

A Sub for Sequoia



NC State Engineering Student David Widman is building a two-man submarine in the Widman family garage in Seven Lakes North. The family project has become a community project, as area businesses contribute time and labor to bring Widman's design to life. [See story on page 4.]

Bylaws rewrite nearly done

by **Ellen Marcus**
 Times Reporter



The Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board is ready to take the rewritten

SLLA Bylaws to the December 18 Open Meeting, with the goal of approving a final draft that can be distributed to the Community and, potentially, win final approval in January.

Many months have gone into proofing and editing the draft. During their Monday, December 9 Work Session, the board discussed any final edits.

Director Bob Racine noted an oversight in the rewrite and a potential conflict with the existing rules and regulations. The Judicial Committee is reliant on an alternate if one of the committee members is absent. Racine recommended that the original rules and regulations under judicial should not be changed.

Racine, who initially voted in favor of the bylaws review, expressed his concern about the overhaul and questioned

(See "SLLA," p. 20)

Caddell named County Chair

by **Greg Hankins**
 Times Editor



Larry Caddell will serve as Chairman of Moore County Board of Commissioners in 2014, elected unanimously by his fellow Commissioners during the Board's Tuesday, December 2 regular meeting.

Caddell is beginning his eighth year on the Board, as is Jimmy Melton, who was re-elected to the post of Vice Chairman.

"This is one of the toughest jobs I have ever had, and this is my second time at it," Caddell said after being named to the post.

He credited outgoing Chair-

man Nick Picerno with leading the Board in one of its most productive years in recent memory.

When Picerno assumed the Chairmanship last December, he assigned two-Commissioner "task forces" to work on specific areas, for example, utilities, information technology, budget, and facilities.

"If you look back on the last seven years, last year was one of the most productive that we have ever had," Caddell said. The new Chairman's intention to continue the task force system was cemented during the meeting when he named himself and Picerno to a US Open task force.

(See "Commissioners," p. 15)

Unzoned 400 acres worries Council

by **Ellen Marcus**
 Times Reporter



The historic McDonalds community was first settled in the early 19th century. Many of the small family farms have been passed down through the generations and portions of the land are still farmed. McDonalds Chapel and its 19th century cemetery are located on Foxfire Road.

The four mile long Foxfire Road connecting Foxfire Village and the Village of Pinehurst runs through the McDonalds community. Residential dwellings along Foxfire Road are typical of the rural Sandhills, and include

mobile homes, as well as modular, stick built, and brick houses.

A sickle shaped 400-acre tract of land crosses Foxfire Road about a mile and a half east of what one might think is the Foxfire Village city limit. But that tract, which adjoins the proposed Stonehill Pines development to the North, was annexed by the Village some time ago. It is owned by Robert Edwards.

Four hundred acres and no zoning

The status of the Edwards tract occupied the Village Council during their Tuesday, December 10 regular meeting. Councilwoman Leslie Frusco worried that the tract

(See "Foxfire," p. 13)

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Christmas Open House at Malcolm Blue Farm

The public is invited to the Malcolm Blue Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15, 1 pm to 4 pm. The 1825 Malcolm Blue Farm House, is located at 1177 Bethesda Road, Aberdeen.

Activities include storytelling, popcorn stringing, making your own grapevine wreath to take home, baking, caroling, decorating the farm-

house and pioneer games for the children.

There is no admission charge although donations are accepted.

The Stone Soup Children's Museum will be open with games and activities throughout both afternoons. One new exhibit is a program on the care of chickens and the nutritional value of eggs. Children can watch a metal toy hen laying eggs then go to the farm's own chicken coop. Pioneer games such as stilt walking and hoop rolling outside the museum in the meadow.

The Clayton - Blair Museum features a new exhibit, Glen Rounds - This is Your Life. Rounds wrote and illustrated hundreds of children's books during his life time. The exhibit depicts his life

from the Badlands of South Dakota to New York City during The Depression to Southern Pines after serving in the United States Army. In the mid 1960s, he moved into the abandoned Malcolm Blue Farmhouse where observed nature and wrote *Snake Tree*. Many of Rounds' books will be available for children to read during the Christmas Open House.

Elizabeth Garner of Pinehurst, a storyteller, will be joined by Santa Mouse as she tells of his Christmas adventures. There will be three readings at 1 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm on December 14 and 15.

In the farmhouse, Paula Caddell, Fran Brafford and friends will entertain with Folk Music and a Christmas Carols sing-along.

Enjoy the Heritage Holiday Foods, which will fill Mrs. Blue's Dining Room Table, such as Persimmon Pudding, Ginger Snaps, Scottish Short Bread, Lemon Squares, Mulberry Tarts, Watermelon Preserves, Dried Cantaloupe, Raisons, Fudge, Salty Honey

Pie, Brunswick Stew, Cornbread and Hot Cider.

The Christmas Open House provides visitors a glance into the past, when life and Christmas was much simpler in the Sandhills among its early settlers.

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@sevenlakestimes.net, dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, mailed to P.O. Box 468, West End, NC 27376, or faxed to 888-806-2572.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

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Early Deadline - Thursday, 12/19

The deadline for news and ad copy for the December 27 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times* will be one day earlier than usual — on Thursday, December 19.

The paper will be posted on the web and distributed around Seven Lakes on Thursday, December 26. Copies will appear in local mailboxes on Friday, December 27.



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Ed Hill elected Business Guild President

by Cheryl Darwell, Secretary
Seven Lakes Business Guild

The Seven Lakes Business Guild held their last meeting of 2013 at Seven Lakes Country Club in November.

Outgoing President Karen Milligan and Treasurer Vann Joyce were presented with gifts and thanks by the members.

Ed Hill of Edward Jones Investments was voted in as the new Seven Lakes Business Guild President. Hill, a native Seven Laker, his wife and two little boys reside in Seven Lakes. He specializes in retiree investments and small business 401K plans.



Business Guild President
Ed Hill of Edward Jones

Danny Bowers of Lake House and Cheryl Darwell of Cruise Planners, will continue as Vice President and Secretary.

Tree Fest a big success

The Guild Tree Fest was held on Sunday, December 1 and was a big success. Gayle Mace of Mace Electric did an amazing job coordinating the event.

The following businesses sponsored a tree:

- Mace Electric
- L Mace Studios Dance and Cheer
- Karen Simmons Designs
- Miss Belle's Pet Spa
- Seven Lakes Country Club
- Seven Lakes Baptist Church
- Stackhouse Plumbing
- FirstHealth – Dr. Helen Mantila
- Grace Church of Seven Lakes

- Windhorse Wellness Center, Dr. Renee Cowan
 - Sittin' Easy
 - Seven Lakes Dance
 - Chatlee Boat and Marine
- Anna Edwards of Wells Fargo Bank provided hot chocolate; Linda Drotman at the Snack Shack offered chili, Sharon Bialer from Temp-Control HVAC served hot cider. McDonald's of Seven Lakes provided coffee served by Chrissy Callis and Dr. Renee Cowan; Casa Garcia Restaurant provided salsa and chips; and Food Lion of Seven Lakes gave out Christmas cookies.

Visitors enjoyed entertainment by vocalists Dana Blakely and Mollie Edwards, dancers from L Mace Studios Dance and Cheer; Miss Noel Queens from Business and Professional Women; dancers and vocalist from Seven Lakes Dance; and Cal Loy and Steve Melone with Seven Lakes Fire Department

brought in the very special guest. . . Santa.

Many thanks to the following businesses who donated their time and services:

- BB&T – (Matt, Mela and Donna) Santa Goodies and Santa Elves to assist with Santa;
- Lake House Bar and Grill – (Danny) with stage & tree setup;
- Mace Electric – (Kenny and Gayle) who powered up trees and decorations, and provided signage and upkeep for the trees.
- Sittin' Easy – (Walter & Kim Harper, Marla and Art) with seating for the show, Santa's chair and poinsettias for the stage;
- Seven Lakes Friendly Mart (Randy and Aaron) – sound equipment, crew and stagehands;
- L Mace Studios – (Lisa) Entertainment Chair, and
- Daryl Bender and Deanne Sharp for help setting up.

Membership Renewal Time

The Guild renewal letter and information will be distributed in the next few weeks.

If you would like to join, please contact Cheryl Darwell 910-673-SAIL (7245) or via email CDarwell@CruisePlanners.com

Kiwanis Holiday Decorating Contest

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club will offer a \$65 prize for the best lawn and/or lakefront Christmas decoration display within the community. Three prizes will be awarded - - one each for the North, South, and West Sides. Judges will be surveying all Seven Lakes properties during the weekend of December 20, 21, and 22 between 5 pm and 9 pm. Please ensure that your lights are "on" at the appropriate times.

This year the Kiwanis Club has also offered special

awards to the top-four best decorated business guild facilities.

"These promotions are a continuing our efforts to encourage recognition of those Seven Lakers that put forth extra efforts to build pride in this wonderful community in which we live," said Ken Jenkins, President.

The Seven Lakes Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at noon at the Seven Lakes Country Club. Prospective members are encouraged to visit.

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Could you do this in your garage? David

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

What a senior engineering student needs — in addition to a diploma, of course — is a solid resumé. Five years of study at a top university doesn't come cheap. There are loans to repay and a job

to find.

Like any other fifth year engineering student, Northsider David Widman needs a hefty resumé to set him apart. And Widman's resumé is definitely hefty — it weighs in at about 3,000 pounds.

It's made of solid steel,

roughly tubular in shape, self-propelled, and will one day explore the murky depths of Lake Sequoia.

You got it: Widman's resume is a submarine — a two-person submersible, currently hanging from a gantry crane in the Mr. Wizard workshop that passes for the Widman family garage.

"I like to work in the shop,

to work with my hands," Widman said during a presentation of the submarine project to several members of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board of Directors.

"A lot of my friends in the engineering program are all about theory. They just want to sit in a cubicle and crunch numbers. I want some excite-

ment. I want to build things, to make things."

Widman caught that bug at an early age from his father, Mark, himself an inveterate tinkerer on projects large and small.

"I started at an early age building things," the younger Widman said. "My Dad had us restoring a Jeep when we

(Continued on page 5)



Engineer's palace – It takes a garage full of pretty sophisticated equipment to build a submarine.



Piecing together the puzzle – Widman surveys a table full of laser cut steel components for the sub.

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Widman is building a two-man sub in his

were just kids.”

“These days we spend too much time telling kids what they can’t do,” Mark said. “I tell my sons [he has four] that you don’t have to be an expert to become an expert.”

“David is focusing on mechanical engineering, but is also working in electrical. The sub is giving him experience in a whole variety of disciplines.”

David and Mark, along with younger son Ian, briefed the Board on the complexities and challenges of the submarine project.

Start with a propane tank

The Widmans aren’t the first hobbyists to get the notion that they might create their own small submarine.

A couple of farmers up in Kentucky created a similar craft and posted videos on the internet.

Mark got in touch with the pair and spent three days in the Bluegrass State studying the farmers’ design.

But the big difference in the Widman approach is the sophisticated engineering knowledge and tools that David brought to bear on the project, as well as the degree to which they have drawn on the expertise of local companies.

The heart of the sub is a cylinder of steel — that is, a propane tank. Actually, the design incorporates two propane tanks. But these aren’t just your garden variety tanks. You have to go back

to the 1960s to find tanks that are thick enough, and Vanderveer Gas Company helped the Widman’s locate two of those old tanks.

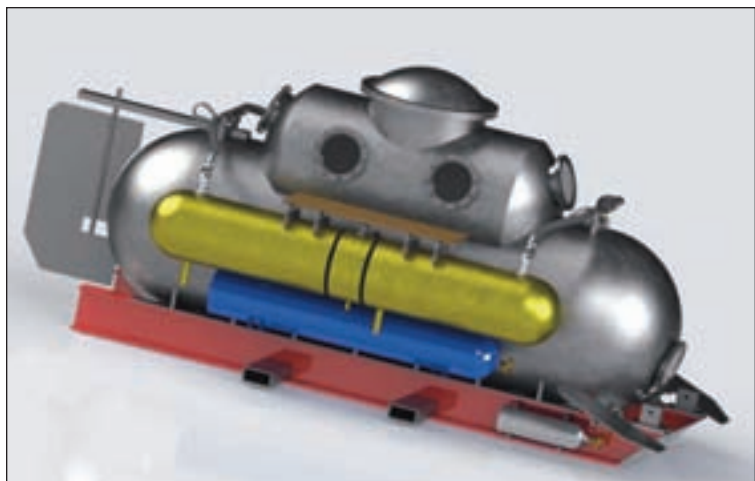
The rest of the metal in the craft is one-quarter inch steel, with parts designed by David and laser cut by Southeastern Tool & Die in Aberdeen, a company that manufactures parts for Caterpillar and other major manufacturers.

You don’t use an expensive laser cutter to cut expensive quarter-inch steel without being quite sure that the part you’ve designed will be an exact fit.

To make sure, David Widman relied on the family’s CNC cutter, designing the parts on a computer and then having the computer-guided cutter carve them out (See “Sub,” p. 26)



Hands on – Widman told *The Times* that his goal is to be a hands on engineer — to make things — and the sub project is providing plenty of practice.



Dive! – The engineering software Widman uses allowed him to produce this 3D representation of the finished submarine.



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Public weighs in on cell tower applications

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor



It was a long, long day focused on cell-phone towers when members of the Moore County Planning Board on Tuesday, December 5, held a four-hour work session on the County's Wireless Communications Facilities ordinance and spent four more hours that evening considering applications for four wireless communications towers.

In the end, the Board

approved two towers, turned down another, and tabled action on the fourth until additional information could be gathered about the proposed site.

Cellphone towers require a conditional use permit from the County, and the Planning Board is charged with issuing those permits.

American Towers, LLC, working on behalf of AT&T, is pursuing an aggressive plan to erect a dozen towers in the County, with the goal of filling in AT&T's Moore County coverage map, bringing service to rural areas

where users cannot currently access AT&T's network — or, in many cases, any cell-phone carrier.

Once the towers are approved and erected, American Towers will lease space on them to other cellphone companies, as well as for other communications systems, including, in some cases, the County, for antennas to link law enforcement, fire, and EMS with the 911 Communications Center.

Public input has impact

Much of the public concern over the towers proposed for

Moore County is about height. American Tower is seeking permits for a number of 250 and 300 foot towers.

So, it was somewhat ironic that the one tower application turned down by the Planning Board during its December 5 meeting was the shortest of the bunch: a 195-foot unlighted tower just off NC Highway 24-27 between Carthage and Cameron.

A motion to approve the tower split the Board four-to-four, with Johnny Harris, Molly Boggs, Todd Williams, and Jules Latham voting against issuing the permit.

The Planning Board operates under Robert's Rules of Order, and County Attorney Misty Leland confirmed that, under those rules, the motion failed, and the permit was denied.

Input from residents who live nearby the tower site appeared to play a key role in the Board's decision.

Don Bennett, who said he lives across the street from the proposed tower site, told the Board that he has Verizon cell service and "I have absolutely no problem with coverage."

(See "Tower," p. 27)

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<p>106 SIMMONS • 7LW</p> <p>4BD+BONUS, CLOSE TO MARINA - \$329,900</p>	<p>108 SMATHERS • 7LW</p> <p>BOLTON BLDRS AWARD WINNER - \$265,000</p>	<p>124 SHAW DRIVE • 7LW</p> <p>WATERVIEW!</p> <p>CLOSE TO MARINA! - \$245,000</p>	<p>7 LAKES OFFICE & WAREHOUSE</p> <p>3600 SF + 2400 SF + .8 AC FENCED LOT - \$325,000</p>	<p>101 HAMPTON CT • 7LS</p> <p>3 BD + 2.5 BA BRICK - \$210,000</p>

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ReBorn makes old furniture new again

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

It's not the only reason that Jan Connor chose "ReBorn" as the name of her new shop in Seven Lakes Village, but that's an accurate description of what happens to the furniture and salvaged architectural pieces that come in looking old and worn.

They emerge looking fresh and new: ReBorn.

"I love to find old vintage furniture," Connor told *The Times*, as she sits on a painted and antiqued bench made from the ornate headboard of a bed.

"It doesn't even have to be old. I love to find pieces that can be repurposed."

"We take shutters and turn them into wall decor," she explains.

The "we" in this case includes business partner Justin Thomas of Seven Lakes Body Shop. Thomas handles the carpentry and construction end of ReBorn, while Connor handles paint, stain, and refinishing. They collaborate on design.

Connor is a resident of Seven Lakes North and native of Montgomery County who

has spent the past twenty years in Moore County.

"I've always loved to paint," she said. "I have painted for years." But Connor at first confined that passion to interior and exterior house painting.

"I didn't think about doing the furniture, until someone suggested it," she said.

"The passion for painting is what got me into it."

For some time, Connor has been finding and recreating unique pieces, selling them from a booth in Pastimes in West End. But she outgrew that booth — and also wanted more workspace to handle custom work for folks who have a particular piece that they want refinished.

That's what landed her and Thomas in the shop at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, right across the parking lot from First Bank, in the heart of Seven Lakes Business Village.

"I treat every single piece as if it is going into my house," she told *The Times*.

"I love the treasure hunt — looking for pieces that are unusual," she added. "Something you can't find at Tar-

get."

The shop will focus on Connor and Thomas' creations and custom refinishing, but will also offer gifts and jewelry — and Thomas told *The Times*: "I want to keep it where it is reasonably priced for people."

ReBorn's Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, December 14, from 9:00 am

to 6:00 pm, with free giveaways all day.

Regular business hours are Thursday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:30 pm, and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Sundays.

ReBorn's phone number is 910-639-2710, and the store has a Facebook page at facebook.com/rebornvintagehome.



Jan Connor and Justin Thomas are opening ReBorn — a new furniture refinishing shop — in Seven Lakes Village.



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From homebrew to the wildest B&B this side

by Ellen Marcus
Times Reporter

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, the little town of Star, just over the line in Montgomery County, is the perfect place for a siesta, with plenty of outdoor benches and green space to relax in the sun.

And, while you're resting, you can contemplate what can make, break, or sustain a town.

The history of Star is one of a bustling mill town strategically perched next to the railroad.

The 21st century reality of Star is that it can no longer rely on the past. The Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway is moving its headquarters to Candor. Spray-on-tans have replaced the pantyhose once knitted in Star mills. The sock mills have packed up and moved to Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

But, reflected in the historic storefronts are new signs of life — new businesses breathing life into the old mill town.

Maria and Jose Muñoz have owned Tienda Estrellita — that would be the “Little Star Store” in English — for three years. The Muñoz's and their four children have made

Star their home. The children attend school, play soccer, and help at their parents' store.

Maria's business caters to confirmations, quinceañeras, birthday parties, and weddings, with a Mexican American influence. A cheery paint job nearly disguises the fact that the tienda was once a service station.

Not an inch of floor space is wasted and miniature Disneyesque princess ball gowns hang from the ceiling,

sparkling glass slippers perch on shelves, and large colorful piñatas swing in the breeze from the fan.

Down the road, Sherry Britt has been serving up good country cooking for quite a few years. Her son Corbin grew up in Star, going to school and helping at the family restaurant. He thinks the economy might be on the mend.

“The past month, we have been doing a little better,” Corbin said. The house

favorite at Sherry's is a steak and chicken stir-fry sporting a collage of ingredients.

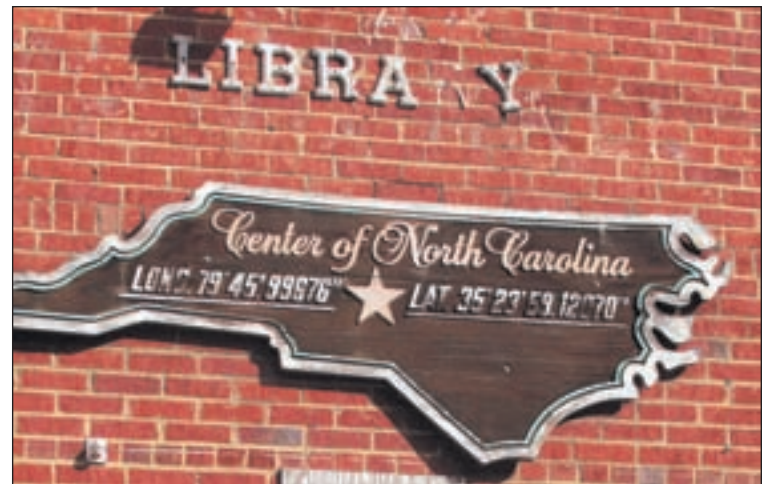
Kerri and David Brewer are out for a quick stroll. They stop to talk in front of the Star Beer and Wine Supply

Store. David grew up in Star; and Kerri, in New York. David remembers when the town was once vibrant. He says that most people now drive to Southern Pines and Ashe-

(Continued on page 9)



Fancy dresses for little girls hang from the ceiling of Tienda Estrellita in Star.



The Town of Star sits in the geographical center of the State of North Carolina



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of anywhere, Star is chock full of surprises

boro to eat out or shop.

Curiously, not one person encountered in the stores or on the street makes mention of Star's most famous celebrity: Psychic Gary Spivey, who bought the old Star Boarding House that was built by

Angus and Deborah Leach in 1896.

next to the railroad tracks The freshly painted, elab-

orately trimmed, turn-of-the-century inn has aged gracefully. The manicured grounds are vibrant with blooming roses and azaleas. A mammoth white pine stands sentinel on the hill.

It is very nearly the perfect picture of Southern respectability. But the ostentatious vintage Rolls Royce parked outside is a hint at the over-the-top art-attack

(See "Star," p. 25)



Richard Wallace



The art collection in psychic Gary Spivey's B&B is museum quality.



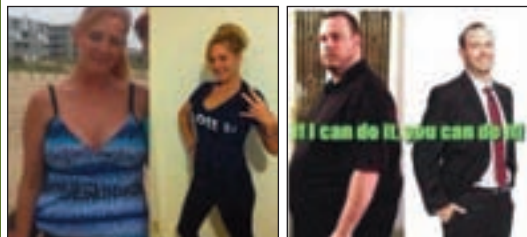
It's not just everywhere you find a room outfitted with twin clawfoot tubs.



Kerri and David Brewer

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In memory of . . .

N. James "Jim" Ball, 93, formerly of Seven Lakes died Friday, December 7, at Cortland Regional Medical Center, Cortland, NY.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria Ball; son, Allan, D. Ball, and his siblings, Billie Barrett and Jack Ball.

Survivors include his son, James D. Ball and wife, Michele, of Cortland, NY; daughter-in-law, Nancy Ball, of Homer, NY; three grandchildren, Derek Pyle and wife, Jennifer, of Wynantskill, NY, Andrea Davis, of Cortland, NY and Dr. David Ball, of Blacksburg, VA; and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions in N. James Ball memory may be made to FirstHealth Hospice, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst NC, 28374.

Florence H. Murphy, 86, of Seven Lakes North, died December 4.

Mrs. Murphy was born in New York City, New York.

Survivors include her sons Richard, Douglas, and Michael; grandchildren Meaghan, Joshua and Michaela.

Services will be held at a

later date. Interment will be at Seven Lakes Cemetery.

Boles Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. of Seven Lakes is assisting the family.

Lora L. Buelow, 70, of Seven Lakes, died Tuesday, December 3, at Penick Village, after a battle with cancer.

She was born in Burlington, IA, daughter of Walter and Elizabeth (Elting) Schiefer.

Mrs. Buelow earned an accounting degree from Scott Community College. She lived with her family in Horicon, WI, Bettendorf, IA, and Raleigh before retiring with husband Gerry in Seven Lakes.

She was an active member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church of Southern Pines, past regent and secretary of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Alfred Moore Chapter, and Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, Deep River Chapter, and she enjoyed quilting with two local groups, The Sandhills Quilter's Guild, and The Queen Bee.

She was preceded in death by her husband Gerald Buelow, earlier this year.

Survivors include daughters Lynn (John) Ries, of Wilsonville, OR; Julia (Eric) Gilbert, of Princeton, NJ; and Emily (Robert) Erickson, of Raleigh; siblings James (Mary) Schiefer, of Littleton, CO; and William (Emily) Schiefer, of Iowa City, IA; and her grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, in Southern Pines, on Sunday, December 8.

Memorials may be made to Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1517 Luther Way, Southern Pines, NC 28387; or the Alfred Moore Chapter of NSDAR, c/o Marcia Rowbottom, 175 Juniper Creek Blvd., Pinehurst, NC 28374.

Boles Funeral Home assisted the family.

John P. "Jack" Henrich, 89, of the Town of Tonawanda, NY, died Saturday, November 30 at DeGraff Memorial Hospital, North Tonawanda, NY after a short illness.

Mr. Henrich was the original head golf professional at Elma Meadows Golf Course and was nationally renowned for his skills at repairing and

refurbishing golf clubs,

He was a Professional Golf Association Hall of Fame member, was the pro at the Erie County-owned course from the day it opened in 1960 until he retired in 1989.

Born in Buffalo, he was a graduate of Kensington High School and served in the Navy during World War II. Returning from service, he was a heavy machinery operator for Springstead Construction for 10 years.

A life member of the PGA, he won the organization's Horton Smith Award in 1975 for his contributions to education.

He was one of the first instructors to teach golf club repair for the PGA and led classes and repair clinics

throughout the nation. Three golf equipment companies, Dunlop, Royal and Spaulding, contracted with him to do their repairs for the Northeast.

In 1974, he started his own retail golf shop, Woods to Wedges in Clarence, for equipment sales and club repair.

He maintained a winter home in Seven Lakes, where he volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Edna Fessler Henrich; daughters, Donna and Terry Houle; and two grandsons.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, December 4 at Kenmore Baptist Church, Kenmore, NY.



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In memory of . . .

Rose Kathryn Dady Conway, 79, formerly of Seven Lakes died with her family by her side at Cliff View, St. George, Utah on November 29.

Mrs. Conway was a resident of Mesquite NV for the past three years. She was born

in McEwen, TN, the youngest of seven siblings.

She worked for an actuarial firm in Nashville, TN when she met and married career Naval Officer, James (Jim) Conway in 1956. They traveled throughout the United States and a number of for-

eign countries during her husband's active naval service and subsequent retirement.

Mrs. Conway was preceded in death by her parents, Oliver C. Sr. and Sarah Hatcher Dady; brothers, Charlie and Ed Dady; sisters, Bonnie Griffin, Alma Legler, and Mabel

Larkins.

Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Jim; daughter, Emily Harrison (David); son, James (Joyce); three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; her brother, O.C. Dady Jr.; and several nieces, nephews, and

cousins.

Services will be private and conducted at a later date. Memorials made be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis Tennessee.

Chamber thanks Small Business Network co-chairs

The Moore County Chamber of Commerce thanks Tom Zaleski and Susan Hays Barr for their commitment the last year as co-chairs for the 2013 Small Business Network (SBN). Barr, of Barr Associates, and Zaleski, of NC Marketing Solutions did a dynamic job of serving as co-chairs.

Susan Hays Barr has been an active Chamber member. She chaired the HREA in 2012, and in 2013 has been the organizer of the Small Business Network (SBN)

lunch group. As an expert in helping people align their natural talents with their business tactics, her business coaching practice gets people in Moore and surrounding counties the outcomes they want. Susan Hays Barr can be reached at theBarr Associates at 910.215.0077 or atsbarr@thebarrassociates.com

Tom Zaleski has enjoyed over 35 years of self employment as a teacher, retailer, distributor, and manufac-

turer's representative. In retirement, he launched NC Marketing Solutions to help small business owners grow their business. The Chamber

greatly appreciates his efforts over the last two years as the Small Business Network (SBN) breakfast coordinator. Zaleski can be reached at

NC Marketing Solutions, 910.673.2260 or at zaleski@marketingsolutionsnc.com

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Big Sweep cleanup targets Robbins waterways

Keep Moore County Beautiful recently took part in the North Carolina Big Sweep Cleanup Program, which is the North Carolina component of the International Coastal Cleanup.

The North Carolina Big Sweep is a one-day event to remove litter in North Carolina. The North Carolina cleanup was initiated in 1987 as a coastal cleanup called Beach Sweep. The event has expanded inland and was renamed in 1989 to become North Carolina Big Sweep, the nation's first statewide waterway cleanup.

In 2002, its mission expanded from litter-free

waters to a litter-free environment. In its 26-year history, almost 335,000 Big Sweep volunteers collected over 11 million pounds of debris in North Carolina. Moore County's active role began with the Moore County Board of Commissioners declaring October 5, 2013 as Moore County Big Sweep Day.

Two events were then organized by Keep Moore County Beautiful and their environmental conscientious group of volunteers. The two clean up events were held at Lake Park, Page Lake of Aberdeen, Bear Creek and Cabin Creek waterways in

Robbins.

KMCB volunteers collected a substantial amount of litter along the roadways and shores of these areas.

Types of trash collected ranged from cigarette butts, plastic, glass, tires and one washing machine.

KMCB is very proud to participate in this program and very grateful for all the groups and volunteers that put forth a collaborative effort to continue to Keep Moore County Beautiful.

For more information or to volunteer for future KMCB events, please contact Chad Beane, Executive Director 910-947-3637 or Karen S. Schreifels, Assistant at 910-947-4312.



It takes some inventive kayaking to wrestle an old tire out of the creek



Big Sweep volunteers pulled one discarded tire and plenty of bags of trash were pulled out of the creeks and ponds around Robbins

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Foxfire Council

(Continued from front page)

has not been zoned.

"We need to tackle the zoning of that 400 some odd acres of Edwards," Frusco said. "We need to tackle this. I would like the Council to give approval and direct Village Clerk Lisa Kivett to do whatever we need to start doing. Currently, it is unzoned — which, technically, means anyone can come into that property and do whatever they want. Even in the Village limits we have no control over it. And the County really doesn't care about our ordinances."

The background

Mayor George Erickson shared the history of how the land came to be part of the Village, yet unzoned.

"When Robert Edwards came to us to annex the 400 acres, at that time Stonehill Pines was still a viable project," Erickson recollected. "In the discussion with him about that, [Village Clerk]

Lisa [Kivett] checked with the Village attorney Michael Brough, who was working with us. Edwards was told if wasn't zoned within sixty days, it becomes unzoned. It was previously zoned by Pinehurst in its ETJ as R5."

In December of 2009 Stonehill Pines initiated plans for a subdivision north of Foxfire Road and east of Hoffman Road that would include a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course, resort hotel, and residential development. The recession combined with what many see as an oversupply of golf courses in Moore County brought discussion of the development to a standstill.

According to Erickson, Edwards was waiting to see if Stonehill Pines would actually be viable.

"Robert Edwards said Ms. Hoffman — who was the funds behind Stonehill Pines — had talked to him about the possibility of purchasing the 400 acres as part of

Stonehill Pines, to be developed and zoned all equestrian. As part of the overall project, at some future point, Stonehill would come to us and have an equestrian area as part of their whole development. With that explanation, I never pushed zoning the 400 acres."

Lots being sold

Edwards has recently sold several lots subdivided from the 400 acres.

"Various pieces have been sub-divided and sold," Frusco said. "It now isn't a question of going to Edwards and saying we are going to work with you to get it rezoned."

"We need to do this before he starts selling other property to people," she continued. "Zone it all. The whole thing equestrian [zoning], then if someone wants to buy a lot and wants to have it rezoned something else, they can come and request it. It is more cost effective to do it all at once."

"I think this needs to be a priority at this point and time," Frusco said. "The people that have already purchased are building a very nice home. But someone could come in and put a double wide on it."

Zoning Matters

Councilman Mick McCue advised, "Don't make it RA;

it [RA zoning] has faults and flaws."

Frusco agreed: "Equestrian is still within the Village. We already looked at that and it doesn't mean you have to have a horse. We have already gone through this. Mr. Edwards could sell a five-acre property. But it couldn't have a horse on it, though."

(See "Foxfire," p. 14)

Gift Wrapping Breakfast

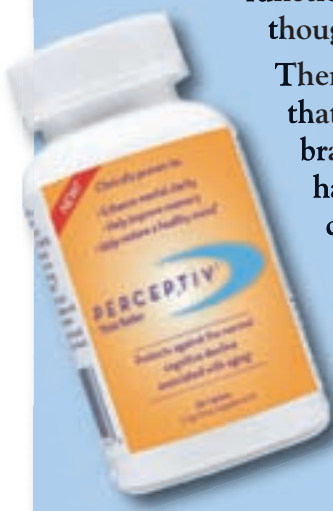
Breakfast and Gift Wrapping are on the menu Saturday, December 14, beginning at 7 am - 11 am, at Doubs Chapel UMC, 1444 Doubs Chapel Rd., West End. The church will be serving breakfast: pancakes, bacon or sausage, coffee or orange juice. Cost is \$7 per person; age 3 and under will be free. Also during this time they will offer a gift wrapping service for dona-

tions. From 9 am - 11 am, Santa and his helper will be on site to visit with the children and have pictures made.

Then at 11:00 am, raffle winners announced for \$500, \$300, and \$200 gift cards. Have breakfast, fellowship with others, bring any gifts you wish to have wrapped, purchase a raffle ticket and let the children talk with Santa.

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Foxfire Council

(Continued from page 13)

"The equestrian zoning seems to make the most sense at this point," Frusco continued. "Get a buyer for 100 acres . . . and then come in and rezone again. At this point, before we get more

complicated get the whole parcel zoned."

Equestrian means 'fancy'

Foxfire Village's Equestrian Zoning doesn't quite jive with the existing rural properties on Foxfire Road. Equestrian Zoning requires a minimum

structure size of 2000 square feet of heated space, excluding garages and porches, on the ground level of the home.

Only horses, dogs, cats, and other household pets are permitted. Equestrian zoning would prohibit chick-

ens, roosters, donkeys, mules, cows, sheep, goats, and other farm animals.

It also does not allow for mobile or manufactured homes. Farming is limited to hay or grain for animals.

Frusco stressed, "We are

talking about properties in the Village. We are not trying to or talking about trying to do rezoning of anyone's property. We need to get this process started and take care of it, before more property starts transferring hands."

Moore Philharmonic Winter Concert

Celebrate the holiday season by enjoying an afternoon of free holiday music.

The Moore Philharmonic Orchestra will hold its ninth annual winter concert at the Sunrise Theater on Sunday December 15, at 3 pm. Sunrise Theater, 250 Northwest Broad Street, Southern Pines. No tickets are required, but tax-deductible donations are always welcome.

Since 2005, the Moore Philharmonic Orchestra has served the Sandhills community supporting music appreciation and education. It provides an outlet for approximately 50 volunteer musicians to perform varied programs of orchestral literature. Members include adults and talented college, high school and middle school students.

It is a non-profit 501c(3) organization and relies on individual and business contributions to cover minimal operating and general expenses and to support a robust scholarship fund benefitting Moore County music students. The Orchestra is a member of the Moore County Arts Council, the Moore County Chamber of Commerce and the League of American Orchestras.

For more information, visit the Moore Philharmonic Orchestra website at www.mporchestra.com

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Commissioners

(Continued from front page)

Assessing the health of the County's citizens

The Commissioners heard from Health Director Robert Wittmann several times during the December 2 meeting, first with a brief presentation on the Community Health Assessment recently developed by the Health Department, working with FirstHealth of the Carolinas and Moore Health, Inc. an organization that brings together companies and agencies that have a stake in the health of County citizens.

Wittman explained that county health departments are required by state law to conduct a community health assessment at least once every four years. A new federal mandate requires hospitals to conduct an assessment every three years. Moore County and FirstHealth agreed to combine their efforts and produce a single health assessment.

The Health Department's Matt Garner told the Commissioners that the assess-

ment included door to door interviews with 210 households, combining that with health data compiled by both hospitals and the state.

The result was the identification of three priority areas:

- Obesity, in both adults and children.
- Substance abuse, including tobacco.
- Aging issues.

Garner said the Health Department and Moore Health met in October to identify resources for addressing these health issues and will present action plans to the state in June of 2104.

Wittmann said health directors from thirteen counties in the region will be meeting to compare their health priorities and develop strategies for working together to address them.

State funding cut for dental hygiene

Later in the meeting, Wittmann asked the Commissioners to add a Dental Hygienist position to the Health Department. He

explained that Moore and Montgomery County have for many years shared the services of a hygienist who works in the schools to implement an oral health program.

This year, the General Assembly cut state funding for the program in wealthier counties, including Moore. Just before the program was terminated, a dental hygienist with considerable experience in delivering oral health programs moved her family from Union County to fill the local position.

Wittmann said it is important to continue the program in the schools, and that he hoped to be able to hire this particular hygienist in order to take advantage of her experience. The cost is approximately \$50,000.

He asked the Commission-

ers to add the position for the current budget year, indicating that the Health Department would find grant funding to avoid any increase the department's expense budget.

Commissioner Picerno sought assurances from Wittmann that adding the position would not increase the department's budget in 2015 — an assurance that Wittmann was not willing to give.

"We are hoping that within twenty-four months that we will be able to find a home outside of County government for this position that would involve no County funding at all," Wittmann said.

On a motion from Commissioner Randy Saunders, the new position was approved unanimously.

"That will give us an opportunity between now and July 1 [the beginning of the 2015 budget year] to work something out for the future," Wittmann said.

Electronic health records approved

The Board also approved a five-year contract with PatagoniaHealth to provide an electronic medical record system for the Health Department, a requirement mandated by federal legislation. The system will cost \$52,000 in the first year and \$35,000 to \$45,000 in subsequent years.

Commissioner Picerno, who serves on the Board of Health, said he had seen PatagoniaHealth's presentation and was convinced that electronic

(See "Commissioners," p. 18)

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Dr. Mantila is board certified in Family Medicine and speaks English and Vietnamese. She takes pride in being a family doctor and having the privilege of providing health care to the entire family. Dr. Mantila, her husband and their three children make their home in Seven Lakes.

"I love being a part of this community," she says, "and I look forward to working with the families here on their health and wellness."



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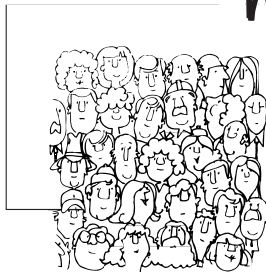
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

- **Open House at the Shaw House** – 1 to 4 pm, corner of Morganton Road and Broad Street, Southern Pines. (*Open House will also be held on Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15 1 to 4*) Free admission to see how people in the early days of Southern Pines celebrated Christmas in the famous Shaw House Old time decorations, warm apple cider and homemade cookies at the annual Christmas event. Live music and warm greetings. Tours available. Donations welcome. www.moorehistory.com or call (910) 692-2051.
- **Crossroads Community Church Christmas Drama** – 7 pm, "The Final Stand." A drama depicting the life of Christ and the many miracles he performed. Free. For more information or directions call 910-949-3971. Crossroads Community Church, Carthage.
- **Murphy Family Returns to Sunrise Theater** – 7 pm, Christmas music, jazz, and standards. Local musician Paul Murphy and his multi-talented family return for their annual Murphy Family Christmas Jazz Concert. Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad Street, Southern Pines.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

- **Breakfast and Gift Wrapping** – 7 am to 11 am, Doubs Chapel UMC, 1444 Doubs Chapel Rd., West End, serving breakfast. Cost is \$7 per person; age 3 and under will be free. Members will offer a gift wrapping service for donations. Santa and his helpers

will be on site to visit with the children and have pictures made. Have breakfast, fellowship with others, bring any gifts you wish to have wrapped.



What's When Calendar

- **Seven Lakes Kiwanis Salvation Army Kettle Drive** – 8 am to 5 pm, at Seven Lakes Food Lion. Donations appreciated. Funds help local families.
- **Zumba Class** – 9:30 to 10:30 am, free class at Seven Lakes Baptist Church, Hankins Family Life Center. 1015 Seven Lakes Drive. 910-673-4656.
- **37th Malcolm Blue Christmas Open House** – 1 to 4pm at the Historic Malcolm Blue Farmstead, 1177 Bethesda Rd., Aberdeen. Storytelling, popcorn stringing, making your own grapevine wreath to take home, baking, caroling, decorating the farmhouse and pioneer games for the children. Free admission, donations accepted.
- **Open House at the Shaw House** – 1 to 4 pm, corner of Morganton Road & Broad Street, Southern Pines. www.moorehistory.com or (910) 692-2051.
- **Quilting Class at Moore County Library - Carthage** – 3 pm, Sandhills Quilters Guild will be offering a beginners class. Call 910-947-5335, Moore County

Library, 101 Saunders Street, Carthage. Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 6 pm, Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. www.srls.info

- **Crossroads Community Church Christmas Drama** – 7 pm, "The Final Stand." A drama depicting the life of Christ.

Free. For more information or directions call 910-949-3971. Crossroads Community Church, Carthage.

- **Carolina Pines Ballroom Chapter 6091** – "Christmas Candy Cane Dance" 105 McReynolds St. Carthage. Dance at 7 pm with snacks and social time, 7:30-8 pm, free complimentary dance lesson and open dancing from 8-10. Singles and couples welcome. Bring an

appetizer or snack to share. Beverages provided. \$7 members, \$10 guests.

- **Turkey Shoot** - Alec Creek Farm, Jackson Springs, held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) through March 1. *12 Gauge Shot Guns only*. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or cash. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

- **Rosary at Our Lady of the Americas Church** – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.
- **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr. 673-3838.
- **37th Malcolm Blue Christmas Open House** – 1 to 4pm at the Historic

Malcolm Blue Farmstead, 1177 Bethesda Rd., Aberdeen. Storytelling, popcorn stringing, making your own grapevine wreath to take home, baking, caroling, decorating the farmhouse and pioneer games for the children. Free.

- **Open House at the Shaw House** – 1 to 4 pm, corner of Morganton Road & Broad Street, Southern Pines. www.moorehistory.com or (910) 692-2051.
- **Moore Philharmonic Orchestra** – 3 pm, Holiday Concert at Sunrise Theater, Southern Pines. Featuring a variety of holiday music! No tickets are required for concerts, tax-deductible donations welcome www.mporchestra.com
- **McDonalds Chapel Music Circle** – 4 - 6 pm, meet in the church's fellowship hall for a special Christmas music session. Listeners

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welcome. McDonalds Chapel, 1374 Foxfire Road, Aberdeen (off Linden Road from Pinehurst). Call Jill McCloy at (910) 692-5094.

- **The Rooster's Wife** – 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *John Doyle and Joe Craven*. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.
- **Crossroads Community Church Christmas Drama** – 7 pm, "The Final Stand." Drama depicting the life of Christ. Free. 910-949-3971. Crossroads Community Church, Carthage.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- **Healing Service** – 11 am, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. 1145 Seven Lakes Dr., Seven Lakes. Intercessory prayers for the sick & troubled, those in harms way, traveling, bereaved or deceased.
- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association** – 7 pm, work session. West Side Park Community Center.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

• **December Chapel Lunch Bunch** – at noon, All single seniors are invited to attend at Chapel in the Pines, Joralemon Hall. No cost. Reservations appreciated. Transportation provided if needed. Following lunch, Christmas program will be presented by Glenda Clendenin and Kristin Webb. Chapel office 673-2156.

• **Living Your Fullest with Dementia & Memory Loss** – 2 to 3 pm, Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines, 581 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes. Gathering for individuals who are in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. No cost. Contact Fran Stark at 910-673-5493.

• **Rosary at Chapel in the Pines** – 7 pm, at the Chapel in the Pines. Coordinator Virginia Heerema, 673-5150. Seven Lakes.

• **Mayberry Bible Study** – 7 pm, West End United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Won Namkoong will lead the focusing on Biblical Truth and everyday life applications based upon Andy Griffith's Mayberry. Meet in the WEUMC Fellowship Hall.

• **Seven Lakes Landowners Association** – 7:30 pm, General meeting. Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

- **Bread of Life Ministry** – West End United Methodist Church, 11 am until 1 pm. Ministry is for seniors (wid-

ows, widowers, and the elderly). Fellowship and devotion and a meal \$5.

• **Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 - 4 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive.

• **"Blue Christmas: A Service of Tidings of Comfort and Hope"** – 5 pm, at The Chapel in the Pines. Come out, and join in for prayers, Scripture, and music. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Fran Stark 673-5493.

• **Sandhills Winery Wine Tasting** – 5:30 pm to 8 pm. 1057 Seven Lakes Drive. (910) 673-2949. www.sandhillswinery.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

- **Winter Begins**
- **Turkey Shoot** - Alec Creek Farm, Jackson Springs, held every Saturday night at 7 pm, (weather permitting) through March 1. 12 Gauge Shot Guns only. Win a turkey, ham, slab of bacon or cash. Proceeds benefit Sandhills Animal Rescue League. Alec Creek Farm, 396 Thomas Road, Jackson Springs. 910-974-4468 or 910-638-1921.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

- **Rosary at Our Lady of**

the Americas Church – 8:00 am, 298 Market Rd. Biscoe, 974-3051.

• **St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church** – 9:30 am, Holy Communion. 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. 673-3838.

• **The Rooster's Wife** – show at 6:45 pm, doors open at 6 pm, Poplar Knight Spot. Music guest: *Fiddle X*. 114 Knight St., Aberdeen, www.theroosterswife.org (910)944-7502.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **Christmas Eve**
- **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.

• **Seven Lakes Chapel in the Pines Christmas Eve Service** – 5 pm, Carols, Communion and Candles. Meditation by Rev. Don Welch . . . "Pondering"

• **West End United Methodist Church Christmas Eve Service** – 8 pm, Experience the mystery of incarnation with West End United Methodist Church. Holy Communion will be served.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

- **Christmas Day**

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 15)

record keeping will increase efficiencies in the Health Department.

"He [Wittmann] is not going to want to hear me say this," Picerno added, "but I think the \$52,000 can be recouped through cost reduction in the Health Department."

Picerno then blamed the increased cost the County will bear for the electronic health record system on the Affordable Care Act [ACA].

"All the things you have heard about the Affordable Care Act," he said, "and how it is not going to cost anybody. This is another one of those little hidden costs of the Affordable Care Act."

The federal law that requires the Health Departments convert to electronic health records — or face a deduction from their Medicaid fees — was actually part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, not the ACA, according to information included in the Commissioners' packet for the meeting.

"Mr. Wittmann and his team did a good job of visiting other counties and seeing that this was an effective tool," Commissioner Saunders said. "They did a good job in finding the most effective and affordable tool."

Repair to Rhyne Center Fence Approved

The Board approved a \$10,318 contract with Hall Fence Company that provides for the relocation of an existing decorative aluminum fence at the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center, as well as the installation of a new fence that ties the new buildings to the old County jail.

The relocation is necessary because the fence was installed on a slope and is falling down that hill.

"I took a look at the fence," Commissioner Saunders said. "Obviously, it needs to be moved, but where it was placed appears not to be the best place for it. We are moving it because it is falling off the side of the hill. Can we make them cover the cost of the move?"

County Manager Wayne

Vest says it appears that the original contractor D.H. Griffin installed the fence in the location specified by the architect, Ware Bonsall.

"You should make a strong case to Ware Bonsall," Commissioner Picerno said, "if they want us to recommend them for other projects, then the \$3,918 [the cost of relocating the fence], they should cough that up."

Employee Health Incentive Plan Approved

At the request of Human Resources Director Denise Brook, the Board approved an employee health incentive plan that will reward employees who take part in health screening and coaching by reducing the cost of their health insurance.

In the past, the County has paid the full cost of employee health insurance. The new plan will require that employees pay \$15 per

month. However, that fee will be waived if they take part in biometric screenings that include cholesterol screening and weight and waistline measurements, as well as health coaching sessions.

Brook said previous attempts to encourage such participation without a cash incentive had attracted participation from only 40 employees — a six percent participation rate.

The County is self-insured, and Commissioner Picerno noted that the cost of covering health claims has increased by millions of dollars.

"While I have a fundamental problem with bribing our employees," he added, "this really makes sense, because we want to continue to pay their full benefit — and this will help us do that."

Other Business

In other business during their Tuesday, December 2

meeting, the Board:

- Approved a \$24,000 increase in the current year budget for the Women Infants and Children program. Federal dollars will cover the cost.
- Held a public hearing to close out a \$585,000 Community Development Block Grant that extended sewer service to Atex Technologies in Pinebluff, allowing the company to expand and add thirty new jobs.
- Approved the rezoning of fifty-six acres owned by David Upchurch near the intersection of Murdocksville Road and Juniper Lake Road from RA-5 to RA-40, allowing denser development on the parcel. Bob Koontz, representing Upchurch, told the Board that, prior to any subdivision of the parcel, it would be connected to

the County water system.

- Approved a revision to the Zoning Ordinance that lays out a process for considering the expansion of a municipality's extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction [ETJ]. Picerno noted that the process approved includes a public hearing before the Board of Commissioners, allowing affected parties to weigh in on the change. Commissioner Saunders noted that the new ordinance also specifies in greater detail the documentation that needs to be presented by the municipality in requesting an ETJ expansion.
 - Revised the Zoning Ordinance to allow a maximum forty-foot height for residential buildings. The maximum had been thirty-five feet, a standard that Plan-
- (See "Commissioners," p. 19)

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Commissioners

(Continued from page 18)

- ning Director Debra Ensinger said was set in 1999, when ladder trucks in the County could only reach that high.
- Approved a contract renewal for the Day Reporting Center that reduce costs by \$43,200 by eliminating a little used service.
- Decreased the revenue budget of Moore County Transportation Services by \$175,000, because fees collected from riders are not meeting projections. Commissioner Picerno warned that "if we keep having to decrease their revenues, we are going to end up with property tax payers having to support this program."
- Approved a renewal of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement that allows the County to use Microsoft networking software. Over three years, a rate hike will increase the County's costs by more than \$30,000. That prompted Commissioner Picerno to say, "Now I understand why Bill Gates is the richest man in the world. We are getting nothing other than the right to use something that we have already purchased." Commissioner Saunders commended the IT Department for negotiating a rate that he said was still highly favorable.
- Approved the purchase of a lot and building at 206 McNeill Street in Carthage, currently a bail bondsman's office, which sits adjacent to the Rhyne Public Safety Complex, at a cost of \$85,000. The property will continue to be leased to the current tenant for up to twenty-four months for \$625 per month.
- At the recommendation of the Moore County Chief's Association, dissolved the Emergency Services Advisory Committee, with the goal of replacing it with a new Fire Commission.
- Reappointed Tom Daniel, Abby Ganin-Toporek, and Jerrell Seawell to the Animal Operations Advisory Board.

- Reappointed Mary Louise Herre to the Nursing and Adult Home Advisory

Board.
Times Editor Greg Hankins prepared this story based on

listening to a recording of the meeting on the County website. Times Reporter Ellen

Marcus attended the December 2 meeting and provided additional reporting.



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LOT #5436 - \$35,000
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LOT #2407 - \$12,000
LOT #2396 - \$15,000
LOT #2399 - \$23,500

— GOLF FRONT —
LOT #2352R - \$35,000
LOT #6146 - \$59,500
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LOT #4070 - UNDER CONTRACT! - \$29,500
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- 135 E Devonshire - Under Contract
- 105 Dickerson Dr - Under Contract
- 260 Boulder Drive - Under Contract
- Lot #4070 - Under Contract

SLLA Work Session

(Continued from front page)

whether it was necessary.

"We have a set of bylaws that have served us beautifully," he said. "I think we are going too far if we adopt the whole thing."

But the redraft of the bylaws is not only a matter of updating terminology, but also staying current with North Carolina HOA Rules and Regulations.

President Steve Ritter said, "We don't know what we don't know. That is why we paid an expert to get us in step with North Carolina laws and regulations. He took our existing bylaws, modernized and slimmed them down, and brought them into step with NC statutes."

Director Conrad Meyer felt that there had been ample time to question the rewrites, make edits, and consult with legal.

"We had the opportunity to ask all of these questions. Now, we are going to stop the process and go backwards? I think the train is leaving the station," Meyer said.

Director Bill Hirsch made a motion that the draft bylaws, with Racine's modifications regarding the Judicial Committee, be moved to the December Open Meeting.

Job Descriptions for Directors & Committees

Board members come and go. The question is what information is lost in transition. During their December Work Session the Directors discussed writing broad job descriptions for both Directors and the Board's various committees.

Ritter suggested, "We don't want to be hit with a lot of minutiae that could jam or tie things up. Keep that in mind when we are going through this, that we are trying to simplify, not complicate," Ritter said.

Meyer agreed with Ritter that the definitions should be kept short and work as a template.

Director Bob Darr asked, "What triggered this? Has something happened in terms of committees?"

Member Chuck Leach noted that there was often overlap in committees duties. "I think this will really help define whose job is whose," Leach said.

Racine disagreed, noting that overlap can often prevent overlooking important aspects of a proposal or decision.

The descriptions would also provide structure for new members. Leach said, "What happens if there is no carry-over in committees and everyone leaves? There needs to be some kind of carry-over to the next ones."

Ritter agreed with Leach, "There would be a potential loss of collective memory as to what needs to be done. Based on that alone, I think this is a worthwhile project. It is a worthy process to start and look into and see where we go with it. Because boards do change."

"I have a problem with this kind of bureaucratic structuring throughout and have trouble with these kind of restrictions," Darr said. "If I was walking in as brand new Board Member I would understand that I would need help. I am not an expert; and, using my Director

responsibilities, I would search out that kind of help. If I was given that job, I would recognize that as my job and do it. I don't need this to tell me what I am responsible for in relating to these issues."

"A lot of it is common sense," Ritter agreed. "If you are on Recreation I could probably give you half dozen things of what they do. But if I have never been on it before, then I would be unsure of the boundaries and parameters. Common sense might not be as common as you think."

Rich Faraci, in his freshman year as a Director, agreed. "When I got on Lakes and Dams I didn't know what I could do," Faraci said. "No one told me what I could do."

Sohl suggested sending out a template for the Board to review and make suggestions and the item was tabled pending that review.

Internet at the Stables

The SLLA Board is considering providing internet service for Stable Manager Kate Pendleton.

Pendleton had informed the Board that it would be

(See "SLLA," p. 20)

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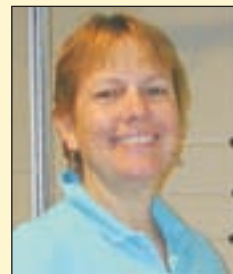


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SLLA Work Session

(Continued from page 20)

beneficial to have internet service at the Stables to check emails, research horse shows, and develop a Friends of the Stables Site.

"One of the problem we have throughout all the Association has been communicating with the community," Director Bob Darr explained. "It would be valuable to develop Friends of the Stables — see who the people are that are using it, interested in, and have kids out there."

Currently, all SLLA emails sent to Pendleton go through Pendleton's phone.

"Kate has been accruing some really healthy expensive overuses on her phone," Darr reported.

Director Leach agreed that Pendleton should not have to pay for business emails. However, he worried about the added cost to the Association. "She could come up here and use the computer. The office can put out community notices and events," Leach said.

The Board asked SLLA

management to obtain quotes for different internet providers.

Indoor Pickle Ball

Director Darr surprised the board with an early holiday gift. Indoor Pickle Ball is ready to go. The floors of the Community Activity Center are taped, the complimentary net is set up, and the equipment on hand.

Thanking Darr, Racine said, "I think that this is a fantastic way to expose the public to it."

"I think it's a great use of indoor space for the winter. I think it is a great idea," Ritter said. Leach agreed, "I see this as a super idea."

Pickle ball is played with paddles and a soft whiffle-like ball. Residents interested in playing must provide their SLLA membership card to check out the equipment and pick up the key to the activity room. First come, first to play. Up to four players can play at a time.

Lake Management Contract

Fat carp are happy carp and keep SLLA lakes healthy. Earlier in the year, the Association stocked grass carp in some lakes to control hydrilla and other unwanted aquatic vegetation.

However, carp over-grazing native vegetation can do harm to the lakes.

A contract with Foster Lake and Pond Management is up for renewal. Faraci reported that the recommendation of the Lakes and Dam Committee was to renew the contract for one year at a cost not to exceed \$18,360.

The board discussed how much monitoring was necessary, given that the exotic weed hydrilla was now considered under control.

"We feel they have done a very good job this year," Faraci said. "They are very

effective with their chemical approach that they used this year and have done a good job defining all weeds and algae. We want to keep this going. The grass carp have been doing a great job of cleaning up."

"I do support continued monitoring and agree they have the expertise," Director Leach said. "I can see going with one of these less expensive plans."

The Board initially approved the use of Foster Lakes for only one year.

"We are paying for what they know," Faraci said. "It is their knowledge that we are paying for. They have stopped that hydrilla on Echo. We wouldn't have been able to identify it."

Darr agreed with Faraci. "I think he makes a good point. The Lakes and Dams

Committee has more knowledge than us. Their recommendation should carry a lot of weight. That is why I would support what we are doing."

Hydrilla is an invasive species and almost impossible to eradicate once established. Racine warned, "A penny wise, a pound foolish."

The Board agreed to move the decision to the December 18 Open Meeting.

Christmas Party

The SLLA Christmas Party is scheduled for December 22, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the North Clubhouse.

There will be hot and cold finger foods and supervised activities for youth. Adults are encouraged to bring their own beverage of choice.

"Santa may even ride in on a horse," Darr hinted.

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Response: I never looked upon my life in Seven Lakes as a person who would make a great contribution to the community that I found here in 1999, when Nancy and I moved here from Macon, Georgia. After over fifty years as a teacher, preacher and college administrator, I was ready to relax and play golf and bridge.

I soon found that that the retired life was not challenging me, and I accepted several

opportunities to serve the community. Someone else will have to rank the importance of what I did in the community, but these are the things that were most fulfilling for me.

- Through

“Ask the Rev,” I introduced the community to a different kind of Christianity and a different way to look at the

Bible. There was nothing new about this, since every mainline minister who graduated from an accredited theological school learned the same things I did. But, unfortunately, few of these ministers share these ideas with their congregations.

- As the first Pastor of the

Chapel in the Pines, I helped this wonderful congregation move from a worship place for retired people toward a full service church for people of all ages. In order to fully serve the community, the



Ask the 'Rev'

Rev. Don Welch

people of the Chapel in the Pines built a marvelous Community and Educational Building that cost nearly one million dollars, and paid for it in full after only three years.

- For over eight years, I have preached the Gospel of Jesus faithfully as I understood it after years of study

and experience, to a growing and receptive congregation. I have attempted to engage the congregation each Sunday in a conversion with the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus and help them apply these teachings to their lives today.

- Beginning with the Academy of Religious Studies, when I was a parish associate at West End Presbyterian Church, and continuing with the Seven Lakes Forum with the assistance of Bill Mamel, we opened up serious study and civil discussion of the issues of today.

- Along with Fred Young, Dudley Crawford, Joe Krallinger, Carolyn Mealing, Kathy Kirst, and Dudley Crawford, we completed an exhausted study of the advantages of incorporation for Seven Lakes. Unfortunately, no one has stepped

up to lead us in that direction, although there is a growing sense that a community as large as ours cannot move forward without a governing structure and a return of our taxes to the community. My brief tenure on the Seven Lakes Landowners Association Board convinced me that there is a need for a governing body that will serve Seven Lakes North, South, West and the business community.

I have received far more from Seven Lakes that I have given. These have been the best fourteen years of our lives.

Don Welch, the minister of the Chapel in the Pines welcomes your comments and questions at: dwelch1@nc.rr.com

Success! Kiwanis will ring those bells

Dear Editor:

Since my last letter, I have found out a few things: Never underestimate the power of the press, and, when dealing with corporations, talk to people not machines. It didn't take long for my last letter to be published to receive calls of support and one

caller, Peg Anderson, giving not only her support but a name and phone number of Rita Robertson, who serves as a Customer Relations person at Food Lion Corporate.

I thanked her for the info and called, and, sure enough, I got an answering machine. I left a message, and, within

an hour, I received a call back from Ms. Robertson. She was very helpful and apologetic for the snafu that occurred and offered to see if we could somehow still make the ringing of the bells for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive at our local Food Lion happen.

She and I went through the information she needed again over the phone — basically the same I had in my application that was denied — and, after a few minutes, she made it happen.

This is to inform you that the Seven Lakes Kiwanis will be Ringing the Bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 14 in front of the Seven Lakes Food Lion. We will be manning the kettles from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm that day.

This is the time of year that The Salvation Army sends out a letter of support

for you to give and send back in. That's fine, but those donations, even though it's from a West End PO Box, go to international and probably little or no money from that actually stays in Moore County.

After I got off the phone with Mrs. Robertson, I then called The Salvation Army

in Fayetteville and also the Moore County office in Southern Pines, and everything is a go! I hasten to add my thanks to *The Seven Lakes Times*, to those who called with support and information, and to the real people at Food Lion and The Salvation Army.

*Ken Jenkins, President
Seven Lakes Kiwanis*

SEVEN SLAKES TIMES

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Letters to the
Editor



Your letters welcome!

The Times welcomes letters from our readers, and we print most all we receive. You will need to sign your letter, and give us a phone number where you can be reached. We prefer letters that are concise and to the point; please make your case in 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters.

We prefer to receive letters via email at mail@sevenlaketimestimes.net, but we also accept letters delivered by the US Postal Service, or left in our drop box at 1107 Seven Lakes Drive, The Executive Center.

Making Christmas Memories

Christmas is one of the best times of the year, especially when you are involved in the church. There are choir songs, drama productions, Christmas parties — everyone seems excited as we draw closer to the big day. Moms and Dads look for the perfect gift to give their children.

Children burst with excitement and anticipation for the gifts and, of course, the gift of no school! Grandma feverishly bakes and makes sure that everything is perfect for when the family comes to visit. Decorations are put up, and celebrations seem to be endless.

I love to hear about different family traditions. Many people travel to far off places to spend time with family. Others spend Christmas with friends. Many people volunteer their time to give gifts and food to those who are less fortunate than they.

Our family traditions have changed through the years; but there are a few things that have stuck, and I would like to share them with you.

Each Christmas morning my wife's father would give each of the children a character from the manger scene and would read the Christmas story from Luke 2. Each time that he would get to a new character, the children would put the character into the scene. The children are much older now, but it is still something that everyone looks forward to.

Another tradition that has stuck for us is one that my parents began many years ago, when they realized that all of the anticipation of Christmas was over minutes after the presents were opened. They began to write clues and place them at first in the house, but then it morphed into an elaborate game taking us around the city.

The first clue was always on the Christmas tree, and it was the last thing that we were allowed to open. We would read the clue with great anticipation; and, when we figured it out, it would lead us to another clue. It

was always a mystery. Each of my three brothers would have their own clues and we would try to help each other figure them out. The clue

Usually, after lunch at a relative's home, we would receive our final clue that would lead us to the gift. I only remember a few of the gifts that I received, but the

memories of my family laughing and playing together continue to bring me joy. I continued this tradition with

may lead us to friends and family to find more clues. Some of the clues were memories of something that happened that year.

my family, and we still talk about those memories. This morning my little brother posted his clues for his daughters on Facebook, and

the memories came flooding back.

I hope that you have some traditions that your family will remember and carry on. If you don't have any, invent some or steal some of ours. They will be treasures that your children will remember forever. Some of the things that we did flopped, but these two traditions will probably carry on for generations.

I encourage you to make a tradition that is special to your family. I pray that you have the best Christmas with lots of new wonderful memories that you can treasure forever.

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



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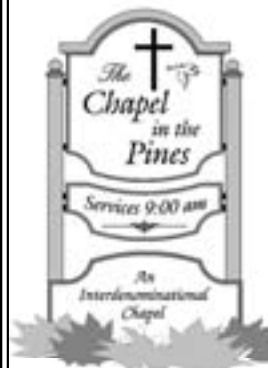
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OF THE CAROLINAS

Who, exactly, stole Christmas?

This is what I have to say about the reported “theft” of Christmas:

“We have met the enemy, and he is us.”

That is a famous quote, from the old comic strip “Pogo,” apparently first used by artist Walt Kelly in a 1970 Pogo cartoon about Earth Day.

I am partial to all things Pogo. Not only because I think it spawned much wit and wisdom, but because “Pogo” was one of the nicknames my Dad used for me. Some days, I was “Little Britches.” Other days I was “Pogo.” My Dad loved Pogo, the comic strip, and I think he was fairly fond of me, Son No. 2.

Anyway, I don’t blame the Grinch for stealing Christmas. Nor do I blame “secular humanists,” although I am not sure I would recognize a “secular humanist” if he or she bumped up to me at the grocery store.

I kind of blame us. “We have met the enemy, and he is us.”

Nobody commanded us we had to spend December racing from one social activity to the other. Nobody commanded us our houses have to resemble pictorials from *Southern Living* for December. Nobody commanded us, “I blessed thee with credit cards,

now use them.” And seriously, I don’t lose one iota, not a single iota, of sleep over whether or not the Target circular uses the word “holiday” or “Christmas” as it earnestly tries to sell me things I may desire, but I certainly do not need.



From the Lyon's Den

Larry Lyon

Jesus commanded us to love God, and Jesus commanded us to love neighbor. Actually, if I read the Jesus of the gospels correctly, I don’t think he would really care about his birthday celebration. In fact, I think he may even say we generally make too much fuss over birthdays, kind of like we make too much fuss over Christmas.

What we should make a fuss over is genuinely — genuinely — loving God, and loving neighbor. Feed the hungry. Tend to the lowly. Heal the sick. Reach out to the lonely. So far, as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. In living peaceably, aren’t we honoring the

Prince of Peace?

That stuff is biblical. It is far more biblical than raising a ruckus because the public schools now have a holiday break rather than a Christmas break. If you are angry about those kinds of things, then work out your anger by

going to the grocery store today, buying three or four or even five bags of groceries, and dropping them by the Coalition

ministry in Southern Pines or the food bank at the West End United Methodist Church.

Giving of yourself is one marvelous way to reduce your anger.

Amazon, which is trying to change the world of retail, calls its giant warehouses of material stuff “fulfillment centers.” That, honestly, dumbfounds me.

I as a Presbyterian pastor offer you another “fulfillment

center.” It is called “giving.”

Give of yourself to somebody else, and lo and behold, you may find fulfillment far beyond a shiny new tech item in your hand on Christmas morning. Plus, you won’t have a cardboard box you have to haul to the dumpster the day after Christmas.

Our capacity to blame others for every ill of our society never ceases to amaze me. Pogo was wiser than most of us are ever willing to concede. Every one of us is far more complicit in what ails our culture than we confess.

I kind of think Jesus was trying to get us to see that when he said things like “he

who is without sin cast the first stone.” Yet, we pick up stones daily, and we hurl them at each other, even in the season of good news of great joy for all people.

Even if you insist on not seeing the enemy within and only seeing the enemy out there, then Jesus had something to say about that, too: “love your enemies.”

Christmas has not been stolen. It is still here. May we all observe it in Christ-like ways.

Larry Lyon is pastor of West End Presbyterian Church, which is in the midst of observing Advent.

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Star

(Continued from page 9)
waiting inside.

The staircase was designed and built by the Cooper Brothers, who did much of the interior wood work on the Titanic. The beautiful clean craftsman railing stands pure against voluptuous décor.

Spivey's down-to-earth sister Joyce and brother-in-law Richard Wallace are on-site care takers.

"The story goes that the Cooper Brothers, after completing the construction,

noticed they had one nail left over, and worriedly cried, 'Oh no! We have missed a nail,'" Richard said, laughing.

Entering through the turn-of-the-century oversized front door you fixate on the hanging, dripping, and swaying crystal chandelier. Richard reported that trucks delivered load-after-load of paintings, sculpture, silver, chandeliers, crystal, mirrors, china, porcelain figurines, stained glass, furnishings, a King Tut sarcophagus reproduction, an

eight-foot-tall Asian inlaid vase, and twelve-by-eight-foot intricate tapestries.

But, what do you expect from a country boy turned flamboyant psychic with a white poodle weave? Oddly enough, it all works.

Even the most outlandish twin cast-iron red enamel tubs that sit side by side on their own stage, guarded by two Chinese porcelain Foo Dogs seem subdued and almost tasteful. The one painting to give pause is a six foot scale depiction of Deliah betraying Sampson positioned over a plush inviting bed.

The art is eclectic, large, cherubic, and beautiful. Well-done prints, quality reproductions, and the real McCoys share space on the old beadboard walls. From renaissance, impressionist, neoclassical, romantic, baroque, to a smidgen of

clean crisp refreshing Finnish and a random Cubist, there is delightfully no rhyme or reason.

The three-tiered gurgling fountain outside the bed and breakfast tilts to the East. No matter how you hold your camera or from what direction you shoot, any photo of the fountain is slightly off kilter.

It is better just to sit and contemplate. The viability and sustainability of the town

depends not on the railroad, the downsized textile industry, or even a really crazy-cool haunted B&B.

It is educating, training, inspiring, and investing in the next generation. Mothers Maria Munoz and Sherry Britt can tell you that.

It is past time for the community to quit reminiscing and hitch their wagon to Star — and they have begun to do just that.

December Lunch Bunch

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

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

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

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

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

To make a reservation for lunch or if transportation is needed please call the Chapel office at 673-2156.



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Sub

(Continued from page 5)

of plywood, before sending the files to Southeastern.

The Widman's have a nice array of welding machines over in one corner of the garage, and both David and Mark have considerable skill as welders. But when it came time to make the critical welds on the vessel — those that have to keep water out under pressure — they turned to the experts at Welding Enterprises, Cliff Baldwin's shop in Seven Lakes.

Other local companies involved in the project include Hallman Foundry, in Sanford, which is pouring the cast iron weights that will provide enough ballast to submerge the submarine. Hallman's Ron Welker is a resident of Seven Lakes North.

Alliance Hose & Tube Works in Greensboro provided the pneumatic and hydraulic lines and couplers used on the craft, and the gantry crane that cradles the sub in the Widman garage was supplied by Mingin Enterprises in Seven Lakes.

Safety first

David Widman has not only designed every aspect of the project on a computer-aided-design (CAD) system, he has also run every inch of the sub's surface through a computer-based finite stress analysis — just to make sure that there are no weak spots that could cause trouble under pressure.

And, to make double sure, all the calculations involved in the project have been hand checked by erstwhile Northside numbers man George Temple.

"Sometimes George was right, and sometimes the computer was right," Mark said.

David has good reasons to be cautious, in the form of a young wife, Erin, and toddler daughter, Skyler, who were in attendance at the presentation.

The first line of safety is simply the normal buoyancy of the craft itself. Fully loaded, it will weigh 5,400 pounds. But it displaces 6,000 pounds of water — in other words, despite all that quarter-inch steel, it will float. Weight will have to be added to submerge it.

Five hundred pounds will be added in the form of smaller weights placed in a steel box under the sub — a box that can be induced to drop that weight, allowing the sub to slowly float back to the surface.

Ballast tanks that sit like outriggers on either side of the main hull can be filled with water to submerge the craft. When that water is expelled, by pumping air into the tanks, the sub will rise. Scuba tanks will be positioned inside the sub to provide that air, but scuba divers can, in case of emergency, access a valve on the outside of the sub and use their own

tank to fill the ballast with air and raise the craft.

A carbon dioxide scrubber inside the sub will keep the CO2 level inside comfortable for breathing.

Run silent, run shallow

The sub will be electrically powered, by a bank of twelve-volt batteries that are certified for airtight spaces. In conjunction with an electrical engineering course, David is designing joystick controllers to move the rudder and the dive planes.

The sub is expected to move at four or five miles per hour, powered by trolling motors. Though it is designed to go at least one hundred feet deep, Mark Widman told the Board that they don't expect to take it deeper than fifteen feet in Lake Sequoia, in part because visibility is a problem at twenty feet.

"We aren't designing the sub for this lake, we're designing it for David's resumé," Mark said.

With visibility low, a GPS system will help the pilot orient the craft in the lake. A large buoy with a dive flag will both alert boaters to the presence of the sub and carry the GPS antenna.

David is developing a series of "use cases" that describe exactly what the sub's pilot and passenger should do if a particular problem occurs while underway.

Generating interest

The sub those two Kentucky farmers built wound up on the Discovery Channel, and Mark is working on generating similar interest in the Widman sub.

Meanwhile, members of the submarine-racing team at Virginia Tech have expressed and interest in doing a case study on the craft.

Once it is ready tested and

lake-worthy, the Widman's hope that it can be used to do research on lake chemistry, thermodynamics, and wildlife.

Ian Widman, a junior at NC State, is working to generate interest among departments outside the engineering school.

SLLA community Manager Ray Sohl has drafted a set of rules for the use of a submarine in community lakes, and the Board members in attendance at the Widman's presentation — Conrad Meyer, Bill Hirsch, and Bob Racine — appeared support-

(See "Sub," p. 27)



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Towers

(Continued from page 7)

Though maps provided by American Tower showed a coverage hole in the area that the new tower was designed to correct, Bennett Scarborough, who also lives near the tower site, said he has AT&T service and has good reception in the area.

"I like AT&T," he said. "I pay them monthly. There is not a need for a tower at this location."

Reading from the County's recently approved Land Use Plan, Scarborough noted that, in the past twenty years, the town of Cameron has added only seventy new residents, suggesting that population growth would likely not

increase demand for cell-phone service in the area.

Arlene Ruby, who said she lives across from the tower site, told the Board that she is an AT&T customer "and I have five bars on my phone."

"I can reach 911," she said. "I get voice and data perfectly. And I can already see three cell towers within a mile of my home . . . There are plenty of towers in the area."

Ruby disputed the testimony of a real estate professional that American Tower brought to provide expert testimony that the presence of a cell tower has no effect on property values.

"If folks have a perceived notion in their head that a cell tower has a negative effect on property values," she said, "if they have a perceived notion in their head that there are health effects from cell towers, then I am not going to get the money that I should have for my property."

American Tower's Attorney, Tom Johnson of Nexsen Pruet, PLLC, worked to rebut the neighbors' comments, citing the technical data that shows a coverage void, and reminding the Board that, under federal law, they could not consider concerns about negative health effects.

Board member Harris said he had recently driven

through the subject area and had perfect service on his Verizon cellphone.

Not in the plan

A second problem faced by the Cameron tower was that it did not fit into the County's master plan for new wireless communications towers. That plan lays out thirteen areas targeted for cell towers because of poor service in the surrounding areas. NC Hwy 24/27 between Carthage and Cameron is not one of the targeted areas.

Attorney Johnson argued that the master plan was out of date. It was developed in 2009, before the proliferation of smart phones and their data capabilities, which require denser cellular coverage than simple voice traffic.

The County's outside consultant on cell towers noted in his report that the Cameron tower was not in conformance with the master plan, but he endorsed American Tower's engineering calculations that showed it was necessary to fill in an area of weak AT&T coverage.

His argument proved convincing to Planning Board member Buck Mims, who said that stretch of NC 24/27 "is a large blackout spot for folks using cellphones for (See "Tower," p. 28)

Sub

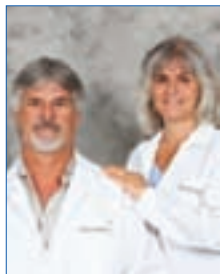
(Continued from page 26)

ive of the effort.

For now, there is much, much more work to be done on the craft, which hangs as an empty, but intriguing, metal shell from the gantry crane in the Widman garage. The goal is to get the craft in the water by mid-Summer.

Though it's not yet complete, this 3,000 pound resumé has begun to do its job for David, who has already had two job offers as a result of the project.

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Towers

(Continued from page 27)
navigation.”

Mims made the motion to approve the conditional use permit, but that failed in a tie vote.

Johnson asked that the Board reconsider the application at a future date, but Chairman Robert Hayter said he preferred to let the Board's decision stand.

Hearing from the other side

Testimony from the public played an important role in the Board's consideration of another American Tower application, this one for a 300-foot tower near Harris Crossroads at the intersection of Dowd Road with Beulah Hill Church Road and Mount Carmel Road — an area with little to no cellular coverage.

Nancy Cardozo recounted hitting a deer and totaling her car on Mount Carmel Road in the wee hours of the morning while driving to work as the opening manager at McDonald's. With no service reachable by her cellphone, she had to wait until her father came looking for her more than an hour later.

“The cellphone tower needs to be approved,” she told the Planning Board. “I would not want someone my age to be stranded on Mount Carmel Road.”

Former Planning Board Chair Martha Blake, who lives on Beulah Hill Church Road, said she has “no cellphone service whatsoever” at her home — a problem when her daughter, a nurse on call, visits. She recounting coming across a man whose car was on fire on Beulah

Hill Church Road and being unable to reach 911 to get help.

“I hope you will consider approving this permit so that we can have cellphone service like other citizens in Moore County,” Blake said.

Bill Harris, who will lease the land for the tower if it is approved, recounted his family's long history on their Harris Crossroads land, saying he wanted the land to stay the same as it was in the 1800s.

“But nothing stays the same,” Harris lamented, mentioning a store opened at the crossroads, chicken houses, decaying old homes, and the development of Seven Lakes, which “changed forever the ecology of a stream passing through Harris Property.”

“Landscapes change,” Harris said. “And, if they do change, it should be for the greater good and the greater number of people. That is

how we finally came to deal with and live with this cell tower.”

On the other side of the issue, Doug Harris, who said he could “take my driver and hit where that cell tower will be,” said he liked to sit on his front porch in the evening and watch the sun set.

“That tower is going to be right in the middle of my sunset,” he said.

“I have US Cellular,” he added, “and I can talk all the way to Robbins. Why can't AT&T rent space on their tower?”

Different carrier, different coverage profile

Variations on that question continued through the evening, and led attorney Johnson to explain that cellular companies use differing technologies, with different needs for tower placement.

US Cellular and Verizon, he said, are “legacy carriers,”

among the first granted permits by the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] when cellular telephone service was introduced.

As such, they operate at lower frequencies and can use much higher-power transmissions, to cover a larger area with a single tower. AT&T, American Tower's client in these applications, is licensed under the PCS standard, using higher frequencies and lower power.

Consequently, AT&T needs more towers and higher towers to fill the gaps in its coverage.

The County's tower ordinance has a preference for shorter towers, and Board Member Latham asked Johnson whether American Tower had looked at using a shorter

tower.

“No,” he replied. “AT&T needs a 300-foot tower. It would be worse to have multiple towers. You can do shorter towers, but it will take more towers.”

“I, personally, would prefer two shorter towers near a historic property,” Latham said.

“If they have to go back and redesign, it could delay anything being done in this area,” Johnson said. “A shorter tower at this location won't work.”

He explained that American Tower has to obtain approvals from federal agencies before submitting an application to the county. Redesigning the tower or using multiple towers would require starting from square one.

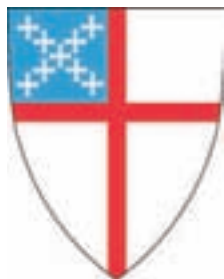
(See “Towers,” p. 29)

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Towers

(Continued from page 28)

How close to Bryant House?

The historic property Latham referenced is the Bryant House, located on Dowd Road a mile or so from Harris Crossroads. And whether that distance is a mile, or a bit more than a mile, became the sticking point that resulted in the application being tabled.

The County's ordinance requires that towers be concealed using "stealth" technology when they are located within one mile [5,280 feet] of a state-designated Scenic Byway or a property on the National Register of Historic Places. American Tower has withdrawn applications for five towers because of their proximity to NC Highway 705 or NC Highway 24/27 — both Scenic Byways. And that withdrawal has resulted in a request from the Board of Commissioners that the Planning Board consider rewriting the Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance.

The Bryant House is on the National Register of Historic Places. American Tower presented GPS data showing that the Harris Crossroads tower is approximately 5,532 feet from the Bryant House and 5,289 feet from the closest corner of the lot on which the house sits — that is, far enough under the County's ordinance.

However, the Planning Staff reported that the Moore County Historical Society, which owns the Bryant House, also owns an adjacent tract of land that is within one mile of the proposed tower location. Neither the Planning Staff nor American Tower could confirm whether that parcel is part of the property registered with the

National Park Service.

Planning Board member Aaron McNeill, a surveyor, argued that, if the decision is to be based on the distance of the tower from the Bryant house or either property corner, GPS data was insufficient. An actual survey would be required.

After much discussion, Board Member Latham moved to table the matter to the Board's February meeting, pending determination of whether the adjacent lot is registered, an actual survey of the distances, and the production of a map showing coverage in the area by cellular companies other than AT&T.

Tower too short?

After discussion of too-tall towers, a third application was approved only after American Tower agreed to explore the possibility of making it taller.

The County's emergency radio system, used by fire, police, and EMS, is being converted to the narrowband VIPER system maintained by the NC State Highway Patrol. The Public Safety Department has identified four areas in which communications would be improved by the addition of antennas. The preferred tower height for those antennas is 300 feet.

American Tower presented an application for a 250-foot tower in northeast Moore County near Glendon Carthage road — one of the locations targeted by Public Safety for additional VIPER coverage.

"Is there any interest in making this tower taller?" Chairman Hayter asked attorney Johnson.

"If we have to go any taller, then it will significantly delay the project," Johnson said. "It is because of the federal approval process. We will have to refile all of this."

Ultimately, after Johnson conferred with AT&T representatives, and the County heard from its consultant, they agreed to grant a permit for a 300-foot tower, but allow AT&T to build it initially at 250 feet, adding the extra height only if Public Safety needs it for VIPER.

The motion to enact that compromise was approved unanimously.

Open and shut case

The Board also unanimously approved a fourth American Tower application, for a 300-foot tower northeast of Robbins.

Commissioner Otis Ritter, who lives in Robbins, urged the Board to approve the tower.

"Robbins is in the Stone Age when it comes to cell service," Ritter said. If there's an accident in the yard or garden, he said, "folks have to run back to the house to call 911."

"We have to see the balance between providing all citizens with coverage, the private property rights of citizens, and the overall character of our county," Chairman Hayter said, before Todd Williams made the motion to approve the application.

No more towers for now

Chairman Hayter ended the meeting asking the Planning Staff to avoid bringing the Board any additional con-

ditional use permit applications for cell towers until the Board has reviewed the new Unified Development Ordinance [UDO] and had it approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Part of that process will be the pending revision of the Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance.

"I want to make sure that gets changed before we hear another tower case," Hayter said. "I think there is some imbalance in the current code. I do not want to hear another cell tower case until we get the a UDO to the Commissioners. I want to streamline this thing somehow."

The Planning Board is expected to hold work sessions on the UDO in January.



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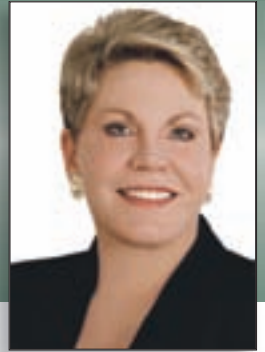
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