

Resort Offers Thrills, Spills, on Ice Rink

BY DAVID SINCLAIR
Managing Editor

Pinehurst Resort will soon add a seasonal twist to the greeting callers receive when inquiring about rooms or activities.

Besides always being “a beautiful day in Pinehurst,” it will also be something of a Sandhills winter wonderland at least for a couple of months, starting Friday.

The resort is transforming the

The 2,100-square-foot rink will offer 50-minute skating sessions on the hour. Tickets are \$15 a person and can be purchased on-site. Skates will be provided.

west lawn of the Carolina Hotel into a 2,100-square-foot skating rink complete with music, lights and “festive cheer” to help get people in the holiday spirit. It features a synthetic ice surface that does not require cold temperatures, according to Josh

Leap, the resort’s recreation director. “Whether temperatures call for sweaters or shorts, you can enjoy this unique skating experience,” he said Tuesday afternoon.

see RINK, page A11

Woodlake Dam



CONTRIBUTED

Swans are seen stranded in the gated community’s lake, now a mudhole. Animal welfare groups have relocated many birds.

POOCHES RULE — AND DROOL — AT PARK



TED FITZGERALD/The Pilot

Pooch Park in the Pines is a popular place to visit for local dogs. Leon, a Shih Tzu/terrier mix, fetches a piece of bark as Carol Henderson watches from the background.

Where Every Dog Has Its Day

BY MARY KATE MURPHY
Staff Writer

On a shaded 3.5-acre sanctuary near the Moore County Airport, only one law applies: Dogs rule — and drool.

At Pooch Park of the Pines, Linda Hubbard’s original vision has come to fruition in a safe setting where a game of fetch, a free-spirited romp, or a good-natured tussle between terriers are all fair game.

In 2009, the Moore Humane Society bequeathed use of the property to a group informally known as the “Pooch Park Partners,” a corps of dog lovers in search of a secluded spot where their best friends could explore and interact with other dogs

Help the Dogs (and Cats): The Moore Humane Society on Saturday, Nov. 19, will hold an awareness and fundraising event in the Pinehurst village center in conjunction with Weichert Realtors. The event will provide information about plans to build the society’s new no-kill Animal Welfare Center on 12 acres at N.C. 22 and Waynor Road. Adoptable animals also will be on hand. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Tufts Park beside Given Memorial Library.

without the encumbrance of a leash. “The goal of the volunteers was to build a safe, healthy, affordable place for our dogs to run free,” Hubbard said. “We were fortunate that the Moore Humane Society, under the leadership of Corky Kern, backed the project by providing property for

the park.”

Dog lovers abound in Moore County, and this isn’t even the only dog park. Martin Park, in Southern Pines back behind the Walmart, allows dog owners to let their charges frolic with

see PARK, page A11

Interim Fix Expected by Early 2017

BY JAYMIE BAXLEY
Staff Writer

A spokesperson for Woodlake Country Club says its owners have been “working closely” with engineers and state safety officials to repair the Lake Surf dam’s broken spillway.

“We are committed to completing the entire process as quickly as practical,” said Devyn McDonald, a spokeswoman with the public

relations consultancy firm APCO Worldwide, which represents Woodlake CC Corp. “We want to emphasize that throughout this process the protection of life, property and the environment are our top priorities.”

The 1,200-acre man-made lake, which serves as the centerpiece of the gated community, was ordered to be drained by state water quality officials and dam regulators after the lake’s dam came perilously close to being breached in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

The concrete spillway, which normally provides a controlled way of draining the overflow of water, developed a massive hole after Matthew dumped more than 10 inches of rain on eastern Moore County.

“Our engineering consultants have submitted a preliminary design plan to (the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality) for an immediate interim remedy to improve the spillway,” McDonald said.

“The interim remedy will help return the dam spillway to a safe operating condition until the final remedy is in place.”

“We are going to continue to push them as fast as we can, but also knowing that it takes time to get a big design like that done right.”

Shane Cook
Dam Safety Engineer

see DAM, page A9

RECLAIMING HISTORY

TV Show Salvagers to Explore Plant

Fans can meet the crew tonight at the Ryder Cup Lounge at the Carolina Hotel. On Thursday, work begins at the Pinehurst steam plant.

BY LAURA DOUGLASS
Staff Writer

A time capsule of village history will be unlocked this week when a reality television program rolls into town.

“Salvage Dawgs,” a DIY network program, will be filming at the old 1895 steam plant in Pinehurst for a future episode on the series.

Black Dog Salvage, the Roanoke-based company featured on the show, specializes in the reclamation, repurposing and resale of architectural and industrial fixtures from old houses,

churches and commercial buildings. These elements are carefully extracted and later repurposed as unique furnishings and interior decor.

“Salvage” fans can meet the crew on Wednesday evening, Nov. 16, at the Ryder Cup Lounge at the Carolina Hotel, where they’ll be soaking up some of the local ambience. Come Thursday morning, work will begin in earnest under the watchful eye of the camera.

see PLANT, page A9



GLENN M. SIDES/The Pilot

Salvagers will look for materials in the 1895 plant.

OPINION

Court-Packing Scheme Stinks

A naked abuse of power is potentially at play in the state legislature.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

This Is Reconciliation?

Readers share their views on a number of current events.

ELANTRA MAKES THE RIGHT MOVES — DRIVING ME CRAZY, D2

SECTION D
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

BUSINESS
THE PILOT

“SHOP SMALL, SHOP LOCAL, SHOP MOORE”

Effort Seeks Broader Awareness

SANDHILLS SCENE

Celebrating Old and New

As Turkey Day approaches, some locals are reaching back to their culinary roots.

BUSINESS

Keeping It Local

Holiday shopping at area businesses is an economic boost for everybody.

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY



Sunny

Winds: WNW at 5

Afternoon High: 68°

Overnight Low: 42°

THURSDAY



Sunny

Winds: NNE at 5

Afternoon High: 70°

Overnight Low: 40°

FRIDAY



Sunny

Winds: SW at 4

Afternoon High: 73°

Overnight Low: 44°



Rink

From Front Page

Called "Skating Under the Pines," the rink is scheduled to operate through Jan. 11 and will be open to the public in addition to members and resort guests. It will feature popular winter foods and beverages, including s'mores bites, cookies, brownies, hot chocolate, coffee and a full bar. There will be fire pits and patio heaters for those genuinely cold days.

"We are trying to create that unique atmosphere," Leap said. "As you step off the front steps of the hotel and look to the west lawn, you will be able to see it, hear it and feel it."

By midday Tuesday, the base of the skating rink surface had been installed on the lawn adjacent to the swimming pool, and work continued on setting up the enclosure, which happens to be a signature Pinehurst white picket fence, Leap said.

"We really wanted to try to tie into the Pinehurst look," he said.

The rink will offer 50-minute skating sessions on the hour, with tickets costing \$15 a person that can be purchased on-site. Skates will be provided.

The sessions will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and based on the rink capacity. Skaters will have to sign a written waiver.

The hours will be 4-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1-8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. But the resort cautions that the schedule and hours are subject to change based on weather conditions and safety concerns.

Group skating and private parties can call be scheduled by calling Leap at (910) 235-8783 or by emailing him at josh.leap@pinehurst.com.

Leap said he began thinking about new and unique holiday activities for families this summer and came up with this idea

"What is something that hasn't been at the resort and in the village?" he said.

He researched companies and found one in Arizona that does these kind of skating rinks all over the country.

"It is a synthetic ice floor that is not cold to the touch," Leap said. "A glide enhancer is applied to the surface. You get the feel of skating on ice. This is a unique thing to provide to our resort members and guests."

The holiday skating rink is yet another effort by the resort to appeal to growing younger demographic in the village as well as among the ranks of its members.

On July Fourth, the resort set up a small carnival on the grounds beside the Resort Clubhouse for its members that included rides and bounce houses for the kids, and live entertainment.

On a much larger scale, the resort opened a \$4.3 million swimming complex that leaders believe will help the club grow and sustain its membership. The complex is next to the Member's Club that fronts the 18th green of Pinehurst No. 2.

Contact David Sinclair at (910) 693-2462 or dsinclair@thepilot.com.



PHOTOS BY TED FITZGERALD/The Pilot

From left: Barbara Ross, Carol Henderson, Stacy Lebak and Bob Stanik. The friendly pooch is Bob's dog, Rocky. Below, Hannibal, a Foxfire resident and regular visitor to the park.

Park

From Front Page

each other and the occasional interloping squirrels. The park has trails, creeks and plenty of room to romp. Dog owners also frequent Reservoir Park in Southern Pines on N.C. 22 just about a mile south of Pooch Park.

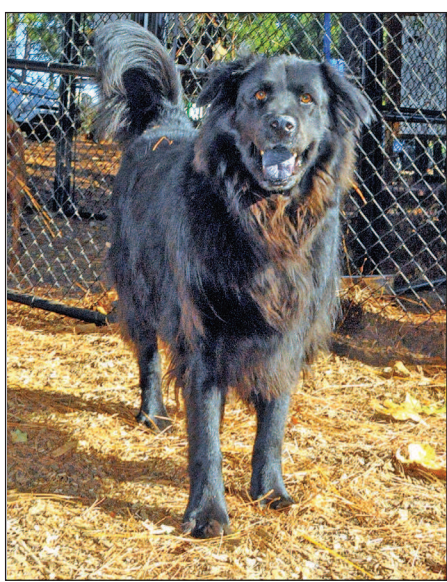
Up at the Humane Society's spot across from the airport, Pooch Park members took matters into their own hands and, with chain saws, loppers and rakes, etched the Pooch Park out of the forest.

"When the park was being built, it was kind of like Mickey Rooney going 'hey, let's do a play' in those old movies, but it was 'hey, let's do a pooch park, the dogs will love it,'" said Barbara Ross, one of the original members.

A pair of "Woof Woof Open" golf fundraisers in 2009 and 2010 netted enough to install vinyl-coated fencing around the park and to divide it into two areas — one for large dogs and one for pocket pooches — each with a gazebo where human members can gab away a morning or afternoon without worry that their pets will come to harm.

Since then, both the park's maintenance and regulation have been managed by committee.

The success of that approach, which will continue now that Hubbard is retiring from the park's leadership, is a



credit to the culture of the park, where dog owners follow their pets' example in forming fast friendships.

"With Linda passing the torch to us, we had so many people ready to jump in and say 'let us help,'" said park member Stacy Lebak. "The dogs just bring out the best in people. They really start communicating. Everybody cares about each other."

Since dogs rarely observe the etiquette governing human interactions, through compromise and cooperation park members have been able to smooth over personality clashes to maintain the park's welcoming atmosphere.

"One of the first things that we talk

about is the fact that it's member managed," Ross said. "The people themselves are managing their behavior and their dogs' behavior. We talk about how people can express their concern about something without saying it's your responsibility."

The park's requirement that all owners keep their dog's vaccinations up-to-date also contributes to members' peace of mind.

Annual membership dues support the park's ongoing costs. With around 300 dogs between them, the park's current members plan to appeal to other dog owners at community events and through social media.

In the two years since Lebak began bringing her dog, Emmy, to the Pooch Park, the beagle has benefited from the regular outlet for her energy reserves.

"If I don't make it here for whatever reason, she is up and wants to go out maybe three or four times a night," Lebak said.

"But if she comes here and she runs with Jethro, the little black-and-tan, or any of the high sprinters, she is out the whole night. If there's a situation where there's a long rain and it's three or four days, I'm in deep trouble."

For information about Pooch Park in the Pines or park membership, visit www.ppidogpark.com. Membership is \$50 annually for one dog, \$70 for two dogs, and \$90 for three.

Contact Mary Kate Murphy at (910) 693-2479 or mkmurphy@thepilot.com.



PICK UP PineStraw MAGAZINE

AT ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS

Shoppes and Restaurants in historic downtown Southern Pines, Natures Own Market, Fresh Market

Post Offices in Southern Pines, Pinehurst, Seven Lakes, Vass, Lake View, Old Hardware Antiques in Cameron, Mean Bean in Carthage

Shops in the Village of Pinehurst, Pinehurst Resort & Spa