

Land Use Plan wins approval

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County has a new Land Use Plan, thanks to a unanimous vote of the Board of Commissioners during their Tuesday, November 19 regular meeting.

The plan approved, however, is not exactly the plan submitted by the Land Use Plan Steering Committee or approved by the Planning Board. After holding a public

hearing on the draft document during their October 15 meeting, the Commissioners, at the request of Chairman Nick Picerno, tabled consideration of the plan to allow an ad hoc committee to fine-tune some of its "actions."

The draft plan included five broad goals, under each of which were a number of recommendations; and each recommendation had its own set of actions.

During the Tuesday, (See "Commissioners," p. 26)

Gate planned for yard debris site

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter



In the land of homeowners associations, the favorite amenity is often the most over-used. Tall longleaf pines, magnolias, hardwoods, native grapevines all contribute to the charm of Seven Lakes North and South — and to the enormous amount of vegetation that passes through the Seven Lakes Landowners

Association's [SLLA] yard debris site.

Residents who relocate to the South for the balmy weather are sometimes unprepared for the long growing season and the volume of clippings, trimmings, and pinecones it produces. The debris site is a popular amenity and never dormant.

The cost of illegal dumping

Material that may be dis- (See "SLLA," p. 24)

Bright Ideas



West End Elementary Physical Education Teacher, Lance Barber, celebrates with his students after receiving a Bright Ideas Grant for Mathematical Badminton. The grant was awarded to Barber from Randolph Electric Representative, Lauren Ingold. Barber was awarded \$350 to purchase Badminton equipment to not only teach students badminton skills and strategy, but also to integrate other academic concepts relating to mathematics and science.

League forum on fracking packs the Senior Center

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

From James Womack's point of view, the question is not whether there will be fracking for natural gas in North Carolina.

The NC General Assembly has already approved legislation permitting horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, though there is currently a moratorium on the issuance of permits to drilling companies.

The question, in Womack's mind, is whether fracking will be done safely — in a way that protects the state's water supply and the landowners who lease mineral rights or acreage to

drilling companies.

Womack, a Lee County Commissioner, is in a unique position to answer that second question — because Womack chairs the state's Mining and Energy Commission, a body charged with developing rules to regulate the industry.

Womack shared the work of the Commission during a Thursday, November 21 forum on fracking sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Moore County that packed the ballroom of the Senior Enrichment Center.

Other presenters at the forum included former State Senator Ellie Kinnaird, NC State University professor

Ted Feitshans, and James Robinson, a research and policy association with the Rarula Advancement Foundation International.

Pro-Drilling

"It is fair to say that I am pro drilling," Womack told the crowd, "but that is because I think it is allowed under the US and State constitutions. Our goal as a commission is to write the regulatory framework based on fact and logic and what the legislature has asked us to do."

Womack noted that the NC Constitution recognizes the right of all people to "the

(See "Fracking," p. 19)

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25th Anniversary for Chapel Christmas Fund

by Rollin Tomberlin
Chapel in the Pines

The Chapel in the Pines of Seven Lakes is beginning their 25th year of Holiday Fund Raising this month.

All funds collected will benefit aiding needy children, adults, and seniors. The Chapel's Community Christmas Fund encompasses much more than Christmas. The Chapel also helps those in need at Thanksgiving and Easter, as well. The money raised through the Holiday Fund Raising provides food vouchers and gifts for more

than forty area families in West End, Seven Lakes and Jackson Springs for the festive occasions.

"The source for these gifts is threefold: the Chapel's Benevolence Fund, Seven Lakes area businesses, and

individual contributions," said Cindy Holland, the Benevolence committee's chairwoman. "I would like

to assure contributors that the Chapel works diligently with Moore County's Social Services Department to ensure that the fund's recipients are appropriately selected."

With the continuing ongoing unemployment, the local need for aid has become urgent. Please consider donating to the Chapel Fund Raising Project for the holiday season and send donation checks to the Chapel Community Christmas Fund, c/o Cindy Holland, Box 4042 Seven Lakes West, West End, NC, 27376.

'Blue Christmas' Service

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died, or it may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment,

the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation – all these can make someone feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending.

Everyone needs space and time to acknowledge their sadness and concerns; you need to know that you are not alone.

The Chapel in the Pines will host a special "Blue Christmas: A Service of Tidings of Comfort and Hope" service on Thursday, December 19 at 5 pm.

Come out, and join in for prayers, Scripture, and music

that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn and for those who struggle and that God's Word comes to shine light into their darkness. Everyone is welcome.

For more information contact Fran Stark 673-5493.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Fri, Dec 6	Fri, Dec 13
Thu, Dec 19*	Fri, Dec 27
Fri, Jan 3	Fri, Jan 10
Fri, Jan 17	Fri, Jan 24
Fri, Jan 31	Fri, Feb 7
Fri, Feb 14	Fri, Feb 21
Fri, Feb 28	Fri, Mar 7
Fri, Mar 14	Fri, Mar 21
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Fri, Jun 20	Fri, Jun 27
Thu, Jul 3*	Fri, Jul 11
Fri, Jul 18	Fri, Jul 25
Fri, Aug 1	Fri, Aug 8
Fri, Aug 15	Fri, Aug 22
Thu, Aug 28*	Fri, Sep 5
Fri, Sep 12	Fri, Sep 19
Fri, Sep 26	Fri, Oct 3

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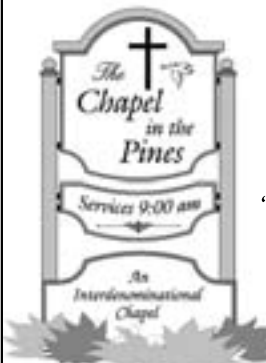
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Where do they want to put all those cell towers?

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County's Planning Board is struggling with a rewrite of the ordinance governing wireless communications facilities — "cell towers," in common parlance.

When American Tower Company submitted applications for nine new towers, mainly to serve the northern and western portions of the County, the Planning Staff discovered that five of them were to be located within five miles of state "Scenic Byways" — NC 705 and NC 24/27.

The applications for those towers were temporarily withdrawn and the Board of Commissioners asked the Planning Board to take a look at changing the ordinance, apparently with an eye to making it less restrictive.

The Planning Board heard plenty of testimony on all sides of the issue at its November 7 meeting, which led members to the conclusion that they needed more information before making any decisions about modifying the ordinance.

They'll get the chance for that education at a Work Session scheduled for December 5 at 1:00 pm, when the County's paid consultant on such matters will be on hand. That meeting is open to the public.

Meanwhile, citizens might be interested in knowing exactly where all those towers would be located, if they were approved.

Courtesy of maps provided by the Planning Department, here is a rundown.

Tall towers the rule, not the exception

Moore County currently has 21 towers, not including any located inside county municipalities. Nineteen of those are classed as Wireless Communications Facilities — that is, cellphone towers.

American Tower won approval earlier this year for a 300-foot tower southeast of Vass on property belonging

to former Board of Commissioners Chairman David Cummings.

Each tower is identified by a name that typically relates to its location. The four American Tower applications that remain active include:

- Cam Simp - A 195-foot tower located in a 15 acre parcel that adjoins NC Highway 24/27 between Carthage and Cameron.
- Dowd - A 300-foot tower located on a mostly wooded 17 acre site at the intersection of Dowd Road and Mt. Carmel Road, an intersection commonly known as Harris Crossroads, about two and one-half miles as the crow flies from Seven Lakes North.
- Glen Carth - A 250-foot tower on a 56.5-acre tract in North East Moore off Glendon Carthage Road.

- Robbins 22 - A 300-foot tower on a 21.4 acre tract 4.5 miles north east of Robbins and two miles west of NC Highway 22, on Borden Road.

Proposed towers for which applications were withdrawn include:

- Robbins 705 - a 300 foot tower on a 17 acre parcel along NC Highway 705 4.5 miles northwest of Robbins.
- 705 Eagles - A 195-foot tower on a 27.9 acre tract that joins NC Highway 705 just north of its intersection with Old Carthage Road.
- Eagle Pine - a 250-foot tower on a 40.7 acre heavily wooded parcel one-third of a mile south of NC Highway 24/27, 3.6 miles southeast of Robbins.
- Jordan Sea - a 300 foot tower on a 6.72 acre tract

that adjoins NC Highway 705, 1.4 miles from the Randolph County line north west of Robbins.

- Biscoe Mills - A 250-foot tower on a 48.9 acre tract that adjoins NC Highway 24/27 1.6 miles from the Montgomery County line.
- According to information provided by the Planning Department, two other towers have been proposed for areas outside Moore County's jurisdiction:

- Airport Road - A 195-foot tower on a 22.7 acre tract that adjoins Airport Road

just southeast of Whispering Pines.

- Need More - a 250-foot tower on a 55.5 acre tract that adjoins Old Glendon Road just north of Carthage.

Moore County's current tower ordinance designates certain areas as "Permitted Commercial Tower Development Areas."

On the map, these are circles four miles across that represent "areas where tower development is needed to fill 'holes' in coverage." There

(See "Towers," p. 20)



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Camplin sings in state honors chorus

Vivian Camplin, a fifth grader at West End Elementary, was chosen as one of 198 students from across North Carolina to perform in the 2013 Elementary Honors Chorus in Winston-Salem on November 10.

Over 600 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students sub-

mitted audio taped auditions to a committee from the North Carolina Music Educators Association for consideration this September. In early October, Vivian learned she was selected, one of only four students from Moore County and the only student from West End Elementary.



Conductor Stephan Roddy welcomes 5th grader Vivian Camplin to the 2013 State Elementary Honors Chorus.

After a month of rehearsing six very challenging chorus pieces, often times by herself with just an audio track and sheet music, Vivian and the three other students from Moore County traveled to Winston-Salem on November 9 and spent an eight hour day rehearsing with the entire Honors Chorus under the guidance of conductor, Stephen Roddy before their final performance.

Roddy is the Founder and Director of the Houston Children's Chorus, an auditioned group that is frequently called upon to sing for local, national, and even international civic and cultural events.

Highlights of his Houston Children's Chorus resumé include more than twenty-eight performances for the President of the United States

and a performance at the 2004 SuperBowl.

Followed to Winston-Salem by her immediate family, grandparents and great-grandfather, Vivian and the Honors Chorus did not disappoint. With only one day to rehearse as a group, the group performed flawlessly and brought the packed Stevens Center audience to its feet with a standing ovation.

Vivian was also accompanied to Winston-Salem by her music teacher, Marie Riedesel. Other attendees from Moore County were Hannah Russell of Highfalls Elementary, with music teacher Hannah Mohr; and two Pinehurst Elementary students, Madison Glancy and Lydia Riedesel, also with Marie Riedesel.



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MCS chooses Google laptops for digital rollout

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Moore County Schools [MCS] will use Google Chromebooks as the primary

laptop computer as it rolls out its plan to place a computer in the hands of every student.

The decision was reached on Friday, November 22, after the district's leadership team met to review data collected in a four-month pilot project testing a number of different laptop computer platforms, including the Apple MacBook Air, HP Windows Laptop, and the Chromebook, a relatively new platform that relies primarily on web-based Google Apps rather than on-board software.

Chromebooks are significantly less expensive than the more traditional laptops. MCS' Lead Digital Integration Facilitator Steve Johnson

told *The Times* that the Google laptop will cost \$329 per unit, versus \$649 for the HP Windows laptop being tested and \$999 for the MacBook Air.

Testing systems, collecting data

But cost was not the only factor tipping the decision to the Chromebooks. Students and teachers in selected classrooms in seven schools spent the past four months testing the various computer systems in day-to-day learning.

A sampling of student projects was on display at a Thursday, November 21, Digital Learning Showcase hosted by New Century Middle School. Featured projects came from high school biology and English 1 classes, as well as middle school English and language arts classes.

The science projects displayed included an animated

discussion of a technique for extracting DNA from chromosomes and a video poster presenting both sides of the debate over genetically modified foods. On the English and Language Arts [ELA] side of the room, presentations included an animated account of a day in the life of a professional actress and a slide show exploring the meaning of "irony."

MCS' digital integration team collected data from students and teachers on their experience using the various computer systems, beginning with a pre-test survey in August and continuing into November. That feedback was rolled into the decision to go with Chromebooks.

Johnson told *The Times* that, in addition to lower cost, the Chromebooks offer another advantage in terms of applications management.

When the Windows or Mac

(See "Laptops," p. 14)

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9 Tomato & Basil Soup ♥ Baked Ziti Dinner	10 Chicken Brunswick Stew Chicken Enchiladas Dinner	11 Corn Chowder Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	12 Manhattan Clam Chowder Jack Daniels Salmon Dinner	13 Roasted Root Vegetable Soup ♥ Roasted Winter Vegetables Dinner ♥
16 Broccoli Cheddar Soup Five Cheese Penne Pasta Dinner	17 Chicken & Dumpling Soup Lemon Chicken with Artichokes Dinner	18 Tomato & Rice Soup Smothered Pork Chops Dinner	19 New England Clam Chowder Lemon-Butter Tilapia Dinner	20 Macaroni & Peas Soup Broccoli Manicotti Dinner ♥
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LONG OR SHORT TERM RENTALS!

Judge appointed to assess County Courthouse

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



The North Carolina Supreme Court has taken an interest in Moore

County's plans for upgrading its courthouse and other judicial facilities.

At the request of Superior Court Judge James Webb, Supreme Court Chief Justice Sarah Parker has appointed

Emergency Superior Court Judge Michael E. Beale to review the adequacy of the Moore County Courthouse.

Judges Beale and Webb met with County officials, including County Commis-

sioner Larry Caddell, County Manager Wayne Vest, and County Property Manager Bobby Lake on Friday, November 15 to review the County's efforts to temporarily expand the space available for judicial functions, as well as longer term plans for addressing the inadequacies of the current courthouse, which was built in the 1970s.

Judge Webb has been a consistent critic of that courthouse; its deficiencies have been documented in two studies of the County's facilities needs.

Problems include a lack of separation between those accused of crimes and the victims of those crimes, a lack of adequate private consultation rooms for attorneys and their clients, and a lack

of security for both judges and juries.

Currently, the County is remodeling the basement of the Courthouse, which was emptied when the Sheriff's Office moved to the new Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center to expand the area available to the Clerk of Court, as well as probation and parole functions.

Space vacated in the Currie Building when the Public Safety Department moved to the Rhyne Center is being remodeled for use by the District Attorney.

Webb chaired the County's Courthouse Facilities Advisory Committee until he was removed from that position in May and made Vice Chair of the committee. Webb wrote

(See "Courthouse," p. 25)



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Nutcracker is a lot of work – and tons of fun

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

Hard work and dedication comes with smile for Bethany Ptak, a home-schooled eighth grader from Eagle Springs.

"I just love to dance, because it makes me happy and lifts me up," says Bethany. Sure enough, after a long day of rehearsing for the Nutcracker at Taylor Dance, Bethany is still smiling pretty.

Bethany's friends happily dance in and out and eagerly join the conversation.

Pinecrest junior Willa Mitchel sweeps in and asks, "Is this a newspaper article on Bethany? Let's cheese this up. Bethany just lights up my soul when she is dancing. When I watch her she inspires me to be a better dancer. I also love when she says, 'Can I go home now? I am tired.'"

Willa goes up on pointe and backs out of the room.

There is sweet sincerity in the cheese. The dancers, teens and preteens, hail from all across Moore County and have become supportive friends.

"All of my friends are here, except one," Bethany says. "I like how we can have fun even if we are failing at a piece."

Kathryn Jones, a student at Union Pines, matches Bethany's height on pointe. She gracefully drapes her arm over Bethany's shoulder and says, "Bethany keeps me happy and keeps me going. She motivates me."

Kathryn has been dancing for ten years. "I really like Taylor Dance," she says. "The dancing, the rehearsals, dancing four days a week, sometimes six . . . the teachers."

At the mention of teachers, everyone talks at once: "Love the teachers . . . Ms. Elizabeth . . . They are all amazing dancers . . . always kind . . . Mr. Ryan, he is dancing in Italy . . . so funny . . . Mr. Gary is the best . . ." The girls could chat endlessly about their favorite teachers.

Two of those teachers are not even a decade older that

the students, but several years of intense work can make all the difference. Elizabeth Fowle is a Pinecrest graduate and a senior at the UNC School of the Arts. Jere-

my Huggins is an Aberdeen native and graduate of the UNC School of the Arts. They grew up studying under Gary and Rita Taylor.

The dancers make them-

selves at home. Fairy-like Willa flits in between the other dancers. Christa Blades, a New Century eighth grader perches on the arm of the couch knitting rubber band bracelets. Bethany stands on pointe.

Christa rolls her eyes at Bethany and smiles, "Bethany is really good at tap. I hate tap. I like ballet and pointe. Pointe is my favorite, but it makes my feet hurt though."

Bethany, still on pointe, grins.

"My feet never hurt. I haven't lost a nail or bruised

a toe," she shrugs. "It never hurts."

Several of the dancers who are sporting bruised or missing toenails give Bethany a pained look.

Blond and fair, Christa continues working on her stretchy multicolored bracelet. She looks up and says, "My favorite piece was 'Walking on Sunshine.' That was so fun."

Bethany gives the question some thought before naming her favorite performance.

"Definitely our Spring
(See "Dance," p. 15)



Bethany Ptak of Eagle Springs will perform in Taylor Dance's production of the Nutcracker this weekend

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Sometimes, as I head into my little shop, I wonder if my grandma looks down and sees how her encouragement to let go and allow shapes and colors to form into art has sent her eldest granddaughter on a path of amazing happiness. She embraced art as a means to connect and make memories – and taught me to do the same. I like to think I offer a little glimpse of that in my jewelry and specialty gift selections.

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Don Welch ready to retire ... for real this time

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

When Rev. Donald Welch and his wife Nancy moved to Seven Lakes in 1999, it was to enjoy retirement. But how do you retire from a calling?

Welch was soon asked to provide guidance and be the organizing pastor of the small historic church McDonalds Chapel. Under his pastorate, the McDonalds Chapel congregation grew and became a full-fledged Presbyterian Church.

Don and Nancy were warmly welcomed and became active and vital members and leaders in the surrounding communities. He served as a part-time parish associate at West End Presbyterian Church, where he shared responsibilities for stewardship, pastoral care, and worship, in addition to serving as the Director of The Adult Academy for Religious Studies.

It has been a busy retirement. In July 2005, Rev. Welch became the Resident Minister of the Chapel in the Pines, an ecumenical congregation, and also served as the pastor of McDonalds Chapel from 2007 to 2010.

For three years, he would balance two services at two different churches on the same day.

Born in the bluegrass state

Welch was born in Ashland, Kentucky in 1931. He remembers his childhood fondly.

"We grew up in the depression years, and we were poor but didn't know it or didn't feel like it," he said. "Everyone around us had very little, but we had very little too. I absolutely loved school."

Welch and his seven siblings grew up in the church. "I never knew a time when I didn't think of myself as a Christian," he said. "The church was just across the street from us. My mother kept the nursery in the church. My father directed the church choir, and I sang in it. It became a natural thing for me to think that this is where my vocation would be."

While in high school, he and three friends formed a quartet. They would go out into the rural communities on Sundays and hold services and preach. It was Don's first experience standing in the pulpit.

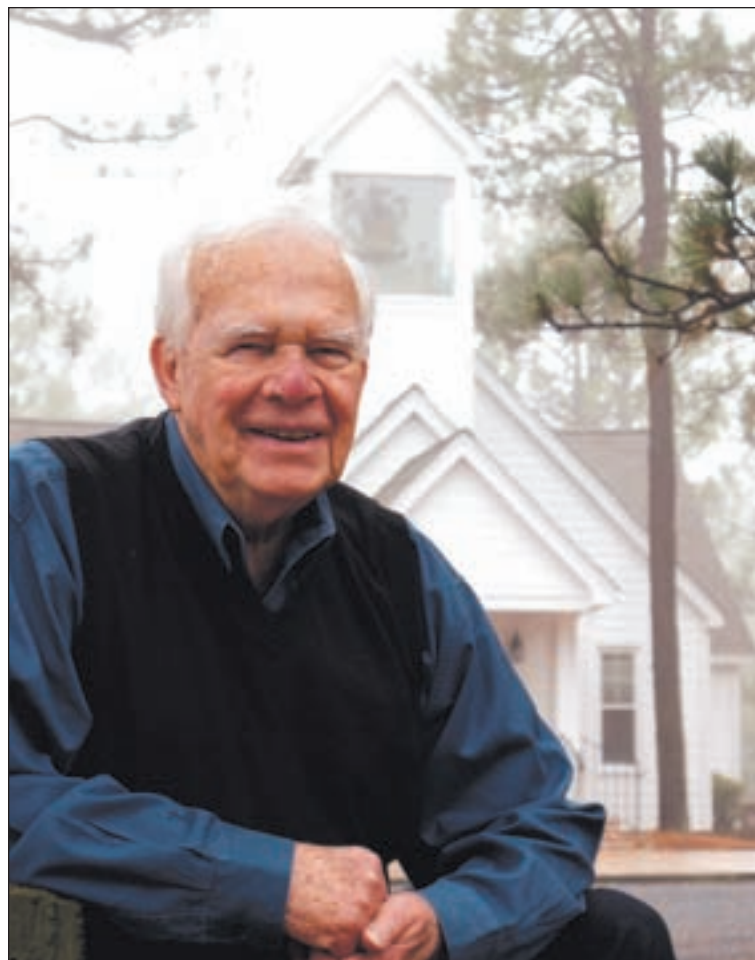
Don balanced his sense of service with school and family.

"High school was just a lot of fun," he said. "We had bands, plays, musicals, dances, and clubs. In a family of eight, being the sixth one, I had three brothers ahead of me. The challenge was always for the brother to do better than the brother just ahead, academically and in leadership. My brother just ahead of me was a good student, so I had to be a better student."

A tenor, Welch has had a lifelong love of music.

"I had a wonderful music teacher in high school who taught me to appreciate classical music and arranged for me to have an audition with

(See "Welch," p. 18)



The Reverend Don Welch has served the Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines as Resident Minister for eight years

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'Light up a Life' with FirstHealth Hospice

Barbara Fox McWilliams loved the sound of water.

"It helped her to relax and think of the Lord," says her husband, Charles McWilliams.

The outgoing chairman of the FirstHealth Hospice Foundation Network, McWilliams and others (family members and some "great friends") had his late wife in mind when they endowed a water

feature highlighting a garden project that will welcome supporters of FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care to the 2014 "Light Up a Life" program next year. Those who attend the 2013 program, scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 5, will note signs of the project's recent beginning.

"The official start date for the garden was Oct. 1," McWilliams says, "and almost

a year of planning and discussion took place before the shovel went into the ground. Phase I – within the circle around the center of the campus – should be complete sometime in the first quarter of next year."

This year's Light Up a Life, which traditionally supports the operations of FirstHealth Hospice, will allow members of the community also to

support the Hospice Gardens, which will be a component of the spiritual and bereavement care provided to patients and their families.

According to McWilliams, the inspiration for the Hospice garden project came from the Healing Garden at the Clara McLean House on the campus of FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

The 2013 FirstHealth Hos-

pice Foundation "Light Up a Life" program will be held Thursday, December 5, at 5 pm on the campus of FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care, 251 Campground Road, Pinehurst. A reception will follow the tree-lighting ceremony.

Anyone interested in dedicating a light in honor or in memory of a loved one can call (910) 695-7500.

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In memory of . . .

Paul Harrison Cole, 79 of Jackson Springs died Monday, November 18, at Quail Haven Retirement Village, Pinehurst.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, November 20, at Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Paul James officiated. Burial followed at the church cemetery.

Mr. Cole was born in Pinehurst son to the late Charles Richard Cole and Elnola (Stewart) Cole. He was a long-time member and Elder of the Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church and member of the Jackson Springs Community Club. He served for over 50 years in the Alberta Masonic Lodge, and was an employee of the Samarkand Manor Youth Correctional Facility for over 35 years.

Mr. Cole is survived by sons, Richie Cole and wife Rhonda of Jackson Springs; Ronnie Cole of Aberdeen; daughters, Renee Cole of Charlotte; and Robin Williams and husband Joel of Aberdeen; his brother, Charles Knox Cole and wife Edna of Raleigh; sister, Maxine Richardson and husband Blue of Jackson Springs; and six grandchildren.

Memorial donations can be made in memory of Paul Cole to: Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church, PO Box 7, Jackson Springs, NC 27281

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Ruth Evelyn Lane Boyer, 85, of Cameron died Friday, November 15, at FirstHealth Hospice House, of Pinehurst.

A celebration of life was held Sunday, November 17, at Cox Memorial Funeral

Home Chapel. The Pastor Charles Lassiter officiated. Burial followed at Pineywood Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Boyer was born in Selma, the daughter of James Andrew and Maude Campbell Lane. She worked as a nurse's assistant most of her life and was a member of Pineywood Baptist Church, loved the outdoors, crocheting, cooking and going to the beach, and especially enjoyed spending time with family.

Survivors include her children, Sam Medlin and wife, Patricia, of Southern Pines; Kathy Suggs and husband, Frank, of Vass; Jan Picerno and husband, Nick, of McLendon Hills; sister, Doris Maddox, of Sanford; seven grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James Andrew and Maude Campbell Lane; her husband, Rick Boyer; daughter, Betty Ruth Medlin; sisters, Virgie, Louise and Frances; and brothers, George, James and Jennings.

Memorials may be made

to FirstHealth Hospice Foundation, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst NC 28374.

Cox Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory of Vass assisted the family.

Jane C. Sundheim, 97, of Lynchburg, VA (formerly of Seven Lakes) die Tuesday, October 22, at her residence. She was the wife of the late Peter Joseph Sundheim II.

Mrs. Sundheim born in Cleveland Heights, OH, she was the daughter of the late Albert and Florence White Conkey. She lived in Sparta, NJ before retiring and moving to Seven Lakes. Mrs. Sundheim spent the last five and a half years living in Lynchburg, VA with her son Peter and his wife Barbara.

A woman ahead of her time, Mrs. Sundheim was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. She then went on to become a Physical Therapist, graduating from the Cleveland Clinic. A United States Army Veteran, she enlisted and served overseas in England during WWII, treating

wounded soldiers from the front lines. While on R&R on the French Riviera, she met her future husband, Pete. They married after the war and had three children. She worked as a physical therapist for Newton Memorial Hospital and Andover Nursing Home in New Jersey, before retiring.

Mrs. Sundheim had a passion for gardening, loved antiquing, often refinishing her finds. She caned chairs, wove baskets, and was an accomplished seamstress. Always having a strong competitive spirit, she loved sports, both as a participant and fan, and was an avid

bridge player. She was an active member of the League of Women Voters, and a member of Chapel in the Pines in Seven Lakes.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, Albert Conkey.

Survivors include her children, Peter Sundheim and his wife Barbara; Thomas Sundheim and his wife Jenny; Beverly Donofrio and her husband John; seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

A memorial service to celebrate Mrs. Sundheim's life will be held at a later date in Seven Lakes.



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West Pine Middle School Fellowship of Christian Athletes led the student body in collecting canned goods during their third annual "Trick-or-Feed" service project. The 8th grade students collected the most food. Over 1100 cans of food was collected and donated to God-Sent Angels for distribution to the homeless and needy for Thanksgiving. Thanks goes out to the community for being so generous.

Join the AARP Tax-Aide Volunteer Team

Help seniors and low/moderate income Americans with taxes this Spring. For information or to volunteer, contact

Barry Guthrie at 910-673-1164 or Bill Roberson at 910-673-1452.

You can also get info and volunteer at AARP.org.

- Scroll menu on left side of home page and under TAKE ACTION, click on "Volunteer."
- Then under VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, click on the link for "Volunteer for AARP Tax-Aide."
- Read article on the Tax-Aide program.
- Click on gold "Become a Volunteer" box in article.
- Click on the green "Register" button.
- Fill out sign-up page and submit. Be sure to select #2, AARP volunteer.

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Christmas Music at Lunch Bunch

All single seniors are invited to attend the Seven Lakes Lunch Bunch at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall on Wednesday, December 18 at noon. There is no cost. Reservations would be appreciated. Transportation will be provided if needed.

Following lunch, a Christmas program will be presented by Glenda Clendenin and Kristin Webb.

Clendenin was one of the Chapel's first soloists. A native of Moore County, she has been the Director of the Moore County Board of Elections for 28 years. She has been a church music director for over 35 years and currently serves as Director of

Music at West End United Methodist Church. Her love of music began at an early age, singing in the children's choir and singing solos at age six.

Webb is a native of Montgomery County and is a dental assistant for Lane and Associates. She comes from a family of musicians. As a young teenager, she served her home church, Sardis United Methodist, as well as many others. Webb studied music at Trinity Music Academy with Paul Chandley.

To make a reservation for lunch or request transportation assistance, please call the Chapel office at 673-2156.

Champion riders



Kelsey Hill (right) and Kayleigh Watchter were awarded Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons after scoring the highest points totals in a three horseshow series held at Seven Lakes Stables on September 21, October 19, and November 23.

Competitors competed in a series of western games to see who could lay down the fastest accurate pattern in barrels and poles. Volunteers who helped with the shows included Ken and Phyllis Jenkins, Linda Christy, and Robbie Duggan.

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Laptops

(Continued from page 6)

operating system of a traditional laptop is updated, it can sometimes have unexpected effects on other software installed on the computer, perhaps acquired from another vendor.

Because the Google Apps that form the backbone of the Chromebook are all provided by Google, and reside largely on the Web, the update process is more tightly integrated.

"You walk in the next morning, turn on the computer, and everything has changed," Johnson said.

A learning curve

Because Chromebooks are new, on the other hand, they may present a bit of a learning curve for students who are already proficient on more traditional laptops.

For Chris Morgan, a North Moore High School student who used a Chromebook to prepare his presentations for the digital learning showcase, the Chromebook "was a totally new system, so I had to learn it." Because students in his class had already been using HP Windows computers, he said, some found it frustrating to move to the Chromebook.

Union Pines student Katarina Smith, who was paired with Morgan for the Biology presentations, had a similar reaction. "HP is mostly what we already have," she said, "so that will make it easier for students to use — it's something they are used to." She added that the HP laptops are more durable.

Aside from the hardware, both students praised the use of digital technology in the classroom.

"Information retrieval is quicker," Smith said, comparing reaching on the Web to digging through the index of textbooks. "That gets folks motivated."

Morgan said he felt the challenge of creating a digital product — a slide show or animation — to present ideas, as opposed to writing an essay or completing a worksheet, required him to "go more in depth," so I retained

more."

The digital approach is also "better than going out and buying those big pieces of poster board," Morgan said.

Jamie Teeter, a New Century Middle School English and Language Arts [ELA] teacher whose class used MacBook Air laptops, said the digital platform was "an equalizer. Students who struggled with writing an essay really clicked on creating an iBook presentation."

Jillian Reynolds, whose Elise Middle School ELA class used Google Chromebooks, said she was impressed with the big leap in collaboration among students in the classroom. "I had kids teaching

kids to use the applications," she said.

Lots of laptops to order

With the pilot completed and the decision to use Chromebooks made, MCS will move to fully implement Phase II of its digital learning initiative, ordering approximately 3,200 laptops for delivery by Christmas break and rolling those out to all students in seven schools by the end of the school year. The schools involved include Crains Creek, New Century, and Elise Middle Schools; Union Pines and North Moore High Schools; and sixth through eighth grade classrooms at High Falls and West

Moore Elementary Schools.

The initial projected cost of the devices purchased for Phase II was \$1.9 million, but that reflected an average cost of \$600 per device. The lower cost of the Chromebooks will likely reduce the overall cost.

Phase III of the digital learning initiative is scheduled for the 2014-2015 school year, with plans to provide laptops to students at Southern and West Pine Middle Schools, as well as Pinecrest High School — a total of more than 3,600 devices.

The following year will see the remaining elementary schools equipped with tablet

computers — currently, Apple iPads are the expected platform — a total of 4,000 devices.

Christmas Cantata

The West End United Methodist Church will be having their Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 8 at 8:30 am and at 11 am. The choir will be presenting "An Evening in December" by Tom Fette. Join the church for this special music program.



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Dance

(Continued from page 8)

Cirque Show," she says. 'Mystere' is my favorite. It was contemporary and we danced it with rain sticks. It was fun and fast, and we danced it barefoot. If I was going to choreograph a dance, it would be like contemporary or hip hop," she grins and adds, "Hard hitting."

"Nothing compares to 'Tied Up by Yellow,'" says Emma Marcus, a Pinecrest freshman who has been dancing with the Taylors for eleven years. "I love Mr. Gary's funky jazz

choreography. It's a great song. I have it on my iPod."

The younger girls fit right in and speak right up. Says Kristen Howell, a fifth grader: "I have been dancing since I was three. This year I am in 'Peppermint' too."

Petite, soft spoken Caroline Mayes, West Pine Middle sixth grader loves to perform.

"I have danced since I was three," she says. "I like going to dance after school. I love the shows that we do. I love performing. In the Nutcracker I am in 'Oriental.' I like the

cartwheels. I get to dance with my best friends and have sleepovers."

Performing with Taylor Dance is a commitment. Fourteen hours a week is the normal schedule. Closer to the performance date, the number of hours begins to grow. This week, a week from curtain, the dancers have balanced a thirty-hour week with school.

"We have to put in the hours if we want to perform in a professional show," says Emma.

There are no slackers. Many of the dance students are A students enrolled in honors courses. Bethany, also an honors student, is homeschooled to accommodate her dance schedule.

Emma's sister Abby walks through and says, "Don't forget this our fourth Nutcracker in Southern Pines. I'm not in the 'Baby Doll' dance anymore. I'm in 'Peppermint,'" she adds grinning.

Performing in the Nutcracker is a dancer's dream. The breathtaking sets, exquisite costumes, and beautiful choreography create a magical winter escape.

Bethany will dance in three pieces and is an understudy for "Snow."

"I guess my favorite would be 'Snow' and 'Mirliton.' 'Mirliton' is a happy dance. It makes me happy, and the costumes are really pretty."

Break is over. The dancers run back in to practice the finalé.

Streamlined in black leotards, ballet pink tights with hair pulled back in buns, they fall into step. The music lifts them up, just like Bethany said.

After five hours of dance they are still poised, amazingly refreshed. They practice their final bows, before the curtain goes up November 29.

See the Taylor Dance Nutcracker

The Taylor Dance production of The Nutcracker returns to the Pinecrest High School Robert E. Lee Auditorium for three performances November 29 - December 1.

Choreography is by award-winning Artistic Director, Gary Taylor. Sets are by award-winning designer, Howard Jones. Original costumes are designed by artistic director and founder Rita Taylor.

This year's performance features exciting new choreography and casting.

Performances

Friday, November 29, 7:30pm
Saturday, November 30, 2:00pm
Sunday, December 1, 2:00pm

Tickets

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- **The Rooster's Wife** – show at 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest is: *Boobs and Hope-a hilarious solo show by Dana Sumner-Pritchard*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910) 944-7502.
- **Taylor Dance Presents The Nutcracker** – 7:30 pm, Saturday, November 30, 2 pm and Sunday, December 1, 2 pm. Pinecrest High School, Robert E. Lee Auditorium 250 Voit Gilmore Rd. Southern Pines. Admission: \$25 Adults, \$20 Seniors, Students, & Children, \$20 Military. General Seating for all shows www.taylorlancetheplayhouse.org
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The Broken Circle Breakdown*, starring: Veerle Baetens & Johan Heldenbergh. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 2:30 pm, *The Broken Circle Breakdown*, starring: Veerle Baetens & Johan Heldenbergh. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.

- **Seven Lakes Business Guild Christmas Tree Lighting** – 6 pm, held on the lot next to Lake House. Community is invited. See the trees on display from area businesses and civic organizations.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The Broken Circle Breakdown*, starring: Veerle Baetens & Johan Heldenbergh. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners** – 5 pm, at the Historic Courthouse, Carthage.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.
- **Sunflix at the Sunrise** – 7:30 pm, *The Broken Circle Breakdown*, starring: Veerle Baetens & Johan Heldenbergh. Tickets: \$7. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in

harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. All are welcome.

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.

- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. This is for children

age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes, 910-673-4656.

- **SCC Gala Concert** – 7:30 pm, public invited to join the faculty and staff of Sandhills Community College as they commemorate the day of the first Board of Trustees meeting on December 4, 1963 that established the college. 50th Anniversary Gala Concert held in Owens Auditorium. Free tickets are available at the Boyd Library. Show features performances by: The Moore Philharmonic, the SCC Choir, the SCC Jazz Band Ensemble, the SCC Guitar Ensemble, the SCC Story-Telling Scat Band, guitarist Ryan Book, pianist Chris Colon, soprano Jennifer Thomas, the Project SUCCEED Choir and SCC Alumni and Friends.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a meal provided at \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes.
- **Women of Seven Lakes** – 2 pm, Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall. The Bell Ringers from the Sandhills Community College's SUCCEED classes for developmentally disabled adults will entertain, surprise, and uplift every one. Please bring an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots program to be donated.
- **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com
- **FirstHealth Hospice Foundation "Light Up a Life"** – 5 pm program, on the campus of FirstHealth Hospice & Palliative Care, 251 Campground Road, Pinehurst. A reception will follow

the tree-lighting ceremony. Anyone interested in dedicating a light in honor or in memory of a loved one can call (910) 695-7500.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

- **Pearl Harbor Day**
- **Annual Christmas Party at SLCC** - Cocktails at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30. Rosemary Chicken buffet. Call 673-1100 by 3:30 pm on December 3 for details and reservations. Non-members welcome. An enjoyable dinner out, holiday entertainment and socializing with friends and neighbors.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Christmas Cantata** – at 8:30 am and 11 am, the West End United Methodist Church Choir will be presenting their Christmas music with "An Evening in December" by Tom Fettke. Join the church for this special worship service of the season's songs.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145



What's When Calendar



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- **Bryant House and McLendon Cabin** – 1 to 4 pm. Enjoy an old fashioned Christmas by visiting the historic Bryant House and McLendon Cabin. The houses that were built in the early 1820s (McLendon Cabin built in 1700s), 3361 Mount Carmel Road in Carthage. (910) 692-2051 weekday afternoons for directions.
- **The English Speaking Union** – 1 pm, hosting Vivian Jacobson as guest speaker at the Country Club of North Carolina. She has a presentation especially prepared for the holidays on Marc Chagall's messages of hope, peace, reconciliation and love in his art and literature. Membership is open to the public. For more information about this holiday program or membership in E-SU, contact Hope Price at (910)-692-7727 or Hopewp@aol.com
- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, in the gallery of Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest is: *Martha Bassett Trio*. Rooster's Wife. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 9 am, work session. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse Game Room.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary

Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.

- **Jackson Springs Community Club** – meeting at 7 pm for their Annual Christmas Dinner at the Club. (House) 447 Mill Road, Jackson Springs. All members of the community are invited to this Covered Dish Dinner. Nancy Ray Blue promises a wonderful evening with beautiful Christmas Music provided by the Jackson Springs Presbyterian Church Choir. Come and join friends and neighbors for a evening of good fellowship. Questions call Susan Miller 639-5267.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & trouble, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased. Reverend Carol Burgess.
- **Zumba Class** – 7 pm to 8 pm, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes, 910-673-4656.
- **Foxfire Village Council** – 7 pm, meeting. at Foxfire Village Hall.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:50 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **Living Your Fullest with**

Dementia & Memory Loss – 2 to 3 pm, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Weekly gathering for individuals who are in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Provides support, resources and education to the person who has been diagnosed. Group offers a caring approach to learning and sharing within a group setting of others who face similar challenges. Rev. Fran Stark and Amy Natt, M.S. facilitators. No cost. All information confidential. Contact Fran Stark at 910-673-5493.

- **SL Baptist Church AWANA** – 6:30 to 8 pm, in the Hankins Family Life Center. This is for children age 3 to 5th grade. Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. Seven Lakes, 910-673-4656.
- **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.
- **Mayberry Bible Study** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead the focusing on Biblical

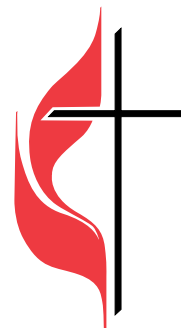
Truth and everyday life applications based upon Andy Griffith's Mayberry. Bible Study meets in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

- **Open House at the Shaw House** – 1 to 4 pm, corner of Morganton Road and Broad Street, Southern Pines. Free admission. Old time decorations, warm apple cider and homemade cookies. Live music, warm greetings. Tours available. Donations welcome. www.moorehistory.com (910) 692-2051.
- **Crossroads Community Church Christmas Drama** – 7 pm, "The Final Stand." A drama depicting the life of Christ and the many miracles he performed. Admission is Free. For more information or directions call 910-949-3971. Crossroads Community Church is located in Carthage.



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Children's Chapel - 9:45 am
Adult Christian Education - 10:45 am

Tuesday Mornings

Intercessory Prayer
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Welch

(Continued from page 9)

Julliard," he said. "I didn't accept because I knew then that I was called into the ministry."

A pulpit at age 17

After graduating from high school at age seventeen, Welch was licensed to preach in the Methodist Church and assigned a pastorate in the mountains of eastern Kentucky.

He was accepted to Kentucky's Union College. While attending college, he worked as a choir director in a nearby town. That is where he first met Nancy Wilder, who was attending choir practice with a friend.

After graduating Junior College, Don volunteered to be a short-term Methodist missionary in India. He trained for this in Hartford, Connecticut, where he met and roomed with James Lawson.

"James Lawson was a major influence in my life and was responsible for my growing concerns for racial equality," Don said.

James was granted a visa and went on to serve in India and learn Gandhi's way of non-violent resistance. Lawson is portrayed as the young man teaching Fisk University Students non-violence in the movie *The Butler*.

"When Jim came back he taught Martin Luther King Jr. non-violent resistance," Welch said. "He was the minister leading the sanitation work strike when King was killed."

To Duke & beyond

Welch did not receive a visa and stayed stateside. He enrolled in Duke University Divinity School, where he earned a Master of Divinity Degree. Upon graduation, was appointed to a Methodist Church in an Eastern Kentucky town near his alma mater.

Soon afterward, he was invited to become a part-time instructor at Union. Later, he would serve Union College as Dean of Men, Campus Minister, and Instructor in Religion and Philosophy.

At various times in Welch's life, he would find himself called back to places he had moved away from. For several years, he served as a Union College trustee; and, after many years of service to Union College, he was named to the Union College Business and Professional Hall of Fame.

Don and Nancy were married in 1954. She joined Don when he was a student at Duke University. He would later become Assistant Dean of Duke Divinity School. There were a number of moves for the Welches. Their three children practically grew up on college campuses.

Don would teach on the faculties of Cumberland and Berea Colleges in Kentucky, Duke University Divinity School, and Wofford College in South Carolina, where he also was Dean of Students and Chaplain. For nine years, he was President and Dean of Scarritt Graduate School for Religious Education and Sacred Music in Nashville, Tennessee; and for four years, he was Vice President of Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by McMurray College in Illinois.

After retiring from higher education at Wesleyan College, Welch returned to his

first love, pastoring a small church. For nine years, he and Nancy called Macon's Park Memorial United Methodist Church home.

Celebrating a calling

Don and Nancy Welch have been married for more than fifty-nine years; and they have three grown children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Don will retire on December 31, 2013.

"It is not just a retirement, it is a move to be closer to some members of my family," he said. "But, we will regret leaving our son Jim, who

has a home at Seven Lakes."

"I am retiring after serving over 65 years as a minister. I know you can retire from a job. I do not think you can retire from a calling."

Welch laughs. "It is the reason I have already retired four times."

Christmas Eve will be Rev. Welch's last service at the Chapel in the Pines — a service that will include the baptism of its newest member, Caroline George.

"When I first came to the Chapel, there were no children in the congregation,"

(See "Welch," p. 19)

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Fracking

(Continued from front page)

enjoyment of the fruits of their own labor.” And that means that a landowner who has mineral rights and wants to lease those rights in order to put their children through college or build a larger barn should have the right to do so, Womack said.

He argued that “the economic impacts are enormous. There are counties and states in this country whose whole economies have blossomed because of shale gas. It is transformative . . . It will eventually turn into the next great fuel, giving us time to perfect renewables.”

Womack said he expects that the first horizontal wells will be permitted in April of 2015 and that about five wells will be drilled in Lee County that year. “There is a really slow ramp up — particularly in virgin territory,” Womack said, as companies wait to see whether wells pan out.

If they do, in fact, pan out, Womack envisions as many as 140 wells in operation in Lee County by 2018.

The gas industry has thus far shown the greatest interest in Lee County, though the Triassic Basin in which shale gas may be found

touches fourteen NC counties in all.

Lee County, however, has a history of coal, oil, and gas exploration and extraction, though only coal has been produced in commercial quantities.

“We know that we have commercially viable quantities of gas,” Womack said of Lee County. “We can’t project the same kinds of things about the reset of the Triassic Basin.”

Seismic testing that aims to create a three-dimensional map of the subsurface, may have already begun in portions of Lee County.

been very active involvement from stakeholders — particularly the environmental community — in the work of his committee, which has an open comment period at all its meetings and those of its various study groups — “like

no other commission in the state.”

“It is easier for us to make changes on the front end,” Womack added, noting that his panel is on track to complete its work by September

(See “Fracking,” p. 20)

Welch

(Continued from page 18)

Welch said. It is fitting testament to Don and Nancy, who have continued to share their talents and love for the community.

Maybe it is Welch’s simple approach that has filled the pews and grown membership at the churches he has pastored.

“The church’s role is to share the gospel and reach out with compassion to those that stand in need, providing them with spiritual nourishment in addition to medical help, food, and counsel without any strings attached,” Welch said.

The community will have the opportunity to join the Chapel congregation in paying tribute to Don and celebrating his ministry at the Chapel in the Pines on Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 pm.

Goodbyes are always difficult. But Welch may still be around every other week ready to answer the hard questions. *The Seven Lakes Times* has invited him to continue giving spiritual direction to the Seven Lakes community in his “Ask the Rev” column.

Retirement doesn’t seem to be Rev. Don Welch’s calling.

An Open Process

Womack said there has

WSL Meeting December 5

The Women of Seven Lakes will have their meeting on Thursday, December 5 at 2:00 pm at Chapel in the Pines Fellowship Hall.

Their program will be the Bell Ringers from the Sandhills Community College’s SUCCEED classes for developmentally disabled adults. They will entertain, surprise, and uplift every one.

The Women are also collecting unwrapped gifts for the Toys for Tots program.



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Fracking

(Continued from page 19)

2014. It will then be reviewed by the Rules Committee and ready for approval by the General Assembly during the long legislative session of 2015.

Key Questions

Womack addressed several of the hot-button issues surrounding fracking during his presentation.

Injection wells and earthquakes. Earthquakes in some active fracking areas have been blamed on the industry practice of drilling secondary wells and using them to dis-

pose of wastewater generated by the fracking process.

"One thing we are not going to do is inject wastewater deep underground," Womack said, explaining that the geology of the state won't support the practice. Instead, the wastewater from fracking will be treated until it is safe to be returned to the rivers from whence it came.

Water use. Womack said the water used in fracturing Lee County wells will be pulled directly from Deep River.

"There is enough water flow to support all of the water

availability that we need," he said. "That has been checked and rechecked by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and others."

Well casings. Most of the risk that underground water supplies will be contaminated with gas occurs not in the areas deep underground that are being horizontally drilled and fracked, Womack said, but rather in the vertical well shafts, where defects in the cement and steel cases have allowed methane to leak into water deposits closer to the surface.

"This is the area that has caused most all of the trouble," he said. "In the past, many companies didn't follow American Petroleum Institute standards . . . We have written some of the strictest rules in the county about the casements and cementing."

Fracking chemicals. The fluid used to actually fracture the rock is largely sand and water, but contains smaller amounts of a number of other chemicals — some of them toxic — in a mixture that is typically proprietary to each company. Some of those ingredients are considered trade secrets, and the drilling companies have exerted pressure on state officials to make sure they are kept secret.

While respecting the law that allows for trade secrets, Womack said, "there is more to disclosure than public dis-

closure. It has been the Commission's opinion that it is the responsibility of state officials to know what is going into the ground, so that someone knows. That is the position of the majority on the Commission. We believe it should be made known to public officials."

Despite that assurance, the very next day the Mining and Energy Commission tabled a vote on just the sort of disclosure regime that Womack described at the forum.

Well Contamination. Correcting an audience member's

characterization of a Duke University study of water well contamination near gas well sites, Womack said no study had ever found fracking fluids in water wells. What has been found is methane contamination, which appears to increase as you get nearer a gas well.

The problem, often, is positively identifying the source of the contamination.

"In North Carolina, we are putting provisions in place that will clearly identify the source of any contamination," Womack said, "more so than

(See "Fracking," p. 20)

Towers

(Continued from page 3)

are thirteen in all.

Most of the new towers proposed fall into or very near these designated areas.

How tall is 300 feet

It is difficult to visualize, before a tower is erected, what sort of impact it has on the landscape. Many people probably could not guess whether a given tier is 300 feet or 200 feet tall simply by looking at it.

It may be useful to know the heights of some existing towers, for comparison's sake. The Planning Department's website helpfully inventories every tower in the County. Some that may be on the regular commute of *The Times* readers include:

• MOOR-001 - A 300-foot

tower owned by Cingular and AT&T located near the intersection of Eagle Springs Road and NC Highway 211, constructed in 2006.

• MOOR-002 - A 235-foot tower on Dead Man Curve Road, owned by US Cellular, constructed in 2003

• MOOR-003 - A 300-foot tower located on Knox Lane in West End, owned by American Tower, built in 1996.

• MOOR-018 - A 380-foot tower located near the intersection of NC Highway 73 and Murdocksville Road, owned by US Cellular and built in 1991.

• MOOR-005 - A 380-foot tower south of Foxfire Village owned by Crown Castle and built in 2001.

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Fracking

(Continued from page 7)

any state in the country."

Forced Pooling

NC State Professor Feitshans took up one controversial area that Womack did not address: compulsory or forced pooling.

Forced pooling arrangements allow a group of landowners who want to lease their rights to a drilling company to force nearby landowners to join them in order to create a drilling unit. It's a practice that is allowed in some states and not in others, and Feitshans said his research shows it has little impact on whether or not an area is developed for shale gas extraction.

He explained that the state has an interest in preventing the wasting of resources, and so can exercise its police powers to force a hold-out landowner to join a drilling unit.

He also explained that the process can work to the advantage of smaller landowners who have been left out of a drilling unit created by larger neighbors. The smaller landowners can force a pool in order to ensure they receive their fair share of the proceeds from gas extraction.

Feitshans said laws governing compulsory pooling vary considerably nationwide. One recommendation in North Carolina would provide that ninety percent of an area would have to be leased voluntarily before the remaining ten percent could be force pooled.

Hire an attorney

RAFI, or the Rural Advancement Foundation International, aids rural landowners with crop insurance and risk management tools, explained James Robinson a third member of the League panel.

RAFI takes no position on fracking, but has found that there is significant potential for predatory leases in the gas industry, some of which have already been signed in Lee County.

Robinson said RAFI found that some Lee County

landowners were getting signing bonuses of \$1 to \$20 per acre from land men, when the going rate elsewhere in the country is \$20,000. Many NC leases were for a twenty-year term, when the industry average is three to five years. And there were few landowner protections in the leases being offered in Lee County.

Robinson provided handouts explaining the leasing and compulsory pooling process, as well as advice from the NC Attorney General's Office. A key point he emphasized again and again is that mineral rights leases are complicated; it's important to consult an attorney before signing anything.

Do you own your minerals?

One complication of mineral rights leasing a phenomenon known as "split" or "severed" estates. This refers to property where the owner of the land may not own the rights to the minerals — or the oil and

gas — underneath. Often owners of severed estates don't even realize that they do not own the mineral rights — and it can be difficult to find out.

Feitshans said courthouse records on mineral right ownership are often incomplete or obscure, and mineral rights are typically not listed for property taxes. Deeds to the surface often make no reference to the severing of the mineral rights. The Compulsory Pooling Study Group of the Mining and Energy Commission recommended that further study of the problem be conducted before recommendations can be made on how to clean up this problem.

For the individual landowner, the recommendation from both Feitshans and Robinson was the same: consult an attorney.

The legislative perspective

Senator Kinnaird, who announced her retirement

from the legislature earlier this year, reviewed the history of fracking legislation in the state.

She noted that, prior to the passage of Senate Bill 820 in 2012 — the bill that authorized fracking and created Womack Mining and Energy Commission — hearings were held across the state.

"Overwhelmingly, the people who testified asked the legislature not to approve fracking — to no avail," she said.

League studying the issue

League President and Seven Lakes West resident Mary Price kicked off the forum by reminding attendees that

the League is a non-partisan political organization. While it takes positions on political issues, it does not support particular political parties or candidates.

"We do take stands on issues that we think are important," Price said. "We have been doing that since 1919, and find that we are generally on the right side of history."

Price said the League began studying fracking two years ago, researching all aspects of the issue.

"The league is not advocating for fracking, or for rejecting fracking," she explained. "Our goal is educating the public."





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OPINION

Is commercialism destroying Thanksgiving?

Question: In recent years, at Thanksgiving, I get progressively upset with the commercialization of Christmas crowding out the family celebration of Thanksgiving. My two teenage daughters have part-time jobs in commercial establishments and they are required to report to work on Thanksgiving morning. This makes it impossible for our family to be together on this important holiday. Should I ask my children to give up their jobs so that we can all be together?

Response: I sympathize with your concerns. Thanksgiving used to be my favorite holiday, because the merchants never found a way to

commercialize it and turn it into a gift-giving occasion. It was a time for families to come together and share their blessings by giving thanks to God for the blessings they enjoyed during the year.

Sometimes the men would go hunting in the morning, and the women would share stories in the kitchen while they were preparing the mid-day meal. There was a kind of "Norman Rockwell" feeling about the day.

Often the day was shared with lonely people who had no families to join them. Some families spent the morning and early afternoon serving meals to the less fortunate at soup kitchens, postponing their own Thanksgiving meal

until evening.

Unfortunately, these customs have given way to the desire of merchants to meet the expectations for Christmas revenues by beginning "bargain sales" earlier and earlier.

The desire of retailers to earn more and more and the growing consumerism of the public have essentially destroyed a holiday that people from diverse religious traditions can share together.

In our own community, Jews, Buddhists, Trinitarian

Christians, and Unitarians have been gathering for the past eight years to pray and sing together and celebrate the diversity of religious tra-

ditions granted to us in the constitution of this great nation.



Ask the
'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

be unthinkable, but perhaps you could move your Thanksgiving feast to another time of day or perhaps to another day of the week.

Whatever solution you choose, let us not forget that the meaning of the day is not defined by a meal, but by an attitude of thanksgiving. We in this country have been so blessed. How can we even think about not taking at least one day to give thanks to the God who blessed us?

Don Welch, the minister at the Chapel on the Pines welcomes your questions and comments at: Dwelch1@nc.rr.com

No bell ringers this Christmas season

Dear Editor:

It really saddens me to be writing this letter, but I feel it needs to be said and explained.

If you are out and about this holiday season and wonder why you didn't see your friendly Seven Lakes Kiwanians out ringing the bells for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive, it wasn't because a lack of effort on our part.

Bell Ringing by the Seven Lakes Kiwanis has become

a victim of corporate America. In this time of hardship for way too many people, families and most of all young children in our nation, our chapter's request to ring the bells and support the Salvation Army Kettle Drive at the Seven Lakes Food Lion store was denied by the corporate office.

I then contacted the local district office of The Salvation Army in Fayetteville seeking further information. I was told, basically, that the two

organizations had failed to reach an agreement. The Salvation Army does have agreements with Walmart and Harris Teeter. So, if you still want to donate to this very deserving cause, you can travel to Aberdeen or Southern Pines. But you won't be able to donate here in Seven Lakes.

I will make that trip, and I wish that I could have spent a few hours on two Saturdays in December seeing all the supportive and caring Seven

Lakes and West End residents donating. But that won't happen this year.

Let me add that the Seven Lakes Kiwanis have rung the bell for the Salvation Army for more than twenty years at our local store.

In conclusion, I am not upset with our local Food Lion or the local branch of the Salvation Army, but with

corporations that can't work out agreements to help the people in need.

Thanks for all your support in the past. We will try again next year!

*Kenneth Jenkins
Concerned Citizen and
President of the Seven
Lakes Kiwanis Club*

SEVEN
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Letters to the
Editor

**Your letters
welcome!**

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive.

You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached.

We prefer email, but we also accept letters delivered by the US Postal Service. Or you can drop your letter off in the box outside our office in the Executive Center at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive.

Letters longer than 300 words maybe returned to the author or edited for length.

Thankful . . .

My favorite holiday is here again. Thanksgiving! I love everything about it. It starts with the three "Fs, food, family and fun.

As I think about the history of the first Thanksgiving, I am inspired. Groups of people who were as culturally different from each other as possible, came together for the sake of humanity. The Indians helped the pilgrims survive that first winter by teaching them about the new land. The pilgrims threw a banquet to thank them for their help.

Thanksgiving, for me, is a time when I reflect on how blessed I truly am. Giving thanks is an exercise that we need to practice, because it is healthy for us to think about the good things. The Apostle Paul said this to the Philippians, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything

is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Paul begins this verse by instructing the reader to look at things that are true. Our culture tends to sensation-



Bound by Grace

Rev. Chris Hrabosky

alize whatever story is out there.

We need to learn to look at things like the famous television detective, Sgt. Joe Friday: "Just the facts ma'am." Don't get caught up in the emotionalism of a situation. Make sure that you look at all the facts. All too often we rush to judgment before we examine the entire truth. Remember that there are three sides to every story: there is your side, my side,

and the truth, which is usually is found somewhere between the two. It is easy to get in the habit of looking at things from only one perspective, without considering the other side.

Our nature tends to rush to look at the negative. Thanksgiving has a way of forcing us to look at the positive things in our life.

Paul continues by telling the reader to think on things that are noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, things that

are excellent or praiseworthy. Paul understood the urge that we have to focus on the negative, so he implores us to force ourselves to look at the positive things in life.

If you consider that Paul was in prison while writing this epistle, it adds to the weight of what he was saying. If anyone had ever mastered the ability to look at the bright side, it was the Apostle Paul. He had been shipwrecked, beaten with rods and spent years in Roman prisons. He was ostracized by his contemporaries and had health issues he called "a thorn in the flesh," yet he seemed to always be able to see the positive.

Maybe you are going through a difficult time this year and you are having trouble finding things for which to be thankful. I hope that you will take some words of wisdom from a man who had mastered the ability to focus on the positive against all odds.

A wise man told me one time that you can tell how blessed a person is by listening to what they complain about.

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

Bocce, anyone?

With the construction of the first bocce court completed at the Seven Lakes North Clubhouse, it's time to get organized. If players who enjoy the sport come forward, teams can be organized. There is already a group of ten who plan to meet each Tuesday morning at 10 am for some competition. Eventually, the group would like to set up teams and a regular schedule for a "league" to be formed. Play can be set up for various times throughout the day. Interested? Call Ed Nuti at 673-7565 or come on out at 10 am on any Tuesday and get acquainted.

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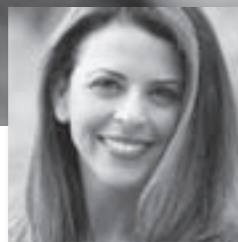
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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from front page)

posed of at the debris site includes leaf litter, small trees, clippings and other yard debris. SLLA Board Member Chuck Leach recently surveyed the debris site and found household trash.

"It's not a garbage dump; it is a debris site," Leach told the Board at the Association's November 20 Open Meeting.

"A year and a half ago, we switched vendors servicing the debris site," Leach said, "and within a month or so we begin to realize the savings. In 2012, we came in under budget at \$14,564. This year, if the illegal dumping continues, we will be over budget by \$22,000 at the end of the year."

"The upward spiraling cost is due to contractors and landscapers illegally dumping in this area," Leach said, adding that some non-residents with barcodes or stickers dump at the site illegally.

SLLA residents have also abused the site, Leach said. "Our own residents dump trees larger in diameter than they should and dump things that don't belong."

How to control costs

Cost control measures could include: reducing the numbers of days and hours the debris site is open, having

volunteers oversee the site, or using paid employees to man the site.

After much consideration by the Maintenance Committee, Leach said, their recommended course of action is to install a barcode reader at the debris site entrance. Because the barcode system can be programmed individually for each gate, the reader could restrict entry to the debris site without restricting access to the front gate. For example, trucks over three-quarter ton could be allowed to enter the community, but not the debris site.

During discussions at the November Work Session, the Board also debated whether to install a camera at the debris site gate.

"In retrospect, I think that was an excellent recommendation," Leach said.

The total cost of the project, including barcode reader, gate, and camera is \$13,850.

SLLA Board President Steve Ritter said failing to address the problem will only increase debris site costs.

"What is going to happen if we chose to kick the can down the road and not do anything?" he asked.

Increased Use Not All Abuse?

Director Bob Darr ques-

tioned whether the increased cost is, in fact, the result of abuse.

Darr noted that a number of new residents have recently moved into the community; and, often, the first thing new residents do is address landscaping.

Darr said he cleared twenty small trees from his own property — all within the maximum diameter allowed — and took them to the debris site.

"I have difficulty believing that it's all illegal dumping," Darr said. "There have been thirty or more homes that have been sold in the community."

"We are going to spend \$14,000 to take care of illegal dumping," Darr continued. "But, we don't know how much it is from contractors and the Westsiders and other people going down there, and how much is increased usage. We have not tried cutting down the hours or any of these other kind of things."

Ritter agreed that Darr had brought up an interesting point. "I don't think any of us have a number. It could take us a couple of years to get this investment to pay off," Ritter said.

Time to act?

But researching the issue

would be expensive as well. And the cost will continue to escalate if action is not taken.

"I hear all the time com-

plaints about abuse," Director Conrad Meyer said. "Even from contractors obeying the rules who are watching other

(See "SLLA," p. 25)

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As adults we seem to have lost our instinct to prioritize play. In our busy world, with its emphasis on work and responsibility, to be healthy and balanced we must work on more than just our bodies; we must feed our hearts, minds and spirits.

Have you noticed that when your body, mind and spirit are engaged in a creative project or happy relationship, your reliance on food seems to decrease? Likewise, when you are unsatisfied with your relationships,

your job or other areas of your life, you may depend on food to cheer, soothe or numb you. When your life is out of balance, no amount of food can feed you where you truly need nourishment. The food that we eat is very important for health and balance, but what really feeds us—a full and fulfilling life—doesn't come on a plate.

What is fun for you? What makes you light up? What excites you? Make time for it this week. Even if you don't have much time for fun, try approaching a "serious" activity with an attitude of play. This can greatly reduce stress and anxiety and bring more pleasure to your day. Take your focus off food, try adding more fun into your life and watch the magic unfold.

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SLLA Open Meeting

(Continued from page 24)

contractors not obeying the rules."

"It is a certain that this is happening," SLLA Manager Ray Sohl said. "The contractors providing service for the debris site have reported repeatedly to our office that there is abuse."

"I understand the County is going to begin charging for yard waste deposits [at the Moore County debris site]. As soon as that happens, then the illegal dumping by contractors will increase," Sohl warned.

"There is not one silver bul-

let that is going to be able to address this problem," Ritter said. "I don't think putting the gate down there will mean we never have to revisit this issue. But it is the right step and, at some point, will pay for itself."

Ultimately, the Board voted four to one in favor of installing the gate and camera. Board member Bill Hirsch was absent from the meeting.

All Signs Point North

The board voted unanimously to proceed with replacing all street signs in

Seven Lakes North four months ahead of schedule.

"It was a two-phase project all along; we are just pulling it ahead by three to four months," Sohl explained. "Once we replace these signs with these County-standard signs, then the County will maintain them from that day forward."

New Security Company Same Familiar Faces

SLLA currently contracts its security services with The Bud Group, which was recently purchased by Universal Protection Company.

"All of the management that oversee our guards transferred over to Universal," Ritter reported. "The guards that have been on staff will remain on staff. The only difference we will probably see is new patches and an upgrade of their uniforms."

The security contract is due to expire December 31, creating an opportunity for the Security Committee and staff to investigate the services offered and fees charged by other security companies.

"We had four security companies write proposals to us," Sohl reported. "We spent about forty minutes interviewing each of the companies after reviewing their proposals."

The committee found that Universal provided good services and were less expense

than the other companies. The Board voted unanimously to extend the contract with Universal for one year.

Other Business

In other business during the Wednesday, November 20 Open Meeting, the SLLA Board of Directors:

- Approved a process for capitalizing assets and for removal of those assets from the books once they are no longer needed.
- Heard from Director Darr that the move of the annual Halloween party to the stables was a big success. "The venue was chosen by all the young kids learning to ride," reported Darr. "The kids said, 'Let's have it out here,' and they worked really hard."

Courthouse

(Continued from page 7)

to Chief Justice Parker earlier this Fall requesting the appointment of a Superior Court Judge to investigate the adequacy of the County's judicial facilities. [A copy of Judge Webb's letter to Chief Justice Parker was not available at press time.]

In appointing Beale, Parker noted that he had played a similar role in evaluating the need for judicial facilities in Richmond County, noting that the new Richmond County Courthouse is "beautiful" and "functional."

Both Commissioner Caddell and County Manager Vest commented on their meeting

with Beale and Webb during the Tuesday, November 19 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Vest said they had presented the current plans for courthouse renovations, as well as other County capital improvement projects that are in the works.

"It was a good meeting," Caddell said, adding that "Judge Beale is an old friend from years ago." Beale had, in fact, asked that Caddell be included in the meeting.

"He was pleased with our efforts," Caddell said. "They understand our interest in not spending a lot of money."

"Eyes were opened" when

the group toured the courtroom and magistrate chambers in the Rhyne Center, Caddell added.

"I think that it was good that Judge Beale understood that we were working on a lot of the issues identified in the efficiency study, Vest said.

Neither Caddell nor Vest indicated whether additional meetings with or input from Beale is expected. Clerk to the Commissioners Laura Williams told *The Times* that no additional meetings have been scheduled through her office at this time.

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

November 19 meeting, Planning Director Debra Ensinger characterized the changes as "minor." The committee that performed the final edit on the document included Ensinger, Picerno, Commissioner Jimmy Melton, County Manager Wayne Vest, County Attorney Misty Leland, and Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter, who also chaired the Land Use Plan Steering Committee.

One change, which Picerno quickly labelled "a mistake" and withdrew, would have weakened the sentence "Continue the present use value program (farm deferred) for agriculture, forestry, and horticulture." That program places a lower valuation on working lands for the purpose of assessing property taxes.

That accidental edit brought farmers Mike Wilson, Watts Auman, and John Blue to the meeting to protest the change, which was reversed even before they weighed in.

"I am the last person up here that wants to raise anybody's taxes," Picerno said.

Leland pointed out that the present use value program is established in the NC General Statutes and could not be changed by the County even if there were an inclination to do so.

Harry Huberth, a member of the Land Use Plan Steering Committee and former member of the Planning Board, noticed one change that affected a number of action items.

"In many places, you changed the word 'support' to other words," he said. "You 'encouraged' a lot of times. I think that slight change is a pretty important change. I'd like to see you change it back. Your support is important to all these things."

"The reason I changed that is 'support' usually means opening up the taxpayers' wallet," Picerno explained.

Picerno said another concern he had was not making language in the plan so definitive as to tie the hands of elected officials several years down the road.

Though the Land Use Plan is not an ordinance that prescribes and prohibits certain land uses, it is a general statement of principles for land use. Many decisions made by both the Planning Board and the Commissioners must be certified as conforming to the Land Use Plan.

Utility disconnect policy liberalized

Changes to the billing and collection policies at Moore County Public Utilities resulted in an unprecedented number of disconnects in September — a problem exacerbated by new higher fees and deposits for reconnection.

During their November 19 meeting, the Commissioners approved changes to the Moore County and East Moore Water District Water Ordinances that Public Works Director Randy Gould said were more customer friendly.

Among the changes, customers will not face disconnection unless they are more than \$20 in arrears. With a base water rate of \$7.50, some users' water bills do not amount to \$20 per month.

In addition, Gould said, the changes include a "good customer" provision, so that customers who miss only one payment in twelve months won't be automatically disconnected.

"I really appreciate our staff working on this," Commissioner Larry Caddell said after the Board unanimously approved the changes. "This was not an easy thing."

In other Public Works business, the Board approved a revision of the Water and Wastewater Extension Policy manual that will allow the

County to provide a \$500 discount to developers who install water and wastewater taps during the initial development of a subdivision.

"We found out that the easiest way to put services in is when the hole is open," Caddell explained. "So, we are creating an incentive for the developer to put the taps in while the ground is open." Caddell said this discount would ultimately save the County money in costs associated with installing the hardware after the fact.

Message for the School Board

The Commissioners approved a Moore County Schools' [MCS] request to use \$80,000 in funds from the State Education Lottery for security improvements

at four schools.

Philip Boles, MCS' Executive Supervisor for Maintenance, presented the request — and took away not only the funds, but also a message to the Board of Education.

The funds will be used to install card-coded entry locks on exterior doors of school buildings, as well as access control cameras in some locations. The \$80,000 Phase 1 expenditure will cover security improvements at four elementary schools: West Moore, West End, High Falls, and Sandhills Farm Life.

Boles explained that many of the County's schools were built when it was fashionable to construct "campus-style" schools with a number of separate buildings rather than a single building that

(See "County," p. 27)

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

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County

(Continued from page 26)

contains everything. Campus-style arrangements are more difficult to secure, Boles said.

"One of the things that our Board really wanted to do was to meet with your Board," Chairman Picerno told Boles, referring to a joint meeting scheduled for September that was cancelled by the School Board.

"You say this is just the beginning," Picerno said, referring to the fact that this was Phase 1 of planned security improvements. "What concerns me is: if we use up all our lottery funds, how do we pay for the new schools that we have to build? Some consideration needs to be made to the big picture."

Lottery funds allocated to MCS currently total more than \$1.5 million.

Picerno also complained that MCS had not contacted the Moore County Sheriff's Office in the course of developing its plans for security, a point that was echoed by Commissioner Larry Caddell.

Boles said MCS has developed an emergency preparedness plan that it will be discussing with the County Public Safety Department and the Sheriff's Office.

County asks Dormie Club to pay up

During the November 19 meeting, the Commissioners approved a brief letter drafted by County Attorney Leland to Dormie Club, LLC, requesting a current job count and asking developer Rusty Mackey how he intends to repay Moore County \$10,000 per job for jobs that were promised but not created.

The County used a \$500,000 grant from the now largely defunct NC Rural Economic Development Center to help bring water to the Dormie Club, a high-end golf course development on NC Highway 73. In return, Mackey promised to create fifty jobs, a number that was later reduced to forty-three, when the project came in under budget.

Leland said the County (See "Commissioners," p. 28)



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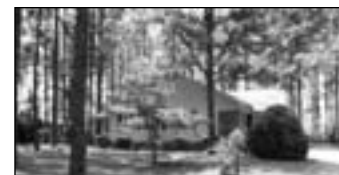
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NOVEMBER ACTION

119 Overlook - SOLD!
114 Hastings - SOLD!
125 Shagbark - SOLD!
137 E Devonshire - SOLD!
135 E Devonshire -
Under Contract
154 E Devonshire - New Listing

Commissioners

(Continued from page 27)

believes Mackey is six jobs short of that total. Her letter gives Mackey a December 31 deadline to respond and threatens legal action if that deadline is not met.

Transportation Secretary promises radio IDs

The Commissioners approved a resolution supporting the efforts of Governor Pay McCrory, State Representative Jamie Boles, and Public Safety Secretary Frank Perry to ensure that the County has its full allotment of emergency radio IDs by January 2014 — well before the 2014 US Opens.

Forced by federal regulations to shift its emergency communications from VHF to UHF, the County elected to join the VIPER emergency Communications system developed and maintained by the State Highway Patrol [SHP].

Though the County was promised that a sufficient number of unique identifying numbers would be available for the transition, in fact, SHP has come up roughly 800 IDs short, failing to deliver them initially and then

again after promising they would be available in August. As a result, the County has hundreds of new radios in storage rather than in service.

County officials met with state officials on October 25, emphasizing the need for a fully-functioning emergency communications system for the two US Opens in 2014, and secured a pledge from Perry that the missing IDs would be available in January.

Picerno takes stock

The Commissioners will select a Chairman to lead the Board in the coming year during their Monday, December 2 meeting. During the Commissioner comments period of the November 19 meeting, Chairman Picerno said, "It has been a true honor to serve as your Chairman."

Picerno's just-completed term in the Chairman's seat marks the third time that he has served in that capacity.

"We have accomplished a lot," Picerno said. "We have held taxes in check," while funding MCS' digital learning initiative, approving a new

Fire & EMS station, resolving the future water supply question, and funding the employee benefits program.

Picerno initiated a "task force" system when he took over as Chairman last year, assigning teams of two Commissioners to specific areas — infrastructure, facilities, information technology, etc. — to work with staff on moving projects forward. He encouraged the next Chairman to continue that system.

A Raise for County Manager

The Commissioners began their meeting with a closed session, and their first order of business in open session was to approve a \$5,000 raise for County Manager Wayne Vest, who has been in the job for a year.

Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, November 19 meeting the Moore County Board of Commissioners:

- Recognized the latest group of graduates from the County's "Dog Tags" program, in which recent veterans help socialize dogs at the Moore County Ani-

mal Center, in order to make them more suitable for adoption. The program's mission is "giving soldiers a hand up and dogs a way out."

- Received the quarterly report on the financial status of Sandhills Center for Mental Health.
- Called a public hearing for the Monday, December 2 meeting on the closeout of a Community Development Block Grant that supported the provision of sewer service to ATEX Technologies, a manufacturer of medical textiles in Pinebluff.
- Called a public hearing for the December 2 meeting on a request by David

Upchurch to rezone 55.58 acres near the intersection of Murdocksville Road and Juniper Lake Road from RA-5, which has a minimum lot size of five acres, to RA-40, with a one-acre minimum lot size.

- Called a public hearing for the December 2 meeting on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that define a process for considering requests to expand the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality.
- Called a public hearing for December 2 on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that would increase the maximum residential (See "Commissioners," p. 29)

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CELEBRATING 5 yrs in Business

Commissioners

(Continued from page 28)

- building height from thirty-five to forty feet.
- Approved a contract with SevenLakes EMS in order to correct an error involving a previously approved version of the contract.
- Approved the sale of a county-owned six-acre tract on NC Highway 24/27 near

Robbins to War Sport Manufacturing, LLC for \$8,000. No higher bid had been received in the upset bid process used to dispose of County property. Partners in Progress Executive Director Pat Corso praised the owners of War Sport for deciding to expand their business in Moore County

rather than moving it elsewhere.

- Accepted a federal and state Community Transportation Program grant that will provide Moore County Transportation Services [MTCS] with \$240,370 for administrative costs and \$134,000 for capital costs in Fiscal Year 2013-2014.
- Approved a grant and budget amendment for MCTS that reflects an additional \$30,315 in grant funds for capital expenses.
- Approved the purchase of a new \$516,000 fire engine by Cypress Pointe Fire and Rescue. Commissioner approval was required to enable the squad to qualify for tax-exempt, low-interest loan at 2.75 percent though BB&T.
- Tabled consideration of a renewal of the County's Microsoft Enterprise Agreement, which provides for the use of Microsoft served-based applications. Chair-

man Picerno said he had some questions about the specifications and asked that the IT Task Force review the agreement.

- Approved an application to the NC Housing Finance Agency for a grant under its 2014 Single Family Rehab Program, which allows the County to assist in the rehabilitation of housing for low-income families.
- Approved an agreement with the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway that

will allow sewer pipe serving Jackson Hamlet to be laid on railroad property.

- Approved a \$72,444 increase in a contract with NCDOT for a portion of the repair of the main sewer interceptor, located in the vicinity of the Pinehurst traffic circle.
- Appointed Mae Wike and Diana Williamson to the RSVP Advisory Council.
- Appointed Dr. Severt Jacobson to the Board of Health.

Military Missions in Action

Bill and Sandi Carl are working with Military Missions in Action to collect, pack, and ship comfort items to be sent to active duty troops in combat zones.

The following items have been requested by the troops for donation: Breakfast bars, Snacks, Candy (not chocolate), Jerky, Water Flavoring Mixes, Trail Mix, Canned meats and fish, Nuts, Baby wipes, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes,

Deodorant, Shampoo, Chapstick, Sun Block, Cough drops, black or white calf length socks, playing cards, pens, pencils, and paper.

Phoenix Fashions of Seven Lakes is the designated drop off facility in the Seven Lakes community

The Carls will pick up the items and deliver them to the local office of MMIA in Southern Pines for packing and shipping. The last day for pick up will be Monday, December 16.

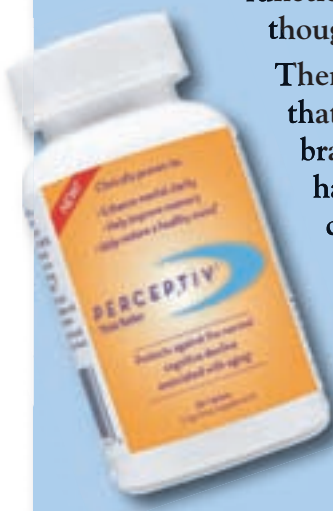
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November 29, 2013

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LOST DOG 9/19/13 – in woods near Chicken Plant Road, Pinehurst. Female, name: Lacy; Miniature/Toy Beagle, 18 mths old, 15 lbs, 15" tall, wearing multiple collars and ID when she disappeared. Micro-chipped. Call 910-295-1817 with any information or if found. \$1,000 reward for her return. Please visit www.findlacy.com for more information

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FOR SALE: 3 ACRES – on Highway 211 between Seven Lakes and Eagle Springs, lots of road frontage \$36,000. Call Blake Real Estate, Tommy Blake Broker, 910-220-2090.

SEVEN LAKES WEST LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT – Lot #3063, James Dr., Great View! No bulkhead. \$301,680. Call owner: 845 897-4627. *5tc 10/18*

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SEVEN LAKES WEST WATERFRONT – Lot #3293 Vanore Rd. Flat level lot. Great view, close to gate, bulkhead, off-site septic already installed. \$350,000. Call 910-690-3664. *tfn*

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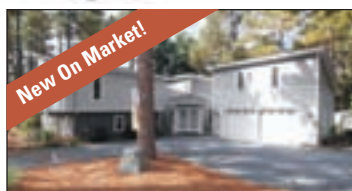


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109 Timber Ridge Court



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Seven Lakes West \$278,900
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116 James Drive



Seven Lakes North \$215,000
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2 BR / 2 Full & 2 Half BA
260 Firetree Lane



Seven Lakes West \$298,000
One-story w/sweeping golf views
3 BR / 3 BA
296 Longleaf Drive



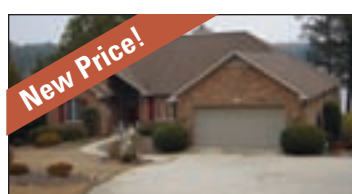
Seven Lakes West \$339,000
Private lakefront retreat on Lake Auman
4 BR / 3 BA
105 Tucker Court



Seven Lakes West \$475,000
Stunning custom waterfront home
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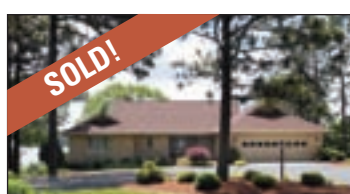
Seven Lakes West \$292,500
Cottage home on large corner lot
3 BR / 2.5 BA
347 Longleaf Drive



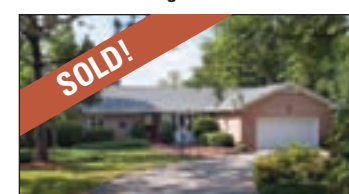
Seven Lakes West \$698,000
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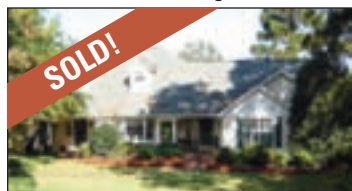
Seven Lakes North \$299,900
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3 BR / 2 BA
104 Rolling Hill Court



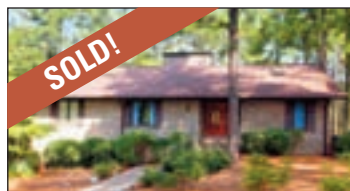
Seven Lakes West \$315,000
Great home with open floor plan
3 BR / 3.5 BA
128 Owens Circle



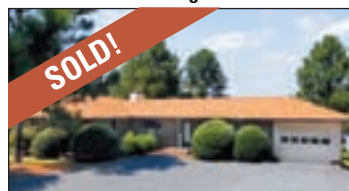
Seven Lakes North \$325,000
Gorgeous lakefront on Lake Sequoia
3 BR / 2 BA
181 Firetree Lane



Seven Lakes West \$619,000
Lakefront cottage w/custom upgrades
3 BR / 3.5 BA
103 Featherston Point



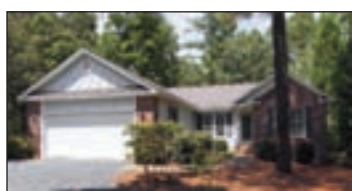
Seven Lakes South \$179,000
Golf Front w/Oversized Screened Porch
3 BR / 3 BA
223 Devonshire Avenue



Seven Lakes North \$249,000
Single level waterfront w/great privacy!
3 BR / 2 BA
126 Cardinal Lane



Seven Lakes North \$175,000
Picture perfect w/beautiful updates
3 BR / 2 BA
129 Shagbark Court



Seven Lakes North \$165,000
Charming ranch with split floor plan
3 BR / 2 BA
117 Pinecone Court



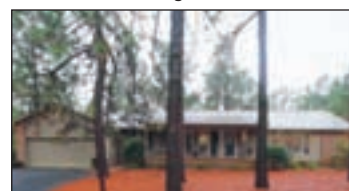
Seven Lakes South \$245,900
Maintenance free and pristine home!
3 BR / 2 BA
240 W Devonshire Avenue



Seven Lakes North \$175,000
Cute brick ranch home
3 BR / 2 BA
112 Cottage Grove Lane



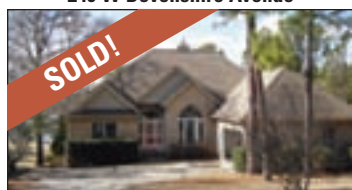
Seven Lakes West \$495,000
Lovely Lake Auman waterfront home
3 BR / 2.5 BA
163 Morris Drive



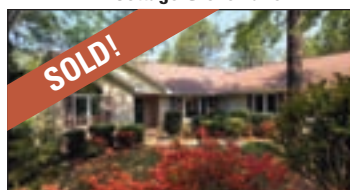
Seven Lakes South \$199,000
Charming golf front w/panoramic view
3 BR / 3 BA
122 Devonshire Avenue



Seven Lakes North \$239,900
Gorgeous custom home by Harris & Son
3 BR / 2 BA
104 Scarlet Oak Drive



Seven Lakes North \$215,000
Pristine lake front cottage
3 BR / 2.5 BA
114 Sunset Way



Seven Lakes North \$375,000
Beautiful home on Lake Sequoia
3 BR / 3 BA
163 E Shenandoah Road



Seven Lakes South \$215,000
Charming brick ranch w/front porch
3 BR / 2 BA
188 Devonshire Avenue

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Seven Lakes Area!

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