

SLLA has new Manager

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association (SLLA) has a new Community Manager: Spencer

Ferguson.

President Chuck Leach announced the appointment during the Association's Thursday, February 11 Open Meeting.

He said Ferguson, whose is from Greensboro, would begin work on Monday, February 15 at CAS, Inc. headquarters and would have his first day in Seven Lakes on Tuesday, February 16.

A graduate of the University

of North Carolina - Greensboro, Ferguson is an experienced manager who oversaw more than twenty community managers in both North and South Carolina.

Leach said Ferguson had managed "high-end communities with amenities including swimming pools, golf courses, lakes, private roads and entry gates. He also achieved a 98 percent satisfaction rating from all clients through a survey of more than 40,000 homeowners."

Landowners in attendance applauded out-going Interim Manager Jeff Allen for his service during the search for a new manager.

Budget process draws fire

Also during the February 11 Open Meeting, the Board approved the FY 2017 budget submitted by the Finance Committee, but not before several landowners, including current and former Finance Committee members, expressed their displeasure that the budget had not been released to the membership prior to that vote.

"For at least the last eight years," George Temple said, "the draft has been published

(See "SLLA," p. 28)

Pancake Breakfast Buddies



American Heritage Girls Kyleigh McCormick and Ashlyn Krieger helped bus tables and deliver beverage refills to tables at the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, February 6.

Pool rehab jumps to \$73K

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



A \$50,000 rehabilitation of the Foxfire Village pool has become a \$73,000 project.

During the Council's regular Tuesday, February 9 meeting, Councilwoman Leslie Frusco reported that already approved work to replace the tile around the pool had revealed that the brick and mortar behind the tiles is crumbling.

"We need another \$23,000 to complete this project," she said.

"We are kind of stuck," she added. "We can't go back-

wards. We need to finish it."

She explained that the Village had already made a \$25,000 downpayment to the contractor, making the prospect of abandoning the work even less appealing.

"If we don't authorize this, then we've wasted whatever we've paid out, and we don't have a finished pool," Councilman Don Boito said.

"I don't see that we have much option," Councilman Jon Sedlak said.

The clearly reluctant Council unanimously approved a budget amendment that transferred the needed funds from the general fund balance to the pool rehabilitation project.

Loan payments accelerated

The Council also authorized the use of \$300,000 from the general fund balance and \$25,230 from the water fund balance to make an advance principle payment on the \$1.5 million Woodland Circle loan.

That payment will go to BB&T, which holds the current loan. However, Frusco told her fellow Council members that First Bank has offered to refinance the Village's loans at a better interest rate, offering 2.45 percent on the Woodland Circle loan, 2.35 percent on the Village Green loan, and 2.35 percent on a Water Department Loan.

The Woodland Circle loan
(See "Foxfire," p. 24)



Spencer Ferguson

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St. Joseph to screen 'Aphasia: The Movie'

Carl McIntyre was a successful salesman and actor until suffering a massive stroke in 2005 at age 44 that left him to battle aphasia.

"His whole life was his voice," according to his wife, Elizabeth.

Aphasia – a communication disorder typically caused by a stroke – initially took away Carl McIntyre's ability to read, write and talk.

More than a decade later, McIntyre has regained most of those abilities and tours the world to spread awareness of aphasia and encourage people with his story.

"Aphasia: The Movie" will be screened at 3:30 pm on Friday, February 19, in the

Fordham room at Belle Meade followed by a question-and-answer session with McIntyre.

McIntyre plays himself in the 40-minute docudrama, which depicts how the stroke changed his life and tracks the frustration, anger and determination to get his "voice" back.

People with aphasia commonly struggle with an inability to translate what is in their mind into what is spoken aloud, as well as an inability to interpret communication. Words and speech must be relearned, as if the person is returning to childhood.

Since aphasia does not

affect intelligence, people who suffer from the disorder often become outsiders, isolated from a world that thrives on communication.

More than 795,000 people in the U.S. suffer strokes each year, and the Southeast has one of the highest incidences.

For more information or to RSVP for the screening, please call (910) 246-3125.

St. Joseph of the Pines is an aging services network offering a full continuum of retirement housing, health care and community-based services for older adults as well as community outreach to those in need.

Demo & Tasting: Springtime Foods

Join Sueson Vess on Wednesday, March 2, from 10 am – 11:30 am for a Sandhills Horticultural Society program on Demonstration & Tasting of Springtime Foods with Benefits.

Vess will conduct the presentation at the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens Ball Visitors Center, at Sandhills Community College.

Participants will be presented with ideas for eating nutritious and delicious natural foods, a food preparation demonstration, and tasting.

Cost is \$20 for Horticultural Society members and \$25 for non-members. Payment is due at Registration. To register, contact Tricia Mabe at 910-695-3882.

Clowning at Lunch Bunch

All single seniors in the community are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch at Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 9 at noon.

Following lunch, Reverend Mike Dubbs from Community Congregational Church of Southern Pines will provide the program. Rev. Dubbs is

part of the FirstHealth Hospital Clowns that participate in hospital visitations at the hospital.

He started a "Clown Unit" called the Bricktown Bucket Brigade in Mount Union, PA as part of the Mount Union Fire Company. The clowns provided all of the Fire Safety Education in the Mount Union Elementary Schools

and won numerous awards statewide. Rev. Dubbs will speak about his experiences as a clown, in particular a clown trip to Peru with Patch Adams. Dr. Adams is a doctor and humanitarian and was portrayed by Robin Williams in the movie Patch Adams.

There is no cost. Reservations appreciated and transportation will be provided if needed. To make a reservation for lunch or request transportation call the Chapel office, 673-2156.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376 or e-mailed to mail@sevenlaketimes.net.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue	Deadline	Issue
Fri, Feb 26	Fri, March 4	Fri, Aug 26	Fri, Sept 2
Fri, March 11	Fri, March 18	Fri, Sept 9	Fri, Sept 16
Thu, March 24	Fri, April 1	Fri, Sept 23	Fri, Sept 30
Fri, April 8	Fri, April 15	Fri, Oct 7	Fri, Oct 14
Fri, April 22	Fri, April 29	Fri, Oct 21	Fri, Oct 28
Fri, May 6	Fri, May 13	Fri, Nov 4	Fri, Nov 11
Fri, May 20	Fri, May 27	Thu, Nov 17	Fri, Nov 25
Fri, June 3	Fri, June 10	Fri, Dec 2	Fri, Dec 9
Fri, June 17	Fri, June 24	Fri, Dec 16	Fri, Dec 23
Thu, June 30	Fri, July 8	Thu, Dec 29	Fri, Jan 6
Fri, July 15	Fri, July 22		
Fri, July 29	Fri, Aug 5		
Fri, Aug 12	Fri, Aug 19		

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Board, Committee divided on lifeguards

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Lifeguards, or not?

Two visions of how the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] should operate its pool this coming swim season appear headed for a showdown during the Board of Director's Thursday, February 25 Work Session.

During the Thursday, February 11 SLLA Open Meeting, President Chuck Leach reminded landowners that the Recreation Committee had been assigned the task of coming up with new rules for pool operations.

"It is the Board's intention to open the pool for longer hours for the use of all residents," Leach said. "Lifeguards are extremely difficult to obtain and maintain throughout the season."

"This Board was adamant, for reasons of liability, in not combining the use of lifeguards and pool assistants. Management is only developing a salary guide for our future pool assistants."

Leach noted that recommendations are due from the Recreation Committee at the February 25 Work Session.

Though a fully formed plan

for management of the pool has not been laid out or voted on by the Board, Leach previously presented a Powerpoint presentation indicating a desire to have the pool open from May 1 to September 30, possibly from 6:30 am to 9:00 pm — and to eliminate lifeguards entirely.

Access to the pool would apparently be controlled through the use of attendants during some hours of operation and, during other times, an electronic card access system. That system has been discussed in general terms in Board meetings, but its cost has not been revealed, nor has the Board voted to purchase and install it.

The Recreation Committee has already recommended utilizing lifeguards during those parts of the extended schedule when the pool is likely to be most heavily used — particularly by children — e.g., 11:00 am-4:00 pm or Noon to 5:00 pm during Summer school vacation.

It appears the Committee will stick with that recommendation — not the least because a number of community members have expressed a desire to have lifeguards at least part time.

"Because of feedback from

the community, we are continuing to also explore the compromise of having lifeguards from Noon to 5:00 pm," Recreation Committee Chairman Bob Racine said during the Open Meeting. "We will be presenting that to the Board."

He noted that the Committee had received input from Northsider Ed Hill, who managed the pool and lifeguards in 2009.

"We just thought we'd re-investigate it and bring back some more light," Racine said. "Our primary concern is safety at the pool, not trying to cut costs."

During the Public Comment period of the meeting, Recreation Committee member

Bob Miller asked whether the Board had already made the decision not to have lifeguards.

"Recreation has spent hour and hours with the anticipation that our recommendations would be taken seriously," he added.

President Leach said the Board's determination to do away with lifeguards was made clear in a Powerpoint presentation delivered during the January Open Meeting.

"But that was done before you saw the outpouring of support for lifeguards from the people," Miller replied. "A lot of people feel we need lifeguards."

Of eleven who spoke during that meeting, ten favored

having lifeguards during at least a portion of the day. Others have written letters to the editor asking for the same.

Miller said that even though he, personally, saw no need for lifeguards "I am responding to the community, and it is obvious to me and others that there is a strong demand for this. It seems inappropriate for the Board to disregard that."

Leach repeated that "the Board is adamantly opposed to a combination of assistants and lifeguards."

Greg Hankins, speaking as a landowner and not as the editor of the *Seven Lakes Times*, asked how the Board

(See "Lifeguards," p. 19)

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New Courthouse moves up on County's agenda

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



It appears Moore County will have to build a new county courthouse sooner than the Board of Commissioners had hoped.

During their Tuesday, February 16 regular meeting, the Commissioners received a report from their Courthouse Facilities Advisory Committee, as well as a presentation from Superior Court Judge Michael E. Beale, who was appointed to investigate and advise on court facilities in the County.

Both Judge Beale and the Committee delivered the same message: It is time to hire an architect and start designing a new courthouse.

"It is my recommendation that this Board immediately hire an architect and get the ball rolling," Beale said. That recommendation carries some weight, because the courts have the authority to force the Commissioners to build a new courthouse.

But Beale said he had no interest in taking that step.

"It is my sincere hope that we can work together to achieve this goal," he said. "It is my sincere opinion that the County would be better served by a facility that is thought out and properly planned and designed than one that is ordered."

Beale asked members of the most recent Moore County Grand Jury to prepare a report on the court facilities. After touring the courthouse and interviewing staff, the jurors delivered a report that lists a host of inadequacies, from security concerns to problematic sight lines in the courtroom and woefully inadequate storage for evidence used in criminal trials.

Last year, the County spent more than \$1.4 million updating the existing Courthouse, installing an elevator, adding conference rooms, and remodeling the basement, once occupied by the Sheriff's Office, for use by the clerk of court and other court-related functions.

The Currie Building was remodeled to create new offices for the District Attorney, at a cost of \$1.2 million.

The Commissioners hoped those expenditures would stave off the need to begin work on a new courthouse

for at least five years.

But Beale said that a new courthouse would take five years to design and build,

from start to finish, and insisted that the work should begin "immediately." He also (See "Commissioners," p. 26)



Frank Quis

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Neighbors rush to help victims of Northside fire

by Janna Ptak
Times Reporter

The Sunday morning quiet of Seven Lakes North was shattered on February 7, when, shortly before 10:00 am, two explosions touched off a fire in a garage at 128 Overlook Drive.

Despite temperatures in the thirties, neighbors quickly rushed into the street to find the source of the noise and smoke.

Homeowners John and Linda Carpenter and their daughter, who was staying the night, were home when the explosions took place, but had no idea how it happened. The daughter was able to get her parents to safety before anyone was hurt.

Unrelated to the fire, Mr. Carpenter died on February 13. His obituary appears on page 8 of this edition.

"It was a loud explosion," a neighbor said. "I thought the explosion may be the train. I had no idea what it was. A friend across the lake called to ask if I was okay. I

saw the flames and it was freaky. Just boom."

The fire caved in the roof of the garage and spread to the attic of the home.

Neighbor Nancy Chumley also heard the explosion.

"[It was] very scary; I was so deathly afraid that there were people in the house," she said. "Things can be replaced. Lives are so precious and fragile. It makes you stop and think how precious life is."

Bill and Judy Beardslee also rushed from their home to make sure everyone was okay.

"Judy heard banging and popping," Bill said. "Fire trucks were already on the way."

"I thought someone was chopping wood," Judy said.

"It's so fortunate the daughter was home," Bill added.

The Seven Lakes Fire Department was the first responder on the scene. They were assisted by the West End Fire Department, Eastwood Fire Department, Eagle Springs Fire Department,

Seven Lakes EMS, Moore County EMS, the Red Cross, and the Moore County Sheriff's Office. Fire trucks and ambulances lined the street.

"The homeowner actually served on the EMS for many years," Bill said.

The firefighters ensured the fire was out before the Fire Marshal came to determine what had caused the explosion. At press time, the cause had not yet been determined. No injuries were reported.

Steve Sawyer, who lives across the street, was reading
(See "Fire," p. 15)



Firefighters work to control a garage fire at 101 Overlook Drive in Seven Lakes North

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Picerno responds to Boles interview

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



"The sky is not falling."

That was the gist of Moore County Chairman Nick

Picerno's response to comments made by NC Representative Jamie Boles in a interview published in the February 5 edition of *The Times*.

"I'm not going to get into an argument with the County Commissioners, Boles said in the interview. "But, if the County Commissioners had stayed the course eight years ago, instead of cut, cut, cut, cut . . ."

"But now the sky is falling. And some of them aren't running again because they know they are going to have to raise taxes." Both Chairman Picerno and Commissioner Randy Saunders are not seeking re-election.

"The sky is not falling," Picerno told *The Times* in a interview. "We will meet our obligations."

"If we need to raise taxes, we'll raise taxes," Picerno said. "However, we're running a surplus."

Over the past several years, the County has run enough of a surplus to deposit \$3 million to \$6 million each year into capital reserve funds — primarily in anticipation of the need to build new schools.

In our interview with Boles, he cited the state budget surplus as one of the achievements of the GOP majority in Raleigh.

"I'm proud of them for doing that," Picerno said. "But they are doing it, in part, by not funding what they say they are funding."

That's a reference to fact that the state's formula for allocating teachers to local school districts is based on the number of students in each grade countywide, without taking into account the number of teachers needed for each grade in each school.

The result is that local districts typically cannot meet state targets for class sizes without using county tax dollars to pay for additional teachers.

During our interview with Boles, he noted that the County is responsible only for the "brick and mortar and maintenance; the state is responsible for the rest."

"If that were true," Picerno responded, "then we could cut taxes by ten cents. Because what the county would have put up for the schools last year would have been \$7.9 million."

Instead, the County spent \$25.3 million on public education last year, and only \$7.9 million of that is spent on "bricks and mortar." Education accounts for more than one-third of the expenditures in the General Fund

budget.

Contrary to Boles' contention that the Commissioner have "cut, cut, cut cut," Picerno said:

"All we've done is prioritized our budget. We've not actually

cut. Over the last eight years, property taxes in Moore County have not been cut. We've just tracked with the growth of the County."

"We've moved more funding to public safety, more to

emergency medical technicians, and less to other areas. And most of those other areas were vacancies in other departments that had never been filled. So we cut those

(See "Picerno," p. 25)

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In memory of . . .

John P. Carpenter, 75, of Seven Lakes, died Saturday, February 13, at FirstHealth Hospice House, Pinehurst.

A memorial service will be held at 11am Thursday, February 18, at Pinehurst United Methodist Church with Rev. David Beam officiating. The family will receive friends immediately following the service at the church.

Following graduation from The Citadel, Mr. Carpenter served for twenty-two years in the U.S. Air Force retiring as a Lt. Colonel.

He then successfully ran a library furniture and shelving business for over twenty years. He enjoyed golfing, spending time at the beach and meeting friends at the gym.

Mr. Carpenter is survived by his wife, Linda Carpenter;

son, Chip Carpenter of West End; daughter, Kim Carpenter and significant other Paul Johnson of Mebane; daughter, Katie Carpenter and her partner Canyn Russell of Charlotte; grandsons, Preston Roberson, Spencer Roberson and J.P. Carpenter, III.

Memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374 or to the Pinehurst United Methodist Church, 4111 Airport Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home is serving the family.

Michael Jerome Loney, 87, of Seven Lakes, died Tuesday, February 9, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

Mr. Loney was born in Youngstown, OH and was the third child of Emmett A. Loney and Anna Haney Loney. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and attended Youngstown College.

He retired from General Electric Company where he worked as a Human

Resources Executive and Sales Representative for over twenty-five years. Mr. Loney served his country in the US Marine Corps. from 1952 to 1954.

Mr. Loney enjoyed his life and his retirement in the Beacon Ridge Golf Community at Seven Lakes West. He was an excellent golfer and played frequently until his health declined. He will be remembered for his Irish blue eyes and his wonderful sense of humor.

A Memorial Mass will be held at Our Lady of the Americas Catholic Church, Biscoe on Friday, February 19, at 11 am. The family will receive friends immediately after the service at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Rosemary Thompson Loney; son, Michael P. Loney; brother, John A. Loney; and sister Anne Loney Clifford.

Survivors include his wife of fifteen years, Joyce T. Loney, children, Donald

Loney of Fairfax, VA; Margaret (Maggie) Miller of Santa Fe, NM; two step-children, Benjamin Badgett and Jan Smith of Sanford; his brother, Thomas J. Loney (Peggy) and sister Mary L. Clayton, of Youngstown, OH; three

grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Boles Funeral Home is serving the family.

(Continued on facing page)

Seven Lakes Baptist hosts Prophecy Conference

Seven Lakes Baptist Church will host Dr. Jimmy DeYoung for a Prophecy Conference Sunday morning, February 28 at 11 am as well as Sunday through Tuesday, March 1 evenings, at 6:30 pm.

Dr DeYoung travels the world proclaiming the good news of Christ's gift of eternal life & soon coming return for His Church. He lived in Jerusalem part-time for over twenty-two years, he brings the latest news from the Middle East with a unique blend of political, biblical, and prophetic insight not found in the media today.

This will be his last tour through North Carolina. There is no charge for the conference. A love offering will be taken in the evening services.

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Tickets \$35 **Call Carol at 673-2330**
Group reservations available.

In memory of . . .

(Continued from facing page)

Glenda Mae (Marks) Tucker, 64 of Seven Lakes, died Sunday, February 7 at Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital, Greensboro. A visitation was held Wednesday, February 10 at Boles Funeral Home, Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Tucker was born in Sanford, daughter of the late Norman C. Marks and Ida (West) Marks. She worked as an X-Ray Technician for Pinehurst Surgical, Pinehurst Orthopedics and FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital for over forty years.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Harold Marks and two sisters, Nancy Simpson and Mildred Douglas.

Survivors include her husband of forty-three years, John W. Tucker, Jr.; son, Zack Tucker of Seven Lakes; two brothers, Clarence Marks and wife Doris of Cameron; DeWitt Marks and wife Barbara of Cameron; two sisters, Louine Becker and husband Allan of Fayetteville; and Bonnie Lyczkowski and husband John of Cameron.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Glenda Tucker to: American Cancer

Society at 8300 Health Park, Ste. 10 Raleigh, NC 27615 or to the Salvation Army of North Carolina at 501 Archdale Drive, Charlotte, NC 28217

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Dr. William Harrell Johnson, 92, of Seven Lakes, died Tuesday, February 2 at home.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 6, at West End Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Caroline Patterson Inlow of Providence, RI, officiated.

Dr. Johnson was born in Hertford, NC. He was the son of the late Charles Johnson and Lillie Temple Harrell Johnson.

Following graduation from Wake Forest College, he attended dental school at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, VA where he met his future wife, Mary Spencer Harrington. They moved to Weldon, North Carolina, and opened his dental practice.

He joined the Air Force in 1951 and was stationed in Wright Patterson Air Force

Base, living in Springfield, Ohio. Following service in the Air Force, they moved back to Weldon and he resumed his dental practice.

In 1953, he opened a dental practice in Southern Pines and made many life-long friends, enjoying family, work and just about everything he ever did. They moved to Seven Lakes West in 1986 and loved life on the lake and his new friends there.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Charles E Johnson and nephew, Charles Johnson, Jr.

Dr. Johnson is survived by his wife of nearly seventy years, Mary Spencer; his children: Julie V. Johnson, Barbara (James) Bowman and William H. Johnson, Jr. (Julie); grandchildren Sam Bowman, Leslie Johnson, Susan Johnson (Tyler Brown), William H. Johnson, III (Amy), a great grandson, Milo William Brown and two nieces, Vickie (Rick) MacConnell and Gail (Dan) Daneker.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; West End Presbyterian

Church, 275 Knox Lane, PO Box 13, West End, NC 27376; Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sandhills, 160 Memorial Park Ct, Southern Pines, NC

28387; Companion Animal Clinic (Spay/Neuter Veterinary Clinic), 5071 US-1, Vass, NC 28394 or the charity of your choice.

Paint for the Pantry

A Paint for the Pantry workshop will be held on Saturday, February 20, from 2 pm to 4 pm, at West End United Methodist Church, in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will benefit the WEUMC Food Pantry. No skills are needed, just come and enjoy the fun with friends.

Everyone will go home with a completed "Dove" painting. Cost to attend is \$35 per person (includes all supplies).

To register for this event, contact Elizabeth Anne Batchelor at (910)400-5300 or elizabethbatchelor@live.com



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Frank Quis, Candidate for Commissioner

by Greg Hnkins
Times Editor

Frank Quis thinks the current Moore County Board of Commissioners have done a good job — a good job he'd like to continue. And, with eighteen years in municipal government, he has considerable experience to back up that judgement.

Times Editor Greg Hnkins interviewed Quis on Monday, February 8. He's one of two candidates vying to replace Randy Saunders on the Board. No Democrat has entered the race, so the result will be decided in the March 15 Primary Election.

Asked why he decided to run for Commissioner, Quis said: "Because we have two county commissioners that have decided not to run, there will be a void in leadership. The five commissioners have done a very good job, and my reason in running is to continue that. I feel like my experience and

business and municipal government will be valuable."

Quis, a native of Statesville, moved to Moore County in the late 1970s after graduating from the University of Tennessee. He ultimately joined the family business, a company that sells sophisticated woodworking equipment — much of it computer controlled — to various types of manufacturers, from



Frank Quis

upholstered furniture to boat building.

Quis served on the Southern Pines Town Council for eight years, from 1989 to 1997, before being elected Mayor, a post he held from 1997 to 2007.

Asked whether there are significant differences in county and municipal government, Quis said a major difference is that the County has responsibility for school funding — "which is a much more important part of someone's life, when it comes to their children. Are their children getting a good education? And are they going to school in a safe and secure building? As opposed to dealing with sewer and garbage and some of the things that are typical of a municipality."

"The County also manages things like social services, service to the aging, and a host of other responsibilities that a municipality does not.

So it is very different."

Challenges, opportunities

Quis said the biggest challenge the County faces is raising the funds to pay for school construction.

"Four schools have been identified this far, but there are six others right behind them that need improvement today," he noted.

"Also, the courthouse has

been deemed by some to be inadequate and in need of construction. That carries a large price tag."

"The total costs for all the ten schools and the courthouse are approximately \$250 million," Quis said. "That's real money."

"The opportunity [for Moore County] is that we are a very desirable place to live," he

See "Quis," page 18)

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This is an eight-week program held on Mondays from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The program includes an initial individual assessment, group therapy, classroom materials, follow-up assessment and a one-day workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 14. Space is limited.

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Bob Zschoche, Candidate for Commissioner

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

The military brought Bob Zschoche to Moore County — though it was his son-in-law who was transferred to Ft. Bragg rather than Zschoche himself.

Zschoche's own military career had ended in retirement several years earlier. But the Army had taken the Iowa native and Ohio State grad plenty of places, from Hawaii to Vietnam and ultimately to Washington, DC, where he served several tours in the Pentagon.

Zschoche — it's pronounced "shock-ee" — is one of two candidates vying to replace Randy Saunders on the Board of Commissioners. Since no Democrat has filed for that seat, the result will be decided in the March 15 Primary Election.

Times Editor Greg Hankins interviewed Zschoche on Monday, February 8.

Why Run?

It was a school and the School Board that triggered

Zschoche's decision to run for the Moore County Board of Commissioners — that and an Ace Hardware Store.

"The trigger was what the School Board did to Dr. Grimesey," Zschoche told *The Times* in an interview on Monday, February 8. He was referring, of course, to the abrupt dismissal of Moore County Schools [MCS] Superintendent Dr. Bob Grimesey last year.

"They may have had the right reasons to do that, but they went about it in the wrong way. If they had gone about it in a different way, they would not have subjected themselves to the criticism they faced."

"I fully support the right of any elected body to hire and fire staff that the law allows them to hire and fire," Zschoche said. "You can do that smartly, in a way that is in the best interests of your constituents, or you can do it stupidly."

"When I saw that, I said: The School Board needs adult supervision."

What that triggered is: It's time to get beyond Whispering Pines."

Zschoche has been a member of the Whispering Pines Village Council since 2005. He served as Mayor from 2007 to 2015.

"Another trigger was when a young lady in Whispering Pines said, 'Mr. Mayor, we moved to Whispering Pines because of the good Sandhills Farm Life School district. Once we were enrolled, we found out that it is so overcrowded that it's suspect whether or not my child is getting the education she should.'"

"The ultimate trigger that caused me to file," Zschoche said, "Was a company called Ace Hardware." The current District IV Commissioner is

Randy Saunders, also a former member of the Whispering Pines Village Council. Saunders is building a new Ace Hardware store in Southern Pines.

"I would not have dreamed

about trying to run against Randy," Zschoche said.

Support the schools

Support for Moore County Schools [MCS] is high on Zschoche's list of concerns.

"One of the things that I am running on is: Support the schools, support the sales tax referendum," he said. "When I give a little talk to whoever wants to listen, I say: The most important thing you need to do on March 15 is mark 'Yes' on the sales tax referendum — and, by the way, when you're in there, vote for Bob."

"It's more important that we, as a county, pass that referendum," Zschoche said, "than which one of these miscellaneous people we pick

(See "Zschoche," p. 20)



Bob Zschoche

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Essential oils at Women of Seven Lakes

by Joyce Friert
Women of Seven Lakes

Thanks to all the ladies that came to the Winter Luncheon and Card Party on February 4 at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Funds from this event will benefit local charities, the support is greatly appreciated.

Sandy Bachofner spoke about the mental and physical benefits of essential oils.

Bachofner is a distributor for Young Living Essential Oils, a company that provides therapeutic grade oils for health and beauty. They also have soaps, lotions and cleaning products in their product line. She shared her experience with essential oils after her husband was diagnosed with cancer, and how using the oils helped them through a traumatic time.

Lunch catered by 7 Central Bistro. Many of the women stayed after for an enjoyable afternoon of cards and games and social time.

The next meeting of the Women of Seven Lakes will be held on Thursday, March 3, at 2 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines.

Kelly A. Hinson from the

North Carolina Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will perform. Hinson is a 10th generation North Carolinian, born in Pinehurst. She currently resides on her Confederate ancestor's farm in Jackson Springs. She will wear period clothing, and portray Confederate spy, Rose O'Neal Greenhow. Greenhow was the Confederacy's most celebrated female spy at the start of the Civil War. An ardent Southern sympathizer, she used her ample charms and guile to pass along to Confederate officials information on the defenses of Washington and Union troop movements.

The public is invited to attend this event. Refreshments served after a short

business meeting and the presentation.

Anyone interested in more

information about the Women of Seven Lakes can contact Lee Connelly, 673-2521.



Lee Connelly & Sandy Bachofner

Sandhills Natural History Society

The Sandhills Natural History Society will meet Monday, February 22, at 7 pm at Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

Jeff Beane, a Herpetology Collections Manager for the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, will present "Frogs of the North Carolina Sandhills." The presentation will be highlighting identification, natural history, and status of the Sandhills region's approximately twenty-five frog and toad species. Visitors welcome.

Call 910-692-2167 for more information or visit online at www.sandhillsnature.org

Reading your dog's body language

The Animal Center of Moore County will be hosting a free dog training class on Tuesday, February 23, at 5:30 pm for "Reading Your Dog's Body Language."

Local trainer, Abby Ganin-Torporek of Sandhills Dog Training will be sharing basic tips that will help dog owners interpret what their dogs might be trying to tell them based on body language.

Seating is limited, so reserve your place today, call (910) 947-2858 or come by in person to register at The Animal Center, 5235 Highway 15/501, Carthage.



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Time to enroll in Spanish Immersion Kindergarten

by Janna Ptak
Times Reporter

It's common for students to study Spanish in high school, but why not start in kindergarten?

Of the 450 students at West End Elementary [WEE], 55-60 are involved in the Spanish Immersion Program.

This fall WEE will be entering its fourth year of offering Spanish Immersion classes and is already just seats away from having their 2016-2017 Spanish Immersion kindergarten class filled.

WEE partners with VIF International Education, an organization that provides native Spanish speakers to serve as teachers in the program.

WEE's Spanish Immersion program includes certified teachers from countries such as Columbia and Peru, most

of whom taught English in their own countries before journeying to North Carolina to teach Spanish. Having native Spanish speakers teach Spanish to the children ensures that the Spanish remains consistent throughout the year.

Students involved in the Spanish Immersion program are not only able to excel in Spanish with their native-speaking teachers, but also excel in other areas of study.

VIF studies show that students involved in immersion classes are able to perform with scores above English-speaking peers and above the NC state average by the third grade. In fact, they even outperform their peers in English studies.

With the immersion program, students begin speaking, reading, and writing

Spanish in kindergarten. By the time they are in the second grade, they are almost fluent Spanish speakers.

In second grade, the children make a slight transition from being fully immersed in a Spanish-speaking classroom to having one hour of English lessons daily. This is what is known as the 90/10 scale – speaking in Spanish 90 percent of the time, and in English 10 percent of the time.

Fall 2016 will mark the start of the Spanish Immersion third grade classroom. This classroom will include of four subjects, two which will be taught in English and two in Spanish. All testing

at this point will be done in English. This is known as the 50/50 scale.

During third grade, WEE will be combining Spanish Immersion students with non-immersion students during English lessons. Spanish students will reunite during


Spanish lessons.

Making the decision to have a child learn a second language is a big step, but being bilingual opens a world of benefits.

"You have to have faith that it's going to work," Prins (See "Spanish," p. 23)



WEE Spanish Immersion second graders




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The mirror is something you probably look at everyday. Well people tell me that once they start seeing in the mirror (sometimes in **LESS than two weeks**.) they are hooked. You deserve to look good and, and I really want to help you do that.

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always dreamed of and wanted. THIS is the fresh start that you've been searching for and it's yours today if you're one of the first 25 callers.

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Draft design for new high school presented

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moseley Architect's first draft of the new Advanced Career Center [ACC] high school envisions a 116,000 square foot, three story building with a large space at its center designed to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration.

Moore County Schools [MCS] Operations Director John Birath presented the concept to the School Board of Education during their Monday, February 8 regular meeting.

Birath said the design was developed after Moseley conducted a two-day Discovery and Design Workshop on January 6 and 7 that included students, teachers, principals, and members of the MCS staff, as well as representatives of local businesses, the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners.

They worked in large and small groups through a variety of exercises designed to inform the architect's designs.

After the first day's brainstorming was complete, Moseley worked through the night to develop four alternative designs. Those were presented to workshop participants the next day, and a leading contender was selected.

The site for the ACC is on a larger parcel owned by and across Airport Road from Sandhills Community College [SCC]. There is a 35 foot change in elevation across the site, which explains the architect's decision to suggest a three story facility.

The walk out lower level would include carpentry,

masonry, and automotive areas, as well as room for future expansion, and an area for receiving materials delivered by truck.

The top floor includes areas for nursing and health sciences, JROTC, and world languages.

The main level includes areas for game art and

design, drafting, culinary arts, and entrepreneurship, as well as a large open area, dubbed "The Hub," that would encourage collaboration, support a media and maker center, and give students a place to relax, socialize, and eat.

What the design does not include is a cafeteria, and

that did not sit well with some School Board members.

Laura Lang noted that the ACC is supposed to relieve overcrowding at Pinecrest and Union Pines High Schools, and lunch time is a key point at which that overcrowding becomes most noticeable. Libby Carter reiterated that point.

Birath said there is space for students to eat pre-prepared foods that are not cooked onsite; Superintendent Dr. Bob Grimesey referred to it as "grab and go" meals.

Some students may choose to eat at SCC dining facilities, especially if they are taking classes on campus, Associate

Superintendent Dr. Eric Porter said, adding that MCS is working with the college on how to handle that option for students who receive free and reduced lunch.

Birath said future expansion could include food preparation on site, though he noted that nutrition services implemented at the ACC would need to be self-supporting.

"We would have to make sure that we had adequate student interest," he said.

"We would have to conduct surveys with students in order to gauge participation," Grimesey added. "We don't need a large cafeteria with lots of tables."



An architect's sketch of the new Advanced Career Center high school

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Want to volunteer? Prancing Horse a non-profit therapeutic riding center is seeking to enhance the lives of individuals with special needs and veterans alike through the power of horses.

Prancing Horse currently serves five Moore County Schools and the Sandhills Children's Center along with riders of all ages and special needs.

The group has lessons Monday through Thursday at three different locations including Muddy Creek Farm in Whispering Pines, Seven Lakes Stables, and McLendon Hills Equestrian Center.

No horse experience is needed to volunteer. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old.

The group will hold volunteer training sessions at Seven Lakes Stables, on Tuesday, February 23 at 9 am and Wednesday, February 24, at 3 pm.

Contact Claire Pollard at prancinghorseinfo@yahoo.com or 910-246-3202 to register.

Fire

(Continued from page 6)

the paper when the explosions took place. His wife noticed some unusual smoke but thought it was the fireplace — until she saw smoke drifting between the houses. Steve then grabbed the fire extinguisher and hurried to the scene as his wife called 911.

"I just wanted them out of the house," he said.

The Johnsons, who also lived across the street, noticed

everyone rushing out of their homes in pajamas and came to the rescue with warm winter coats.

"We all jumped in," Steve Sawyer said. "There's a camaraderie. That's why we moved here."

Seven Lakes Fire Chief Steve Melone was on the scene with his paid weekend staff and many volunteer firefighters, including Ray Tourt who drives a tanker.



The garage was totally consumed, and the fire spread to the attic of the home



Multiple departments responded to the blaze, and neighbors rushed to help



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Big Short* – 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.
- **"Aphasia: The Movie"** – 3:30 pm, St. Joseph of the Pines, with question-and-answer session. Carl McIntyre was a successful salesman and actor until suffering a massive stroke that left him to battle aphasia. RSVP for screening, (910) 246-3125.
- **Knights of Columbus Fish Fry** – 5-7 pm, Baked/fried fish dinners with sides. St Anthony Padua Parish Hall, 320 North Ashe St, Southern Pines. Lloyd Geisert, (910) 690-2702; geisert@nc.rr.com

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- **Democratic Women of Moore County** – 9:30 am (coffee), 10 am meeting, Homewood Inn and Suites, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst. Speakers who will discuss their candidacy in the upcoming primary.
- **Paint for the Pantry** – 2 pm - 4 pm, West End United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall. Proceeds benefit WEUMC Food Pantry. Everyone will go home with a completed "Dove" painting. Cost \$35. Register at (910) 400-5300 or elizabethbatchelor@live.com

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – Rosary 8:15 am, 9 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd., Biscoe.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9

am worship service, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.

- **Bensalem Presbyterian Church** – 9:15 am, Fellowship Breakfast. Meal and fellowship. 10 am, Sunday School. 11 am, Worship



Service. 2891 Bensalem Church Rd, Eagle Springs.

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – Sunday School, 9:45 am, Worship Services, 8:30 am or 11:00 am. Everyone welcome, child care available.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 10 am Sunday School - Ages 3 - adult, 11 am Worship.
- **Victory Community Baptist Church** – Sunday School 10:15 am; Morning Worship 11 am; Bible Study & Prayer Time 6 pm. Child care available. 915 Brinkley Rd., Carthage.
- **Empty Bowls** – noon - 3 pm, soups, bread, desserts, with live music and pottery demonstrations. Tickets at the door. Southern Pines Elks Lodge, 2880 Country Club Circle, Southern Pines. 910-693-1600.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – *The Big Short* – 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.

- **Season for Salamanders** – 3 pm, Many salamanders breed in late fall or early winter, making February a great time to find egg masses or hatching larvae. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 692-2167.

- **Bensalem Presbyterian Church** – 5 pm, Youth hosting Junior and Senior Banquet. 2891 Bensalem Church Rd, Eagle Springs.

- **West End Presbyterian Church Youth** – 6 pm, middle school and high school students. 275 Knox Lane, West End.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – doors open 6 pm, show 6:45 pm, gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *Carrie Newcomer*. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, 910 944-7502.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- **Washington's Birthday**
- **WEWO Nature Book Club** – 9 am, this month read and discuss February selection, "In Search of Lost

Frogs: The Quest to Find the World's Rarest Amphibians" by Dr. Robin Moore. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines, 910-692-2167. Free.

- **Democratic Men of Moore County** – 5:30 pm, Dempsey Center, Sandhills Community College. Speaker will be Paul Dunham, Chairman of Moore County Democratic Party.

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

- **Sandhills Natural History Society** – 7 pm Weymouth Woods Auditorium, 1024 Ft. Bragg Rd., Southern Pines. Jeff Beane, a Herpetology Collections Manager for the NC State Museum of Natural Sciences, will present "Frogs of the North Carolina Sandhills." Visitors welcome. 910-692-2167 www.sandhillsnature.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- **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.

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club** – lunch 11:30 am, meeting 12:05 pm. Fellowship Hall of the Chapel in the Pines.

Visitors are welcome.

- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Tuesday Tutoring Crawford Center.

- **Device Day at the Library** – 4 pm, If you need help downloading eBooks or eMagazines onto a device such as a laptop, tablet, eReader or smartphone, drop by the Carthage Library for help. Call ahead 947-5335 to make sure staff are available. Moore County Library, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage, 910-947-5335.

- **Animal Center of Moore County** – 5:30 pm, *Reading Your Dog's Body Language*, free dog training class. Abby Ganin-Torporek of Sandhills Dog Training will be sharing basic tips that will help dog owners interpret what their dogs might be trying to tell them. Reserve today, call (910) 947-2858.

- **Trivia Tuesday at Sandhills Winery** – 6 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

- **Improve Your Sleep** – 6:30 pm, Free Presentation, Tammy Williams, program coordinator and associate professor of the Associates Degree Polysomnography Program at Sandhills Community College will be the guest speaker. Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.

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- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, meeting. West Side Park Community Center.
- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** – *The Big Short* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, Rosary; 9:30 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd, Biscoe 910-974-3051.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 2:30 - 5 pm, WOW Program for K - 5th Grade
- **AWANA for Kids** – 6:30 to 8 pm. Children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** – *The Big Short* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Game Room.
- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors. Fellowship, devotion and a

meal provided at \$5.

- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Tuesday Tutoring Crawford Center.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **Candidates' Forum** – 6-9 pm, Moore Tea Citizens host candidates ahead of the March 15 Primary Election. Pinehurst Village Hall.
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 6:30 pm, meeting at Foxfire Village Hall.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** – *The Big Short* – 2:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Knights of Columbus Fish Fry** – 5 -7 pm, Baked/fried fish dinners with sides. St Anthony Padua Parish Hall, 320 North Ashe St, Southern Pines. All are welcome. Cost: \$8 adults; \$4 for ages 6-12; under 6, free. Lloyd Geisert, (910) 690-2702; geisert@nc.rr.com
- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** – *The Lady in the Van* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- **Seven Lakes and West End Democratic Precincts** – at 10 am, annual meeting in Seven Lakes Fire Station. All registered Democrats are welcome to attend.
- **Disappearing Frogs Project Book Signing Reception** – 1 pm to 4 pm, Join award winning National Geographic photographer, Dr. Robin Moore, for a unique presentation and book signing event Refreshments. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- **Our Lady of the Americas Church** – Rosary 8:15 am, 9 am Mass. 298 Farmers Market Rd., Biscoe.
- **Chapel in the Pines** – 9 am worship service, 581 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **Bensalem Presbyterian Church** – 9:15 am, Fellowship Breakfast. Meal and fellowship. 10 am, Sunday School. 11 am, Worship Service. All are welcome. 2891 Bensalem Church Rd, Eagle Springs.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.
- **West End United Methodist Church** – Sunday School, 9:45 am, Worship Services, 8:30 am or 11:00 am. Everyone welcome, child care available.
- **West End Presbyterian Church** – 10 am Sunday School - Ages 3 - adult, 11 am Worship, child care provided.
- **Victory Community Baptist Church** – Sunday School 10:15 am; Morning Worship 11 am; Bible

Study & Prayer Time 6 pm. Child care available. 915 Brinkley Rd., Carthage.

- **Seven Lakes Baptist Church** – Dr. Jimmy DeYoung will speak during the 11 am service for a Prophecy Conference and Sunday through Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm through March 1. No charge for the conference. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, 673-4656.
- **Piedmont Bridal Show** – 1-4 pm. features caterers, florists, photographers, bridal stores, cake makers and other area professionals to assist in planning weddings. Admission free. Brides may pre-register at www.piedmontbridalshow.com. Cole Auditorium, Richmond Community College, 1042 W. Hamlet Ave, Hamlet, 910-331-9965.
- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** – *The Lady in the Van* – 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.
- **West End Presbyterian Church Youth** – 6 pm, middle school and high school students. West End Presbyterian Church, 275 Knox Lane, West End.
- **Wiregrass to Wetlands** –

3 pm, Hike with a Park Ranger on a 2 mile exploration Wear comfortable shoes. Weymouth Woods, 1024 Fort Bragg Rd., Southern Pines.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – doors open 6 pm, show 6:45 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *I Draw Slow*. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, 910 944-7502.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29

- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm to 6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Sunflx at the Sunrise** – *The Lady in the Van* – 7:30 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

- **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.

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Quis

(Continued from page 10)

added, “and I think it is incumbent on County officials to work with the municipalities in identifying the areas of growth and development and make sure we can grow wisely.”

Economic Development

“In my opinion, we don’t have the workforce here to attract a large business, and should focus more on smaller businesses,” Quis said, when asked about the County’s role in economic development.

“When I was Mayor, we worked to keep the businesses that were already in place. A good example is Ingersoll Rand. I visited the manger of the plant and offered to do what we could to be of assistance. And there were a couple of things.”

“We saw the value of keeping existing businesses in Moore County,” Quis said.

“A couple of weeks ago, I visited Sandhills Community

College,” he said, “because I heard they were developing a program for CNC manufacturing and training that is geared toward Ingersoll Rand and companies like that.”

“They will train machinists — which are very good paying jobs. I applaud Sandhills for working with local companies.”

During his tenure as Mayor, Quis was also able to assist The Wexford Group — a military consulting company — in relocating to Southern Pines.

Quis said the County and its municipalities currently work well together, adding that he would hope to see that continue.

Finding the money

Quis said he supports the proposed quarter cent increase in the sales tax to support school construction — and the option for another voter-approved quarter cent increase that is included in

legislation pending before the General Assembly.

Quis said he applauds the Commissioners for doing something to raise the revenue needed for school construction, “but it’s not enough. It’s going to be left to the next group of Commissioners to take the next step.”

Acknowledging the fact that the Commissioners have been able to run a surplus and save that extra cash for school construction, Quis said; “It’s great that they have saved that money and found efficiencies and been very good stewards of taxpayers’ resources.”

“I am running to replicate what they have accomplished,” Quis said. “Hats off to them. I wish Saunders and Picerno would run again.”

Finance

Commissioners Picerno and Saunders have both served on the County’s budget team

for the past few years. Their retirement from the Board raises the question of who will fill that role.

Quis said he could bring not only eighteen years of municipal finance experience to that task, but also the knowledge gained in eleven years as a director of Crescent State Bank, now Yadkin Bank.

“I gained knowledge of macroeconomic activity and how our banking system works,” he said. “And, on a more down to earth level, dealing with businesses that were starting up, seeing some

succeed and others fail, was quite an education for me.”

School funding

Asked whether Moore County needs to expand its funding of Moore County Schools’ operational budget to pay for teachers and textbooks and other needs — in addition to building schools — Quis said he would want to know more before answering that question.

“Having endured the Great Recession, all of us have cut back, squeezed our budgets, lived within our means as a

(See “Quis,” p. 19)



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Quis

(Continued from page 18)

necessity," he said. "County and state government have taken steps to do that. Our local schools have made significant cuts too."

"So, it's now time to evaluate how we want to go forward. When I am able to gather good information, I'll be able to talk about specific

priorities in a much more informed way."

Sports complex

Quis is somewhat skeptical of the current drive — spearheaded by the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Partners in Progress, and the Town of Aberdeen, to rely on a doubling of the occupancy tax

to build and operate a regional sports complex.

"I believe the effort to develop a sports complex needs to have a significant private funding structure and should not rely on the taxpayer," Quis said. "

"Presently, I don't see a significant amount of private funding commitment."

Planning

As Moore County continues to grow, Quis said, close cooperation between the County and its municipalities to manage that growth will become more and more important.

"It's a complex effort to balance quality of life and economic vitality," Quis said. "That's the challenge that Moore County faces."

"It's really important that the municipalities and the County government work

together to develop sensible, logical plans for development and take a long term view of that development."

Appetite for public service

Quis said he has both the appetite and the skills to help the County continue to move forward — and to continue the spirit of cooperation that has characterized the work of the Board of Commissioners over the past few years.

"I find it interesting and

fascinating dealing with these issues, on a personal level," he said. "I feel like I can help solve some problems that will be facing Moore County."

"I feel as though I am a consensus builder. It's one of my leadership traits. I think that will be important to continue to have the Commissioners work together in positive and constructive ways."

Lifeguards

(Continued from page 3)

could be adamantly opposed to something it had not voted on. He asked if any minutes were available that showed that the Board had already made a decision on the issue of lifeguards.

Leach did not indicate that a vote had taken place.

Hankins suggested that having an untrained, unqualified assistant manning the pool, should a drowning occur, would subject the Association to greater liability

than having a trained, certified lifeguard on duty.

Leach said that was not the advice that he had received.

The Board is expected to receive and discuss the Recreation Committee's report during their Work Session on Thursday, February 25 at 9:00 am. Public comment is allowed during that meeting.

A final vote could come during the Thursday, March 3 Open Meeting.

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Zschoche

(Continued from page 11)
to sit in which office.”

The current Commissioners have approved a resolution calling on the General Assembly to pass House Bill 605, which would allow them to seek voter approval for an additional quarter cent sales tax.

Though he expressed no opposition to the legislation itself, Zschoche said, “I would not be in favor of another sales tax referendum coming on this heels of this one. You have to let things die down. You have to let things stabilize.”

“And you have to have the financial system demonstrate, factually what this current increase will do . . . we have to let the dust settle.”

“There is probably a limit as to how many projects the school system can handle at any one time,” he added. “Yes, I agree that we have a backlog of need, but even if we had an unlimited checkbook, could we solve all of that instantly? Probably not.”

“It’s unfortunate that we have let the need build up as long as we have, but that doesn’t mean that we have to embark on a program to fix it instantly. If we embark

on any program of progress, that’s better than what’s been going on for the last few years.”

Turning up the heat

“One of my campaign mantras is that I’m not running against anybody or anything,” Zschoche said. “We in Moore County have things going pretty well . . . but we could probably, to the benefit of everybody, turn up the heat on some things.”

“We need to turn up the heat on the legislature about how they do various things with the schools and with funding at the state level.”

“I personally believe that the headlines in *The Pilot* and in *The Seven Lakes Times* and in the other media either print or online should say: County Commissioners Personally Lobby in Raleigh. “Unless you go up there and personally stand in front of people’s desks . . .”

“If elected, I would probably be labelled a very proactive Commissioner in terms of trying to address these problem,” Zschoche said. “Of course, the least active would be let’s just sit here in Moore County and raise the property tax. That’s least active and

that’s also not in the best interest of the County.”

“If the funding idiocies at the state level were corrected, we in Moore County would not be in such bad shape,” he said. “It’s not just the law; it’s how the state bureaucracy — how the DPI [Department of Public Instruction] implements it.”

“Tell me a benefit the state of North Carolina derives from having the DPI. It’s a bunch of bureaucrats up there . . .

“There is no government entity that cannot do with fewer people than it currently has,” Zschoche said.

“I think there is a lot of money available in Raleigh. We are not properly spending it. But sending a resolution to Raleigh is not going to accomplish anything.”

Budget team

The two Commissioners leaving the County Board — Saunders and Nick Picerno — have anchored its budget team. Zschoche said he has the background in finance to fill that position.

“My Master’s degree is in finance and economics,” he explained. “In my tours in

(See “Zschoche,” p. 21)

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Zschoche

(Continued from page 20)

the Pentagon I worked in the Army budgeting arena." He has also served as treasurer of various organizations.

"In my time in Whispering Pines, I have learned how the North Carolina budget process works. I have been following the County budget process, and the schools budget process."

Zschoche also serves on the Moore County Airport Authority.

Sports complex

Zschoche said he "has not dug into the details of the proposed Aberdeen sports complex as much as he may do in the future; but, as a general principle, you have to watch about 'the cost of free.' Someone is giving the land for a dollar. So, what's the cost of free?"

Zschoche also pointed out that the sports complex is very near the Southern border of the county and closer to populations in other counties.

"If it were more centrally located in the County, I might have a different perception, he said."

The Convention and Visitors Bureau's [CVB] current proposal is to double the occupancy tax — paid by

those who use Moore County hotels — to build and operate the sports complex.

"People love to spend OPM — other peoples' money," Zschoche said. "But just because the CVB money is OPM does not mean that we should not subject it to the same scrutiny as other monies available to meet the needs of Moore County."

Planning and zoning

The Times asked Zschoche to speak about planning and zoning, particularly in cases where the County is responsible for regulating development in areas near towns and villages. As a concrete example, we referenced the proposed rezoning of a parcel off NC Highway 211 near Pinehurst and Taylortown in order to accommodate a commercial scale solar farm.

"It's a less intrusive farm than a cattle farm, a chicken farm or a hog farm," Zschoche said. "You have the internal competition between the person who owns property and has some property rights compared with the right of the County to 'control' what you do on that."

"Is that solar farm going in there because he outbid the person who wanted to put in a shopping center.

No. He purchased it because there was no other buyer for it."

"It's not like we have this unmet need for commercial retail along 211, that we need to preserve that fifty acre tract. What about all the other hundreds and hundreds of acres along 211?"

"The idiocy of it is when politicians believe they can legislate against the market."

However, Zschoche said those comments do not mean he is a fan of no zoning at all. He pointed to the failure of the County to properly control development around the Moore County Airport as an example.

"Developers built near the airport, and now there is competition for the space. The County Commissioners could have solved that thirty years ago."

Knowing what to ask

Zschoche commanded troop units during his time in the Army, the last being "a military supply distribution depot that had ten million square feet of warehouse space under roof, a budget in the neighborhood of \$150 million, over 2,000 people working for me."

He later managed software development units; and, after

retiring from the Army, one of his assignments included helping the Red Cross' blood services division get ready for the much feared Y2K transition.

"What the Army teaches you," Zschoche said, "is that

you may not be a technical expert in every field, but you have to know how to manage the people who are the technical experts. You have to know the right questions to ask."



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Twenty-first century weddings

Over the years, I have performed more than two hundred weddings. Most had some connection with my church, but a good many were outsiders who wanted to be married in the church, to "obtain God's blessing," as they said.

I was usually happy to work

with them, and found that several couples later returned to the church and became active members.

During the eighties and nineties, I read the marriage notices each week in the Sunday *New York Times*. The paper gave the names of the couple, the occupation of each, as well as whom their parents were — usually prominent leaders in the New York area.

But what fascinated me most was that the *Times* always included the name and affiliation of the person officiating. For ten or twelve years I kept a tally of the religious connections of the weddings.

The overwhelming majority of the marriages took place in one of three religious groups: Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Episcopalian. The other Protestant denominations lagged well down the list.

Occasionally, there was a Hindu marriage, and even more rarely a Muslim one. Civil or secular nuptials also appeared from time to time.

Now, well into the new millennium, the pattern has shifted noticeably.

Catholic and Jewish weddings still lead the list, but a larger number of unions are secular. Each week several announcements proclaim that the ceremony was performed by a friend or family member, who had become a minister of the Universal Life Church for the day.

Judges and town clerks are also named as presiding at the weddings. Once in a while the ceremony is held in a restaurant or other

venue, where the couple simply exchange their vows without benefit of clergy or other officials.

God, and organized reli-

pollsters report a significant drop in the number of persons who identify with a church or denomination, while many more openly admit to being atheists. We know that many couples are now simply moving in together without getting married at all.

The positive side, as I see it, is that most couples still want a formal ceremony, and acknowledge that marriage is a serious institution.

Rather than criticize them for moving to the secular types of services, we church people should say "God bless you!"

Harry Bronkar is a Baptist Minister enjoying retirement in Seven Lakes North. You can reach him at hbronkar@gmail.com

Outside the Box

Harry Bronkar

gions, are much less prominent than they were in the last century.

How do we interpret this data? Obviously mine is not an official poll, but I believe we can detect a trend.

Gallup and Pew and other

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

Published every other Friday for residents & landowners of Seven Lakes, Foxfire, & McLendon Hills, NC

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mail@sevenlaketimestimes.net
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Thanks for the healing

Dear Editor:

I feel compelled to let the community know what an incredible asset we have right here in our neighborhood.

Following a total knee replacement operation in December, I evaluated multiple reputable physical therapy providers within a 20-mile radius. After asking countless opinions and eval-

uating them, I chose to put my recovery in the hands of Mike Dobre, owner of Seven Lakes Physical Therapy. Mike is a true professional.

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been more successful. Please consider taking advantage of this skilled, dedicated provider for your therapy needs — it's not necessary to travel any further than Seven Lakes for first class treatment and care.

Thank you, Mike!

Gisela Danielson
Seven Lakes West

Spanish Immersion

(Continued from page 13)

Principal Leigh Ann Lampley said.

Principal Lampley visited schools in Charlotte and Fayetteville before putting the program in place at WEE, which is currently the only school in the area with a Spanish Immersion program.

Robbins Elementary has a Language Academy program that follows the 50-50 scale. Children are taught in Spanish every other day.

A main concern for parents is that they won't be able to help their students with Spanish homework.

"Don't stress," Lampley said. "Parents can write a note to the teacher, and the

teacher will help the student finish his or her homework the next day."

"We also have an after school program open until six where we have a bilingual teacher [who can] help them," she added.

WEE is inviting students from outside the West End district to participate in the Spanish Immersion program if seats are available and transportation is provided.

Since Spanish Immersion students will be bilingual by the time they reach high school, they will have the opportunity to study a third language in high school instead of just beginning

their second language. In fact, being bilingual makes it easier when learning a third language.

There are also plans for an expanded international language program at the new Advanced Career Center high school.

The deadline to sign up for the Spanish Immersion program is April 29, but seats are filling up fast.

For more information, call WEE at 910-673-6691. If you are a parent who currently has a child in the Spanish Immersion program, be sure to check out the Spanish Immersion Facebook page for parents.

Thanks to the band

Dear Editor:

I would like to say thank you to all the members of the New Horizon Band who preformed for the Annual Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Community Valentine Party on February 12.

Thirty-plus members of the band entertained folks to a variety of music that brought back many found memories.

The smiles on the faces of those in attendance along with the toe tapping and swaying to the music said it all.

Thank you for the joy you

provided to all that attended and for sharing your love with everyone.

We are so fortunate to be living in a community that has folks like each one of you that enjoy sharing their talents and giving of their time to bring joy to others.

Thank you for all you do for so many living in the community and beyond. Indeed you are a special gift to all of us.

Fran Stark
Associate Pastor
Seven Lakes Chapel in
the Pines





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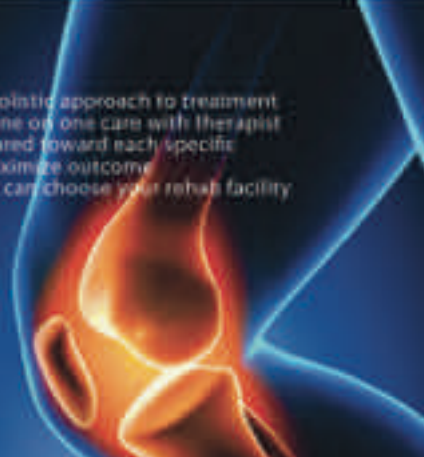



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Foxfire

(Continued from front page)

currently has an interest rate of 3.19 percent, the Village Green loan is at 3.87 percent, and the Water Department loan is at 3.89 percent.

"What will this save us?" Boito asked.

"With the advance principal payment we're going to be making, this will probably save us \$67,000," Frusco said.

A public hearing and approval by the NC Local Government Commission will be required before the Village can refinance with First Bank.

The Council decided during the January Work Session to establish a policy that requires it to maintain a minimum fund balance equal to 35-40 percent of annual expenditures — roughly \$400,000.

The Village currently has \$838,000 in its savings account. The loan principal payment and unanticipated pool repairs will consume \$323,000 of that.

In other finance-related business, Frusco reported that the Village has \$2.46 million on hand. The \$1.76 million in the General Fund includes \$437,000 in restricted funds and the \$699,000 in the Water fund includes \$161,000 in restricted funds.

Zoning report

Zoning Administrator Lisa

Kivett reported that twelve homes are beginning or under construction: eleven in the Village and one in the extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Permits for four single family homes were issued in January, as was one Certificate of Occupancy. Also issued were permits for an irrigation well and two propane tanks, as well as one commercial solicitation permit.

Zoning amendments

Mayor Mick McCue presented some recommended revisions to the zoning ordinance dealing with minimum home sizes and accessory buildings.

Current Village regulations for most zoning districts specify a minimum square footage for the ground floor of a home and, in some cases, vary based on whether the home is a two-story or split level structure.

Based on a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Committee, McCue suggested simplifying the code by specifying a minimum square footage for the heated living area under roof, exclusive of garages, porches, and unheated utility spaces.

Other members of the council were supportive of the simplification, but expressed a variety of opinions about exactly what minimum square footage was desirable

in each zoning district.

McCue said the ordinances on accessory buildings are inconsistent. He proposed changes which would make them consistent and somewhat less restrictive.

In the primary residential zoning districts within the Village — RS-20, 30, and 40 — the current ordinance restricts the size of accessory buildings to 10 percent of the size of the home or 250 square feet, whichever is less.

McCue proposed revising that to fifteen percent of the size of the home or 250 square feet, whichever is greater. The revision would also base that percentage on the total square footage of the main home that is under roof, as opposed to the heated square footage.

"To me accessory buildings are all about proportion," McCue said. "Proportion not only to the main building, but also to the size lot you have."

Council members expressed support for the simplification and larger permitted sizes — even to the extent of increasing the percentage allowed to 20 percent of the area of the main structure.

McCue said he would take the Council's input back to the Planning & Zoning Committee for further revisions of the ordinances.

Other Business

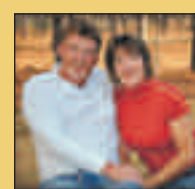
In other business during the February 9 meeting of the Foxfire Village Council:

• Councilman Sedlak reported that work needs to be done on the elevated water tank. He plans to schedule the smaller portion of the job in the current budget year and hold the major portion for FY2017.

• Councilman Boito said he is preparing to bid out the landscaping contract for FY2017.

• Boito said he has been investigating the issue of weight limits on Foxfire streets, but has thus far come up with few answers. Concerns about log trucks using North Shamrock raised the question of weight limits.

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Picerno

(Continued from page 7)

out, absolutely. They weren't needed, so we didn't fund them."

The Commissioners have been pressuring the Moore County delegation to the General Assembly to provide forty percent of funds from the NC Education lottery to counties to support school construction — as was promised when the lottery was initially approved. Currently, only

about eighteen or nineteen percent goes to the counties.

"I understand the frustration of the County Commissioners," Boles told *The Times*, "but they were under the misperception that the lottery was going to solve everything."

"The lottery is not a lot of money," Picerno said, "but when you say one thing, you pass a law in the General Assembly, and then you don't

live up to it, that's an issue, and it should be."

"Forty percent should be coming to the counties for school capital construction or debt service on school bonds. That's what they said. They're not doing it."

The Commissioners have also been pressing Boles and other Moore County representatives to explain why Moore County was passed over when the legislators

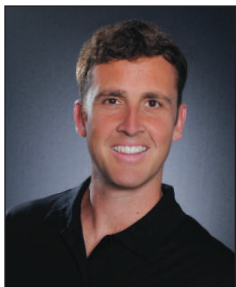
doled out the proceeds from an expansion of the sales tax to include services like auto and appliance repairs.

\$84.8 million of the new tax revenue was divided among 79 of the state's 100 counties. Moore County was not among them, even though every county that touches Moore was included.

Boles explained, in our interview, that what Moore County got in the budget

deal was far better than what could have happened, because rural counties were pressuring the General Assembly to divide all sales taxes based on population. Currently, most sales tax proceeds are divided based on point of purchase. Boles said using population would have hurt Moore.

"On the sales tax," Picerno said, "the explanation is: (See "Picerno," p. 26)



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Commissioners

(Continued from page 5)

said the new facility should include offices for the District Attorney.

Noting that the growth of the County has created "a dire need for new schools,"

Commissioner Randy Saunders said that same growth has created the need for a new courthouse, and for the already completed Rick Rhyme Public Safety Center.

But, he cautioned that the

County should not approach the design of a courthouse with the notion that whatever is built will meet the need for the next one hundred years — or even fifty years.

Noting that the existing

high schools are in need of substantial upgrades after just forty years of use, he said of a new courthouse, "Let's build it realistically and not say it's going to last fifty years."

Noting that, as a business owner, he can always work harder and sell more to meet increased expenses, he added, "In government, when you need more revenue, there are not a lot of places to go."

"It is a difficult time in Moore County when it comes to facilities," he said. "We have been very blessed. And now it is time to pony up."

Chairman Nick Picerno told Beale that he has scheduled a Special Work Session on facilities for April 14.

"We'll begin a process of figuring out how to take your

recommendations and the recommendations of the Courthouse Committee and see how we can put that into action," Picerno said.

"At that time, we should be able, as a Board, to discuss timelines, potential costs, ways to fund it . . . Like you said, we do want to get it right."

Later in the meeting, County Manager Wayne Vest reported that he had begun to work with the County's financial consultant, Davenport and Company, on financial forecasts for that meeting.

Solar farm rezoning

Also during their February 16 meeting, the Commissioners approved two contested (See "Commissioners," p. 27)

Picerno

(Continued from page 25)

'Well, it could have been worse.' So, I'm supposed to say thank you for it not being worse, when we are now collecting money in Moore County and shipping it out to other counties."

"If that's your answer, then let the people judge you on that answer."

"If people come to Moore County to shop and spend their money and get their car serviced," Picerno said, "we have to provide the fire protection, the emergency medical protection, the law enforcement, the zoning, the planning, the legalities, all the administration, so that businesses can be in Moore County. So why are you shipping the money out to somebody else?"

"I think the General Assembly is on the right track," Picerno said. "But there are a few issues affecting Moore County that need an explanation."

During our interview Boles

said, "I am a North Carolina Representative. I vote for ten million people."

"I am fortunate that I represent 88,000 people in Moore County," he added. "I am blessed. But if everybody would get up and walk out of a committee meeting or a budget meeting with 'Well, this doesn't pertain to my County, so I'm going to vote no,' where would we be?"

"Representative Boles is the only representative that lives in Moore County," Picerno said. "He is our only link

to Raleigh. If he is not going to represent Moore, and he wants to represent the state, then I'd say we have no voice in Raleigh."

"I like Jamie," Picerno said. "This is not personal. But I can't let some of his statements go unchallenged, when I know they are not true."

Picerno also noted that his decision to to run for another term on the County Board of Commissioners — after serving for eight years — was strictly a family decision.

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 26)

rezonings, one for the proposed site of a solar farm off NC Highway 211 near Taylortown and another for a tract that includes the proposed site of a new elementary school, near Whispering Pines and Vass.

Pinesage Solar Farm, LLC requested the rezoning of a 50 acre tract within a 140 acre parcel belonging to McDonald Family Farms.

The property was zoned RA-5 — a residential zoning requiring homesites at least five acres in size — and B-2, a commercial zoning that includes retail. The applicant asked to downgrade the zoning to RA-Rural Agricultural, the most common zoning district in the County, and the only one that allows commercial scale solar farms.

The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend denial of the request, based on concerns that the land lies too close to Pinehurst

and Taylortown and is positioned in an area that is ripe for future commercial development.

But local realtor Roy Harvel, speaking on behalf of the applicant, noted that the entire Olmsted Village Shopping area, plus the new Harris Teeter shopping center, occupy less than one hundred acres. Taking the fifty acre solar farm tract out of the commercial development inventory would still leave another 90 acres of commercial property in front of it along NC 211, he explained.

Pinewild resident Lydia Bosch said her neighbors would prefer a low-impact solar farm to a shopping center or multifamily housing, which would increase traffic, noise, and light pollution.

The Commissioners ultimately approved the rezoning four-to-one, with Saunders opposed.

The applicant will have to apply for a conditional use

permit before a solar farm can be built on the property. That will involve additional public hearings before the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners.

Camp Easter rezoning

The second controversial rezoning dealt with a 108 acre parcel that lies between Camp Easter and Airport Roads near Whispering Pines and Vass. The owner asked to have it rezoned from RA-40, with minimum one-acre lots, to RA-20, with minimum half acre lots.

Members of the Moore County Wildlife Conservation Club opposed the rezoning because, they argued, residential development in the

area would threaten the existence of the club, which has multiple shooting ranges that are heavily used.

The owner of an adjacent property that includes three commercial chicken houses expressed concern that residents of the proposed subdivisions would ultimately file nuisance complaints, threatening her business.

In addition, club members and some other area landowners argued that the tract in question is part of a larger swath of undeveloped farms and woodlands that support unique populations of wildlife. Bringing County water and sewer to the site to support an elementary school and residential sub-

division would simply promote more development in the area, they argued, eliminating one of the few such areas in proximity to South-eastern Moore County.

However, almost all of that surrounding area is zoned R-40, which means it could be subdivided into one acre lots at any time. That fact appeared to sway the opinion of at least some Commissioners.

The rezoning was approved in a four-to-one vote, with Commissioner Catherine Graham opposed. Graham said she based her vote on the large number of citizens who spoke against the rezoning.

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SLLA Meeting

(Continued from front page)

and distributed to the Seven Lakes Landowners Association members for their review prior to the board approving the budget."

That gave members a chance to ask questions and make recommendations, Temple said, adding that he believed that those recommendations had occasionally led to changes in the budget before Board approval.

"I see no reason why members in good standing shouldn't be permitted to see a draft of the budget before it is submitted to the Board for their approval," Jim Allen said. "I wish the Board would reconsider."

Don Fentzlaff echoed those comments.

President Leach responded, saying that the Treasurer, in not releasing the budget, was following the letter of a Document Retention Policy approved in 2012.

Leach then read a portion of that policy, which stated: "Documents that have not been finalized . . . and draft financial records that have not been finalized are not corporate records and are not subject to member inspection or review before they are finalized."

He said organizations can't function effectively if they follow some of their policies while ignoring others. He also indicated that the Board would be revisiting the language of the policy at its next Work Session.

Former Treasurer Conrad Meyer said he was glad the policy was going to be reviewed.

"When I joined the Board one of the things we wanted to do was to make things more transparent and to get information out to the membership prior to it being voted on in Open Session," he added.

Ultimately, the Board unanimously approved the draft budget. Treasurer Mark Gyure held open meetings on the budget on Friday, February 12 and Monday, February 15.

The budget includes a requested \$35 dues increase,

so the Board also voted to place that request on the Annual Meeting ballot, for approval by the membership. While the SLLA Board can approve a budget, only the membership can approve a dues increase or special assessment.

Election procedures

The Board also approved a document, created by members of the Judicial Committee soon after the March 2015 Annual Meeting, entitled "Seven Lakes Landowners Association Election Process" as a guideline for conducting upcoming Annual Meeting elections.

The document lays out in considerable detail the process for ballot counting and other aspects of the election process.

The Board also discussed four amendments to the

bylaws related to the Annual Meeting election. President Leach explained that a final vote could not be taken on those amendments during the Open Meeting, because the bylaws require ten days notice to the membership before they can be changed.

Instead, the Board will vote on the amendments during a Special Called Open Meeting on Tuesday, February 23 at 6:00 pm.

The most significant change does away with the long standing practice of allowing members to vote on the day of the Annual Meeting. Instead, the amendment will create a ballot deadline of 5:00 pm on the Friday prior to the Annual Meeting.

Another amendment dealt with the composition of the vote counting committee. During its January Work Session, The Board had con-

sidered, specifying that the committee be comprised of three Judicial Committee members and two other appointees.

However, at the recommendation of the Judicial Committee, that was changed to make the Judicial Committee responsible for counting the ballots. Vote Count Chair Mary Meyer said the Committee would bring in other SLLA members to help with the task if more hands were needed.

A third amendment lays out the conditions and procedure for a recount, which

is allowed if the difference between two candidates is five percent or less.

A fourth amendment specifies that the numerical vote counts for all candidates will be made public at the Annual Meeting, as well as on community bulletin boards and through an email blast to the membership. The vote counts were not announced at last year's Annual Meeting.

No more dues discount for recombined lots

The Board approved a pol-
(See "SLLA," p. 29)

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COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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for County Commissioner Committee

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SLLA

(Continued from page 28)

icy that removes the dues discount for recombined lots, going forward.

The Association has, in the past, treated lots that have been recombined as though they were a single lot, charging the owner only the amount due for a single lot. That has, over time, reduced the number of lots on which the Association collects dues.

The new policy does not restrict lot recombinations, but the recombined lots will continued to be considered as two separate lots for the purpose of determining the annual assessment due.

The new policy does not apply retroactively to lots recombined in the past.

Other Business

In other business during the February 11 SLLA Open Meeting:

- The Board approved a new fee schedule for use of the stables and pool, as well as a new schedule of miscellaneous fees. Among the more significant changes was an increase in the charge for the boat and trailer storage lot from \$10 to \$25.

- Responding to a comment from former President Bob Darr on the new fee schedule, President Leach pledged that the Board would discuss how best to ensure that community groups like Seven Lakes Kiwanis and the Red Cross Blood Drive are able to use the North Clubhouse at no charge. The fee for private events is \$150.

- Responding to another comment from Darr, Leach said the Board would review Association policy regarding the disposition of money collected through the fundraising activities of clubs, like the new Seven Lakes Equestrian Club.

- The Board approved a revision to Rules & Regulations Section 15 to eliminate warning notices and certified letters sent to guests prior to banning them for egregious behavior.

- The Board approved NC Open Water Swim events for June 5 & 6, and September 9-11.



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\$229,000



467 LONGLEAF DRIVE
Lake Auman Waterfront
\$450,000



153 SWARINGEN DRIVE
Lake Auman Water View
\$225,000



156 E SHENANDOAH
Lake Sequoia Water View
\$139,900



109 W DEVONSHIRE AVE
Golf Front 3BR/2BA
\$225,000



112 GLEN COVE LANE
Beautiful 4BR/3BA
\$379,000



150 TRADE ST, 7 LAKES
Commercial Rental w/ 2 units
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119 FAWNWOOD DR
Gorgeous 3 BR / 2BA
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125 HASTINGS RD
Beautiful Golf Front
\$228,500



184 JAMES DR
3 BR / 2 BA Double Lot
\$269,000

REDUCED!

FEB. ACTION

244 Longleaf - SOLD!
467 Longleaf - Under Contract
103 Somerset Ln - SOLD!
156 E Shenandoah - New Listing!
121 Berkshire - New Listing
137 Trade St Units - Under Contract
112 Somerset Ln - New Listing
106 Oxford Court - New Listing



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Alexandra & Veronica Whelan

Seven Lakes Times
February 19, 2016

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

NANNY NEEDED – in 7 Lakes West. Call 910-638-5961. *2/19*

LOST AND FOUND

CAUGHT IN SOMEONE'S MOTOR? – Pair of duck decoys. Home roost is at 201 Firetree Lane. And they are missed.

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THE CHAPEL IN THE PINES – has Seven Lakes Cemetery plots and columbarium niches available. Contact Bob Tourt at 673-8156 for information.

FOR SALE REAL ESTATE/LAND/LOTS

7 LAKES WEST LOT 5478 – County approved for septic, \$9,000, call 910- 695-6500.

FOR SALE REAL ESTATE/LAND/LOTS

1/2 ACRE WOODED LOT #5340 – 7 West Lakes Subdivision. Amenities include golf, marina, pool. 2 blocks from lake, asking \$26,000. Call 919-455-8617. *3/18*

LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT LOT – 156 Swaringen Dr, Lot #3047. New Price \$209,900 ***Price Reduced \$65,100*** Expansive water views, compare to other lots with similar views and great topo. Owner financing. Tammy Lyne, Keller Williams Realty www.TammyLyne.com 910-235-0208.

7 LAKES WEST LOTS – #5588 Longleaf Dr. \$8,500. #3179 Owens Circle, \$99,900. Water front lot no view, boat access. Both lots have been evaluated by the county for 3BR homes. Call 910-690-3664. *tn*

FOR SALE REAL ESTATE/LAND/LOTS

PRIME LAKEVIEW LOT #4323 – at desirable **126 Andrews Drive**. Anxious to sell. \$19,999 negotiable. Call Vince @516-361-2207 or email @valaporta55@gmail.com *6/24*

FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

QUITE NEIGHBORHOOD – 4 BD/1.5BA brick house on spacious 9 acres w/pond. House is equipped with its own generator and well. Rent \$900/mo. with a possible option of rent to own. Call Mike at (513) 503-6227.

OFFICES FOR RENT – the Executive Center. (1) office \$200/month w/outside entrance. (1) office w/interior and outside entrance, \$250. Call 910-673-1553.

FOR RENT REAL ESTATE

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT – 980 Seven Lakes Drive, Two offices 650 sq. ft. Starting at \$685/month utilities included. Also one 725 sq.ft. \$700/ month. Call for showing, 910-690-3664.

FOR RENT STORAGE BUILDINGS/SPACE

HILLCREST MINI WAREHOUSE, LLC – Affordable storage in Seven Lakes. Units are located at 351 Grant Street, across from K.R. Mace Electric. Unit sizes – 10x10, 10x20. Units have lighting. Call for rental information. Urgent calls may be directed to 910-690-6491. *tn*

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POWER WASHING – Painting, Window Cleaning, Deck Sealing. Call 910-751-8060. *4/15/16*

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M-T-W 1-4 • Th-F 1-6 • Sat 11-6
Medleyanna's II
Cameron • Thu, Fri & Sat 11-5
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Lumberton • Mon-Sat 10-6 • Sun 1-6*

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Seven Lakes Times
February 19, 2016

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BIG STAN LANDSCAPING – No job too big or too small. Leaf removal, grass cutting, gutter cleaning, pine cone pickup, hedge trimming anything you want, we can do. Call Scottie Stanback 910-571-4259. 2/28

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148 Otter Drive	\$26,000
105 Slate Court	\$27,000
104 Smathers Drive	\$30,000
239 Longleaf Drive	\$30,000
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108 Fox Den Drive	\$38,000
110 Fox Den Drive	\$38,000
121 Smathers	\$38,500
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106 Owens Circle	\$45,000
135 Swaringen	\$45,000
137 Swaringen	\$45,000
224 Longleaf Drive	\$54,500
5449R Fawnwood Drive	\$59,500
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