

## SLLA offers \$500 reward to fight recent vandalism

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] is offering a reward of up to \$500 for

information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for three recent acts of vandalism in Seven Lakes North.

Security Director Greg Lishawa reported on the incidents during the Association's Thursday, June 25 Open Meeting.

"We've had vandalism for

the past three weeks," Lishawa said. "The second week in June, we had spray painting of our playground equipment, basketball court, and parts of the building [the Landowners Office]."

"The following week, we had individuals beat up the air conditioning unit over here at the North Clubhouse, probably trying to get on the roof of the clubhouse." Two heat pumps were damaged; resulting in the cancellation of events. The Open Meeting itself was moved to the Game Room.

"And then, last weekend, we had individuals in the pool area breaking beer bottles." One or more individuals entered the pool area after hours, breaking beer bottles on the concrete deck, and defecating on the lifeguard station.

"I think it's time that mothers and fathers stood up to take responsibility for their kids," Lishawa said. "Because their kids are actually costing the parents money, in the dues they are paying."

"In the second incident,"  
(See "Reward," p. 29)

## Grimesey aims to foster 'new culture' for schools

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor



Moore County Schools Superintendent Dr. Bob Grimesey says the district

will be undergoing some "organizational renovations," aimed at creating "a new culture of collaboration, trust, and respect."

"The work of the Board of Education and Moore County

Schools [MCS] will never return to its status quo, but will foster and cultivate a new normal," he said in a video released on Monday afternoon, June 29.

The carefully-worded statement honored the unprecedented level of public outcry that was sparked by his recent termination — and that succeeded in having him reinstated. But it also expressed a determination

that any changes the district makes "follows appropriate due process."

"After all, are we not the same Moore County community who spoke with a single voice so loud that it gained the attention of the entire state?" Grimesey asked.

The public attention that was focused on MCS as a result of the dismissal of the Superintendent included substantial criticism of the role the Central Office staff plays in determining what is taught and how it is taught in the classroom.

"How then do we channel our newfound energy in a way that is focused and sustainable?" Grimesey asked. "And how do we organize ourselves without dampening our enthusiasm?"

The answer, at least in part, is to trust that the School Board and MCS  
(See "Grimesey," p. 28)

### Weatherproof Riding



Stable Manager Samantha Southard and Lucky are pleased as punch with the covered riding arena at McLendon Hills Equestrian Center. [See next page for story]

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# New covered riding arena gives McLendon

by Greg Hankins  
Times Editor

Rain, snow, or blazing sun — sometimes weather makes riding unpleasant for both horse and rider.

The McLendon Hills Equestrian Center has a solution for that problem: a brand new 14,000 square foot covered arena with a silica sand surface that provides the perfect footing for horses.

“Our intent is to provide a riding area for the equestrians

when the weather is not good,” McLendon Hills developer Tom Carr told *The Times*.

Stable Manager Samantha Southard said the covered space means she won't have to cancel riding lessons just because it's raining outside.

The arena also provides an ideal practice area for those involved in equestrian competitions.

“As they get into the upper levels of the equestrian dis-

cipline,” Carr said, “there are certain things they need more than those who just ride for pleasure.”

The sides of the arena, which is located behind the existing barn, are open to the elements, with the exception of a four foot sheet metal drop from the eaves to help shed rain.

The surface on which the horses walk under the roof of the new arena is as highly engineered as the building

itself. Carr explained that it begins with a base of sand and clay, then a layer of rock

screenings, topped off with a mixture of sand and a felt-  
(Continued on page 9)



McLendon Hills' new covered riding arena is positioned in back of the Equestrian Center's distinctive horse barn



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# Hills' horses protection from the weather

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like synthetic material that helps hold moisture in the surface.

"It provides a very consistent and firm foundation for the riders to ride on," he explained.

Along the perimeter of that surface is a 2.5-foot high slanted board wall that keeps the horses and their riders away from the steel beams that hold up the metal roof.

## A full-service, friendly equestrian center

Carr said the new arena is an enhancement for the Equestrian Center, which offers boarding and a variety of riding opportunities.

Southard said McLendon Hills boards twenty-three horses, offers lessons, guided trail rides, and pony rides — all of which are open to the public.

The center offers beginner

to intermediate lessons in western and hunter-jumper.

"It's for people who live in the community and those who board their horses at the barn," he said, "and for people who want to come in from the outside and bring their trainers."

"We wanted to construct an equestrian center that would be friendly for folks who want to come down, look at the horses, and feed them

a carrot, or whatever. And at the same time, we wanted to be there for all disciplines of riders, whether it be hunter-jumper, dressage, or just western. If you go to many equestrian barns, they are usually one discipline or another, and they really don't want other people in there.

"We're more for people wanting to come in from all over," Carr said. "We have a trail around the community

that is a little bit over five miles long, and we provide trail rides for folks visiting the area or folks who live here."

We provide lessons and opportunities for all levels of riders," he explained.

Southard described the center as having a "multi-discipline, friendly, easy-going atmosphere. We have everything from dressage

(See "McLendon," p. 25)



Stable Manager Samantha Southard puts Lucky through his paces out of the glare of the hot July sun



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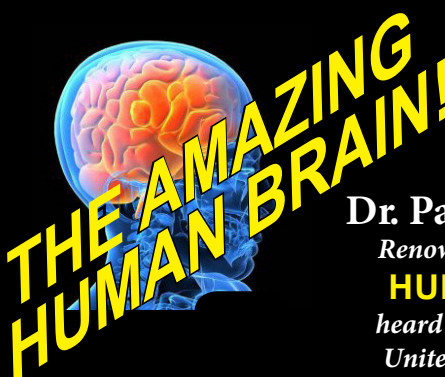
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# McLendon Hills

(Continued from page 9)

horses, to cutting horses — we have an endurance horse in our barn. We have a little bit of everything in our barn, which makes for a really friendly, unique atmosphere.

Once a week, the McLendon Hills Equestrian Center hosts Prancing Horse Therapeutic Riding, which provides riding opportunities for disabled children, adults,

and veterans.

“The folks in the neighborhood really help with that,” Carr said. “We have a lot of folks in the community that come down with their horses and volunteer.”

Southard hosts a group of 4-H members, as well.

### A healthy state

Carr told *The Times* that McLendon Hills has success-

fully weathered the Great Recession; things are looking up on both the equestrian and real estate front.

“We’re in a healthy state up here with our real estate and our Equestrian Center, and we have growth occurring

in both,” he said. “We feel really blessed to be in the situation we’re in. It’s been a rough seven or eight years for a lot of folks, including us. It’s just a breath of fresh air now to be clicking on all cylinders.”

For more information on the Equestrian Center, call 910-673-4971. For more information on McLendon Hills real estate, call 910-673-4951.

# Veterans

(Continued from page 11)

hurricane Andrew.

Sandhills Community College donated most of the funding for meals.

Pat Kelly, also a veteran, helped Rust with the food and made nine batches of oatmeal raisin cookies for the veterans to enjoy.

After watching her father and two brothers join the Navy, Kelly decided she wanted to serve her country, too. So she joined the US Women’s Army Corps.

Chuck Spelman, a Seven Lakes West resident who was part of the team serving veterans, says that what vet-

erans need most is “to know that people care.”

“They don’t get a whole lot of money,” Spelman said.

Spelman said he hopes that more veterans return to the next annual Stand Down — as well as more volunteers and service providers from the community.

To learn how you can donate or give of your time or services to serve veterans in your community, please contact Chuck Spelman at his home 910-975-1905 or mobile phone 910-673-2798. Kenneth Kelley may be reached at 910-944-7697.

## Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Homebound seniors all over Moore County depend on the kindness of volunteers to deliver a hot meal and a bit of cheer. It only takes one to two hours to make a difference in someone’s life. Can you help? Volunteers are needed in the Robbins area, now.

Contact Kathie Lewis, Moore County Department of Aging at 910-464-3544.

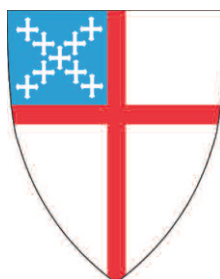
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### 232 Firetree • Seven Lakes North

Ready to move in, fully renovated! The kitchen is outfitted with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, a gas stove, and Grobe faucet. The home features custom plantation shutters and window film that blocks 99% of harmful UV rays and reduces energy consumption. The gas log fireplace enhances the large living room and keeps you cozy on those cold winter nights. The flooring is beautiful 3/4 inch solid red oak. The master bathroom features separate his and hers vanities and a custom marble shower with multiple shower valves, a hand-held shower, and a large rain head. A walk-in closet in the master bedroom is sure to make her happy, while he enjoys grilling out on the new back deck. Built-in cabinetry is hand-crafted out of oak and provides additional storage in the entertainment size living room with bookcase. The home has been outfitted with a high efficiency heating and air unit to reduce energy cost, and new water piping was installed throughout. A circular drive makes ingress and egress simple, with parking for all! ...\$159,900

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**104 Harrell Rd.** – Large corner lot with entry from two streets. Water view in well developed neighborhood .....\$57,900

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