohl reiterated that all jobs totaling more than \$5,000 are put out for bids. Smaller jobs are not bid out, but do include a "very detailed scope of work."

"We are following accepted practices and the policies of the Association," Sohl said.

The motion to award the contract to Genesis Home Services was approved in a four-to-one vote, with President Racine opposed. Racine said he supported the project, but felt it shouldn't be done in August, when Sequoia Island is in use by swimmers

Solar

(Continued from page 3)

solar facilities in the county.

While expressing sympathy for the planning board's distaste for government subsidies, the commissioners expressed a conviction that landowners should be able to use their lawn as they see fit.

"I wish there were no sub-

sidies," Commissioner Nick Picerno said, in comments that were echoed by other members of the Board. "But, since I am not in Washington or Raleigh, there is nothing I can do about that."

"If you are a landowner," Picerno said, "I want you to be able to do what you want with your land, as long as you aren't harming the per-

son next to you."

The board the approved unanimously the proposed ordinance amendments, allowing commercial solar facilities as a conditional use, and clearing the way for the project on NC Highway 211.

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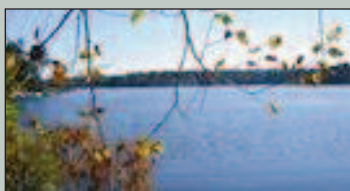
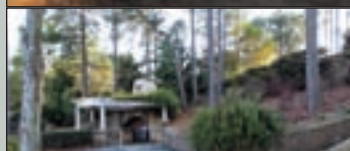


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3 BR / 1.5 BA
130 Shady Wood Court

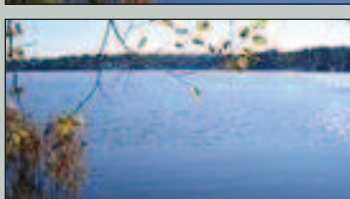
Outstanding Lake Auman Lots



101 Butterfly Court \$585,000
This gorgeous lot combines 2.5 lots into one unbelievable property with 1.68 acres and over 200 feet of water frontage. Over \$200,000 of improvements include bulkhead, electric boat lift, outdoor kitchen with pergola, granite countertop, stove, and prep island. Cleared homesite, driveway, stone balcony, brick staircases.



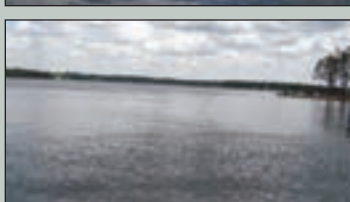
126 Simmons Drive \$250,000
Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping. Beautiful wide water views. Lot beside this lot is also for sale — wonderful chance to own over sized lakefront for your special house!



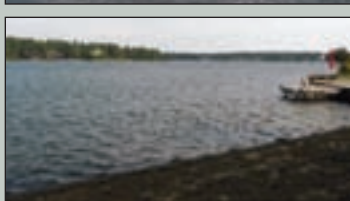
128 Simmons Drive \$250,000
Lake Auman lakefront. Gently sloping. Beautiful wide water views. Lot beside this lot is also for sale — wonderful chance to own over sized lakefront for your special house!



126 Swaringen Drive \$395,000
Gorgeous wide water views — eastern exposure for optimum enjoyment of your late afternoon entertainment — one of the best lots on the lake! (.67 Acres)



128 Swaringen Drive \$375,000
Spectacular, wide-open water views. Site is perfect for walk out level. Eastern orientation for beautiful sunrises and cool shaded evenings on your deck! (.64 Acres)



107 Butterfly Court \$395,000
Enjoy wide water views from this wonderful waterfront lot on Lake Auman! Cul-de-sac location! The perfect spot to build your dream home!



Seven Lakes South \$269,500
Beautifully renovated w/open floor plan!
3 BR / 3.5 BA
117 Oxford Court



Foxfire \$189,000
Lovely updated home on cul-de-sac
3 BR / 2 BA
3 Pine Ridge Court



Seven Lakes North \$219,900
Lovely lakefront home w/great updates!
3 BR / 2 BA
110 Fox Run Court



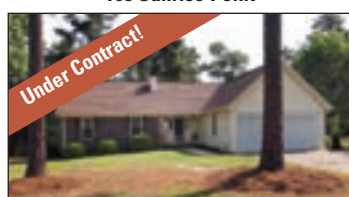
Seven Lakes West \$269,000
Lovely home with spacious living areas!
4 BR / 2.5 BA
115 Pittman Road



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



Seven Lakes West \$235,000
Custom home w/stunning lake views!
3 BR / 2 BA
108 Sunrise Point



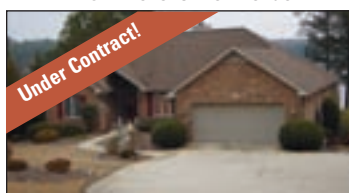
Seven Lakes North \$153,500
Immaculate, redone home on private lot!
3 BR / 2 BA
122 Seminole Court



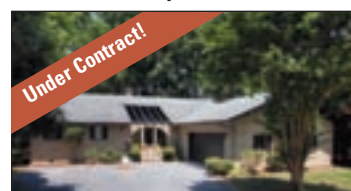
Seven Lakes West \$668,000
Custom water front home w/great views!
3 BR / 2.5 BA
121 Wertz Drive



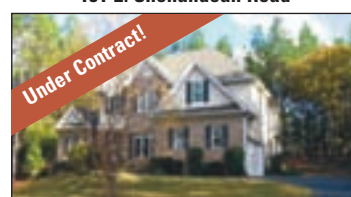
Seven Lakes South \$247,500
Immaculate one story golf front home
3 BR / 2 BA
148 E. Devonshire Avenue



Seven Lakes West \$698,000
Gorgeous lakefront custom home
5 BR / 3.5 BA
129 Shaw Drive



Seven Lakes North \$169,000
Charming custom home w/water views!
3 BR / 2.5 BA
151 E. Shenandoah Road



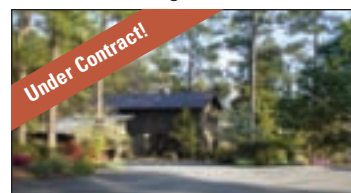
Seven Lakes West \$259,900
Great home w/open floor plan
4 BR / 2.5 BA
116 James Drive



Seven Lakes West \$259,000
Recently renovated w/expansive lake views!
3 BR / 3 BA
106 Sunrise Point



Seven Lakes West \$250,000
One-story w/sweeping golf views
3 BR / 3 BA
296 Longleaf Drive



Seven Lakes West \$310,000
Private lakefront retreat on Lake Auman
4 BR / 3 BA
105 Tucker Court

CALL 910.295.7100 OR 800.214.9007 • WWW.MARTHAGENTRY.COM

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