

\$22 MILLION DEAL

Pinewild Community May Have a Buyer

BY SAM HUDSON
Staff Writer

Pinewild Country Club of Pinehurst, a 2,040-acre gated community that has long had a conflicted history with the village, appears to be under contract to a prospective new buyer for \$22 million.

Chris Karamitsos, partner and senior managing director of Leisure Investment Properties Group in Tampa, is brokering the deal, which is

said to be in a “due diligence” phase. During this time, the purchaser typically reviews the property’s details, finances and operations before deciding whether to complete the deal. As such, the purchase remains tentative and could fall through.

The listing on the company’s website, which has since been removed, on Friday extolled Pinewild for its “exceptional quality” and “vast natural beauty,” describing potential ownership

as an “exclusive opportunity.” It said the development is “seasoned and not a distressed asset” and includes 500 acres of future developable land (“with preliminary plans for 1020 additional lots,” noting that preliminary buyers must “sign and return Pinewild NDA to review future development plans and possibilities”).

see **PINEWILD**, page A11



IMAGE COURTESY PINEWILD CC

EARLY VOTING ENDS



TED FITZGERALD/The Pilot

An elections official assists a voter at the Moore County Agricultural Center in Carthage. As of 9 a.m. Friday, 4,414 of the county’s registered voters had cast ballots early.

Primary Elections Set for Conclusion this Tuesday

BY SAM HUDSON
Staff Writer

Early voting concluded Saturday for the 2022 primary elections, setting the stage Tuesday to largely decide a significant number of races in Moore County.

With 26 polling place locations, new Moore County Elections Director Towanna Dixon encourages voters to “double check before you leave the house that you are going to the correct precinct.”

“Check Moore County’s Election website or call (910) 947-3868 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. if you do not know your precinct or think that it may have changed,” she said.

Polls on Tuesday open at 6:30 a.m. and

close at 7:30 p.m. Anyone still in line at 7:30 p.m. will be able to vote, Dixon said.

“We actually have a poll worker go to the end of the line at 7:30,” she said, “and all of those voters in line at that time will still be able to exercise their right to vote.”

Dixon also wants to remind voters that “we cannot give lists of candidates to voters, but if a voter would like to bring in a sample ballot, a list, or handwritten notes, that is fine, but we cannot provide that information. We do have a sample ballot online to print and bring in if that’s helpful.”

see **VOTING**, page A12

Why is Tuesday Always Election Day?

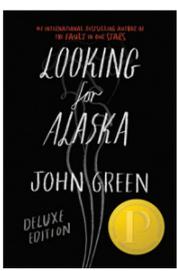
In 19th century America, most Americans were farmers, went to church on Sunday, and had public markets to sell their products on Wednesday. People needed time to travel, roads weren’t paved, and polling locations were usually “in town.” Tuesday was the choice.

SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS

Removal Campaign Continues

BY MARY KATE MURPHY
Staff Writer

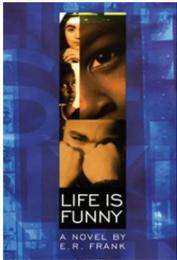
Efforts to remove books from Moore County Schools’ campus libraries continue despite the school board’s split vote in March to keep “George”



on the shelves at McDeeds Creek Elementary and Union Pines High.

That 4-3 vote came after three committees of teachers, administrators, media specialists and parents advised against removing “George.”

The young adult novel, written by Alex Gino, was originally challenged by Carthage resident Jim Pedersen for its portrayal of a young transgender girl.



Pedersen’s inquiry in April about another book, “Life Is Funny,” by E.R. Frank, is one of a host of book challenges sent to Moore County Schools since then.

So far, it’s the only such inquiry that’s targeted a book actually available somewhere in the district.

This month, “Life Is Funny,” also a young-adult novel, was removed from the media center at Pincrest High School. Within a few days of Pedersen’s inquiry to school board members and the district’s Interim Superintendent Tim Locklair, board member Philip Holmes met with

see **BOOKS**, page A13

POSSIBLE TAX DROP

County Manager Rolls Out Proposed Budget Plan

BY EVEY WEISBLAT
Staff Writer

Moore County land owners will likely see no increase in their property taxes this coming year, and might even see a slight decrease, under a spending plan County Manager Wayne Vest presented this past week.

Totalling \$197.6 million, the budget represents a 9.7 percent increase from last year’s budget. It keeps property taxes

steady at 51 cents per \$100 valuation and allows for the possibility of a 1 cent decrease, should county commissioners be inclined.

Other than property taxes, those who get water and sewer service from the county would see a 3 percent increase in rates.

As is normal, the county budget allocates the largest percentage of its revenue to education. After education, public

safety and utilities are the largest areas of spending.

“It’s a budget I would call reasonable,” Commissioners Chair Frank Quis said following Wednesday’s presentation. “It does provide a raise for our staff that makes up for the inflation that’s been eating away at their incomes. It provides money for the schools and public safety, and still leaves us in a good position financially for the future.”

As had been anticipated, the recommended budget falls short of the Moore County Board of Education’s request for funding. Interim Schools Superintendent Tim Locklair had presented a budget that included \$39.5 million in county funding. That is a \$7.69 million increase from the current year.

see **BUDGET**, page A12

OPINION

A Winning Idea For Aberdeen

‘Aberdeen Station’ is a creative re-imagining of a former school campus.



SANDHILLS SCENE

Aberdeen Music Venue Caters to Indie Scene

The Neon Rooster showcases artists creating original music.

SPORTS

‘Roger That’

The legacy of Pinecrest baseball’s longtime assistant coach, Roger Woolard, lives on.

FORECAST SPONSORED BY COLDWELL BANKER ADVANTAGE

TODAY
84°
65°
Partly Sunny
Feels Like: 90°
Precip: 25%
Winds: SW at 7 mph

MONDAY
88°
62°
Mostly Sunny
Feels Like: 93°
Precip: 25%
Winds: SW at 10 mph

TUESDAY
85°
59°
Mostly Sunny
Feels Like: 90°
Precip: 3%
Winds: NNW at 6 mph