

SLLA nominees prove hard to find

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



With few potential candidates in the offing and only weeks away from the deadline, Director Bob Racine, who is heading up this year's Nominating Committee, said he is very concerned.

"I have specifically contacted seven people who were nominated, and all have declined to run," Racine reported to the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors during their Monday, December 5 Work Session.

"They have all been very nice, but each say the same thing: We just don't have the time," he explained, noting that he has spoken to potential candidates from both

Seven Lakes North and South.

"We have pushed," Racine added. "The problem is not due to a lack of publication, but a lack of interest by the members of this community to preserve this community."

Also unhappy over the vacant ballot, Director Bud Shaver said the to-do list for a seven-member Board can be enormous.

"We have two Directors who are managing more than one committee, and there is just no way that seven people can oversee everything that is going on in the community," he said. "Things are going to slip through the cracks. This Board has been very productive, but there are still many things that

(See "Nominees," p. 26)

Mission to Peru



Members of the West End United Methodist Church recently returned from a mission trip to Peru. Participants included Bob Forsman, Ron Baker, Stu Chase, Jennifer Forsman, Julie Yong, Mary Anne Lauer, Pastor Dr. Won Namkoong, Carmella Chase. [See Page 2 for story.]

Caddell elected Commissioners Chairman

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



Larry Caddell was elected Chairman of the Moore Country Board of Commissioners in a unan-

imous vote Tuesday afternoon, December 6. Commissioner Craig Kennedy nominated Caddell, a former Mayor of Carthage and five-year veteran of the Board of Commissioners, for the post.

Jimmy Melton was unan-

imously re-elected Vice Chairman.

Though both votes were unanimous, old divisions quickly reared their head, as Caddell rearranged the Board's seat assignments over the objections of Commissioner Tim Lea.

Caddell placed himself in the middle of the dais, with former Chairman Nick Picerno and Melton to his left and Kennedy and Lea to his right, effectively moving Lea from one end of the desk to the other.

The seat rearrangement was enshrined in a formal motion by Caddell, approved four-to-one with Lea opposed.

The Board then took a two-minute recess to allow the Commissioners to rearrange themselves.

Committee assignment provokes MegaPark debate

That testy reconfiguration of chairs foreshadowed a more substantive conflict

later in the meeting, when Commissioner Kennedy made a motion that Lea be replaced by Caddell on the Executive

(See "Commissioners," p. 24)

Erickson continues as Mayor of Foxfire Village

During a brief organizational meeting on Friday, December 2, the Foxfire Village Council reelected Mayor George Erickson and newly seated Councilman Steve Durham to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore.

There were no major changes in committee assignments as Mayor Erickson tasked Councilwoman Leslie Frusco to

resume her role as Finance Director, and Councilmen John Eltschlager and Mick McCue will continue to oversee streets and public safety, respectively.

Councilman Durham was placed in charge of water interests, taking the seat formerly held by Councilman Ed Lauer, who did not seek reelection in November.

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West End Methodists mount mission to Peru

by Mary Ann Lauer
West End United Methodist

Seven members of the West End United Methodist Church recently returned from a mission trip to northern Peru.

They worked in two of the poorest villages in Peru, Bello Horizonte and Ciudad Di Dios. The group planted gardens, taught nutrition, work-

ing with the fruits and vegetables locally available, and built thirteen latrines.

It was certainly not your usual mission trip although it did include working on building a shared clinic in one of the towns. The volunteers worked along with the villagers and students from UNC, Duke, Yale and Ohio State. Three health fairs were also held with doctors and dentists from Trujillo, the nearest large city, providing their services. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental

kits, and dental floss were donated by local dentists Allison, Allison, and Hulihan, Dr. Cameron Monroe and Dr. Clement Monroe and Smithfield, dentist Dr. Kevin Koble for the health fairs. The volunteers also gave out sample soaps and shampoos. The handouts were really appreciated by the families.

To raise money towards the trip the group had a "Taste of Peru" dinner for the community to sample various Peruvian dishes and a very successful plant sale.

The enthusiastic youth of WEUMC collected enough change to purchase playground equipment for the school yard at Ciudad de Dios.

Church members participating were Dr. Won Namkoong, Carmela Chase, Stu Chase, Jennifer Forsman, Bob Forsman, Ron Baker and Mary Anne Lauer.

Church member Esther Namkoong, Public Health Director for Moche, Inc., spends the Summer in that area coordinating the work of the volunteers.

The West End group so enjoyed the people in Peru and the work at Ciudad that another mission trip is planned for Spring.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS

Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be e-mailed to mail@sevenlakes.com, dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376, or faxed to 888-806-2572.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Deadline	Issue
Dec 15*	Dec 23
Dec 30	Jan 6
Jan 13	Jan 20
Jan 27	Feb 3
Feb 10	Feb 17
Feb 24	Mar 2
Mar 9	Mar 16
Mar 23	Mar 30
Apr 6	Apr 13
Apr 20	Apr 27
May 4	May 11
May 18	May 25
Jun 1	Jun 8
Jun 15	Jun 22
Jun 29	Jul 6
Jul 13	Jul 20
Jul 27	Aug 3
Aug 10	Aug 17
Aug 24	Aug 31
Sep 7	Sep 14
Sep 21	Sep 28
Oct 5	Oct 12
Oct 19	Oct 26
Nov 2	Nov 9
Nov 16	Nov 23
Nov 30	Dec 7
Dec 14	Dec 21
Dec 28	Jan 4

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

Seven Lakes Kiwanis Decorating Contest

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club will offer a \$65 prize for the best lawn or lakefront Christmas decoration display within the Seven Lakes community.

Three prizes will be awarded: one each for the North, South, and West sides.

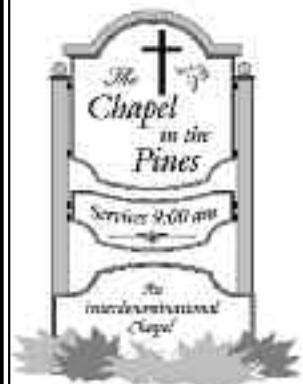
Kiwanis judges will be surveying all properties on December 16, 17, and 18, between 5 and 9 pm. Please make sure that your lights are on at the appropriate times for the judging. Good luck to everyone in the community.

Art Auction for The Haven

Do you Love animals? Here is the solution for your shopping dilemma!

The Haven-Friends for Life is holding an Art Auction. They will be offering art work, curios and other items that may be exactly what you are looking for at Flynn's Coffee Bar, 115 NE Broad St, Southern Pines, on Sunday, December 11 from 5 pm to 8 pm. There will be door prizes and a raffle! All proceeds will benefit the shelter animals. For additional call Nancy at 910-286-7713.

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New company takes over SLLA security

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



"The Budd Group is on board. You may have noticed the new uniforms and they are looking snappy," President Bob Darr reported during the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] December 5 Work Session. The Budd Group took over responsibility for SLLA security on December 1, replacing SFI.

"I am pleased with the transition," Darr said. "We did not anticipate any problems, and there have been none."

He noted that Linda McCoy, a popular and well-regarded guard who frequently mans the Northside gate, was hired by The Budd Group and promoted to resident supervisor to oversee the entire department – including the gates, Roving Security, and Lake Patrol.

Darr said that Budd security guards are currently issuing speeding tickets in two other gated communities in North Carolina – Woodlake and St. James Plantation – and indicated the service could be provided as well in Seven Lakes.

"Their officers do not carry weapons and are not certified law enforcement," Darr explained. "How they accomplish this is a roving patrol carries a radar gun that is validated before and after the shift. The guard is authorized by the Association to write tickets, and fines are levied based upon how fast the violator is speeding," explained Darr.

If approved, fines would be issued by the Association, and, if unpaid, would follow a standard Judicial Committee process with penalties such as restricting access to amenities and a lien against the landowner's property.

Adding radar services would not increase the security contract fees, but the Association would need to purchase a high-quality radar gun, estimated at \$1,500, and also preprinted ticket books.

Director Lowe cautioned that his research of speeding

in the community demonstrated the vast majority travel within 10 mph of the posted limit.

Another concern raised by Darr was how to handle speeding violations by guests. Options discussed included fining the resident who called in the guest as the responsible party. If the guest is fined and refuses to pay, future access to the community could be denied.

Felony vandalism

A recent case of arson involving the women's restroom facility at the Northside Pool area drew an angry response from Darr.

"The problems we've had with vandalism almost always takes place after dark, pri-

marily occurring behind the [North] Clubhouse," Darr said. "I suggest a new policy as it relates to common grounds, that we close all our parks at dusk."

Currently the community's parks are posted as open until 11:00 pm.

Shaver agreed with Darr's suggestion and explained the recent fire was reported by police as a felony incident.

"We have a small group of people, and they are getting older," Shaver fumed. "And now they have graduated from petty vandalism to felonies."

However, some took a more cautious approach. Northsider Bob Cook and Treasurer Meyer both noted that many tennis and basketball players

use common facilities after dusk, especially during the Winter season when the sun sets early in the evening.

Another suggestion was to keep the park open, but lock the restrooms after dark.

"That suggestion was brought forward to the previous Board, but we have many opposed, for a number of reasons," Keyser said. "A lot of people use the public

restrooms when they are out walking. And closing the parks at an earlier hour is taking away from our amenities."

Keyser argued that the kids creating the problems see it as a game — a game in which they will not get caught.

Darr won support from a majority of Directors to close the parks at dusk, with

(See "SLLA Security," p. 26)

SLLA Christmas Mingle & Jingle Party

Eat, drink and be merry this holiday season with friends and neighbors at the Christmas Mingle & Jingle Party on Sunday, December 11 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Northside Clubhouse.

Sponsored by the SLLA Recreation Committee, the

event is BYOB and hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. There will be fun for all ages including a visit from Santa Claus and supervised children's crafts and games will be right next door in the Community Activity Center. Come one, come all!

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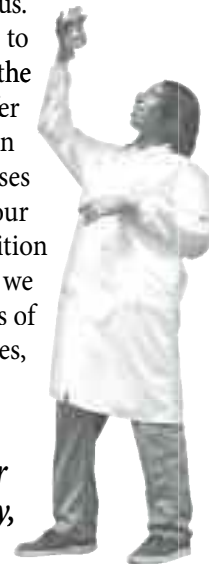
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What to do in an emergency? Call 9-1-1.

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

The most sensible and timely way to get emergency help is to call 911.

Period.

Responding to comments made at a recent landowners meeting [reported in our November 11 issue], Seven Lakes EMS Chief Tim Bouchelle told *The Times* that the EMS building on Seven Lakes Drive is manned Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Seven Lakes EMS volunteers also serve the community around the clock as part of the county-wide 911 system.

"People need to understand that there is no guarantee that we will be here," Bouchelle said of the EMS facility. "We may be out on a call somewhere. You cannot rely on stopping by the station to receive assistance. In fact, by coming to the EMS building first, you may delay your medical response," he said.

"When you call 911 and speak to a dispatcher," Bouchelle added, "as soon as you say it is a medical emergency they are activating our pagers. This usually occurs within thirty seconds."

Seven Lakes EMS is staffed by two paid professional members and sixteen trained volunteers. Each and every one of them carries an emergency pager.

"All of our certified members carry medical response bags in their vehicles," Bouchelle explained, "and those volunteers can be quickly mobilized."

A full time 24/7 paid staff is something he would like to see, sometime in the future, Bouchelle told *The Times*, but budgeting for salaries is a major factor.

"Less than a third of our annual budget comes from the county," he explained. "The rest we make up in donations, memorial gifts, and fundraisers."

The community has consistently and generously donated to the EMS cause over the years, in particular by purchasing the Seven

Lakes EMS Phone Book, which is updated annually.

Established nearly thirty years ago, Seven Lakes EMS first operated from the Seven Lakes Fire Department before building a stand-alone facility right next door. For many years, Moore County EMS also operated from that facility, moving to new quarters at West End Fire and Rescue in May 2010. Today, Seven Lakes EMS donates office space in their building for use by the Moore County Sheriff's Department.

Bouchelle explained that Seven Lakes EMS is one of the very few volunteer rescue squads in the county that has maintained ambulance transportation to the hospital. Many other agencies moved away from providing that service, as both state-requirements and resulting costs increased.

Seven Lakes EMS purchased a new ambulance two years ago at a cost of \$102,900 and currently owes

only \$3,000 on that loan.

"All of the other equipment we own is paid for," Bouchelle said, "including the building and six AED devices."

"What also makes us unique is there are only two of us [EMS squads] that will go anywhere in the county when we are paged. And this has happened more frequently this year, due to the sheer volume of calls."

Locally, of 458 emergency medical calls in the Seven Lakes district between January and October 2011, the new ambulance rolled on 380 incidents, reported Bouchelle. And of those same 458 calls, members of the Seven Lakes team failed to respond on only two occasions — one of those being a cancelled call.

"Nobody in the county can beat that for a volunteer squad," he said.

The number of calls has increased significantly, jumping up twenty-seven percent from last year's total, primarily because people are losing

their health insurance and, therefore, access to regular doctor care.

"What we're seeing is people are waiting until they are really sick, and then they call an ambulance," Bouchelle explained. "They can't afford a doctor, but the hospital won't deny them care."

Across Moore County, the 911 system has already logged in excess of 56,134 total calls [fire, police, and

emergency medical] from January to November. And the most difficult months lay ahead.

"Now through March is the busiest time of year for EMS, because of the flu and cold season," Bouchelle explained.

For more information about Seven Lakes EMS, please call 673-3067.

In the event of an emergency, please do not hesitate to call 911.



Seven Lakes EMS Chief Tim Bouchelle

Free Zumba Class

Everyone is invited to join in for a Zumba Dance Class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church every Thursday morning at 8:30 am – 9:30 am, in the SL Baptist Church Family Life Center. A Zumba licensed instructor will be teaching. Questions? call the church at 673-4656.

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A Christmas Present from the Chapel

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

There's a Christmas present in this issue of The Seven Lakes Times.

Tucked into the papers delivered to our local readers is an audio CD: a collection of sermons delivered by Reverend Don Welch, minister at Seven Lakes' Chapel in the Pines.

It's entitled "The Great Storyteller," because "he is our storyteller," Chapel President Peggy Olson told *The Times*.

"You know how, in a lot of church services, you get to the sermon and you sort of sit there and woolgather or drift off? You can't do that with Don — because his message is so strong and so well deliv-

ered."

"I came here six years ago and walked into that church and heard him once,"



Olson said, "and that told me: 'This is who I have to hear.' When

you find someone who leads a community who is such a great storyteller, you want to share that with the wider community."

And the mission of Chapel in the Pines is all about sharing with the wider community. The core of the non-denominational church's mission is benevolence.

Each year the Chapel's benevolence funds contribute tens of thousands of dollars to local charities like the Food Bank, the Empty Stocking Fund, the Blanket Fund, and the Red Cross. Each Christmas, the Chapel's Community Christmas Fund provides

food vouchers and gifts to dozens of needy families in the West End and Jackson Springs area.

It's an active, diverse congregation drawn from many states and many denominations; and, on Sunday morning, it is often Welch's sto-

rytelling that pulls them together and challenges them to even greater service.


"This is not a selling of a certain dogma," Olson explained. "These sermons are just stories that you can associate from the Bible — and it's everybody's Bible."

(See "Storyteller," p. 15)

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SLLA needs may outrun available revenues

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] last year hired an outside consulting firm to develop a "Reserve Study, laying out the community's infrastructure needs in the future — and the costs associated with meeting those needs.

Looking over the lengthy and detailed list of anticipated projects included in the Reserve Study, President Bob Darr told his fellow Directors during the Board's Monday, December 5 Work Session that several items were slated for attention in the next two to three years.

Shaver suggested that Darr and Cochran should sit down with him to review those recommendations in depth. Keyser also agreed to participate in that discussion.

"People need to understand this is a long range plan that will require money," said Darr.

Cochran also reminded the Board that reserve funding set aside in the budget can only be used for replacement projects, not new improvements to the community.

But Meyer said funding was simply insufficient to satisfy the Reserve Study plan as written.

"No matter how you slice it, the Reserve Study has some \$3.6 million in 'what I'd like to have' over the next six years — and we have nowhere near that amount of money," he said. "It would be more likely if we get \$2 million in that time frame,

problem of vandalism and no means to control it," said Shaver. "Before I was not in favor of incorporation but, looking at the future, I have changed my mind."

Racine, who was an active supporter of the most recent bid to incorporate Seven

cern that is included in the Reserve Study recommendations is replacement of the bulkhead on the Lake Sequoia island; however, Fentzlaff argued the estimated replacement cost was exaggerated.

"We can get that work done for less than a third, maybe even a quarter of that amount," he said.

Fentzlaff said the Lakes & Dams Committee endorsed the recommendation, and Shaver suggested requesting at least three bids to better determine actual costs before a final decision was made.

Darr noted that the recommended work on the bulkhead has been controversial, with some arguing in favor of rehabilitation and others suggesting the island was expensive and unnecessary and should be torn out.

"We have around 1,400 lots in the community, and, of those, about 155 lots are on Sequoia," said Bob Cook. "You're looking at spending several thousand dollars for the enjoyment of about eleven percent of residents."

"This same amount of money could be used to hire off-duty police to work on

vandalism," he added. "This would be a benefit to many more in the community."

Meyer replied that there are amenities all around the community that are not used by every resident and that such logic was unfair.

Shaver agreed. "These lakes add value to your home whether you are on a lake or not," he said.

Lowe also said he was in favor of the bulkhead and continuing to maintain the island, noting that tearing it out would be problematic, especially with the steel staircase infrastructure in the lighthouse.

Appropriate staffing levels for in-house maintenance

Turning to more general concerns about community appearance, President Darr opened a discussion of the proper staffing level for the in-house maintenance department. Last year, Davenport Landscaping was hired to perform mowing and additional contracting landscaping services; however, two full time paid staff were retained to continue to assist with other non-mowing needs.

(See "SLLA," p. 20)

"We have more needs than we have money; that is the situation we are in."

— SLLA Treasurer Conrad Meyer

and we'll be lucky to get even half of the items listed completed."

"We need good solid work on this to determine, with the money we have, what are we going to do?" he suggested. "We have more needs than we have money, that is the situation we are in."

Meyer said such decisions would not be easily made by a committee of a dozen debating at a table, surrounded by another dozen interested bystanders trying to be helpful. Instead, he suggested a smaller committee of five or six should take a detailed look at the Reserve Study and put together a reasonable draft plan.

"We have a problem with how we're going to pay for paving. We have a growing

Lakes, cautioned that it is not a cure-all for financial issues.

Darr also responded, noting that the Board has a responsibility to protect property values.

"We cannot ignore these things that are facing us," he said. "Where do we go from here? We need to start putting together plans for the next five years and how we are going to get there. Incorporation is a totally separate issue and it is not a Board decision," he added.

Sequoia Island bulkhead

One item of immediate con-

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Spong retires . . . again

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Buddy Spong

His first attempt at retirement lasted all of eight hours. That was five years ago.

Ready to blaze new trails after successfully leading the Moore County Chapter of the American Red Cross for these last few years, Buddy Spong said he is looking forward to new projects and volunteer work — but first, he'll take a much needed vacation.

"This time I guarantee I will take more than eight hours for retirement, Spong told *The Times*. "But there are so many situations that eat at me, like homeless children sleeping in cars here in this county. I don't know the answer, but I do know it's out there, and there is something I can do about that, and I'd like to be a part of it."

A resident of Seven Lakes North for nearly thirty-seven years, Spong has spent his entire adult life making a difference in people's lives in Moore County.

A professor and former Dean of Students at Sandhills Community College, where he taught and worked for thirty-two years, he also found time to actively serve with the Salvation Army as Volunteer Director for over twenty years. In addition, Spong served nine years on the Board of Education — a period he described as a definite challenge that included the building of two new middle schools and a major expansion at West End Elementary.

He told *The Times* he feels really good about the work he accomplished, in service to the schools and assisting to area families through the Salvation Army.

"I had to give that up, and I really missed that opportunity," Spong said.

"I am so concerned about the county we live in being so well-off; and, yet, we have hundreds of kids that are sleeping in cars and abandoned buildings. Everyone, like the Coalition [for Human Care] and Friend to Friend,

are doing their part; but there are still too many situations of this happening, especially in an environment like this."

Spong said he has enjoyed his time with American Red Cross, specifically his work assisting disaster victims and mounting blood drives.

"This year has been incredible, working with victims of fire and the tornadoes last Summer. We've sent people all over the country to assist in different areas as well," he explained, noting that six Moore County volunteers have spent time in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and New York to help with recovery efforts. "You get to do a lot of things that you know will make a difference. It was always good to have a job where you can go home at night and feel good about what you've accomplished."

So the decision to retire was not an easy one, Spong said, explaining that he was not as comfortable with his new duties following changes at the national level of the American Red Cross to a more centralized, organization structure.

"It has really been a joy to work here," he said. "I will miss my family at the Red Cross like I have missed my family at Sandhills. I've had an excellent staff; and the Board is very effective; but I just took the [corporate] changes to be a sign that it was time to move onto something else. This year, for the first time ever, I've had to deal with health issues; and it's just time to back away — at least a bit."

Reflecting on his longtime commitment to both Moore County and the Seven Lakes community, he said it has been very interesting to see the region grow and change. Spong was elected as the first non-developer Director on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors, serving as president for two years, and was a founding member of the Seven Lakes Fire Department and the Seven Lakes EMS.

"When we moved in, there were only thirty-two perma-

nent residents," Spong recalled. "The South Side was just starting, and the golf course was being built. And the Westside was just a dream. I will never forget when the construction started with the leveling of the land and building the dam. It was neat to watch."

Spong and his wife, Ann, who is a thirty-seven year veteran teacher with Moore County Schools, raised their children in Seven Lakes. Their daughter, Angie, recently graduated from UNC Law School and lives in Chapel

(See "Spong," p. 21)



Retiring Moore County Red Cross Director Buddy Spong

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The next H.E.L.P. group series starts January 12, 2012. Please register by December 21, 2011.

Contact Suzanne G. Martin, Psy.D., clinical psychologist, at (910) 715-3370 to register.

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Local Girl Scouts earn their Silver Awards

Laurel Caddell, Meredith Keller, and Sonia Wienstroth of West End, and Kindra Tillman of Eagle Springs have been awarded the Girl Scout Silver Award by Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines, which is the second highest achievement in Girl Scouting.

This award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments and a commitment to excellence, and helps girls build skills, explore careers, gain leadership skills, and make a commitment to self-improvement.

For their Girl Scout Silver Award project, the four girls built thirty-two bat houses to help keep alive North Carolina bats endangered by white nose fungus. Bats help keep the mosquito population down, and their numbers are severely threatened by white nose fungus. Each of the houses built can hold up to 150 bats.

All four girls are members of Girl Scout Troop #820, led by Amanda Keller and Nancy Wienstroth.

Laurel Caddell is the daughter of Jerry and Brenda Caddell. Meredith Keller is the daughter of Vance and Amanda Keller. Kindra Tillman is the daughter of Larry and Lakeisha Wike, and Sonia Wienstroth is the daughter of Uwe and Nancy Wienstroth.

be done as an individual or with a group.

If done with a group, a girl must be responsible for a

specific part of the project and evaluate her contribution to the project and the group.



Laurel Caddell



Meredith Keller



Kindra Tillman



Sonia Wienstroth

About the Silver Award

The Silver Award is the second highest award for the Girl Scouts of the USA. Only Girl Scout Cadettes ages 11-13 or in grade 6-8 can earn this honor.

The Girl Scout Silver Award represents a girl's accomplishments in Girl Scouting and her community as she grows and works to improve her life and the lives of others. The first four requirements of the Girl Scout Silver Award help girls build skills, explore careers, gain leadership skills, and make a commitment to self-improvement.

The Girl Scout Silver Award Project can be undertaken when the first four requirements are completed. It can

Where are we now? Financial market overview

Mark Hollingsworth and Brianna Dillon, Financial Advisors with Raymond James & Associates will return to the Senior Enrichment Center on Wednesday, December 14 at 3 pm, with an update on the current financial markets.

They will clue you in on what is happening to the market, and how the economy is likely to affect you. From this presentation you will gain a better understanding of how financial markets work, what risks

are in each asset class, what investors should be aware of before investing in any particular kind of investment, and how people are investing today to achieve a desired result for income or growth.

This is strictly an informal educational presentation. Mark and Brianna encourage you to bring you questions for them to help answer. Light refreshments will be served after the forum. Call 215-0900 to register.



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What to do when parents need a little help

In 1977 Paul Simon, formally of Simon and Garfunkel, released "Slip Slidin' Away."

Slip slidin' away

You know, the nearer your destination

The more you're slip slidin' away

Most of us can recall times in our lives when we felt we were slipping and sliding, and our hackles would stand at attention when family members tried to tell us how to run our lives. When aging parents begin to slip and slide, their adult children often step in to provide transportation, do the shopping, pay the bills, or ease their parent's transition to a retirement or assisted living community.

Most elders are grateful for the help and are willing to make those transitions, but others dig in their heels and resist help at every turn. Their message is loud and clear: "Thank you for your concern, but back off!"

From the elder's point of view, I get it. Theirs is a strong and self-reliant generation that got along just fine without their kids meddling and running interference. While their Baby Boomer children are in their 50s and 60s, they are sometimes viewed as just "the kids" and what do they know about life?

For many elders, to admit they need additional assistance with bathing, dressing, meal preparation, or medication management may be

viewed as a sign of personal failure, or an admission they are slipping and sliding. When this occurs, getting one's elder help in the home can become a battle of wills.



Spanning Generations

Dr. Melinda Spohn

How can you determine whether you are the best caregiver for your parent? Much depends on how much help you realistically can provide — and the character of your relationship with your parent.

For example, an adult son who has a volatile relationship with his aging father may not be the best caregiver, as old family wounds, lying just beneath the surface, may erupt at anytime. Or consider an adult daughter trying to manage her own family's needs as well as those of her aging parents. Eventually something has to give, and it is usually the caregiver.

Furthermore, the desire to help one's aging parent is often not enough. Most Baby Boomers are still working and cannot meet all their parent's needs, and those who live at a distance have no choice but to find and establish in-home care.

How does one begin a discussion of in-home care with

their resistant elder? Consider the following suggestions:

1. **Make a list.** Determine what services your elder needs immediately and will most likely need in the future. List them in a hierarchical order and determine what you or other family members are willing and able to perform

without feeling overwhelmed or put-upon. You do not want your loved one to feel they are a burden.

2. **Do your homework.** Be prepared for questions and concerns. Before discussing in-home care, learn what is available in the area, their reputation in the community, qualifications of their employees, fees for service, and what Medicare will pay.

3. **Timing.** Preferably, a discussion about in-home care should not be done during a crisis, when illness strikes, or out of frustration. In addition, no one likes to feel "ganged up on." If possible, discuss in-home care with your elder one-on-one, and keep in mind the elder should remain at the forefront of the decision-making. When people feel they are part of a solution, they are more likely to embrace change.

4. **Compromise.** For a resistant elder, begin with a few less intimidating services. Your elder may not want someone cleaning their home, but would be willing to have help with medication management and shopping. Be willing to compromise on smaller issues. However, issues surrounding safety and health must remain a priority.

For aging parents, it is

important to understand that when your adult children begin nudging you toward in-home care, they are acting out of love and concern for your health and safety. Perhaps they are seeing red flags that you do not recognize, or perhaps they are becoming overwhelmed and need respite. For many elders, once they release the need to do everything themselves and accept in-home care, they embrace the help and the wonderful people who provide it.

Eventually all of us will start slipping and sliding and will need the help of others to maintain our quality of life, for the nearer our destination, the more we slip slide away.

Dr. Melinda Spohn is Executive Director of the Senior Retirement Project and can be reached at (910) 986-9481 email: srproject@live.com or SeniorRetirementProject.org



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In memory of . . .

Cherie "Jan" Patton, 71, formerly of Findlay and Bowling Green, OH and Seven Lakes, died Saturday, November 26.

She was born in Mountain Grove, MO, received her B.S. degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia, a Master of Ed. and Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Bowling Green State University.

Mrs. Patton began her career as a Jr. High and High School teacher in the Missouri and Bowling Green public schools. She advanced in her career as Assistant Superintendent, then Superintendent in the Findlay (Ohio) City Schools.

In 1991, she and her husband Bob moved to Portland, ME, where she served as the Principal at Deering High School until her retirement in 1994, when they moved to Seven Lakes.

Mrs. Patton was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; parents, James and Beulah Chevalier.

Survivors include her son, James Robert Patton; sisters, Juilane (Freeman) Van Houten, of Moberly, MO and Jimilee Patterson, of Springfield, IL; brothers, Bob (Sandy) Chevalier, of Harrisonville, MO and Jerry (Carol) Chevalier, of Normal, IL; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Spring of 2012 at Oak Grove Cemetery and First United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, OH.

Memorial Contributions may be made in Mrs. Patton's memory to a scholarship fund for a female graduate of Findlay High School, c/o Treasurer of Findlay City Schools, Findlay, OH 45840.

Bonnie Getz Pasko, 70, died Wednesday, November 30, at her residence.

A memorial service was held Monday, December 5, at West End United Methodist Church, West End.

Mrs. Pasko was born in Salem, OH daughter of the late Dorothy and Donald Getz. She was an avid reader and loved spending time with

family, and singing in the choir.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Richard S. Pasko of Seven Lakes; her sons James Fitch of Southern Pines; Colonel Thomas and Laura Fitch of Ludlow Falls, OH; Dr. Daniel and Laura Barnes of Seven Lakes; Joseph and Michelle Barnes of Eagle Springs, John Pasko of Salem, OH; Steve Pasko of Salem, OH; Ted and Julie Schuster of Salem, OH; Andy and Kim Pasko of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; her many grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Rd., Pinehurst, NC 28374 or West End United Methodist Church, PO 276, West End, NC 27376.

Augustus Currie Monroe, 93, of Atlanta, GA, died Thursday, December 1.

He was born in Eagle Springs, son of Fullar Monroe and Nina Currie Monroe. After graduating from West End High School, he attended Presbyterian Junior College in Maxton, NC.

In 1942, earned a degree

in engineering from the University of Florida. During World War II, Mr. Monroe joined the Army Corps of Engineers and was assigned to the Mississippi River Commission in Vicksburg, MS. He was a member of Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, GA.

He retired in 1973 from the U.S. Civil Service, two years later, he joined the Water and Sewer Department of DeKalb County, GA, where he rose to the position of Deputy Director. He retired after 14 years with DeKalb.

Mr. Monroe was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Winifred Louise Black Monroe, a brother, Walter Monroe, of Eagle Springs.

Survivors include his son, Douglas Monroe of Brooklyn, NY; daughter, Trisha Monroe Campbell of Lilburn, GA; his grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Monday, December 5, at Melwood Cemetery in Stone Mountain, GA. Memorial donations may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, 1328 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30309.



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The positive path for an obedient dog

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Using a positive reinforcement approach that is rewards-based, Abby Ganin-Toporek knows a thing or two about getting the best behavior from your furry friend.

"This is a win-win for your dog," she said, explaining her training method. "They get a treat and the attention they crave for good behavior."

As a the owner of a successful professional pet sitting business, Ganin-Toporek often found herself providing advice and guidance in dog training. After relocating from New York to McLendon Hills a year and a half ago, she became a certified dog trainer and opened Sandhills Dog Training in April 2011.

In the near future, she will be scheduling group lessons at a large facility between West End and Pinehurst and, for the time being, she is busy working with clients in private homes — and also serves as an volunteer with Moore Humane Society.

"I have started classes with the shelter and am very active

with them," she told *The Times*. "It has been a great experience and I really enjoy helping out," she said, noting that she offers a discount to owners looking to train their rescue dogs.

Most training, particularly with puppies, begins with basic obedience and then can move onto more

advanced skills, such as reliable recall of your dog when they are off-leash. However, Ganin-Toporek explained she is very sensitive to the needs of mature dogs, particularly rescue animals that may come with some emotional baggage.

"There is nothing punitive in my training," she

explained. "For bad behaviors, like jumping up or aggression, I use behavior modification methods. That is, we change the behavior by not acknowledging the bad, but instead by redirecting the dog and rewarding good behavior."

One benefit of private training sessions in your own home, versus a group lesson in a class setting, is that Ganin-Toporek can help own-

ers focus in on and correct specific problem behaviors.

"When I meet a new client, I like to look at their relationship with their dog. I really stress that communication that you want with your dog," she said, noting that dogs are mostly cued through non-verbal body language. "Dogs are intelligent animals. When you do obe-

(See "Dog," p. 13)



Abby Ganin-Toporek of Sandhills Dog Training, with her best friend.

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128 Vanore Road, SL West – Lot 4207 Sec. Blackwood
Large sloping timbered lot. Good view of Lake Auman across the street. Lot near front gate entrance.
Call Ann Benton . . . \$59,000

102 Donnell Pt – Lot 4283, Seven Lakes
Large corner lot at Dennis and Donnell Pt. with large water views.
Call Ann Benton . . . \$62,500

111 Dubose Drive Seven Lakes West, Lot 5161 Westwood Sec
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124 Vanore Rd – Lot 4209, Seven Lakes West
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393 Longleaf Drive, Seven Lakes West
Flat building lot, close to back entrance, membership to Beacon Ridge included with buyer paying prevailing transfer fee.
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115 James Drive, Seven Lakes West
Wonderful wooded building lot
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147 Otter Drive, Seven Lakes West – Lot 4173
Good building lot across the street from Lake Auman. Located near the recreation facilities and the main gate.
Call Pete Garner . . . \$27,500

122 Lawrence Overlook - Seven Lakes West Lot 4188
Wonderful homesite with great views of Lake Auman. Lot sits high above road on cul-de-sac street surrounded by beautiful homes. Close to front gate and community center.
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— We Sell All of Moore County —

Kiwanis hear about huge Ellerbe game farm

by Rollin Tomberlin
Seven Lakes Kiwanis

Chris DeWitt, owner of DeWitt's Outdoor Sports, Ellerbe, spoke to the Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club on Tuesday, November 8, at Seven Lakes Country Club. "Our farm is one of the largest game-bird supply operations in the United States," Dewitt said.

Started in 1989 when DeWitt was just out of high school, his business supplies game hunting locations all over the midwest and eastern US with farm-raised quail, chukar partridge, pheasants, and mallard ducks.

"The growth of our business has been phenomenal," Dewitt reported. "Our first year, we sold 2500 quail. This year, from May 'til November, we will deliver

750,000 quail; 100,000 chukar, 60,000 pheasants, and 30,000 mallards."

DeWitt is also an avid hunting enthusiast, and has developed a reputation as a highly skilled competitive shooter. This interest has led him into developing some of his property into the latest state-of-the-art skeet shooting facilities which are available to the public.

He has 14 sporting clay stations open (including nights) from late spring until early fall. These are setup around a 1.2 mile course. He can provide golf carts for use by the elderly and/or impaired shooters wishing to use this facility.

Of course, live-bird hunts are also available with complements of hunting-dogs. There are also four ponds

that he utilizes for duck shooting.

The Kiwanis Club meets on Tuesdays at 11:30 at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Guests are always welcome.

Alec Creek Turkey Shoot

Come to Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs for a Turkey Shoot held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) now through February 25, 2012.

Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or \$\$\$\$.

All proceeds will benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League who are dedicated to the rescue and rehab of stray and abandoned pets.

Come join the fun and support the animals.

Alec Creek Farm is located is at 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs.

For more details, call 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.



Kiwanian Ron McGaughey with Chris Dewitt of DeWitt's Outdoor Sports.

Dog training

(Continued from page 12)

dience training with them, you are also bonding with and stimulating them."

And more importantly, she views training your dog as a lifetime project.

"You can't think, okay I did puppy training so I'm done," she explained. "You have to train your dog every day. The dog is thinking about what they need to do to earn that praise and reward from you. Look at training not as a set portion of your day, but as moments within your day.

For example, when answering your door, or when getting in or out of the car, or when feeding your dog, these are

all opportunities for communication and to work on that relationship."

For dog owners interested in more advanced skills, Sandhills Dog Training also provides training to help your pet pass the necessary tests to become a therapy dog. In fact, a special group class will be scheduled just for those interested in this type of volunteer experience.

For more information on private training sessions or upcoming group lessons, please visit www.sandhills-dogtraining.com or contact Abby Ganin-Toporek directly at sandhillsdogtraining@gmail.com or 910-673-0074.

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Realtor® Martha Gentry expands the 'Buyer Team'

Beverly Gentry and Rose Marie Huestess are recent recipients of the prestigious Accredited Buyers Representative (ABR) designation. They join Susan Phillips and Lari Dirkmaat at Martha Gentry's Home Selling Team to provide an all ABR Buyer Specialist Team.

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cialized buyer services. Since the Buyer Team inception in 1999, hundreds of buyers have experienced the exceptional service and care a Martha Gentry's Home Selling Team Buyer Specialist provides, confirming their tenet "Year after year we make people happy."

Cruise Planners celebrates

Cheryl Darwell, owner of Cruise Planners/American Express, had a delayed ribbon cutting ceremony last month at the Moore County Chamber of Commerce in Southern Pines.

Her husband, David Darwell and daughter Kristen Grime joined in the celebration.

Cruise Planners/American Express offers competitive rates for cruise and land vacations along with outstanding customer service, and is the largest home-based travel agency in the country.

Darwell lives in McLendon

Hills and can be reached at 910-673-SAIL, CDarwell@CruisePlanners.com, or via

her web site at www.Cheryl-CruisePlanners.com.



Cheryl Darwell cuts the ribbon, celebrating the opening of her Cruise Planners business

Song & Dance

The public is invited to the Senior Enrichment Center on Friday, December 9 from 2 to 4 pm, for a special performance by Mary Lou and Tom Bennett and the adult tap group "Alive and Clicking." This will be an afternoon of holiday cheer, celebration, refreshments, entertainment and fun! Senior Enrichment Center 8040 U.S. Highway 15-501, two miles north of the traffic circle. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.

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LTC0408

Storyteller

(Continued from page 5)

This is the same God that belongs to everyone. We all worship the same God."

"The Chapel in the Pines welcomes all people — wherever they came from. That's what makes our group so much fun — and so interesting, because it is so diverse."

"We want people to understand that this is a gift, from us to them," Olson said, "a gift sharing a person who we rethink tells such wonderful, wonderful stories."

The Chapel is expanding, as the community it serves expands and changes, adding a fellowship hall and meeting rooms. Olson told *The Times* that a number of young families have recently joined, and the Chapel hopes more will drop by for a visit on Sunday morning.

"We would welcome anyone who is interested," Olson said, "any Sunday at 9:00 am, to see who we are and what we do — to see that what is important to us is serving the county and the world."

Welch brings to the Chapel long experience leading both congregations and educational institutions. A Kentuckian, Welch has served on the faculties of Union College, Cumberland College, and Berea College in that state, as well as Duke Divinity School and Wofford College in South Carolina, where he was also dean of students and chaplain.

Welch served as President and Dean of Scarritt Graduate School for Religious Education and Sacred Music in Nashville, TN and Vice President of Wesleyan College, GA. He pastored two churches in Kentucky, as well as Park Memorial Methodist Church in Macon, GA, before retiring to Seven Lakes.

In the first of the three sermons on the "The Great Storyteller," Welch explores the simple life. Embracing true simplicity, he finds, requires identifying where your treasure lies.

The second sermon on is entitled "One Flock" and deals with one of the most puzzling

utterances of Jesus, recorded in the Gospel of John: "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold." Rev. Welch teases out the meaning of that mys-

terious passage, finding in it an invitation to tap into the great mystic river that informs all faiths.

"Peace on Earth," the third

sermon, explores the elusive nature of a promise that angels made twenty centuries ago to a band of shepherds keeping watch over their flock

by night.

Copies of the CD were inserted in issues of *The Times* distributed to mail-
(See "Storyteller," p. 17)



Take care of the things that matter most.

In difficult financial times, it is easy to let things go that we normally wouldn't. Your personal health should not be one of them. If you have a wound that has not healed in 30 days, don't delay treatment any longer. An untreated wound may lead to further complications such as infection, hospitalization, or even amputation. At FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital's Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center, we mend wounds and restore lives.

For more information, call the FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center located in Pinehurst at (910) 715-5901 or toll-free (800) 213-3284.

www.firsthealth.org/wound

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Chapel offers help with 'Blue Christmas'



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 us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concerns; we need to know that we are not alone.

Our spirits sink as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper

around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

For these reasons and more, The Chapel in the Pines will host a special "Blue Christmas: A Service of Tidings of Comfort and Hope" service on Wednesday, December 21, at 5 pm.

Come out, and join the Chapel for prayers, Scripture, and music that acknowledges that God's presence is for those who mourn and for

those who struggle — and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone is welcome.

For more information please contact Fran Stark 673-5493.

Vets honor Veterans' Day baby



To honor the first baby born on Veteran's Day, November 11, at Womack Army Medical Center in Fayetteville, members of Vietnam Veteran's of America Moore County Chapter 966 presented baby Charlotte Sophia Anderson and her parents with a certificate and a check for one hundred dollars.

An American flag which flew over the U.S. Capitol on Veteran's Day is being sent to the family.

At left: VVA member Jim Ambler, parents Captain Jeffrey and Mrs. Shannon Anderson with baby Charlotte, and VVA member Mike Patullo.

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Wednesday
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Sunday

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AARP tax volunteers needed

Last year, the local AARP Tax-Aide program and local volunteers provided FREE Federal and NC Tax Return counseling and preparation for over 2000 Moore County residents by preparing and filing their 2010 Federal and State Tax Returns.

The AARP Tax-Aide Program is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service. This year the program expects to significantly increase the number of customers assisted in Moore County. Additional volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are needed to assist with one-on-one counseling and tax return preparation as Tax Preparation Counselors, as well as volunteers to serve as Site Facilitators.

Tax preparation counselors will be comprehensively trained and required to pass a competency test to become IRS Certified as a Tax Counselor. Volunteer training will be conducted in the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center at 8040 Hwy. 15-501 during January of 2012. Volunteers who become IRS Certified are asked to make a target commitment of two each, four hour sessions per week during the ten-week filing season from February 1 to April 13, 2012.

To volunteer, or for more information about becoming a local AARP Tax-Aide volunteer, contact the local Coordinator, Bill Roberson at (910) 673-1452.

Storyteller

(Continued from page 15)

boxes in Seven Lakes, McLendon Hills, and Foxfire Village. Readers outside those areas may request a copy from The Chapel in the Pines by emailing admin@seven-lakeschapelinthepines.com or writing to the Chapel at 2125 Seven Lakes South, Seven Lakes, NC 27376.



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112 W. SHENANDOAH RD
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\$129,900



109 ROUNDTREE
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115 PINWOOD
Marvelous Sequoia Waterfront
\$375,000



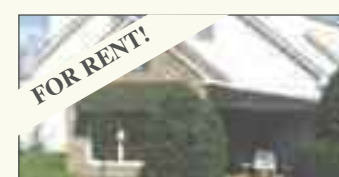
121 BERKSHIRE COURT
Golf Front on 6th Fairway
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Lake Auman Waterfront
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LOT #2407 - \$13,000
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LOT #5433 - \$22,500
LOT #2552 - \$24,900
LOT#2550 - \$26,000

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104 Tunbridge –
UNDER CONTRACT

112 E. Shenandoah – NEW LISTING

114 Sunset Way – NEW LISTING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

- **Shaw House Christmas Open House** – 1-4 pm, enjoy warm apple cider with homemade cookies and tours of three house museums, through Sunday, December 11. Shaw House, 110 Morganton Road, corner of SW Broad St., Southern Pines, has two other settler dwellings, the Garner House and the Sanders cabin, behind it, dating from the 1700s. Visitors can tour all three house museums.
- **Song and Dance at the Senior Enrichment Center** – from 2 to 4 pm, for a special performance by Mary Lou and Tom Burnett and the adult tap group "Alive and Clicking." An afternoon of holiday cheer, celebration, refreshments, entertainment and fun! Senior Enrichment Center 8040 U.S. Highway 15-501, two miles north of the Pinehurst traffic circle. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.
- **Marshall Stephenson & the Classic Country Band Presents** – 7 pm, A Country Christmas Show. Tickets \$18 at the door. General admission. The show will also include recording artist Eric Strickland, Stevee Rose, Jessica Gardner, Carol Wade and many others. Sunrise Theatre, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

- **Wounded Warrior Game Bird Hunt** – 7:30 am - 3 pm, hosted by The Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club at 3280 Jackson Springs Road, Jackson Springs. The club is hosting the event in partnership with the Wounded Warrior Project and also include a new flag pole dedication ceremony at the club house at lunch time (noon). For more information about the Wounded Warrior Project www.woundedwarriorproject.org
- **Occupy Moore** – 11 am - 5 pm, Downtown Park, 145 SE Broad St., Southern Pines. A peaceful gathering in support of Occupy Wall Street. www.occupy-moore.webs.com

- **Met Opera - Gounod's Faust at the Sunrise Theatre**, at 1 pm, (Two intermissions). Individual tickets \$25. Good seats available. Purchase tickets, call 910-692-8501. Sunrise Theatre, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.



- **Seven Lakes Country Club Christmas Party** – Everyone's invited at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Festivities begin with cocktails at 5:30 pm, followed by a fabulous Dinner at 6:30 pm. Holiday Entertainment will commence at 7:30 pm. All-inclusive price for members is \$25 and nonmembers \$30 inclusive. Reservations 673-1100. You do not have to be a member to attend this Holiday event.
- **FirstHealth Moore Regional Auxiliary Holiday Ball** – 7 pm, The Carolina Ballroom, Pinehurst. Proceeds from the event will be used to support the FirstHealth Dental Care Centers, which serve and provide dental care for the uninsured and underserved children in our community. For more information, call (910) 695-7510.
- **Turkey Shoot** – Come to Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs for a Turkey Shoot held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permit-

ting) now through February 25, 2012. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or \$\$\$\$\$. All proceeds will benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Come join the fun and support the animals. Alec Creek Farm is located is at 396 Thomas Road,

Jackson Springs. For more details, call 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise Theatre** – *Son of No One*, 7:30 pm. Starring: Channing Tatum, Katie Holmes, Tracy Morgan, Ray Liotta, Al Pacino, and Juliette Binoche. A young cop is assigned to a precinct in the working class neighborhood where he grew up, and an old secret threatens to destroy his life and his family. Sunrise Theatre, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Children's Christmas Party at West End United Methodist Church** – 12:15 to 1:30 pm. There will be a Christmas Party for children (ages Birth thru 5th Grade) and their families at West End United Methodist Church. The church will have lunch, crafts, games, do a mission project related to the true meaning of Christmas and share the Christmas Story!

- **Sunflix at the Sunrise Theatre** – *Son of No One*, 2:30 & 7:30 pm. A young cop is assigned to a precinct in the working class neighborhood where he grew up, and an old secret threatens to destroy his life and his family. Sunrise Theatre, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Christmas Mingle & Jingle Party** – 3 to 5 pm. Eat, drink and be merry with your friends and neighbors. Hot hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. This event includes a BYOB mingle party in the North Clubhouse and also supervised craft and game activities for children in the Community Activity Center. Santa Claus will be stopping by to enjoy cookies with all.
- **Art Auction for Haven Friends** – 5 pm to 8 pm, looking for a unique Christmas Gift? Here is the solution for your shopping dilemma! Haven-Friends for Life is holding an Art Auction. They are offering art work, curios and other items that may be exactly what you are looking for. Held at Flynn's Coffee Bar, 115 NE Broad St, Southern Pines. There will be door prizes and a raffle! Proceeds

Will Benefit The Shelter Animals. For additional info or to donate artwork, Call Nancy at 910-286-7713.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **Weight Watchers Meeting** – 5 pm-6 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Group leader Rachel Carr.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- **Healing Service and Advent Study** – 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.
- **Seven Lakes Computer Club** – Social Networking, 3 pm. At the Seven Lakes North Game Room. Lori Williams from Sandhills Community College, will speak about Facebook, Twitter and mention some of the other social networks. This topic will be of interest to all age groups. New members welcome.



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **Where Are We Now? A General Financial Market Overview** – 3 pm, Mark Hollingsworth and Brianna Dillon, Financial Advisors with Raymond James & Associates will return to the Senior Enrichment Center with an update on the current financial markets. This is strictly an informal educational presentation. Light refreshments will be served after the forum. Call 215-0900 to register.
- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, general meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. Open to all landowners.
- **Moore OnStage presents A Tuna Christmas at the Sunrise Theatre** – (shows presented on December 14, 15, 16, 17 at 7:30 pm and December 18 at 2 pm.) For reservations, call 910-692-7118. Set in the fictional town of Tuna Texas, the "third smallest" town in the state. This play centers on the town's annual Christmas Yard Display Contest. A mysterious "Christmas Phantom" threatens to throw the contest into turmoil. Sunrise Theatre, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am to 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (widows, widowers, and the elderly). A time of fellowship and devotion and a wonderful meal provided \$5.
- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **All About Shoulders** – 4 to 5:15 pm, Karen Backall, Physical Therapist with Appalachian Physical Therapy, will be at the Senior Enrichment Center to talk *All About Shoulders*. Your shoulders, the most movable joints in your body, can be unstable because the ball of the upper arm is larger than the shoulder socket that holds it. Come

and listen to the causes of shoulder problems, what can be done to prevent them from occurring, treatments and cures. Call 215-0900 to reserve a seat.

- **Wine Tasting** – at Sandhills Winery 5:30 to 8 pm, great wines, and food pairings. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30 pm-6 pm, Pinehurst Country Club, Carolina Hotel, 80 Carolina Vista Dr., Pinehurst. Sponsored by Pinehurst Rotary. For an appt. – call 692-8571. For eligibility questions, please call the donor counselor at 866-236-3276.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

- **Turkey Shoot** – Come to Alec Creek Farm in Jackson Springs for a Turkey Shoot held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) now through February 25, 2012. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or \$\$\$\$\$. All proceeds will benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Come join the fun and support the animals. Alec Creek Farm is located is at 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. For more details, call 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes 673-3838.
- **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Sandhills Holiday Service** – 10 am at the Whispering Pines Community Building, 1320 Rays Bridge Road. There will be a 'Pot Luck' lunch following the service. Everyone is welcome to attend. Regular services are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at the same address and time. To learn more visit www.uucsandhills.org or go to www.uua.org
- **Moore Philharmonic Orchestra Winter Concert** – at 3 pm, Celebrate the holiday season by enjoying an afternoon of free holiday music! Seventh annual

Winter concert at the famous Carolina Hotel at Pinehurst Resort, 80 Carolina Vista Drive in Pinehurst. No tickets are required, donations are always welcome www.mporchestra.com

- **Maestro David Michael Wolff** – 4 pm, will lead the Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus in their second annual presentation of Handel's Messiah! Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School, Pinehurst. Bring the entire family and experience the joy of this exceptional music. Tickets: \$50 priority reserved; \$25 general; \$10/student available at www.carolinaphil.org or (910) 687 4746.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

- **Seven Lakes Artists Group** – 1 pm, meets every Monday at Seven Lakes Northside Clubhouse. All Local artists are welcome join the group.
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – 1:30 pm-6 pm, Southern Pines United Methodist Church, 175 Midland Road, Southern Pines. For an appt. – call 692-8571. For eligibility questions, please call the

donor counselor at 866-236-3276.

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- **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. Carol Burgess, Deacon. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive,
- **The Chapel in the Pines** – at 5 pm, The Chapel in the Pines will host a special "Blue Christmas: A Service of Tidings of Comfort and Hope" service. Come out, and join the Chapel 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 dark-

ness. Everyone is welcome. For more information please contact Fran Stark 673-5493.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

- **Sunflix at Sunrise** – Annual Free Christmas Movie! *The Polar Express* at 6:30 pm. The story of a young hero boy on Christmas Eve who boards on a powerful magical train that's headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus's home. Come enjoy this great movie with your family. Sunrise Theatre, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines (910) 692-3611.

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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 6)

Darr noted that Cochran had suggested hiring an additional employee to supplement the department, in particular because one full time employee has asked for a reduction in hours so that he can return to school.

But he questioned whether hiring a person was the correct decision.

"Is this a stop-gap to correct the short term or the long term?" Darr asked. "We need to have an idea where we're going with this because it will impact our budget."

Keyser said the previous Board had determined the proper staffing level to be two to two-and-one-half full time equivalents. Hiring one new full time employee, maintaining a full time employee and allowing the other to become a part-time worker was consistent with that research, he argued.

Racine said he had noticed a decline in the quality of grounds upkeep over the last few months and that he did not like to see those standards slip.

"I see us faced with a whole lot of things that need to get done that are not part of the Davenport contract," said Darr. "One issue is tree removal and cutting back overhanging limbs. Also, who will do the work on the [Lake Sequoia island] bulkhead? So the question I have is: where are going with this?"

"Is the addition to the maintenance staff of 2.5 people going to give us what we need to take care of these issues; and, if not, we need to talk about the budget and what kinds of things will be outsourced."

Shaver said the current full time employees are both very knowledgeable, and that hiring someone now would allow time to bring that person up to speed.

"If we hire now, we would have two guys who can supervise, train and oversee a new employee," he said.

Racine suggested that, if the budget was adequate, it could be worthwhile to hire not one but two new employees.

Meyer said he was disappointed, but not altogether surprised, to find the Board in a position of looking to hire additional staffing for maintenance.

"Last year, our former Treasurer Denny Galford very creatively explained, using poker chips, how two people would not be able to accomplish the work," he said. "The Finance Committee said we couldn't accomplish the work; and here we are, ten months later," he said.

"I am disappointed but supportive of maintaining this place. We'll have to sort this out for the next budget year."

Lot combination

Also during Monday's Work Session, the Directors discussed lot recombination and how they might create a formal written policy out of a current system based on "tribal knowledge."

President Darr explained the current practice: a property owner may opt to combine two or more contiguous lots. After that combination, the combined property is assessed the same dues as a single lot. However, if the owner decides in the future to un-combine those same lots, he is responsible for retroactively paying any back dues on that tract.

Director Lowe agreed with Darr's explanation; however, the Board seemed to agree that it could be hard to enforce the policy if it is not, in fact, a written rule.

There is a file that includes documentation of all past combined lot requests and decisions, Meyer said; however, the process itself as a policy was never formalized — at least as far as he can determine.

He explained that codifying the policy will involve two

parts: first, the process of how lots are combined must be clarified, and second, a process must be developed to determine a standard process for un-combining previously combined lots.

Darr noted that, across town, the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association policy prohibits combined lots from every being un-combined; that is, such changes are permanent. He suggested that North and South side landowners could be offered a one-time opportunity to un-combine their lots without penalty. After the grace period, all combinations would be made permanent.

Cochran said, in her experience with other communities, lots can be legally combined but are still usually assessed separately.

"A community is developed

with a set number of lots and that is how they are assessed," she said, adding that, in her personal opinion, a community should maintain the original plot map and not allow combined lots.

"You can't do anything about past history," Cochran said. "But, from an income stream viewpoint, it is detrimental to combine lots. Every time you combine two lots you are losing revenue."

After discussion, Darr tabled any decisions until Cochran had a chance to review policies from other communities, including Seven Lakes West, on lot combinations.

Abandoned boats

Pleased to report major progress, Director Lowe said the legal paperwork to declare

(See "SLLA," p. 21)





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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 20)

three boats abandoned is now complete; and the vessels will be sold or disposed of in the very near future.

Racine cautioned that it is the Board's fiduciary duty to attempt to raise as much money as possible by auctioning off the boats.

After discussion, it was decided that an announcement will be placed in the Interlake and bids will be accepted for a set period.

Meyer recommended that low bids should not be dismissed, as even a \$1 bid may be more cost-effective in the long run than paying to dispose of the boats.

Abandoned Properties

Moving from abandoned boats to abandoned properties, Darr asked Cochran to explain the current procedure regarding abandoned properties.

The Community Manager explained that Community Standards rules can only enforce violations outside of a home, unless what is going on inside becomes a public health hazard.

"The landowner is notified and given time to clean it up," Cochran explained. "If the work is not done, it will go through the Judicial process. If the work is still not done, we have our maintenance staff do the work and we assess the landowner those costs."

Racine questioned how an abandoned property was defined, prompting Darr to note that several of the properties that had become a problem were not actually abandoned. Instead the homes were in some stage of a foreclosure process — bank-owned, so not technically abandoned. Such homes complicate the issue as Cochran explained that these properties would be absolved of any unpaid assessments due for maintenance work.

"So we could be looking at the property being neglected for a year. So the question is, what do we do?" Darr asked. "We've been reticent to maintain these homes, because we know we won't get our money back — but I don't think we should be."

Keyser agreed. "It is our responsibility to maintain the Association," he said.

Meyer suggested that each case should be reviewed on individually rather than imposing a blanket decision to perform basic maintenance on any neglected property.

Street and House Signage

Recent changes by Moore County to update the names of several streets in the Seven Lakes community have created a new problem, reported Darr.

"The numbers and street name may not match what

is in the 911 system," he said, explaining that many of the changes were simple housekeeping type concerns such as correcting spelling errors.

"Do we need to update our street signs?" he asked. "Do we want to require residents to purchase the reflective address signs?"

In discussion, the Board determined that forcing homeowners to purchase signs was not the solution, but all agreed such signage was beneficial, particularly

during a medical emergency.

Another problem can occur if a resident moves from one home to another and keeps their old phone number, as the 911 system may still have it recorded under the former address.

Closed Special Meeting

Following the Work Session, Darr announced the Board would meet in closed session on Wednesday, December 7, to discuss legal issues.

Spong

(Continued from page 7)

Hill. Son, Alex, is a college student in Florida and works at Disney's Animal Kingdom.

"When we first moved here in 1975, there were all these young families just starting with kids," Spong recalled. "Over the years we had so many retirees act as surrogate grandparents to our children it was a great place for them to grow up. Especially our close neighbors, who adopted the kids and watched over them. They treated them beautifully and gave them experiences that were enriching."

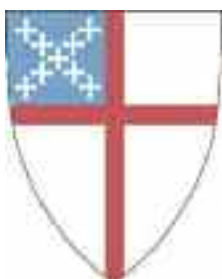
"Seven Lakes has been a great place to be a part of a community. There have been so many interesting people who have come and gone in our time here who brought so many wonderful connections," he said. "It's a beautiful community, because people here come from so many places with their own experiences and culture. It's like a mini-melting pot. You can find everything under the sun here, and it's been fun getting to know so many folks over the years."

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Christmas Eve Service – 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Service – 9:30 am

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Alzheimer's Support Group

The Seven Lakes Alzheimer's/Memory Loss Caregivers Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Chapel in the Pines on Seven Lakes Drive. For more information, call 673-5493.



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My life, as Heather Locklear

It's a long story involving heaps of paperwork and one poorly coded medical bill, but I'm on the naughty list this year.

No. Not with Santa Claus but a collection agency.

I know this because I keep receiving robo-calls on my answering machine.

"This call is for Laura Douglass. By remaining on the line, you are confirming you are Laura Douglass."

It's at about this point that I quit listening to the playback. Seriously, can't a computer decipher when it is talking to another computer-like device and not a human being?

Of course since I automat-

ically kick up all-things-annoying in our house to higher management — you know, Darling Hubby — I confidently ignore these messages.

But I also know something they don't:

I am not actually "Laura Douglass."

I'm really Heather Locklear.

It's true. I know this because I also continually receive the exact same robo-call messages for her too.

"This call is for Heather

Locklear. By remaining on the line, you are confirming you are Heather Locklear."



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

Yes, indeed. The fabulous blonde hair, the ex-rocker husbands, the mega-career on the small screen...in the immortal words of Dana Carvey as Garth, 'There is a God, Heather be thy name.'

I expect Darling Hubby [does that make this my third

or fourth marriage?] is equally thrilled at this revelation. Schwwwwingggg!

And certainly I have a new pep in my step as I stroll Rodeo Drive searching for the perfect gift, rather than trolling the internet for Cyber Monday sales. Life is good.

Slipping back in my limo, I check my lipstick and hit the digits to Twitter and tweet details of my stellar life to the almost famous, the no-longer famous, the not-yet-famous but auditioning for every reality show possible crowd, and the last dozen people in America who don't fall into any of the above categories.

But after a trendy, zero

dress-sized lunch special at Spago's, I decided the SoCal sun was a tad too bright and that I desperately needed a few thousand more calories in my life.

Hustling back home, I had just enough time to stash a few presents under the tree, wolf down a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, pet the dog, open and close the front door for cat A, B or C [take your pick] and make it to school in time to pick up a few of my favorite things: Jack and Lindsay.

Ring, ring.

"Hello? Yes, this is Laura Douglass. I am still on the line."

Is it a sin to be sad at Christmas?

Question: Is it a sin to be sad at Christmas? I know that we should celebrate the birth of Christ, who came to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. But, just when the decorations go up and the Christmas carols start playing at Thanksgiving, I go into a funk and it lasts until the middle of January.

Response: Not everyone is happy at Christmas, and being a devoted Christian does not guarantee a person

a happy Christmas. Christmas melancholy can be the result of many causes.

Did someone dear to you, a parent, a sibling, a child or a close friend die in the last year or even several years ago around Thanksgiving or Christmas? If so, this could be the reason for much of your sadness. This would be especially true if you have memories of sharing Christmas with that person.

I believe that memories are

wonderful gifts from God. They are ways of keeping our departed loved ones a part of our lives.

Learning to turn those we love over to the eternal care of God, while still keeping their memories alive,

often takes months or years. But believe me, it will eventually happen in God's time.

The Chapel in the Pines, where I am a minister, will hold a "Blue Christmas" service at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 21. It is no coincidence that this service falls on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year.

Have you noticed that your feelings of sadness tend to begin about dusk and grow stronger as you approach the midnight hour?

The minister leading this service has recently experienced every emotion that you are feeling and will lead us through prayers, readings, and music that will enable

worshipers to acknowledge their sadness without guilt and provide ways to trans-

form these feelings into authentic praise. No, I don't think it is a sin to be sad at Christmas. My problem is not sadness, but anger. No, I don't think there is a Christmas war or that our secular government is trying to take Christ out of Christmas! For many years now, Christmas has become a great economic boon not only in America but around the world. Several years ago, I was in Japan, where less than one percent of the population are professing Christians. Christmas was everywhere — from Santa Claus to the Virgin Mary.

Take away Christmas and you take away jobs for millions of workers and food on the tables of millions of their families.

My concern is that we have taken away the true joy of giving and replaced it with the fleeting pleasure of getting. The sliver of hope for me is that philanthropy still thrives during the Christmas Season. Without it, many charities and institutions would close.

So, I invite you and all sad and lonely persons to meet me on Wednesday, December 21 at the Chapel in the Pines at 5:00 pm; and together we will offer our losses, our hurts, our sadness and even our anger to the transforming power of the God that has come into the world through Christ.

Don Welch, the minister of the Chapel in the Pines welcomes your comments and questions at dwelch1@nc.rr.com. His sermons can be heard on the website: sevenlakes-chapelinthepines.com

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Scripture speaks often of Second Coming

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Rev. Don Welch's article about Christ's return.

I totally agree with Rev. Welch about disagreeing with Harold Camping. For most Christians, the Bible is under-

stood to be God's Word. You may choose to not agree, but the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is mentioned in many passages of Scripture, including: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Revelation 1: 7; Acts 1: 9-11; Matthew 24: 42-44;

and John 14: 2-6.

We also have to look forward to the Marriage of the Lamb, the Second Advent, and most of all, spending Eternity with our Savior our Heavenly Father and Fellow Saints.

The Second Coming is not a Doctrine made up to control people, but given by God to bring comfort. Prominent preachers such as Billy Graham, David Jeremiah, Charles Stanley, and many other sound men of God will attest to this teaching.

You may choose to believe Richard Dawkins (an Atheist), but I chose to believe God and His Holy Word: 2 Timo-

thy 3: 16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Mary G. Stoddard
Seven Lakes West

Think of the animals this Holiday Season

Dear Editor:

Tis' the season for giving, caring, and supporting our local charities. Moore County nonprofits serve the needs of our citizens every day of the year. One of these needs is to care for the abandoned and neglected animals in the community.

Moore Humane Society is the founder of animal welfare in the Sandhills, Moore County and surrounding counties. The society operates a state licensed "no kill" shelter located at Route 22 in Carthage, next to Hillcrest Park. Moore Humane Society provides the animals with safe refuge,

humane care, spay/neuter surgery and medical attention. The volunteers socialize and exercise the animals, preparing them for adoption. The shelter is a hopeful place of a second chances. The shelter welcomes the public to visit 12 pm to 6 pm, Friday through Tuesday.

While the Moore Humane Society's willingness to help the animals is unlimited, the resources are not. The animals always need gently used towels and blankets, pet food, and toys. To view the animal's holiday wish list or find other ways you can help, visit www.moorehumane.org or

call 910-947-2631, to learn more.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said; "You cannot do a kindness too soon, because you never know how soon it will be too late." Please join Moore Humane Society in giving the community animals, a new "leash" on life! Together we are Saving Moore Animals.

Everyone at Moore Humane Society wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year.

Rebecca Vassallo, MD
President
Moore Humane Society

Thanks!

Dear Editor:

We would like to thank our family, friends, and neighbors for their prayers, cards, visits, gifts, and helping hands after Len's stroke.

He is improving every day and with a lot of rehabilitation, we hope for a complete recovery in 2012.

Len and Susie Stanislawek
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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

Board of Partners in Progress — the County's economic development arm.

Lea objected that participation in the Executive Committee — and, in particular, its closed door deliberations — is essential to his effective service to another major economic development effort: the Heart of Carolina MegaPark. That potential industrial site lies astride the Moore-Montgomery County border and is seen by some as a key element in attracting large industry that can supply sizable numbers of good-paying jobs to both counties.

Lea made his argument to no avail, losing a four-to-one vote that placed Caddell on the Partners Executive Committee. Lea's subsequent bid to replace Kennedy on the larger Partners in Progress Full Board also failed to win support from his fellow Commissioners.

After those two losses, the Board did formally appoint Lea their representative to the MegaPark Board.

Suggesting that the Board was, in effect, "switching horses in midstream," by removing him from the Partners Board, Lea asked, "Has this Board changed its position on the MegaPark?"

"It seems like all the sudden there is an interest on this Board in distancing itself from that project," he said.

Caddell assured Lea that "we do have an interest in the MegaPark," but Kennedy suggested that economic development effort might be better spent elsewhere.

"The MegaPark is an important part of our economic development," Kennedy said, "but I think that actually attracting businesses to the county is taking a back seat to the MegaPark right now."

Kennedy said neighboring

But I think what we need to do is get jobs here, at home, right here in Southern Pines and Aberdeen, people that spend the money here locally."

Caddell said that he, by replacing Lea on the Partners

"I think that the MegaPark is wonderful ... But I think what we need to do is get jobs here, at home, right here in Southern Pines and Aberdeen ..."

— County Chairman Larry Caddell

counties are "attracting business, with jobs, on a monthly basis, and we're not doing that."

As for the prospect of attracting major industry, Kennedy added, "You have industrial sites, all over the state, sitting there, vacant."

Caddell then echoed those sentiments: "I think that the MegaPark is wonderful. I support it a hundred percent.

Executive Committee, would provide "a fresh set of eyes on a situation that's not really improving."

Though Lea objected that Partners in Progress, under the new leadership of Pat Corso, had solid plans to pursue both the MegaPark and other job-creation opportunities, the conversation had reached an impasse, and Caddell cut off debate.

Redistricting tabled

The Commissioners again put off making a decision about drawing new lines for residency districts, this time at the request of Commissioner Picerno, who said he would like more time to work directly with Geographic Information Systems Director Chris Koltyk exploring the various options.

All Moore County voters may vote for each of the Commissioners, as well as all members of the Board of Education. However, the individual members of both Boards are drawn from residency districts — a way of ensuring balanced geographic representation.

Ideally, each district would be home to roughly the same number of Moore Countians.

But data from the 2010 US Census shows that District II, which includes Seven Lakes and Pinehurst, has grown too large, while District III, which includes Robbins, has shrunk.

Redrawing the lines is tricky, if the goal is to not only balance population, but also to ensure that currently serving Commissioners and School Board members are not redistricted out of their seats.

Both Jo Nicholas and Carolyn Mealing, representing The League of Women Voters of Moore County, urged the Commissioners to adopt a set of new district lines referred to as "Option 6," which creates equal-sized districts, while preserving

(See "Commissioners," p. 25)

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 24)

the ability of all sitting members of both boards the options of running for reelection. Option 6 also splits Seven Lakes across two districts.

Land Use Plan Steering Committee

The Commissioners unanimously approved a list of stakeholders, offered by Commissioner Lea, that will make up the steering committee for a rewrite of the County's Land Use Plan, which was initially drafted in 1999.

Both Commissioners Lea and Melton were intimately involved in the drafting of the original plan.

Lea suggested the following make-up for the committee:

- Partners in Progress, with new Director Pat Corso the likely representative.
- The Moore County Chamber of Commerce, with Director Patrick Coughlin the likely committee member.
- The Convention and Visitors Bureau, possibly represented by Director Caleb Miles.
- A representative of the county's financial institutions, and one from FirstHealth of the Carolinas.
- Representatives from the Farm Bureau, Agricultural Advisory Board, and Soil & Water Conservation District.
- A member drawn from the military or Fort Bragg.
- Representatives from the Planning Board and Board of Education.
- Members drawn from the Sandhills Area Land Trust, the Moore Parks Foundation, and the Walthour Moss Foundation.
- Representatives of the Moore County Home Builders Association and the Association of Realtors.
- Members drawn from the following organizations: Moore County Transportation Advisory Board, the

Aging Advisory Council, the Moore Parks Foundation, the Moore County Historical Association, Habitat for Humanity, the League of Women Voters, and the NAACP.

- A Representative of the Greater Seven Lakes Community Council.

In addition, Lea suggested that each Commissioner should be allowed to select one person from their district to serve on the panel. He added, at the suggestion of Chairman Caddell, a representative from the Moore County Recreation Department.

Lea suggested, to the apparent agreement of other Commissioners, that Planning Board Chairman Robert Hayter should be asked to chair the Steering Committee.

Working Lands Plan

After asking Planning Director Debra Ensminger and Planner Jeremy Rust to approach the podium, Lea apologized to the Planning Department for any implication, during the Board's November 15 meeting, that the Commissioners had not been fully informed about efforts to create a Working Lands Protection Plan.

Approved by both the Agricultural Advisory Board and the Planning Board, the plan was sent back for further public review — particularly in the farming community

— during the Commissioners' November 15 meeting.

Lea pointed out that the Board had heard progress reports on the development of the plan "numbers of times since December 2007."

Other Business

In other business during the Tuesday, December 6 Board of Commissioners meeting:

- County Manager McSwain announced that the County had, for the twenty-third year in a row, earned an award for excellence in financial reporting given by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

• County Finance Officer Carrie Neal presented the quarterly financial report for Sandhills Center for Mental Health, noting that the Center had revenues of \$9.2 million and expenses of \$8.9 million. Commissioner Picerno asked Neal to make sure the Board had complete information about the Center's fund balance as they begin to consider next year's budget.

• The Board approved a \$142,850 contract with Bill Reaves Construction Company for the construction of a 720 square foot treatment facility at Pinehurst Well 3A. Public Utilities Director Randy Gould explained that the water from Well 3A will be blended with water from Well 11 to add an additional 100,000 gallons per day to

the county's water supply.

• The Board approved paperwork and budget amendments accepting an additional \$31,857 in Home and Community Care Block Grant funds, which Director of Aging Terri Protts said would be used to provide additional congregant meals, as well as general transportation to bring individuals to the meal sites.

• The Commissioners approved a \$69.52 travel reimbursement for a trip by Commissioner Lea to a Triangle J Board of Delegates meeting. Realizing that a newly implemented policy would place minor travel expense reimbursements on the agenda of nearly every

meeting, the Board decided to authorize the Chairman to review some travel reimbursement claims without bringing them before the full Board for a vote.

• The Commissioners appointed Assistant District Attorney Warren McSweeney to serve the unexpired term of District Attorney Maureen Krueger on the Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Board.

• The Board reappointed Commissioner Lea as its representative to the Triangle J Council of Governments, with Caddell as alternate.

• The Board scheduled a two-day budget planning retreat for Thursday and Friday, January 19 and 20.



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Nominees

(Continued from front page)
still need to be done.”

While he would like to retire next March after four years in office, Shaver said his sense of duty will not allow him to leave the Board short-handed.

“I will serve but I don’t like it!” he said. “I don’t like that someone else in this community is not willing to step up.”

Of particular concern to Shaver is the opportunity to pass along his accumulated knowledge of both the Reserve

Study and the upcoming major repaving project, in order to maintain continuity and progress on these important programs in the future.

“I am going on 84, and I am tired,” Shaver said. “But I also recognize that, if I don’t do this, who will pick up the Reserve Study and the paving project?”

“No one knows that information as well as I do, but if someone else was willing to run, I would step down. I will be available for any kind of assistance they would

need. I would bend over backward to help that person.”

The other two seats up for election are currently held by Directors Andy Lowe and Bruce Keyser, Jr. who were appointed to fill midterm vacancies left when Melinda Scott and Chuck Mims resigned within days after the last election.

Director Lowe said his health and age are a concern and stated that he will not seek to retain his seat.

Director Keyser said he is undecided at this point, but

stressed that he has even less time to offer to Board service than he did a year ago.

“It does concern me that I will not be able to devote the time needed,” Keyser said.

Stronger committees?

In a related discussion, Treasurer Conrad Meyer said he agrees with comments made in the past by Shaver that it is vitally important to the future of the community to develop strong working committees of volunteers.

“Committees allow work to get spread across many people, and also serve as a training ground and potential source for future Board members,” Meyer said. Our committees are the lifeblood of the community.”

“I am 100% supportive to see this community operate more and more from committees and to not have so much responsibility placed on the Board members.”

Changes to voting rules

Tackling a series of related voting rules aimed at clarifying and simplifying the process before the upcoming Spring election, Darr distributed proposed amendments to the Board for discussion.

One major issue on the table was how to best address owners — specifically commercial owners — of multiple lots.

Darr recommended revising the existing language to limit

(See “Nominees,” p. 27)

SLLA Security

(Continued from page 3)

Keyser and Meyer opposed, but then backtracked as the Board continued discussion.

“I think we are overreacting a little bit,” Meyer said. “I understand the behaviors are not good, but I feel only a few are causing the issue, and we will penalize the ninety percent who aren’t the problem.”

He recommended a half-step — that is, closing the parks at 9:00 pm.

“This would send a message that we are not going to put up with this,” Meyer said. “It may elicit some response.”

Darr explained that, after dusk, there are only two primary groups using the Northside Park, the basketball players and the problem group. He said the basketball players are not causing an issue but do, in many cases, include a significant number of guests.

Keyser responded that as long as a landowner has guest passes, they can invite as many of their friends in to play as they’d like.

“That is my right,” he said. “We’re not going after the basketball players. We know who is the issue, and we’re not going to resolve this by changing the park to close at dusk.”

Northsider Joan Cook agreed with the 9:00 pm curfew at the park and argued in favor of making sure there were activities for older children in the community.

The Board also discussed adding more outdoor illumination throughout the park as a deterrent against vandalism and other unwanted activities.

Director Don Fentzlaff also recommended a cash reward for information leading to the prosecution of those individuals who caused the restroom fire.

Skateboarders damaging brickwork

Racine reported that bricks

on steps in front of the North Clubhouse and other SLLA buildings are being damaged by skateboarders.

“Our current rule states that skateboarding is only allowed on the basketball courts. We need better enforcement,” he said.

Cochran responded that skateboarders are directed to permitted areas when she or the guards see them violating the rule.

Keyser noted the problem is the skateboarders are using

the steps as jumps to perform tricks, “The basketball court is just a flat place.”

Shaver agreed but noted that a previous Board had looked into creating some form of a skate park, but the idea was dropped due to high costs and insurance concerns.

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Nominees

(Continued from page 26)

landowners to one vote no matter the number of lots owned; however, Racine pointed out that a company or business is legally considered a separate entity. Thus, a landowner with one lot would be permitted one vote. If that landowner also owned a second or more lots under a corporate name, they would also be entitled to another single vote.

Director Keyser said the issue is further complicated because a business may use multiple names, noting that as a self-employed business owner of a LLC registered with the State, he is eligible to use up to three other 'doing business as' [DBA] names.

In a related discussion of multiple votes, Darr said he knows of at least one case within the Association of a landowner giving lifetime occupancy rights to a resident.

"I feel that the owner of the property is the [voting] member," Darr said. "A resident with lifetime rights is not the same as a member, and should not be allowed to vote. However, the owner has the option to issue a proxy ballot to anyone they choose."

Handling a tie vote

Another proposed amendment to the rules clarifies steps the Board would take in the event of a tie for the last open seat during an election.

Darr recommended that the newly elected Board would break the tie by a secret ballot vote to be held immediately after the election results are announced, with the secret ballots tabulated by the Vote Counting Committee.

In the event of tie in this secret ballot process, he suggested the midterm directors – that is the non-newly elected Board members – would cast a second set of secret ballots to determine the outcome.

"This procedure will work fine for those years when we have four [directors] coming (See "Nominees," p. 28)



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Nominees

(Continued from page 28))

in and three are retained. But we still could have a problem if only three directors are coming in and four are retained," Darr explained. "I can't imagine it happening, but it is a possibility."

Darr also recommended clarifying how the definition of a quorum for the annual election is reached.

Specifically, Darr said a quorum is reached when ballots are cast by ten percent of all eligible Association members. It is not necessary for ten percent of the membership to actually attend the meeting.

Vote Counting Committee

Currently, the Vote Counting Committee, previously known as the Election Committee, was composed of five members appointed by the Board of Directors.

Director Shaver has criticized this policy in previous meetings, worried it creates a potential for the Board to influence the election process. He instead proposed that the Judicial Committee be charged with the annual task of counting ballots.

"The Judicial Committee is a non-partisan committee," Shaver said. "I have not been comfortable in the past when the [SLLA] President, not the Board, has selected who was going to count the ballots."

Both Directors Bob Racine and Conrad Meyer supported Shaver's suggestion.

"If our goal is to have an independent and as impartial committee as possible . . . that is all above board with no appearance of impropriety, how do you do that?" Meyer asked. "Bud has proposed using the Judicial Committee and that is the idea [for its existence]."

Darr noted that the members of the Judicial Committee are also Board appointees.

Community Manager Alina Cochran also noted that a conflict of interest would arise if a Judicial Committee member was the spouse of a Board candidate. Racine offered a solution to that problem, noting that the member with a conflict could be recused

from the vote count, allowing one of the Judicial Committee alternates to step in.

Ballot handling

Moving to another election concern, Darr said that ballots are received in the office often among a large volume of other documents.

"Staff has to go through the envelopes and separate everything," he explained. "I propose we go to a colored [return] envelope strictly for ballots, as suggested by Ray Pardue and Brenda Massimo."

Meyer asked if the process had been road-tested; Darr said Massimo had tried out the process and was pleased with the result.

Discussion of Board terms

Taking a lengthy discussion of voting and election procedures in an entirely different direction, Keyser asked the Board to reconsider the existing term of office for Directors – perhaps adding a year – so that any given election would not fill a majority of seats on the Board.

Keyser expressed concern that a newly-elected majority of four can, in effect, take over the Board and diminish the other three members.

"When I was asked to step back in with the Board, one of my requests on coming back was that we would

review this," said Keyser.

During last year's somewhat tumultuous election, four seats on the Board were filled with newcomers, while the incumbent director candidates were turned away. Following the Organizational Meeting, when three of the newcomers were elected into the executive positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer; two of the three midterm directors resigned. Keyser had sought re-election and was appointed to fill one of those vacancies by a vote of acclamation.

Darr responded the outcome of that election was a reflection that the community wanted to see a new direction with leadership, and that, so far, he believes the majority are happy with that decision.

Keyser said he too was pleased with the progress made by the current directors, but added that he was not willing to sit quietly while the previous Board was bashed for their decisions.

"We are not going to get into faction Boards here," he said, to a smattering of applause. "The previous Board had two things to accomplish, and I feel that we accomplished one hundred percent of what we intended. Those were tough decisions and, looking around, I think we made good decisions."

"I am not bringing this up because what happened in the last election was wrong for the community," Keyser added. "But, to be more effective in the future, we need to address this; so we don't have four who come in and override everything done before them."

Noting that the Nominating Committee is facing significant challenges to get candidates to run for a two-year term of office, Director Shaver said moving to a non-majority 3-2-2 election with three year Board terms could be even more problematic.

"I support Bruce's idea, but I am concerned it will make it even more difficult for candidates," said Shaver.

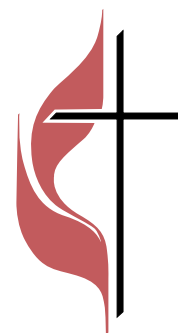
Treasurer Meyer suggested an alternative would be to

allow one-year terms. "If they like it, they could always run again the next year. It's not like there is any real cost associated with running."

Shaver objected that, without significant committee experience under their belt, newly-elected directors often spend the first year of service just learning the ropes.

"In my mind, it takes a Board member a year to get fully indoctrinated into what they are doing," he argued.

"We need to completely readdress how we are going to get people to run for the Board," Shaver said. "If we don't have an effective Board, this community is going to degrade and that will have a profound effect on each of our property values."



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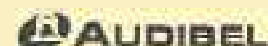
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