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Volume 23 Number 5

Seven Lakes, North Carolina 27376

January 25, 2008

Outstanding Teen



Rachel Stewart of McLendon Hills is Miss Outstanding Teen Moore County. Read more about her on page 12.

What happened to Westside budget cuts?

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

An advance copy of the proposed Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget was the door prize for Westsiders who attended the Tuesday, January 22, meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association. The budget, and the Treasurer's letter that accompanied it, will be included in the Annual Meeting packet that will be mailed to all landown-

ers by month's end.

Some landowners at Tuesday's meeting wanted to know what happened to more than \$100,000 in expense cuts identified by the Board, but not included in the budget that members will be asked to approve.

Treasurer Kathy Kirst said the budget includes no dues increase for Seven Lakes West and Morgan Wood residents, but residents of the Beacon Ridge and

Pinnacle neighborhoods will see the twelve percent increase called for in a 2002 merger agreement that combined the various Westside Associations.

The result is an overall projected 4.1 percent increase in income, a total of \$1.19 million. Operating expenses are expected to increase 5.9 percent over this year's budgeted figures.

The budget includes three
(See "Westside," p. 23)

Truesdell, Hudson feud, Douglass calls it quits

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Yet another chapter in the ongoing and increasingly personal battle between President Don Truesdell and Treasurer Steve Hudson unfolded during

the Wednesday, January 16 Work Session of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association [SLLA] Board of Directors.

No clear victor emerged from Wednesday night's fray; however, the continual warfare, which has all but halted any meaningful work by the Board, may have produced its first casualty: Director Laura Douglass, who announced her resignation from the Board at the close of the meeting.

Douglass, who is in her first year as a Director, said she will not serve out the second year of her term. "Coming to this position a year ago as a candidate I felt, as a Director, I would be able to make progress on the goals of the Recreation Com-

mittee. But the reality has been exactly the opposite. Sitting on this Board has been a hindrance."

"I am not going anywhere," she added after a landowner thanked her for her service and the room responded with applause. "My recreation committee is still active. I will just be a committee member and no longer a Director."

Truesdell recall thwarted?

The move to put a recall of Truesdell on the March Annual Meeting ballot — launched by Treasurer Hudson during the December 12 Board meeting — appeared to suffer a setback Wednesday Night.

Hudson had directed Com-
(See "SLLA," p. 21)

County faces big expenses

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Frustration over the enormous list of necessary infrastructure projects the county must tackle boiled over during the recent Moore County Board of Commissioners Governing Board Retreat, held on January 10 – 11.

"We have to do a better job of long range planning so we don't

have so many concerns hitting at once," exclaimed Commissioner Jimmy Melton noting they are concurrently dealing with inadequate water and wastewater systems, schools, and county buildings.

"You've got to move with time and plan five years or even more ahead," said Melton. "Proper planning will avoid these spikes."

Other concerns raised by the board included road infrastructure and developing goals now before traffic concerns become so great that the state Department of Transportation steps in.

"We want to be a progressive county. We can't take care of most of this with taxes without growth," said Melton. "You can

(See "County," p. 13)

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Blood needed

Two weeks into the new year, the American Red Cross faces a severe shortage of several blood types. Locally, supplies of type O negative, B negative, and A negative blood are at less than a day's supply despite repeated calls to donors to give blood over the past month.

The Red Cross is asking blood donors to donate immediately to prevent supply levels from dropping even further in the coming days and weeks.

While all blood types are needed, the low supply of type O

blood is of particular concern. Type O is the most commonly used blood type. O negative blood can be used for all patients, but it is often essential to the treatment of trauma patients, newborns, and women who are pregnant.

Upcoming blood drives

Wednesday, January 30 – 1:30pm – 6pm, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, corner of E. Mass Ave and S. Ridge St in Southern Pines.

Wednesday, February 13 – 9 am – 1:30 pm, Agricultural Building in Carthage. Appointments 947-6362.

Friday, February 15 – 8:30 am – 1 pm, The O'Neal School. Appointments 692-6920.

Friday, February 15 – 1:30 pm – 6 pm, Belk Department Store in Southern Pines. Appointments 215-9353.

Donors are asked to call the Moore County Chapter at 910-692-8571 to schedule an appointment.

Brobst to speak at Civic Group Annual Meeting

Dave Kinney, President Seven Lakes Civic Group

Quenching our thirst

The Annual Meeting of the Seven Lakes Civic Group will be held Tuesday, February 12 at 7:30 pm at the West Side Park Community Center. Dennis Brobst, Moore County Director of Public Works, will be our featured speaker. His subject —

naturally — is water.

Brobst will update attendees on the recommendations proposed by McGill Associates for increasing Moore County's water supply and the county's current thinking on implementation — the "what" and "when."

The meeting is sponsored by the Civic Group and its supporters. However, everyone in the

community — business owners, neighbors, residents — are urged to attend.

So, mark your calendar in ink.

Correction

TempControl, a heating and air conditioning service company featured in the January 11 issue of *The Times* offers a fifteen percent discount on repair work for their maintenance contract customers, not the fifty percent that we reported.

For more information, TempControl owner Matt Bialer may be contacted at 295-TEMP or 690-TEMP.

The Times regrets the error.

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Articles or advertisements submitted to *The Times* should include the name and telephone number of the author. Articles may be dropped off at the *Seven Lakes Times* offices at 4307 Seven Lakes Plaza, mailed to P.O. Box 602, West End, NC 27376, faxed to 910-673-0210, or e-mailed to mail@sevenlakes-times.net.

Our voice telephone number is 910-673-0111.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline
February 8	February 1
February 22	February 15
March 7	February 29
March 21	March 14
April 4	March 28
April 18	April 11
May 2	April 25
May 16	May 9
May 30	May 23
June 13	June 6
June 27	June 20
July 11	July 3*
July 25	July 18
August 8	August 1
August 22	August 15
Sept 5	August 29
Sept 19	Sept 12
October 3	Sept 26
October 17	October 10
October 31	October 24
Nov 14	Nov 7
Nov 26*	Nov 20*
Dec 12	Dec 5
Dec 23*	Dec 18*

*Early publication or deadline due to holiday.

Hey buddy! Need a Friend?



Kittens and cats from Sandhills Animal Rescue League will be featured all month long for adoption at PetSmart in Aberdeen.

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You can help Sandhills Animal Rescue League continue to provide excellent vet care and good nutrition, and to buy supplies that are needed on a daily basis by sending a tax deductible donation to the address below. Sandhills Animal Rescue League [SARL] is a no kill shelter, 501(c)3 organization operating since January 2002.

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Area A Committee asks public for support

It was toward the end of a well-attended public input session for the Area A Small Area Planning process that Steering Committee member Don Welch asked the question that was on the mind of many: "How receptive is the present political situation in Moore County to the kinds of restrictions and recommendations that are being put forward here, when the crunch is down. I want to know where the commissioners are going to be."

"That is where you all come in," Steering Committee Member Dr. Bob Monroe replied, speaking to members of the public who had gathered for the meeting. "You're the ones who voted those people into office. You are the people who will have the same opportunity in the next election. You need to come to the Planning Board meeting when this thing is presented to them. And then come to the Commissioners meeting when it is presented to them."

If all goes according to plan, the Planning Board meeting in question will be the one scheduled for Thursday, February 7. The Commissioners are expected to review the Small Area Plan in March.

"We're all just working people," Steering Committee Member Jesse Wimberly said, echoing Monroe's comments. "We have spent a lot of time working on this plan. I have put my cards on the table. Next time we have a public meeting on this, don't let it be three three of us and a bunch of developers. Ya'll come and back us up. We don't want this place to turn into a Cary or a Fayetteville."

Committee members are working feverishly, along with the County Planning staff, to distill months of brainstorming, research, and hard-won consensus into a written document that, once approved by the Commissioners, will shape the course of development in an hundred-square-mile chunk of the county that includes Seven Lakes, West End, Jackson Springs, and Eagle Springs.

Committee members shared some tidbits of the plan they expect to present to the Planning Board and Commissioners during a Tuesday, January 15 public input session at West End Elementary School. Other input sessions were held at West Pine Middle School, the Jackson

Springs Community Center, and the Eagle Springs firehouse. Among the recommendations expected to appear in the final plan are the following:

- An Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance [APFO] that would require developers to demonstrate that the community has adequate roads, water, wastewater treatment, schools, and other infrastructure necessary to serve the potential residents of the community they are proposing.
- Developing policies that favor the use of decentralized small wastewater treatment "package" plants, as well as jointly-owned septic drain fields in areas not served by the County's existing wastewater treatment system. Recycling treated wastewater for irrigation.
- Promoting storm water man-

agement practices that benefit groundwater supplies, as well as prohibiting the drilling of private wells in areas served by public water.

- Protecting the "viewshed" along the major roadways that bring visitors, shoppers, and prospective residents into the county.

• Developing a fee structure for the county water system that places a high price on water used primarily for the irrigation of landscaping.

- Continuing to support the establishment of Voluntary Agricultural Districts [VAD] and further protect working farms from the encroachment of development maintaining a 150-foot wide buffer along VAD boundaries.

- Developing a database of valuable farm and timberland

to assist in efforts to preserve it.

- Supporting agritourism in order to help keep farmland in the hands of farmers.

- Protecting wetlands and watercourses by encouraging best management practices on farm and timberlands, and limiting impervious surface in residential and commercial development. Protect wetlands within developing areas by insisting on set-asides and buffers.

Copies of a handout on the Area A Small Area Planning Mission Statement and Key Principles can be found on The Seven Lakes Times website at www.sevenlakes.com. The site also contains a copy of the Area A Future Land Use Map, which shows the Steering Committee's vision of the ideal zoning for parcels throughout Area A.

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Hudson's numbers don't add up on legal fees

Steve Hudson, Treasurer of the Seven Lakes Landowners Association, published in the January 11 edition of *The Seven Lakes Times*, page 5, that he had sent an e-mail to the Board's lawyers, Hunter Stovall and Henry Jones.

His e-mail said:

Starting as of Thursday, January 10, 2008, any contact for opinions, etc., will not be paid unless they are board approved. If someone wishes to contact you for an opinion, it will be their bill, not the SLLA.

For the next four months, anyone who wishes to confer with you will apply to the board. There will be a vote and if passed, I will e-mail that it has been approved. That person will contact you and your charges will be paid for that time.

I hope you can understand and will work with me on this matter.

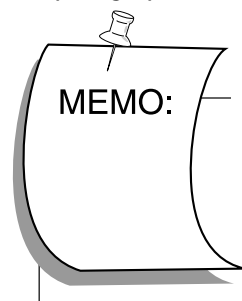
Thank you.

Steve Hudson
Treasurer, SLLA

I sent the following e-mail dated January 17 to both of the

Board's lawyers:

The Treasurer's duties are described in our by-laws page 6-6, paragraph 6.11.6 "Duties of



Board Notes

Don Truesdell
Seven Lakes
Landowners Board

the Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds and securities belonging to the Association and shall receive, deposit or disburse the same under the direction of the Board of Directors." There were no board motions made, seconded and passed that gave Mr. Hudson unilateral authority to implement this policy. I also had our Community Manager, Dalton Fulcher, check all of our minutes back to 1980. There has never been a motion that was made, seconded and passed in the history of the Association that gave any Director the authority to unilaterally make policy on behalf of the Association.

Therefore please accept this e-mail as my assurance that Mr. Hudson has exceeded his authority as Treasurer and his request is not valid.

It will be business as usual.

If you have any questions please call me at 910 673-1509. Thank you.

Donald P. Truesdell, President
Seven Lakes Landowners Association

As Greg Hankins stated in his article of the same edition, page 6, "Hudson's move to clamp down on legal expenses, if successful, would appear to place the Association in the position of having its access to legal counsel under the control of a Treasurer who is at the same time suing the Association."

What is wrong with this picture?

I feel a very strong fiduciary obligation to you the landowners to avoid if possible a lawsuit. Anytime there is a question with Hudson's name on it that deals with either the lawsuit and/or an interpretation of the bylaws I will seek a legal opinion before

making a decision. Mr. Hudson has already found his way to the courthouse once. I certainly do not want to give him a second opportunity. I will continue to err on the side of caution as long as Mr. Hudson is a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Hudson also stated in this article: "Now, as of November 30, 2007, we have spent \$15,853 in professional service expenses and none of these expensed had to do with the Shaw law suit!"

This claim is simply not true.

We have spent in legal fees since August 7, 2007 (the date that Shaw, Hudson, Leach and Robinson filed their lawsuit against the Association) \$3,807.75 because Mr. Hudson is a named plaintiff in this lawsuit. We have spent \$4,876 in legal fees prior

to July 18, 2007. This was the date the agreement with the Club was consummated. These expenses were incurred to educate the Board on the many different areas of the law that applied to our dispute with the Club.

Incidentally, in FY06/07 ending April 30, 2007, we spent \$12,033 in legal expenses. Our total to November 30, 2007 for FY08 legal expenses is \$10,387, not the \$15,853 that Mr. Hudson claims. Unless things change dramatically I do not anticipate our legal fees for this FY08 will exceed those of FY07. Our budget for the next FY09 shows legal expenses at \$8,416.

The total amount we have spent in professional services is \$15,855.

(See "Truesdell," p. 5)

Richard S. Pasko, D.C., D.A.C.B.R.

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Truesdell

(Continued from page 4)

The breakdown of this amount is as shown in the box at right. In addition, our liability insurance carrier has a \$5,000 deductible limit. Therefore the minimum this lawsuit will cost the Association is \$8,807.75. This suit may also have an adverse affect on our premiums.

At our working session of January 16, 2008, I presented a slide show to the audience showing the Association's income and expenses, my expenses and the Association's legal expenses. These slides begin April 30, 2005, the end of FY05 to our proposed budget for FY09 ending April 30, 2009.

For FY05 ending April 30, 2005 our operating expenses were \$1,098,000. The budget for our FY09 ending April 30, 2009 estimates our operating expenses at \$972,420. The good news is that I have actually reduced our

operating expenses by \$125,598 (\$1,098,000, FY05 minus \$972.420, FY09).

This slide show has been posted on *The Seven Lakes Times* website. The address is:

SLLA Professional Fees

Legal Fees Prior to July 18, 2007:	\$4,876	Club Dispute
November 30, 2007:	\$3,808	Hudson Issues
All other legal Expenses:	\$1,704	
Dixon Hughes	\$4,675	CPA Annual Audit
Carolina Environmental:	\$792	
Total professional services:	\$15,855	

www.sevenlaketimes.net. Hard copies are also available at the office.

In November 2006, when the Club issue first arose, I served on both the Association and Club Boards. I chose to resign from the Club Board on November 18, 2006, in order to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest in what has continued to be a difficult issue. In doing so I was able to look at this issue much more objectively and work towards a resolution I, and a majority of the Board, felt was in the best interest of Seven Lakes.

I honestly believe if Steve Hudson had shown the same courtesy to this community and resigned from this Board when he chose to join a lawsuit as a named plaintiff against the very Board on which he sits and is the Treasurer, this board would have been able to devote all of its attention to community business.

If you have any questions please call me. Thank you.

Wines around the World at West Side Park

Values from Around the World is the theme for this year's Third Annual Wine Tasting event to be held Friday, February 8 at 7:00 pm at the West Side Park Community Center.

Sponsored by the Seven Lakes West Recreation Committee, Robyn Anne James of The Wine Cellar and Tasting Room in Southern Pines will present eight different wines from eight different countries, all valued \$15.00 per bottle or less.

Tickets are \$10.00 and will be available at the West Side Park Community Center Office or by calling Janet Baker at 673-1644.

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February 8—17

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Gardeners: Time to think about pruning

The dawning of a new year, 2008, has brought hopefully a new interest in gardening throughout the Sandhills. The weather has been somewhat irregular, however, some rainfall and snow has fallen. According to mete-

orologist weather forecasters and others, our local moisture amounts are approximately eight to ten inches below normal.

Hopefully rainfall will increase and alleviate the water shortages and restore the lake levels.

A call to the Moore County Utilities Department indicated that we here in Seven Lakes are in stage three of water conservation and approaching stage four, which means no outside watering whatsoever.

Every year about this time, several people ask about the pruning of woody ornamentals.

Flowering trees and shrubs form buds at various times of the year. Early Spring flowering ornamentals such as azaleas,

camellias, dogwood, quince, and forsythia form buds in the Fall. If these Spring blooming plants are pruned now, the flowering display will be reduced this Spring. For plants that bloom

(See "Gardening," p.7)



Debbie Miriello-Stewart
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LAKEFRONT ON BIG JUNIPER LAKE - This new listing has a great view of the lake and includes a large Carolina room, split bedroom, vaulted ceilings and more. Call us for an appointment. . . . \$249,900



WATERFRONT ON LITTLE JUNIPER - Lovely home (over 2000 sqft) with Carolina Rm, large great rm, large kitchen with breakfast bar, masonry fireplace with gas logs, super views of the lake from most rooms . . . \$239,000



LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT LOT - Lot #3389 large lot (.96 acre) with excellent views of the lake near the back gate on Longleaf Drive. Could be sold as a pair with #3390. . . Lot #3389 listed at \$299,000



NEW CONSTRUCTION - 7 Lakes South near bus stop. Lots of very nice upgrades in this 3 BR (split plan) with separate office. Cathedral ceilings, hardwood & tile, rear porch, front porch, & stainless steel appliances. . . \$242,000



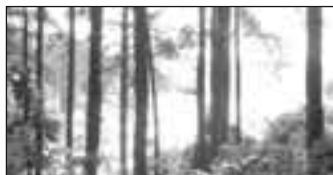
COLONIAL IN 7 LAKES SOUTH - Large home with 4 BR and 2.5 BA, hardwood floors in DR & LR, new appliances, lots of attic storage, located on three lots (1.79 acres) across street from the golf course (8th hole) . . . \$249,000



LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT BARGAIN - Six bedrooms, four baths with new hardwood floors in great room and new tile in kitchen. Boat dock with lift. A must see. . . Won't last long at \$580,000



GOLF FRONT ON 17th HOLE - All brick home priced to sell & immaculate. Upgrades included. Spacious kitchen and eat in area. Relax in the Master suite with Jacuzzi tub & separate shower. Enjoy the view! . . . \$305,000



LAKE AUMAN WATERFRONT LOT - Lot #3157 ideally located at the end of cove with excellent views of the lake. Great investment property. . . . Only \$279,900



SEQUOIA LAKEVIEW - Wonderful home with unique floor plan. Two story with two Master Suites! View the beautiful lake from the wooden decks and balcony. Comfortable and in excellent condition! . . . \$254,500



HIGHLY DESIRABLE TOWNHOUSE - Priced for quick sale. Three bedroom, two bath with Carolina Room and very nice open floor plan. Great location near the south gate and the Seven Lakes Country Club. . . \$155,000



ALL BRICK 2 STORY - Beautiful Northside home on large wooded corner lot near amenities. MBR on main level with 2 BR on 2nd floor. Sep. DR, large screened porch, neat family rm with masonry fireplace (gas logs) . . . \$248,000

SEVEN LAKES LOTS

WATER FRONT

#3157 - Lake Auman - \$279,900
#3388 - Lake Auman - \$299,000
#3389 - Lake Auman - \$299,000

GOLF FRONT

#2147R - 1 Acre on 4th Hole - \$29,500
#2188 - SOLD! - \$35,000
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#6146 - View 3 Holes at BRCC - \$59,500

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#1014 - Great Investment with Good Perc - \$25,750
#1015 - Private with Good Perc - \$26,500
#196 - Reduced/ Dbl Lots - \$27,000
#215/220 - Reduced! - \$28,500
#1004/05 - Two/wet - \$6,900
#2574R - Lake View - \$28,000
#2475 - Really Nice - \$21,500
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#2514 - Good Perc - \$24,900
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Lot #2188 - SOLD!

113 Winsford Circle -

Under Contract

113 Sandham Court -

New Listing

111 Oxford - New Listing

136 Shady Wood Ct. - New Listing

Gardening

(Continued from page 6)

or flower during the Summer, pruning them now will have little or no effect on Summer flowering.

The rule is to prune after blooming and before bud setting transpires. Trees and shrubs that are grown for foliage can be pruned preferably when dor-

fertilization, liming, and man-
agement.

Garden rotation is a problem where land space is limited, because most of our gardeners live on small lots and develop-
ments in the Sandhills.

It is a fact that vegetables pro-
duce better if the garden spot is
changed every three to five years.

This rotation helps break the cycle of disease, insects, and nematodes. If you cannot move the garden location, the alterna-

tive is to move the individual vegetable plantings around in different spots every year if possible.

Now is a good time to clean up your vegetable garden site by spading or tilling it several times. Mix into the soil thoroughly lime, fertilizers, and compost, organic matter, rotten leaves, and decomposing dried manure. The

amount should be determined by a soil test.

In the absence of a soil test analysis report, as a general recommendation use four to five pounds dolomitic limestone per one hundred square feet every two years, and two to three pounds each per one hundred square feet of the other men-
tioned amendments every year.

As a reminder, now is a good time for taking soil samples before farmers begin their crop season sampling. Soil sample kits and instructions are available from the Moore County Cooperative Extension service office in Carthage. Soil test analysis is the only correct method for determining the pH nutrient needs constant for your crop and soil. Samples are submitted to the

North Carolina Department of Agriculture by the Moore County office. They will be processed in two to three weeks and an analysis report will be sent back to you. If you are unable to understand the report, contact me. The service is free.

Some inquiries continue to be made concerning the dieback of Leyland cypress. This tree-shrub has gained in popularity and is primarily used as a shade specimen, and grouped as a screening barrier. It is a fast growing plant but is susceptible to needle blight, the primary disease.

There are several recommended treatments but the most practical one for the homeowner is daconil. It is not a systemic fungicide that reduces the per-

centage of defoliation of the canopy. Begin spraying in early July on a ten to fourteen day schedule and continue to the end of October. This product is formulated by Southern Agricultural Chemical Company and distributed by Cardinal Chemical Company of Aberdeen, NC.



Gardening in the Sandhills

Jim Caudill

mant during the Winter or, if necessary, during Spring and Summer months. An exception is if a sudden storm, fire, or other disaster strikes, remove the damaged plant parts.

Prune grape vines and fruit trees as soon as possible.

A number of questions have been asked relative to rotation, vegetable garden preparation,

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In memory of . . .

Charm Yearby Allen, 58, of Pinehurst, died Wednesday, January 9, at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, from complications of leukemia.

Mrs. Allen was born in Pinehurst, a daughter of the late Leonard H. and Marjorie Currie Yearby. She graduated from Pinehurst High School, Class of 1967, and received a bachelor's degree in Christian education from Pfeiffer College.

She was employed with West End Presbyterian Church as the adult and children's choir director, and previously served as a Christian educator at First Presbyterian Church, New Bern; Second Presbyterian Church, Charleston, S.C.; Oak Island Presbyterian Church; Siler Presbyterian Church, Matthews; Community Presbyterian Church, Pinehurst; and Siler City United Methodist Church.

Memorial services were held on January 12 at Community Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Rod Stone, Dr. William Hawkins and the Rev. Larry Lyons officiated.

ated.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Robert E. "Eddie" Allen Jr.

Mrs. Allen is survived by a brother, Anthony "Tony" Yearby of Pinehurst; and four sisters, Wanda Venable, of Cornelius, Vicki McKenzie of Whispering Pines, Kim Bailey of Pinehurst, and Roxann West of Tucson, AZ.

Memorials may be made to the Bone Marrow Transplant Tree of Life Account, First Bank, P.O. Box 438, West End, NC 27376. Boles Funeral Home of Pinehurst assisted the family.

Martin Leonard Hoogerland, 75, of Seven Lakes West, died Tuesday, January 8, at his residence.

Mr. Hoogerland was born in Grand Rapids, MI, where he lived most of his life. He held an associate's degree, and served stateside in the U.S. Navy for two years. He retired in 1992, from Hastings Manufacturing,

where he was a steel purchaser. Mr. Hoogerland worked at Pinewild Golf Course for nine years.

Survivors include his wife of thirty years, Cenda; six children, Greg Hoogerland, Michael Hoogerland, Karen Miklusak, Susan Majinska, Douglas Hoogerland, and Jan Wilder; two stepchildren, Elisa Dely and Myer Macleod; seventeen grandchildren and three sisters.

A celebration of his life was held at his home for his family.

Memorials may be made to First Tee of the Sandhills, Attn: Robert Burwell, 192 Persimmon Drive, Pinebluff, NC 28373.

Boles Funeral Home assisted the family.

Steven Dale Prail, 50, of West End, died Thursday, January 10.

Mr. Prail was born in Bloom-

ington, MN, the son of Irvin W. Prail Jr. and LaVonne Jans Hurd. He was a truck driver.

Mr. Prail is survived by his father, Irvin Prail, of Pacifica, CA; his mother and stepfather, LaVonne and Jimmie Hurd, of Seven Lakes; one brother, Alan Prail, of San Diego; and a sister, Kristen Stewart, of Glen Alan, VA.

No local service is planned at this time.

Boles Funeral Home of Seven Lakes assisted the family.

Edna Williams Morgan, of Eagle Springs, died Friday, January 18, at Randolph Hospital, Asheboro.

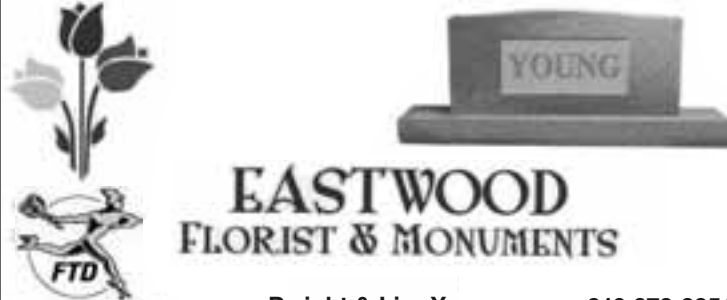
Mrs. Morgan was a native of Moore County, daughter of the late Quincy A. and Ettie Jane Morgan Williams. She worked at several sewing plants for thirty years and was a member of

the Pine Grove Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Kermit Morgan; three sisters, Hattie Jane Williams, Nettie W. Cole, and Dorothy W. McKenzie; seven brothers, Grady, Ollie Clearence, Lester, Claude, Atlas, Shelton, and John Williams; and two sisters-in-law.

She is survived by her daughter, Ethel M. Richardson; son,

(Continued on page 9)



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In memory of . . .

(Continued from page 8)

Robert Elwood Morgan, both of Eagle Springs; four grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday, January 21, at Pine Grove Baptist Church in Eagle Springs. The Rev. Billy Reynolds officiated. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Pine Grove Baptist Church, c/o James C. Myrick, 488 Browers Mill Road, Star, NC 27356.

The family was assisted by Phillips Funeral Home of Star.

Frieda K. Swain, 68, of West End, died Saturday, January 19, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst.

Mrs. Swain was a native of Medina County, OH, the daughter of the late Edward and Ida Borling Hofstetter. She was an active member of Cornerstone Baptist Church, where she was the organist and pianist for many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David Michael Swain; and a brother, Daniel J. Hofstetter.

Survivors include a daughter, Lisa Bennett; a son, David Swain, both of West End; a sister, Norma Becker, of Medina; four brothers, Edward Hofstetter, of Sharon Center, OH, Robert Hofstetter, of Medina, Tommy Hofstetter and Ray Hofstetter, both of Wadsworth, OH; and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, January 22, at Cornerstone Baptist Church. The Rev. Joe Needham officiated.

An additional funeral service will be held Friday, January 25, at Waite and Son Funeral Home in Medina, OH. Burial will follow in Greenlawn Memorial Park, Akron, OH.

Memorials may be made to Cornerstone Baptist Church, 656 Hoffman Road, West End, NC 27376, or to Baptist Children's Homes of NC, P.O. Box 338, Thomasville, NC 27361-0338.

Fry and Prickett Funeral Home of Carthage, and Waite and Son Funeral Home of Medina assisted the family.

Thomas Joseph Tucker, 74, of Waxhaw, died Sunday, Janu-

ary 20, at his residence.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1:00 pm Friday, January 25, at St. Matthew Catholic Church, with the Rev. Patrick Cahill officiating.

Mr. Tucker was born in Passaic,

NJ, the son of the late Clarence and Ellen Tucker. He was one of the founders of *The Seven Lakes Times*.

He is survived by his wife, Marie Milkovits; children; Thomas Tucker of FL., Michael Tucker

of Ardmore, PA, Leslie Toggweiler of Waxhaw, Jeff Tucker of Pinehurst, and Christopher Tucker of Ardmore; and nine grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis

Society, 1515 Mockingbird Lane, Charlotte, NC 28209.

Heritage Funeral Home, Matthews, NC is assisting the family.

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Schaefers bring joy to marketing & web design

by Greg Hankins
Times Editor

Joy is the heart of any successful partnership.

And joy is what you hear when Sven and Carmen Schaefer talk about their marketing and design business, IC&M Ltd. Inc.

"We love being creative, working together," Carmen told *The Times*. "We call it 'the idea factory' — it's organized creativity."

The Schaefers, who live in Seven Lakes North with their two young sons, organize their

creativity to develop an integrated corporate identity for their clients, creating a consistent enterprise-wide presentation and feel, from the logo to the sign, stationery, collateral materials, advertising, and website.

"Our goal is to give your company a uniform look across the Board," Sven told *The Times*.

Many firms that offer similar services start in the world of printing or traditional advertising, but IC&M has a twenty-first century spin on the business: "Web

design in the heart of the business," Sven Schaefer explained. "The website is now a primary marketing tool for many, many businesses."

And for good reason. "It gives you a lot of control over your marketing," he continued. "You can see who was there, and when they were there." That's information that more traditional marketing methods don't provide.

"But you have to combine it with classic marketing," Sven adds. Fliers, brochures, advertising, business cards, and good old-fashioned business networking are all key to "getting your homepage out there into the neighborhood."

So, IC&M's efforts often start on the web in order to take advantage of that medium's marketing power, but they also take on more traditional corporate identity assignments where the web presence is not the driving force.

"Our core values are: we deliver on time, we don't charge for something we didn't do, we're dependable," Carmen told *The Times*. "This is not a weekend job; this is our fulltime profession."

"We're positioned in between the guy who does websites on

the weekend and the high-priced, big-city firms that have high overhead," Sven added.

"The personal relationship with our customers is very important to us," he continued. "We sit down with our customer and really try to understand what their business is like" before beginning work on a design.

"All our jobs are custom-quoted," Sven explains. "It's very individualistic. Our goal is a custom-made design that fits your business." Websites are designed from the ground up — not based on off-the-shelf templates.

That personal, hands-on approach has won IC&M a number of local clients, including Whelan Realty, Abbott Insurance Group, Makalas Fine Jewelry, and Cottage Chic. The Schaefers built and now maintain an online catalog for Cottage Chic that includes more than

4,000 items.

Sven and Carmen bring interesting backgrounds to their partnership. Both are German by birth, though they have lived in the US for a number of years. Carmen spent ten years in marketing positions with Bang & Olufsen and Deutsche Bank.

Sven retired with the rank of Major after 22 years in the Luftwaffe — the German Air Force — where he was a pilot and pilot instructor. His assignments included four years as an instructor at an airbase in Texas that hosts NATO forces from sixty different nations.

Sven's experience with and training in Information Technology began in the Luftwaffe, where he handled networking security and desktop computer maintenance for his squadron. After transitioning to the private sec-

(See "Schaefer," p. 11)



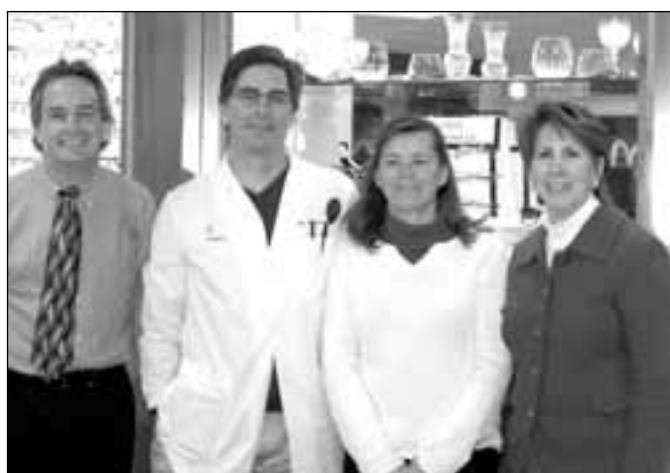
Carmen & Sven Schaefer of IC&M Ltd. Inc.

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Pahner joins Seven Lakes Prudential office

Beckie Lee Pahner has joined Prudential Gouger O'Neal and Saunders Real Estate as a broker associate in the Seven Lakes/West End Office.

Pahner, a Pennsylvania native, is a graduate of Eastman School of Music. Prior to her career in real estate, she taught music for 15 years in the public schools of both Ohio and Pennsylvania. Two years ago she and her family, husband Kurt and son Joshua, moved to Foxfire Village. She enjoys playing golf and is a member of the Foxfire Women's Golf League.

Pahner is a pianist for several organizations in the area. She

plays regularly for the Pinehurst Country Club, Country Club of North Carolina and devotes her Sundays to Christ Fellowship Church.

"I received my first real estate license in 1977," Pahner said. That is thirty years ago. This doesn't speak of my age, so much, as it does show how much I really enjoy real estate!"

"My first years in real estate were with new construction sales. Those were the days when you could build a brand new custom home for as little as \$79,000 in some areas. Since then I have seen a lot of changes in the real estate market, however; I am

still of the belief that there are no 'bad markets.' I always see advantages to buyers and sellers equal-



Beckie Lee Pahner

ly in almost every type of market," she continued.

"When sellers cringe at the thought of discounting the price of their home, I quickly remind them that they will be happy when they receive that same discount in returning to the market as a buyer to replace the home they have just sold. Markets have a way of balancing themselves!"

As a full-time real estate pro-

fessional, I was seeking to work for a company that had 'the best reputation in the field of real estate.' Prudential formidably exceeded my expectations!"

"My relocation to the Seven Lakes/West End office offers me the opportunity to focus on the Foxfire, Jackson Springs, West End and Seven Lakes local markets. Stop in and say hello!"

Schaefer

(Continued from page 10)

tor, he made the jump to web design and acquired degrees in that field, Information Technology, and Business Administration.

"I am always training, always keeping up to date," Sven told *The Times*. The latest wrinkle in the rapidly-changing world of web development is SEO — search engine optimization — and IC&M is on top of that trend. The way a site is built can determine how close to the top of the results list it appears after a search on Google or Yahoo, Sven explains. IC&M is optimizing its clients' sites to make sure they rank high in search results.

The Schaefer family moved to Seven Lakes in 2006 and began

building IC&M. The Schaefer family are active in the local community and local school and are members of the Seven Lakes Area Business Guild.

Sven believes his military experience — as an officer and instructor dealing with service personnel from many different countries — is a plus in relating to IC&M customers. "Because of that background, I think I can relate to many types of people, work with them, and explain complex concepts in everyday language," he told *The Times*.

For the Schaefer family, the bottom line is professionalism, punctuality, a solid product at a fair price, and having a great time doing top-notch creative work for their customers.

You can reach them via the IC&M website at www.icmld.biz; email is SvenS@icmld.biz; the toll-free phone number is 1-866-379-3485, or locally, 910-603-4954.

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Rachel Stewart is 'Miss Outstanding Teen'

by Laura Douglass
Times Reporter

Rachel Stewart, a Moore County native and the daughter of Mark and Sandy Stewart of McLendon Hills was crowned Miss Outstanding Teen Moore County last August. As an ambassador of the Miss America and Miss North Carolina Scholarship Program, Stewart will compete at the state level in June.

In addition to competing for scholarship funds, pageant winners have the opportunity to educate the community through their service platform.

Rachel said she chose a cause close to her heart — organ donation.

"My grandfather had a heart transplant on Easter morning three years ago at Duke," said Stewart. "He is doing well now and my platform, 'Make a miracle be an organ donor,' is in his honor."

Her grandfather, Gene Stewart, lives in Buies Creek, North Carolina.

According to her mom Sandy, Rachel has participated in pageants since she was four or five years old.

"She has won several titles

including Little Miss Sandhills and Miss Noel," said Stewart.

Rachel is also the only competitor to have won all three categories in the latter pageant.

As Moore County's Outstanding Teen, a co-title to Miss Teen Moore County, Stewart has participated in parades, spoken to a women's church group, visited several preliminary pageants throughout the state, performed the national anthem at several Pinecrest sporting events, received volunteer certification at East Carolina to speak on behalf of Carolina Donor Services, and manned organ donation information booths at Autumnfest and area health fairs.

In April, she will travel to Raleigh for a weekend-long choreography rehearsal in preparation for the state competition in June.

Stewart is also a soccer player, varsity cheerleader, and member of the Chamber Choir program at Pinecrest High School.

Last year the Pinecrest Chamber Choir placed fourth at the Festival of Gold, a nationwide competition. Under the direction of Choral Director James Brown, the choir performed at a

Duke University worship service this past November, and are now preparing to compete again nationally in Chicago. The Pinecrest Chamber Choir has also been invited to perform at the White House.

Brown assists Stewart as her vocal coach and has been helping her to prepare for state competition.

"The pageants are a lot more work than people realize," said Sandy Stewart. "It's not just about the makeup, hair and gown. There's training, physical fitness, a written essay, your platform, interviewing skills, working on and fine tuning your talent . . . it's very time consuming."

In competition this talented rising star has performed a song fittingly titled, "This is my now."

And from her "now," the future looks bright for Rachel Stewart.

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County priorities

(Continued from front page)

learn from mistakes. This board will be judged on what we do and we'll be judged as a 'Tax and Spend' board because of the situation we've been put into."

Commissioner Larry Caddell suggested that public education was very important for moving forward.

"It's a lot easier to swallow what you have to do if they [the public] are informed. There are people who will say we don't need it and we need to educate those people and give them the true answers," said Caddell.

County Manager Cary McSwain agreed, "The best way is to make sure the public knows and understands even if they may not agree."

Opinions expressed by two county residents in attendance at the retreat illustrate the difficulties ahead for the commissioners.

Doug Middaugh of Pinehurst said, "The bottom line is that prior commissioners knowingly didn't plan for the future and as a result, the current commissioners are in a necessary catch-up mode."

Elton Turner of Vass charged, "The previous commissioners

challenged expenditures and these commissioners approve them without question or challenge."

Commissioner Tim Lea suggested that to move forward the current board needed to stop looking back and blaming previous boards, "We need to be proactive and find solutions to the problems we're facing."

McSwain recommended the board consider holding several public forums each year to discuss county needs.

Commissioner Cindy Morgan also made a recommendation that the county engage in an efficiency study with a task force to research any potential sources of cost savings.

Water Study

"How the state regulates the movement of water from one river basin to another is affecting Moore County greater than anyone anticipated," said Dennis Brobst, Director of Public Works, during his Water Study report to the Board of Commissioners.

The North Carolina law Brobst referred to stipulates that no more than 2 million gallons of water per day can transfer from one river basin to another. This

formula becomes extremely complicated, according to Brobst, with different water systems selling to other counties and municipalities.

Moore County sits in the Cape Fear, Lumber, and Deep River basins. Seven Lakes, in particular, is problematic for the county because all three basins converge here.

The Department of Public Works has three potential water resources: surface water, groundwater, and water purchased from sources

Groundwater is the principal and most economical source, according to Brobst noting that the lack of suitable surface water

in many areas of the county.

Since 1997, radium contamination and low-yield wells have reduced the total number of county wells by twenty. Most of these wells were located in Seven Lakes.

Rainfall is the only water source for groundwater and the aquifer from which county wells draw, fills slowly.

"The plus side is that it drops slowly too so it serves as an underground storage tank," said Brobst. "There's a lot of water in it and it's our savings account."

Brobst's report stated that groundwater will continue to be an important future source of potable water for Moore Coun-

ty and is the most cost effective water resource. However, he did recommend that the aquifer needed protection from over-use by private wells.

Other recommendations included extending water service from Montgomery County to Seven Lakes along Rt. 211; partnering with Robbins to return the Robbins water plant to service; and in conjunction with the Robbins water plant extending water service from Robbins to Seven Lakes.

"Can we afford to do all these things? Absolutely not!" concluded Brobst as he turned the discussion over to the board.

Commissioner Tim Lea sup-

(See "County," p. 14)



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Response: Temporomandibular disorder (TMD) occurs when the muscles and ligaments that control the TMJ (temporomandibular joint) are disrupted. Symptoms vary greatly among patients and may include:

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Physical therapy can help restore normal function of the TMJ by improving the alignment of the joint, relaxing muscles, increasing flexibility and decreasing inflammation. Each patient's treatment plan will be different based on the factors that have contributed to the onset. We strongly recommend that you get started as soon as possible. Early detection and treatment are important, as some problems can lead to more serious conditions. If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with TMD, ask your doctor if a referral to physical therapy would help.

Barbara Kutynsky, MPT

Barbara Kutynsky received her master's degree in physical therapy from Northwestern University in Chicago. She has extensive training in myofascial release and cranio-sacral therapy.

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County priorities

(Continued from page 13)

ported the recommendation of bringing the Robbins plant back into service and connected the system into the county lines.

Brobst explained the major obstacle was that Robbins would need to look to the county to help with funding.

There was also discussion that Moore County would benefit from having some ownership of the system in Robbins rather than going to other counties for water.

Commissioner Larry Caddell suggested up to 300,000 gallons of water a day were available from the Carthage plant.

Brobst said he had talked to Carthage officials about creating an emergency interconnect to allow a simple transfer of water from one system to another.

Lea asked if Carthage would be interested in allowing the county to have some ownership of that system too.

"We need to look at having some type of control. I would like to see the economic impact of the dollars we're spending to remain in Moore," said Lea.

Wastewater rate hike?

Describing the single Moore County waste water treatment plant as a well-designed system, Brobst reported that plant accountability from July 2006 to June 2007 was ninety percent: an exceptional percentage.

"The plant is a wonderful asset with zero debt," said Brobst.

Located in Addor, the waste water plant was constructed using retained earnings. However, the necessary plant expansion is expected to cost \$37 million.

Currently, the WWTP cost to the county is \$1.40 per 1,000 gallons. Brobst anticipates an increase to \$3.82 per 1,000 gallons after the expansion project is complete.

For consumers, this cost increase to the county will double the average monthly sewer bill up from \$20.30 to \$43.05.

Brobst's recommended an incremental rate increase formula through 2012.

"An incremental increase would allow retained earnings to accrue; allow municipalities to adjust their budgets and increase rates accordingly; and allow customers to budget for the increase over

time."

Under Brobst's formula, the potential retained earnings in 2012 would be \$10.2 million.

County resident and activist, Elton Turner, quickly calculated during the meeting that borrowing this same amount, at four percent interest, would increase the total project cost to the county by \$4.6 million.

Utilities Capital Improvement Plan

The Seven Lakes water tanks interconnect project is but one of several projects currently obligated, funded, or completed under the Moore County Capital Improvement Plan [CIP]. Other projects include: extended water line along Rt. 211 around Pinewild; a lift station; upgrades at Pinehurst and East Moore Water District [EMWD]; community water study; and

wells rehabilitation.

Director of Public Works Dennis Brobst reported retained earnings as of first week of January include cash /investments at \$4.4 million, designated /obligated funds at \$3.6 million, leaving a strategic reserve of \$500,000. The remaining CIP projects are expected to cost \$322,000.

"The strategic reserve is half of what it should be," said Brobst. "Everything we've done has been a pay as you go with the money we already have."

According to Brobst, the most significant improvement to CIP will be a water main along US 15/501 to include a tank and line upsizing connecting Harnett County to the Pinehurst-Seven Lakes grid. This project is being funded by two Rural Center grants totaling \$900,000 and through utility retained earnings.

The total cost for the project is \$1.18 million and it is scheduled for completion in Aug 2008.

A booster pump located along Rt. 211 which had been scheduled for completion next month has been suspended indefinitely by Brobst.

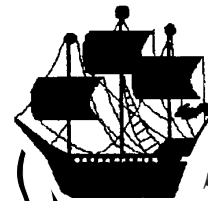
"We couldn't use the pump station until a connection was made on the other side. A better use of that money was determined to be through a new source for Seven Lakes."

Brobst recommended the board consider borrowing funds to complete the radio read meters project, giving the county a source of future cost savings through efficiency.

The use of radio read meters significantly reduces the man hours required to check standard meters.

(See "County," p. 15)

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County priorities

(Continued from page 14)

Drought impact

Brobst reported that as of January 1, Moore County is still in an Exceptional Drought. He noted that the North Carolina counties to the far west, where the drought was first evident,

are showing some improvement. Currently, Seven Lakes is 7.43 below normal average precipitation.

According to Brobst, the severity of the drought can be measured by comparing static aquifer levels. Since March's all-time

high level, the aquifer has dropped 3.6 feet.

"The present water rate structure is insufficient to fund necessary CIP projects," said Brobst. "Water rates are going to be going up throughout the state because they don't have any

choice." He continued, "These expenses are real and we have no choice: these requirements must be met."

Commissioner Caddell agreed stating that there is a possibility that future water rates will rival power bill costs.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

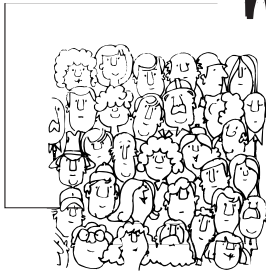
- **MOPS Parenting Lecture** – 7 pm, Pinecrest High School Auditorium. Sponsored by MOPS, Family psychologist, author and popular parenting speaker John K. Rosemond will address "Assuming the Power of Parenthood." Advance tickets are \$15, and \$18 at the door. Information www.sandhillsmops.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

- **Cooking with Carmela and Marjorie: Soup and more Soup** – 1 pm – 3 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Fee is \$10. Registration must be made at Seven Lakes West Community Center beginning Thursday, January 17. Call 673-5314.
- **MOPS Parenting Lecture** – 10 am, Pinecrest High School Auditorium. Sponsored by MOPS, Family psychologist, author and popular parenting speaker John K. Rosemond will address "Bringing Out the Best in Your Child." Advance tickets are \$15, and \$18 at the door. Information www.sandhillsmops.com

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

- **Lap-Band Information Session** – 6 pm – 7:30 pm, Monroe Auditorium at Moore Regional Hospital. Raymond Washington, M.D., a general and bariatric surgeon with



FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital and Pinehurst Surgical, will conduct an information session on the Lap-Band Adjustable Gastric Banding System, the only adjustable surgical treatment for morbid obesity. Program is free.

- **West Side Landowners Association Candidate Night** – 7:30 pm, West Side Community Center. Six candidates running for election. Moderated by Linda Tableman.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

- **The Gallery at Seven Lakes** – 1 pm to 4 pm, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church at 1145 Seven Lakes Drive. An Open House featuring over fifty photographs by the Rev. Father Bob Brown. Refreshments served. The Gallery is open each Wednesday and Thursday from 1 – 4 pm. Exhibit continues through Thursday, February 21.

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association General Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- **Temple Theater: Super Sounds of the 70's** – 8 pm, 120 Carthage Street in downtown Sanford. Opening night with champagne toast and chance to meet performers and designers. Show continues through February 17. Tickets \$20 adults; \$16 for groups,

Thursday evening performances, active military personnel, and Lee County Educators; and \$10 for students and children. Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office Monday through Friday 2 - 6 pm. (919) 774-4155 and www.templeshows.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- **Sunrise Silent Movie** – 2:30 and 7:30 pm. 250 NW Broad St., Southern Pines. *The Black Pirate*, the forerunner of all great pirate pictures, Douglas Fairbanks stars in the film. Dave Drazin of Chicago will dazzle audiences with his skill on the piano as he provides accompaniment for the film. Tickets \$12 adults, \$8 children. Info 692-8501.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- **Moore County Board of Commissioners Meeting** – 4 pm, Historic Courthouse, Carthage.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- **Ruth Pauley Lecture Series** – 7:30 pm, Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College. Author Timothy Tyson will discuss race relations and his book *Blood Done Sign My Name*, a memoir and history of the murder of a black man, Henry Marrow, committed by the white father of a childhood friend in Oxford, North Carolina in 1970. Dr. Tyson is the Senior Scholar at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke, with sec-

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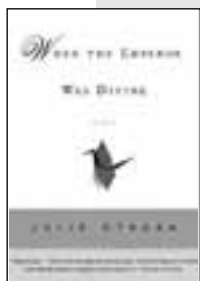
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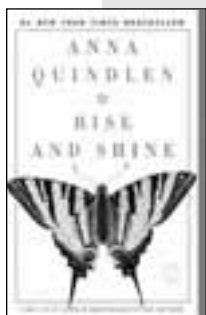
**WHAT'S YOUR GROUP
READING?**



Books West
**THREE CUPS
OF TEA**
by Greg Mortenson



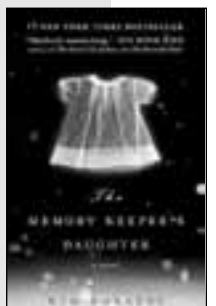
7 Lakes Bookies
**WHEN THE EMPEROR
WAS DIVINE**
by Julie Otsuka



Sandhills Book Club
RISE & SHINE
by Anna Quindlen



Happy Bookers
**THE GLASS
CASTLE**
by Jeannette Walls



Bookies II
**THE MEMORY
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by Kim Edwards



Turning Leaves
**THE GARDEN
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ondary appointments in the Duke Divinity School and the Department of History, and adjunct Professor of American Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Admission is free and open to the public with no tickets required.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- **Moore County Planning Board Meeting** – 6 pm, Carthage.
- **Women of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 1 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse. First Health will give an informative presentation on "Heart Disease and Women."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- **Moore OnStage: Buddy Holly Story** – 6 pm, Sunrise Theater in Southern Pines. Opening night wine reception, show time at 7:30 pm. Featuring songs by Holly, The Big Bopper, and Ritchie Valens. Show continues through February 17. Reservations 692-7118.
- **Third Annual Wine Tasting Event** – 7 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Sponsored by Seven Lakes West Recreation Committee, Values from Around the World is the theme as Robyne Anne James from The Wine Cellar and Tasting Room will present samples of eight wines from eight countries, all valued at \$15 per bottle or less. Tickets are \$10 and available at the West Side Park Community Center Office or by calling Janet Baker at 673-644.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- **Wilderness First Aid Class** – 8 am – 5 pm, Weymouth Woods Nature Center in Southern Pines. Sponsored by the American Red Cross, a 16 hour course covers basic and urgent first aid. Preregistration required, the fee is \$120. Class continues on Saturday, February 16. Information 692-8571.
- **Babysitting Class** – 9 am – 3 pm, American Red Cross Moore County Chapter House, 244 SW Broad Street, Southern Pines. Sponsored by ARC, course covers hands-on training in babysitter responsibilities and first aid. \$25 fee is payable in advance. Class will repeat Saturday, March 29. 692-8571.
- **Seven Lakes Country Club**

Mad Hatter's Ball – 5:30 pm cocktails, 6:30 dinner, Seven Lakes Country Club. Wear your favorite hat and enjoy a buffet dinner featuring Caesar salad, chicken cacciatore, fettuccine Alfredo, cheese tortellini, in vodka pink sauce, garlic bread and rolls, topped off with a sherbet bar. All-inclusive price for members \$22; \$27 for non-members. Reservations 673-1100,.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- **Moore County Board of Education Business Meeting** – 7 pm, MCS Central Office in Carthage.
- **Sandhills Photography Club Meeting** – 7 pm, Christ Fellowship Church, corner of Midland Road and Pee Dee Road in Southern Pines. Feature is Open Print Competition. www.sandhillshotoclub.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- **Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Work Session** – 8 am, West Side Park Community Center.
- **Computer Club of Seven Lakes Meeting** – 3 pm, Game Room at the SLLA Building. Member and photographer Len Barnard will demonstrate ProShow Gold. Guests are always welcome.
- **Foxfire Village Council Meeting** – 7:30 pm, Town Hall.
- **Seven Lakes Civic Group Meeting** – 7:30 pm, West Side Park Community Center. Guest speaker Dennis Brobst, Moore County Director of Public Works, will present results and recommendations of the McGill Associates county-wide water study. All residents & local business owners are urged to attend.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- **Seven Lakes Landowners Association Work Session** – 7:30 pm, Seven Lakes North Clubhouse.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- **Winter Card Party** – 12 pm, Seven Lakes Country Club. Women of Seven Lakes invite you to their Winter Card Party. \$14.00. Carole Gorman 673-3988, or Jane Lowe 673-2118.

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SLLA feud

(Continued from front page)

munity Manager Dalton Fulcher to place on the ballot the question of whether Truesdell should be recalled. But Truesdell said in Wednesday's meeting that Hudson's request was not in keeping with the Bylaws.

Paragraph 6.4 provides for the removal of an elected Director by "a majority of owner-occupants in an annual meeting or special meeting," "whenever in their judgement the best interest of the Association will be served by such removal." It does not explain the appropriate mechanism for putting the question on the ballot, and Truesdell provided no clarification on that point while turning away Hudson's request.

Later in the meeting, Hudson proposed a revision to Bylaw 6.4 which would add the needed clarification, providing for a recall to be set into motion through a petition supported by one-tenth of resident landowners or supported by any two directors. In addition, Hudson's revision would allow removal based on a majority of those voting in the election, rather than a majority of all landowners, which is how the current text reads. This would make it considerably easier to remove a director.

Before Hudson's motion could be seconded, Truesdell objected strongly to the proposed Bylaw change. "Steve, it is inappropriate for you to try to change the bylaws at this time, since you would like to recall me." Truesdell then moved to table the

motion until after the upcoming elections. A change to the Bylaws aimed at making Hudson, as a named plaintiff in a lawsuit against the Association, ineligible to run for a second term on the Board, was deferred until after the election.

Brushing aside the objection, Hudson asked to have the proposed change voted on during the January 30 Association meeting, along with Truesdell's motion to table.

Earlier in the meeting, Director Donna Stephan suggested that each of the sitting Board members resign and place their names on the March Annual Meeting ballot. "I would be the first to put my name on the list to run for the Board next year," Stephan said. "I would suggest putting all the names on the ballot. Let's see who the people vote in."

Though the suggestion met with applause from the audience, no Director commented on Stephan's suggestion.

Legal expenses

In another Wednesday Night skirmish, Truesdell parried an attempt by Hudson to limit the President's unfettered access to legal counsel.

Prevented from bringing up his concerns about mounting legal expenses in a January 7 Special Meeting, Hudson published a letter in the January 11 *Seven Lakes Times* announcing that he would inform the Association's attorneys that any future legal expenses must be approved by a prior vote of the Board and authorized by the Treasurer. He made those notifications to Attorneys Hunter Stovall and Henry Jones in emails dated January 8.

Hudson noted that professional expenses — mostly attorney's fees — for the current Fiscal Year through the end of November were double those for the same time last year. Hudson made a point of noting that those expenses were not the result of the lawsuit against the Association and Country Club.

Hudson is a plaintiff in that suit.

Truesdell attacked Hudson's analysis with a blizzard of expense numbers aimed at showing that the lawsuit and Hudson's participation in it had in fact been responsible for much of the money spent on attorneys since August, when Hudson announced he would be a party to the suit. Prior to that, Truesdell said, the bulk of the legal expenses were incurred during negotiations with the Club over the Driving Range issue. [Truesdell offers a summary of that presentation in a Board Notes column on page 4 of this issue of *The Times*.]

"I feel a very strong fiduciary responsibility to the landowners to protect us from a lawsuit," Truesdell said.

Considerable additional verbal sparring by Hudson and Trues-

dell covered a range of disagreements:

- Whether the compromise with the Club was a good idea,
- Whether members of the community should have been able to comment on the compromise before it was approved,
- What it would have cost for the SLLA to sue the Club or seek a declaratory judgment on the issues between them,
- Whether Hudson's unwillingness to abide by a majority vote of the Board contradicted a column he had published in *The Times*,
- Whether Hudson had the authority to shut down spending on legal counsel unilaterally,
- Whether Truesdell had flipped-flopped on his earlier stance when he decided to support

(See "SLLA," p. 21)

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SLLA feud

(Continued from page 20)

the agreement, and

- Whether *The Times* accurately characterized Hudson as attempting to “control” Director access to attorneys.

Other Directors weigh in

Truesdell eventually asked other Board members for their opinions on Hudson’s attempt to reign in legal expenditures. Donna Stephan said she had never received a satisfactory response from Board Attorney Hunter Stovall when she asked

for a understandable explanation of the the Marketable Title Act — which figured in the Board’s negotiations with the Club over the driving range.

“I have heard this all so many times. . .” Stephan continued, apparently referring to the restatement of the issues between Truesdell and Hudson. “For the third meeting in a row, I am extremely uncomfortable to be sitting here, and I am extremely embarrassed to be a part of this.”

Later, she added, “This is

going on too long. This is a fait accompli. We have other items on the agenda. A lot of things could be handled quietly in a backroom. All our dirty wash does not need to be hanging out in public like this.”

Michael Florence said, whether Hudson had the authority to act unilaterally or not, access to attorneys from now on should be approved in advance by the full Board. Florence did not, however, offer a motion to put that process into effect.

“I have no problem with checks

and balances,” Laura Douglass said, “Especially in the hands of a Treasurer when a line item is over budget. . . What I have a problem with is that he [Hudson] made a policy decision and contacted our lawyers.”

She said Hudson seemed to be making unilateral decisions for the Board while condemning Truesdell for making unilateral decisions for the Board. “That smacks of hypocrisy,” she said. “It would have been better if he had contacted the other Board members . . . It’s just politicking. It’s ugly. And it’s inappropriate. We are inappropriate up here.” That brought a smattering of applause from the assembled landowners.

Randy Zielsdorf said Hudson made clear, when interviewed for an article on the SLLA/SLCC compromise printed in the August 2, 2007 edition of *The Times*,

that “you just wanted to sue the Club.” Even seeking a less-expensive declaratory judgment would have inevitably led to a high-priced appeal, he argued.

Recounting a meeting in which Attorney Stovall put the chance of prevailing in a suit at “fifty-percent, at best,” Zielsdorf said, “Once I heard that, there was no way I was going to sacrifice a dime’s worth of the Association’s money to pursue this.”

The debate on legal fees ended with no motion and no resolution save a statement from Truesdell that “As long as Hudson is on this Board and there is a question regarding the lawsuit with Hudson’s name on it, I am going to seek legal counsel.” The next day, Truesdell told Stovall and Jones via email that Hudson had exceeded his author-

(See “SLLA” p. 32)

Douglass to continue Rec. work

“I want to apologize to people who have supported me over the past year,” Seven Lakes Landowners [SLLA] Director Laura Douglass, who has announced that she will leave the Board after only one year in office, said in an interview with *The Times* on Thursday. Douglass told landowners who attended a Wednesday, January 16 Board Work Session that she would continue to be actively involved as a member of the SLLA Recreation Committee.

“I have high expectations of myself to complete goals to the best of my ability,” Douglass told *The Times*. “But I felt that my efforts were compromised by the on-going diversions created by non-recreation-related issues. I look forward to now being able to solely focus on recreational pro-

gramming as a committee member.”

She also praised the key role that Assistant Manager Chad Beane plays in the continuity of the SLLA Recreation programming.

“No matter who is the Recreation Chair,” Douglass said, “Seven Lakes is so fortunate to have Chad Beane coordinating and overseeing recreation programs. My family moved to this community because we were attracted to the immediate access to amenities and a quality recreation program. With Chad in place, that will continue, no matter who is in the Recreation seat on the Board.”


Douglass will continue to serve on the Board until the Annual Meeting in March.



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Cuts included fireworks, compliance officer

The Westside Board cut roughly \$110,000 out of its proposed expense budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 in a special meeting on January 11, but then withdrew those cuts in another special meeting on January 15.

As explained by President Jim Haggard during the Association's Tuesday, January 22 regular meeting, the reasons were both procedural and substantive. Most Board members believed they had approved a full budget — both revenue and expenses — on January 8, and no motion to rescind that vote was made on either January 11 or January 15.

In addition, the overriding concern of many Board members appeared to be reaching the point at which all Westsiders are paying the same annual dues — referred to as "parity." This may have been more important to Board members than the Finance Committee's goal of immediately beginning to build reserves.

The January budget cuts have officially vanished. They are not part of the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget cuts that the membership is being asked to approve. And Haggard has indicated that he, at least, would be cautious about implementing cuts to an expense budget approved by the full membership.

Here are the primary cuts that the Board discussed making during their January 11 special meeting:

- Eliminating the in-house security/compliance officer, for a reduction of \$26,100. Cutting \$1,000 from the \$5,000 line item for the lake compliance officer.
 - Eliminating the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, saving \$10,000. There was some talk among Board members that donation might be sought to attempt to mount the show.
 - In capital projects, eliminating the \$23,000 2,200 foot boundary fence that is to be installed between West Side Park and the truss plant and the McDonald property. Cutting by \$10,000 the \$25,000 budget for Phase II of the Lakeway Mall drainage project.
 - Cutting in half the budget for the yard waste transfer site, from \$23,000 to \$11,500, with the expectation that either hours of operation would be reduced or the program would be terminated mid-year.
 - Dropping the restriping of Longleaf Drive from the budget, saving \$20,000, and cutting the budget for stop signs from \$2,800 to \$1,800.
 - Cutting \$4,400 from the budget for Johnson Point, including cuts in recreation equipment, the playground, beach sand, dock repair, parking, and mowing.
 - Dropping \$8,000 from the Security budget that was to be used to pay for security cameras at Johnson Point.
 - Eliminating the fish stocking program for next year, saving \$2,000, and reducing the dam mowing budget from \$8,000 to \$7,000
 - Cutting maintenance of grounds, the mailhouse, and the boat storage lot from a total of \$24,000 to \$19,500.
 - Cutting \$7,000 out of the Westside Park budget, including \$2,000 for new pool umbrellas.
- In addition to the cuts, the Board found two opportunities to increase revenue:

- Doubling the mailbox rental fee, for a gain of \$7,500.
- Correcting the revenue from Johnson Point boat slips to add an additional slip, at \$600.

After the Board worked its way through these cuts and a few others, in the January 11 special meeting, Treasurer Kirst told her fellow Directors that the result would be a \$30,000 reduction in reserves, rather than the \$171,000 they were facing at the beginning of the meeting.

"I am thrilled, pleased, and excited that everyone has been willing to pull together to get it down as low as possible," she said.

"We will be making a strong statement that we do not condone continual taking from reserves . . . I think this has been a wonderful exercise and

I appreciate your input."

Compromise unravels

The January 11 budget cuts unraveled on January 15, in a special meeting that Kirst was unable to attend. Legal Director Hugh Beckwith, who had been able to attend the January 11 budget-cutting session, told Board members that their cuts had "run over" a budget approved by the Board on January 8 with out rescinding it.

Though Haggard and Kirst have both said they felt the January 8 decision dealt only with the revenue side of the budget, Beckwith quoted Kirst's comment at the conclusions of that meeting that the Board had "approved a budget with a \$180,000 deficit next year" and

(See "Budget" p. 23)

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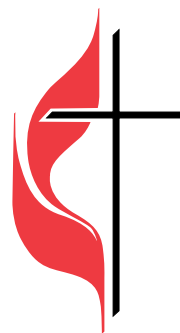
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Westside meeting

(Continued from front page)
major capital projects:

- The \$300,000 remediation of the Lake Auman Dam, to correct seepage problems caused by the deterioration of the dam's upper core.
- A \$23,000 boundary fence between the West Side Park area and the truss plant and McDonald property that back up to it.
- The \$25,000 Phase II of the Lakeway Mall Drainage project, which will carry improvements, landscaping, and beau-

tification down to and around the first pond.

"This is what you are voting on when you cast for or against the budget," Kirst said. "When you approve the budget you are saying to the Board that 'We like these projects.' When you vote you are voting on the whole package — the way the numbers are distributed in the budget."

A decrease in reserves

Increased operating expenses, combined with the capital projects, will cost more than the

projected income. Kirst said, resulting in a \$171,000 draw-down of SLWLA reserve accounts.

"We will be decreasing reserves again," Kirst told landowners. "Increasing reserves was one of my objectives when I became Treasurer," adding that she hopes that dues increase or assessments in future years will allow the Association to rebuild its reserves in order to pay for road repaving and other large expenses coming down the pike.

Later in the meeting, George

Jenner asked Kirst to compare the maximum size of Westside Reserves to the current level. Looking only at the period since the building of West Side Park, she said reserves totaled \$1,124,000 in 2004. At end of last year, they were \$1,013,000, a drop of roughly ten percent.

She noted that several states — North Carolina not among them — that require property owners associations to accumulate minimum reserve levels based on the value and expected life of their major assets. "We did have excellent reserves until a few years ago," Kirst added. Once West Side Park was built, operating expenses increased dramatically, reducing the funds that could be allocated to reserves. Though dues were hiked \$100 to help pay for West Side Park, that funded construction — not increased operating costs.

Jenner, former Chair of the Long Range Planning Commit-

tee, was clearly unhappy with the anticipated reduction in reserves. "When are we ever going to start building the reserves?" he asked. "What kind of a Board do we have if they aren't willing to stand up and take the guff for saying that we need to build reserves and we have to increase dues to do it?"

President Jim Haggard told Jenner he thought the finance committee had done a good job developing a revenue option that would have built reserves — the 20/12 option, which would have increase Seven Lakes West and Morgan Wood dues by 20 percent while sticking to the 12 percent for Beacon Ridge and Pinnacle. That option would have extended the length of time required to reach dues parity among the Westside neighborhoods.

"They tried to optimize what would go into reserves," Haggard said. "But within the Board

(See "Westside," p. 24)

Budget cuts

(Continued from page 22)

noted that the Board left the January 8 meeting with no additional budget meeting on the calendar.

The Board's action on January 11 "showed a low respect for a binding vote of the directors who approved the budget," Beckwith said, adding "how does \$139,000 in expenses go from inviolable to 'let's just slash and burn'?"

After considerable discussion, the Board members present appeared to agree with Beckwith that the January 8 was for a complete budget and not simply for the revenue side. And no Director offered a motion to rescind that vote in order to substitute a budget that included the cuts made on January 11.


Director Ray MacKay proposed leaving the January 8

budget in place, but leaving documentation of the proposed cuts as a guide for the incoming Board.

"What you are saying is don't enact these spending cuts and use them as guidance for the new Board," Beckwith said, clarifying.

MacKay agreed, but Haggard said, "If the community goes

out and votes for the budget as approved, then I expect that is pretty much what will be spent." That thinking was echoed in his response to landowner question about the budget cuts during the January 22 general meeting of the Association.




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Westside meeting

(Continued from page 23)

there were different viewpoints on fairness — and parity is all wrapped around that issue of fairness . . . It was more important to the Board that this association reach parity, so that everyone pays the same going forward. That was more important in the near term. That's just my observation: fairness is the dominant issue at this point in time."

Landowner Jim Palmer noted that the drawdown of reserves is principally the result of the one-time expense for dam remediation.

"If you take out the dam, then you would be putting money into the reserves," he said, "which means that next year we will be putting money in the reserves."

Disappearing budget cuts

Two other landowners wanted to know why the budget Kirst presented didn't include \$110,000 in budget cuts that they had heard about.

"Understand you had identified \$110,000 worth of budget cuts done with a minimum of agony and distress. Why forego those cuts?" one asked.

Haggard explained that the Board met on January 8 to look at several different revenue options, including the 20/12 option, a 12/12 compromise, the 'do nothing' option that was ultimately approved, and two others. In the materials prepared by the finance committee for the meeting, each of those options was paired with the same expense budget — one the committee had developed for its 20/12 revenue option.

When the Board voted on January 8 to approve the "do nothing" option, Haggard said, he

believed that vote concerned only the revenue side of the budget. So he called a special meeting on January 11 to look at the possibility of cutting the expense side of the budget. The Board members who were able to attend identified \$110,000 in cuts and left with the expectation that those cuts would be reflected in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget.

Subsequently, Haggard, said he heard objections that the January 11 cuts had superceded a full budget approved on January 8. So Haggard called yet another budget meeting, on January 15, to sort out the matter.

"Taking a poll of the Board members," Haggard said, "the conclusion was that on January 8 we passed a budget that included both revenue and expenses. Any action on the eleventh — where the budget cuts were agreed to — was illegal because we did not rescind the vote on January 8."

"You are telling me it is a technicality," the landowner responded. "What are we going to do about implementing those \$110,000 of budget cuts?"

"We're not going to do any-

thing about it," Haggard replied. "No motion was made [on January 15] to rescind [the budget approved on January 8]. So the budget submitted on January 31 to the membership will be the 'do nothing' revenue option and the expenses attached to that. There was no motion to rescind. The budget must stand as it is."

"If people on the Board have identified areas they can cut, will they cut them?" the questioner asked.

"The budget is set," Haggard replied. "The budget package is going to go out to the membership. When the membership approves that budget — and I don't expect them to refuse a budget that gives them no dues increase — I would not be comfortable going in and making changes to the budget they have approved."

"From a homeowners standpoint," the questioner replied, "if I know that the Board could cut \$110,000 rather than take money out of reserves, why would I approve the budget? I would vote against approving it."

Jenner asked what happens if the budget is turned down —

and suggested that the Board has the right, under the Bylaws, to rework and then implement a revised budget without approval by the landowners. Haggard said he would have to study the language in the legal documents before commenting.

A second landowner asked what the proposed expense cuts were, but Haggard did not elaborate.

"The expense side came in with 20/12 expenses and we picked the 'do nothing' revenue side of things," Haggard said. "And then we were stuck. There was no motion to rescind. The budget was settled. It goes to the membership. If the membership approves, then we would tend to be duty bound to implement that budget as the community approved it."

"Sure there could be reduc-

tions," he added. "There was a reason and rationale for while we did those cuts, but that was in error. After the budget is approved, I don't think that we can do the same thing that we did because the people have approved the budget."

"There must still be money in there that could be cut," the second questioner responded, "and I hope the Board will take those into account in its work next year."

"The January 11 meeting was a shining moment for the Board," Haggard replied. "They were trying to do something good. There may be adjustments possible down the road, but it won't be that kind of moment."

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Reopening Auman Dam road could be pricey

While the budget and its missing expense cuts generated most of the conversation at the Tuesday, January 22 General Meeting of the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association, the agenda also included dam repairs and goose control.

Mary Ann Fewkes reported that two options for the remediation of Lake Auman Dam had been selected from a list of ten possible strategies, with the Vibrating Beam Slurry Wall Cut-off System the strategy of choice. Both it and a second option will be designed by Marks Engineering and presented to state officials for approval. [See the January 11 Seven Lakes Times for more information on the decision-making process and the options.]

Fewkes said she had recently received a flurry of emails asking whether it will be possible to reopen the road across Lake Auman Dam once the repairs are complete.

"If we were to open the road over the dam," Fewkes said, "we would be opening ourselves up for more repairs, year after year." She explained that traffic over the dam creates vibrations within the structure, and those vibrations amount to wear-and-tear.

"A well-used building requires more maintenance," Fewkes said. "We now have a dam remediation process that will cost \$240,000 to \$300,000. That work should last 50 years. If we look at opening up the road,

then we will be looking at additional expense in a few years."

Fewkes noted that the Association's dam engineer, Dan Marks, has recommended closing the road permanently.

The dam is in very, very good shape," Fewkes said. "We are not dealing with an emergency, but trying to be proactive." She said state officials had complimented the community for its proactive approach to dam maintenance.

"We are doing the best we can," she added. "It's the fact that we are listening to the experts and are following what the experts are telling us to do."

Canada Goose control

This coming Spring, the Association plans to begin efforts to control the number of Canada Geese resident in Seven Lakes West by "addling" their eggs. Eggs can be shaken or coated with oil to prevent hatching and then replaced in the nest. A permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service is required.

To help landowners understand the options for goose control, President Jim Haggard invited Agricultural Extension Agent Taylor Williams to provide a presentation on the topic during Tuesday night's meeting.

Williams said the population of Canada Geese was once in severe decline, but conservation efforts have reversed that situation. As populations have

recovered, increasing numbers of the normally migratory animals have taken up year-round residence in Moore County.

Other Business

In other business,

- President Haggard announced that an anonymous donor had contributed 150 bales of pine-straw for the Lakeway Mall beautification efforts spearheaded by Betty and Ronnie Milligan.
- Haggard said he had persuaded Vern back to again take on the task of maintain-

ing the information board inside the front gate. "I think you will agree that it is much improved over what we have had in the past," Haggard said.

- The Annual Meeting packet is a the printers and will be mailed a month's end. Haggard thanked Betsy Mikula, Patti Cleary, and twenty-three Area Rep volunteers for their help in preparing the mailing and stuffing envelopes.
- The Community Emergency Response Team [CERT] program will start on January 28 and involve nine weeks of

training. Twenty-three volunteers will be taking the course. Others interested should contact Terry Riddle to see if additional spaces are available.

- Haggard said he and Infrastructure Director Ray Mackay, along with Long Range Planning Co-Chairs Bud Sales and Roger Brooke, had attended a meeting in West End regarding the railroad crossing project that is expected to upgrade the crossing at Lakeway Drive and NC Highway 211. The project appears to be moving forward, slowly.

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Snow, snow, snow ... Way down in Carolina

"Yes, Lindsay, it really does snow in North Carolina," I would assure my daughter as I showed her an old photograph as proof. Bundled to the point of immobilization, her two-year old wonder-filled eyes are the only visible clue to her identity.

So it was with great anticipation that she and her brother went to bed this past Friday night. Not dreaming of sugar plums and Santa's sleigh, but of glistening snowflakes, sleds, and snowmen.

This morning with only small frosty islands of white still dotting my yard, it is the icy stare of our deck-bound snowman that captures my imagination.

Lumpy, slushy, and diminutive, he sports a miniature car-

rot nose with eyes and mouth defined by seashells collected on far warmer days from along the Myrtle shore.

Unlike our kids, Darling Hubby and I enjoyed plenty of frozen entertainment in our youth, though my few years spent in the



Laura's Learning Curve

Laura Douglass

Great White North pale in comparison to his two-decades north of the Adirondacks.

Recently a new acquaintance

remarked upon my accent which is, to be fair, a muddled mess of regional inflections. After umpteen years of sharing breathing space with Jim, I have picked up plenty of his Upstate, upcountry upspeak. This of course clashes horribly with my native Baltimorean drawl:

Maryland's motto "Who you callin' a Y a n k e e, hon?"

Add in my n a t u r a l female inclination to

form questions out of statements and a smattering of slang picked up from around the world courtesy of the U.S. Air Force, and the

end result is a bit off-kilter – something akin to a Southern belle wearing foam rollers under a ski tuk.

Thankfully, the written word is far less revealing of my jumbled jargon. Here my words can flow with an ease unknown to my real world self. It's a bit like how that witty little voice in our head is always blocked at the exit door by our surly bouncer tongue.

In time-honored tradition, I have been doing my best to teach my children how to effectively communicate with others despite the obstacle of their

school-aged vocabulary and budding Carolina accents.

After five years of residence, even I have found myself using those dreaded M words, as in "Is that ma coat?" for my, and "Just mash the button," rather than hit, or press, or any one of many other more apt descriptions for that action.

Most telling of my time spent in the South, however, is how I now find myself pronouncing snow as a two-syllable word rather than one.

"Yes, Lindsay, it really does 's-now' in North Carolina!"

School disbands ballfield group

Dear Editor:

In November, the newly formed West End Elementary Ballfield Committee was disbanded as directed by the school principal.

The committee was preparing to purchase several improvements for the renovated baseball field using money that had been raised for the field through sales of advertising signs along the outfield fence.

Recommended improvements included a badly needed roll-up counter shutter for the concession building, a new set of safer bleachers, picnic tables, and several organizational items for the dugouts to help the teams.

Although the money was raised through contributions from local businesses with the written understanding that it would be used for field upkeep and maintenance, it has now been decided by the school principal that these funds should also be used for other purposes at the school. It was also determined that school staff will take care of future field operations and that my help and the help of the committee are no longer needed.

Over the past two and half years, I have enjoyed volun-

teering at the field and improving a previously neglected community resource. The ballfield is used not only by West End Elementary students but also by Moore County league teams and community groups and organizations.

With the support of our local businesses, funds and donations were used to completely renovate the concessions building, purchase and install a new scoreboard, a drinking fountain, re-tiling the infield, and replace most of the advertising signs. Currently there is a balance of \$6,815 of available funds in the ballfield account.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the local businesses that have purchased a sign and to the committee members who were never able to perform the work they had graciously volunteered to perform. Your enthusiasm was inspiring. Imagine what we could have done together.

Anyone with future ballfield needs, questions, or concerns should contact the West End Elementary school office.

I will truly miss working at the ballfield.

Sandi Burrell
Seven Lakes North

CCC asks Truesdell to resign

Dear Editor:

On December 17, over a month ago all six of those who served with Don Truesdell on the Concerned Citizens Council [CCC] e-mailed our former associate as follows:

**Mr. Donald P. Truesdell,
President, SLLA**
Don,

The Concerned Citizens Council [CCC] and those who comprised it and worked with you in days gone by, have deep concerns. So much so that we now

wonder if for the health of the community as well as for yourself, it isn't time for you to step down as President of our Board of Directors and resign from the board itself.

The SLLA Open Meeting on December 12 must have persuaded you that this community of ours is fractured beyond belief, that the board is more divisive than ever, and that there is very little chance that this situation will improve under your leadership. Any further exacerbation is intolerable and yet inevitable if

allowed to fester for three more months. We wish that we were wrong, but to us at least, it seems that your resignation is the only answer.

Regretfully,
The CCC

Ron Erskine, Jim Allen, Dave Davies, Jim Gunderson, Charlie Oliver, Howie Pierce

Not one of us received a response to this letter. Despite this, it was our hope that subsequent meetings might offer some improvement. Such has not been the case and the board's Work Session on January 16 confirmed our worst fears.

"Dysfunctional" is the word most commonly used to describe our current Board of Directors and its leadership, but we can think of others.

For this reason and for the benefit of the community and all within it, we unanimously urge our President to tender his resignation, not next year, next month or next week, but now!

The CCC

Ron Erskine, Jim Allen, Dave Davies, Jim Gunderson, Charlie Oliver, Howie Pierce

SEVEN LAKES TIMES

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Former Director recommends Silberhorn

Dear Editor:

I want to take the opportunity to make a few comments in support of one of the SLWLA Board

candidates running this year with one of the most important open positions, Legal Affairs Chairman. First of all, I am a

former elected full-term board member of the SLWLA Board and know firsthand what it takes to be an elected board member, the amount of required time, the demands, and the high level of commitment required. I believe this candidate has an understanding of these items.

I am speaking of Ed Silberhorn. I first met Ed when he and his wife Diane hired me to complete a home inspection of their proposed new home in Seven Lakes West in early 2005. Over the next few years, we had very little personal contact but Ed himself was very busy getting involved in the workings of our community. His many community involvements include serving as board appointed Community Advocate, member and current Treasurer of our Sailing Club, has participated in the Seven Lakes Forum, and now is working with our Lake Director to help conduct a Lake Auman

water usage study.

The people of SLWLA now have an opportunity to elect someone with the educational background, legal experience, and most importantly, the strong desire to volunteer and serve our community members. With the retirement of our current Legal Affairs Chair, it would be in our best interest to have someone like Ed Silberhorn elected and available to fill the Legal Affairs position.

Recently, I have had the firsthand opportunity to discuss his candidacy and what he brings to our community. In our informal discussion, I discovered that for several years Ed had represented a municipality as its attorney, and had represented several

homeowner boards and condominium associations as part of his legal practice. This background experience would be invaluable to help guide the decisions of our Board of Directors.

I commend our nominating committee for selecting Ed as a candidate and Ed's strong desire to serve our community. Now we as association members have a job to do and vote for Ed Silberhorn.

Bob Williams
Seven Lakes West

Friendship

The sixteenth century creator of the modern essay, Michel de Montaigne, in his philosophical views on friendship said some things that seem just as true today.

He described his writings as "monstrosities and grotesques botched together from a vari-

ety of limbs having no defined shape, with an order, sequence, and proportion which are purely fortuitous." Nevertheless, his observations on friendship were acutely pertinent and universally appreciated.

Having a particularly strong feeling for a friend, I now realize, should be temperate, warm, at rest, gentle, and never sharp or overbearing.

In some ways, I have failed to hold up under the scrutiny of that definition. It's the overbearing part that I'm most guilty of. My weak defense of it is that things of the heart are often strangely uncontrollable. Nearly impossible to reign in. Perhaps that's why they're so intriguing.

The mysteries of affection

seem to exert a hold at every tick of the clock. And I'm the prisoner.

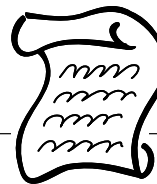
It's certainly true: one of the most difficult tasks in life is to understand the nature of humanity.



Mason's Musings

Mason Gould

Letters to the Editor



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Resident-to-be likes Shepard, Kuhn, & Silberhorn

Dear Editor:

Although I live many miles from Seven Lakes West now, in a few years I hope to live the dream of calling it home. Therefore, through the excellent coverage of *The Seven Lakes Times*, I read carefully all the happenings in the Seven Lakes Community, especially SLWLA Board news.

The year has disappeared quickly and we find ourselves again looking at SLW Board candidates, their resumes, and what they can offer the community. Soon the ballots will be mailed and decisions will need to be made.

From what I have been read-

ing in the minutes, comments from friends in Seven Lakes West, and my own conclusions, the present Board is doing a commendable job of decision making and looking out for the general welfare of our community.

Certainly, we want this to continue and from what I hear about the candidates who are volunteering their services, we as property owners are fortunate.

This year I would like to feel that I am doing my part, not only with voting but by sharing my endorsements. After reading the resumes of each candidate my thoughts are as follows:

Ron Shepard: Strong volun-

teer in the community, Strong business knowledge, and experience with architectural boards

Dr. Lionel Kuhn: Love of Seven Lakes since late 70's. Practiced dentistry in community since 1990, has knowledge of board coming from past service, expresses concerns with security, finances, and property values in Seven Lakes West

Ed Silberhorn: Legal, this candidate is an attorney. Legal services are expensive and with his knowledge serving as a town attorney, this man is desperately needed on the SLW Board

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts. Seven Lakes West is a very special place

and as a property owner, I want to thank all the candidates who are offering their time, expertise, and service.

John Michael Vai
Seven Lakes West
Chadds Ford, PA

Westside for Silberhorn

Dear Editor:

For thirteen years we have watched the Westside grow and prosper and believe it is due to the talents of our boards, past and present, and the many "worker bees" of whom there are too many to mention.

We feel strongly that our community can continue this success by electing Ed Silberhorn to the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board of Directors. He was a practicing attorney for over thirty years before retiring here in 2005 and is currently teaching law and business part-time at Sandhills Community College when he is not sailing or playing golf.

In addition to his commercial law practice, Ed's expertise is highlighted by years of experience as a town attorney and he also represented various homeowner and community associations during his career.

As a personal friend, we know Ed Silberhorn to be conscientious and dependable. He is currently Community Advocate for the Board. He will provide sound advice and steady leadership should the community see fit to elect him as their Legal Affairs Director. He volunteered to run to fill the void left when the current Legal Affairs Director decided not to seek re-election and Ed would help assure a smooth transition in that vital Board slot.

Bob and Carole Skau
Seven Lakes West

About your endorsements

The Times is always happy to have your letters to the editor, and we're pleased to see that there is already such a strong interest in the candidates for the Westside Board.

You'll find seven letters of endorsement in this issue — and we haven't even gotten to candidates' night. In order to ensure that we can carry as many of these letters as possible, we'd like to ask that you limit the length of endorsement letters to 200 words or less.

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TROUBLE GETTING MOTIVATED?

Dear Bobbie,

"I could use some help. I am very lazy to exercise . . . but I do walk weekly with a friend at the mall or park. My resolution this year is to eat more vegetables . . . doing good at that. (At least 5 a day) I could lose about 20-30 lbs. My belly is 30 inches...my initial goal for the year is to get to 27 inches . . . from Dr. Oz (You On A Diet . . . reduce the omentum). My two young sons (18 months and 3) drain me . . . hope you can help?"

— Friend

Dear Friend,

First of all, know that you are not alone. Many people find themselves lazy when it comes to exercise. It sounds like the weekly walk in the park is a form of movement you enjoy and are able to stick to. When it comes to exercise, finding a form of movement you enjoy and identifying your preference of exercising alone or in a group is important to maintain adherence to a regular program.

Would it be possible for you and your friend (or even a different friend) to try walking together twice a week? The ideal is to work towards 30 minutes of movement daily.

Kudos on the vegetables, at least five a day is great and increasing your intake of greens would be even better. Green vegetables are the foods most missing in modern diets. Greens help build your internal rain forest and strengthen the blood and respiratory systems.

In Asian medicine, green is related to the liver, emotional stability and creativity. Nutritionally, greens are very high in calcium, magnesium, iron, potassium, phosphorous, zinc and vitamins A, C, E and K. They are crammed with fiber, folic acid, chlorophyll and many other micronutrients and phyto-chemicals.

Some of the benefits from eating dark leafy greens are: blood purification, cancer prevention, improved circulation, strengthened immune system, promotion of healthy intestinal flora, promotion of subtle, light, and flexible energy, lifted spirit

and elimination of depression, improved liver, gall bladder and kidney function, cleared congestion, especially in lungs by reducing mucus.

You are correct in terms of losing weight. Repeated studies do show that the better predictor in determining health risk is waist not weight. The ideal waist size is your height/2, and remember to measure above the belly button.

Finding times for self-care is extremely important, especially for a mother of young ones.

Nourishing yourself with movement, a healthy diet, and the support of maintaining healthy social relationships is a great start which will fill you with the energy you need for yourself and your family.

Finally I want to ask you: Why be healthy? Suppose you got the results of having a better body or more energy each day? What would you then want to accomplish for yourself? I encourage you to write down two or three things on a note card and when you lose the motivation to make a healthy choice pull that card out to reinforce to you why you should make the healthy choice and what being healthy would allow you to do.

Remember health is a vehicle not a destination.

Hope this helps!

—Bobbie Miller
Holistic Health Counselor

Vitality shows in not only the ability to persist but the ability to start over.

— F. Scott Fitzgerald

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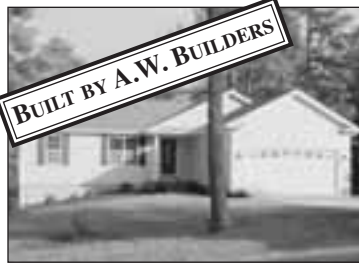
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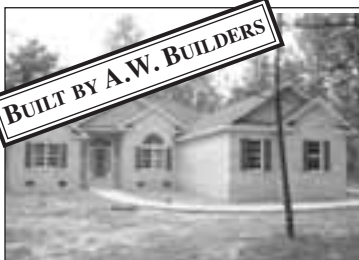
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Milligans recommend Silberhorn for Board

Dear Editor:

Board candidates for Seven Lakes West have been interviewed and board approved, their biographies have been submitted, and now, as property owners, we have an opportunity to vote for three candidates of our choice. Researching, digesting, and then voting for the very best candidates is a task that is

an important responsibility of each one of us who owns property in Seven Lakes West.

This year's slate of candidates is an impressive one – all sharing well-qualified backgrounds which will create a win-win situation for us here on the West-side.

Three Directors will be leaving the Seven Lakes West Board,

one of which has been the Legal Affairs Director. However, in my husband's and my opinion, SLW is very fortunate to have a very strong, highly qualified candidate who can smoothly step into the position and be a tremendous asset to the board and our community.

Ed Silberhorn is a candidate who fits the mold perfectly.

Because of his professional legal background, he will be able to carry out effectively and efficiently the legal duties of our strong board. Please allow me to highlight parts of his biography:

- Most important — Municipal (town) attorney for over ten years
- Attorney for various community associations
- Attorney for homeowners and condominiums boards
- Now teaches [part-time] Law and Business at Sandhills Community College
- SLW Board's Community Advocate
- Seven Lakes Forum participant
- Assisted with current Lake

Auman Water Usage Study Since Ronnie and I have known Ed, we have found him to be a person of high integrity, dignity, listens well, and certainly has a love for his Community. This has been shown by Ed's "stepping up to the plate" many times when having been asked to volunteer his services for numerous projects.

Please join us by casting one of your votes for Ed Silberhorn as one of the SLW Board of Directors. His expertise as an attorney will definitely be an asset to the board and certainly to our community.

Betty Milligan
Seven Lakes West

Another vote for Silberhorn

Dear Editor:

Seventeen years ago my husband and I came to Seven Lakes and purchased a lot on Lake Auman. After at least two rolls of pictures, not only of the lake that was not even close to being half full, but of the many Longleaf pines on the lot, we returned to our home in Northport, NY.

We couldn't wait to tell and show our family and friends about our newly selected home site in North Carolina.

The children looked at the pictures we so enthusiastically took and said, "You're moving from here to that?!"

Well, that has turned out to be our finest move. The children now refer to our place as "Camp Gustafson," and we have a daughter and three grandchildren living right around the corner from us.

The vision and dedication of former Board members has provided a superb community for all residents. The future also depends on dedicated and competent men and women serving us.

Ed Silberhorn is just that kind of person and we are pleased he is a candidate for the Seven Lakes West Landowners Association Board.

He is currently serving as Community Advocate for the SLWLA Board, is an active participant in the Seven Lakes Forum, and is Treasurer of the Seven Lakes Sailing Club. Now retired, Ed also teaches Law and Business part-time at Sandhills Community College. During

his thirty plus year career he had extensive municipal law experience and represented many homeowner and community associations which only accentuates his ability to serve as our Legal Affairs Director.

I feel the Board would greatly benefit by having this fine gentleman join with them to help keep our community thriving. I urge you to vote for him.

Janet Gustafson
Seven Lakes West



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By SANDY STEWART

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Shepard has the skills a Director needs

Dear Editor:

I have been most impressed with the board members over the past year and am very encouraged by the list of nominees for the new slate of board members. Kudos to the nominating committee.

Of the candidates currently up for election in Seven Lakes West, I would like to recommend Ron Shepard as a most viable candidate for the board. Ron has a strong background in management on a large corporate level and in his own small busi-

ness. He has used these skills as a volunteer in the communities where he has resided.

He was involved in building major playgrounds at the local elementary school and the town park in his home town in New York, managed and chaperoned the middle school and high school district ski club in Bedford,

NY for six years, and organized a 5K and 10 K road race fundraiser for his local church.

In fact, one of his strong characteristics is his ability to steer a project to completion.

There are many who like to dream up ideas but few who can actually get it done. Ron is the one who gets the job done.

We need action-oriented people like Ron on the board. With Ron you also get someone who is creative, astute, and analytical. Take a look at Ron. His goal is to work hard for the best interests of the Seven Lakes West Community.

*Bob and Jennifer Forsman
Seven Lakes West*

Workmans support Shepard for Board

Dear Editor:

The upcoming election for the SLWLA Board of Directors is of utmost importance. There is an impressive slate of nominees this year and we are grateful that such qualified individuals are willing to give of their time to insure that our community continues to be a wonderful place to live.

We would like to express our support for Ron Shepard for a position on that board. Ron is a vigorous, friendly, optimistic person. In just three short years he has demonstrated his com-

mitment to the community by his hands-on participation in many worthwhile projects which contribute to maintaining the good life we all enjoy at Seven Lakes.

Directing our community through the challenges we are now facing will require positive-thinking people who are willing and have the time to become personally involved. Ron Shepard's high energy and can-do attitude would be a great asset to this board.

*Nancy and Ron Workman
Seven Lakes West*



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SLLA: Missing minutes?

(Continued from page 21)

ity as Treasurer and "It will be business as usual."

Missing Minutes?

During the debate over legal fees, Hudson asserted, as he has done before, that the Board had voted twice, unanimously, against compromising with the Club on the residential development of the driving range. Truesdell, on the other hand, pointed to a May 30 six-to-one vote in which the Board members decided not to sue the Club.

Referring to this exchange, Zielsdorf said he had been unable to find in the SLLA files of the May 30 Closed Session. Minutes of eight to ten other Closed Meetings also appear to be missing, he said.

"Michael, you are the Secretary," Zielsdorf asked Florence, "have you been taking minutes in the closed sessions?" Florence suggested that a member of the SLLA staff may have taken minutes in some of those sessions.

Ed Nuti picked up the questioning of Florence. Noting he had also gone looking for Closed Session minutes, Nuti said "There are exactly six missing out of the ten we have held this year, and nine out of fifteen over two years. That is a pretty serious omission on the part of the Secretary. We can't go back and see who voted how. I feel you owe us some explanation."

Florence, however, provided no explanation during the meeting.

Truesdell's Expenses

In his letter published in the January 11 edition of The Times, Hudson questioned an emailed request from Truesdell to then SLLA bookkeeper Vicki Strider to be reimbursed for a \$40 lunch at Seven Lakes Country Club attended by Truesdell, Nuti, and Fulcher.

Truesdell responded in the Wednesday Night Work Session with a full accounting of all the reimbursements he had requested from the Association — most of which involved travel expenses incurred when consulting attorneys in Raleigh and Winston-Salem. Truesdell said all the expenses were justified and made no apology for requesting reimbursement.

The specific \$40 meal charge, he said, was incurred on the day that he, Nuti, and Fulcher received notice of the suit filed by Hudson, Alan Shaw, and others against the Association and

the Club. "I had never been a defendant in a lawsuit before. I wanted to talk to Dalton about what to expect."

Polling the Board to see if they supported his claiming of the expense, Truesdell found support only from Nuti and Zielsdorf, with the others indicating the meeting could have been held in the Conference Room. Truesdell promised to repay the \$40.

Once Truesdell had finished his list of expenses, Hudson asked why he had failed to list a \$91 tab for dinner with the two Raleigh attorney's hired by the SLLA's insurance company to defend the Association. The tab included a very large tip, Hudson said.

Truesdell said that was Fulcher's expense, and Fulcher explained that the attorneys worked through the entire day on the Association's behalf and were scheduled to attend an SLLA meeting that evening. They

continued to work through dinner.

Truesdell then read aloud an email from Hudson to his fellow Board members, alerting them to his discovery of Truesdell's requests for reimbursement and suggesting that they might constitute misappropriation of funds and a possible felony. [See box at below.] Hudson's email said he based this conclusion after discussing the matter with a Moore County Sheriff's detective and a magistrate.

Truesdell warned Hudson, "This borders on libel. I would suggest to Mr. Hudson that he tread very carefully."

Drainage project questioned

Florence questioned the use of Association funds and personnel to install a stormwater drain to control runoff on a property on Devonshire Drive owned by Lakeview Construction.

Fulcher provided the Board with a copy of a policy adopted by the Board in 1990 that spells out the circumstances in which the Association has a responsibility to correct drainage problems. He explained that repaving being done in the late 1980s and early 1990s involved installing curbing which, in some cases, diverted runoff onto private lots. The Board's 1990 policy accept-

(See "SLLA," p. 33)

Hudson email to SLLA Board

SLLA President Don Truesdell provided The Times with the following email from Treasurer Steve Hudson to his fellow directors and asked that we publish it in this edition.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I must inform only board members at this time of some entertainment receipts I have found. These concern Mr.'s Nuti, Truesdell, and Fulcher.

After some consideration on my part, a Mr. Wagoner who is a magistrate in Carthage and Lieutenant Myrick who is a detective with the Moore County Sheriffs Department, were contacted.

In their opinion, these expenditures could constitute a misappropriation of funds and credit card fraud. Both of these men said that felony charges could be brought. For your information, a felony is the most serious of criminal charges.

Steve Hudson, Treasurer SLLA



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SLLA: Roads or dams?

(Continued from page 32)

ed responsibility for correcting drainage issues created by the curbing.

Director Stephan questioned the estimated cost of the project on Devonshire, which Fulcher had put at \$1,900 in time and materials. Stephan said that didn't reflect the use of association equipment, and Fulcher agreed that those costs should be included.

"I don't disagree that these policies need to be looked at again," Fulcher said. "There are going to be a few more of these coming up. The lots that are about to be built on are some of the less desirable lots, so it will be coming up in the future."

President Truesdell then said he thought the drainage work on the Devonshire lot "was a non-issue" until Alan Shaw sent an email to the Board complaining.

"Alan Shaw is not a dues-paying member of the Association," Truesdell added. "I just wonder if we have another Shaw mouthpiece on the Board."

Stephan asked if Truesdell knew why Shaw was exempted for paying Landowners dues on his Southside home.

"In 1992 the Landowners Board executed an agreement with Mr. Shaw," Truesdell replied. "I am having that checked out. If we find out it is not enforceable we are going to have a talk with Mr. Shaw."

Infrastructure

Director Stephan said she felt "routine maintenance of our community should be planned in advance. And I have seen nothing."

"Let's prioritize what needs to be done," she added. Our roads are in terrible shape — this is ridiculous."

While agreeing that it is important to prioritize infrastructure needs, Director Nuti, who is in charge of Maintenance, disagreed with her assessment of the condition of the roads.

Noting that the Board had asked Frank Horan, who has experience in the field, take a look at the roads last year, Nuti said "Our roads are in surprisingly good condition."

Both Nuti and Truesdell said sealing road surface cracks with a sealant, while unattractive,

had added life to the roads. Truesdell brought up an idea that his fellow Board members have been cool to in the past: hiring a Raleigh consulting firm to produce a comprehensive assessment of SLLA roadways, prioritizing needed repairs.

Truesdell said road repairs may have to get in line behind maintenance to the community's dams. Estimating that repaving the SLLA's twelve miles of main roads could cost \$840,000, Truesdell said, "I don't feel comfortable in trying to tackle roads until we know more about what is needed on the dams. Some of the seepage issues could result in state-mandated repairs. Until we get a handle on what we need to do with the dams, I think we would be stretching our resources very, very thin."

"Seven Lakes has been around for more than thirty years, and we have no history as a community of saving money," Director Zielsdorf said.

Had the community saved just \$25,000 per year from the beginning and earned a modest interest rate, "that would have netted

us \$1.7 million," added. "If it becomes a priority, we will need to look at borrowing the money" to pay for roads."

Nominating Committee

Also during Wednesday's meeting, Donna Stephan offered an amendment to Bylaw 6.3, which deals with the nominating committee, that combined language that both she and Ed Nuti had worked on.

The Board recently removed Nuti as Chairman of this year's Nominating Committee because he failed to assemble a de facto committee as called for in the present bylaws.

The revision proposed by Nuti and Stephan says the Nominating Committee's search for candidates "will be guided by the specific needs of the community and seek nominees whose backgrounds best fulfill these needs."

Director Zielsdorf asked that additional modification be made to the Bylaw to require Board approval of the members of the Nominating Committee.

The Board is expected to return

to this amendment during its January 30 meeting.

Code of Ethics

Director Nuti commended to the consideration of the Board a proposed Code of Ethics that he had published in the January 11 edition of *The Times*.

"We can agree to disagree and we should do it cordially," Nuti said.

Producing several examples of Codes of Ethics culled from the internet, Florence suggested forming a committee to develop

the code after examining codes adopted by other associations.

New Boat Rules

Zielsdorf reported that he had received little feedback — though all of that positive — on proposed changes to the boat parking rules that he had introduced in a meeting late last year. The rules are aimed at reducing the visibility of boats parked at residences. Zielsdorf said he will ask the Board to approve the revised rules at its January 30 meeting.

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Seven Lakes Times
January 25, 2008

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Seven Lakes Times
January 25, 2008

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As a result of mortgage lenders looking for ways to reduce the time and costs of setting up mortgage loans, credit scores have found their way into the loan underwriting process.

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If your particulars fall within these guidelines, normally established by secondary market entities such as "Fannie Mae," "Freddie Mac," and "Ginnie Mae," your loan gets approved. However, in the process of applying for a mortgage loan, the detail-filled application of these guidelines is a time-consuming and often cumbersome process.

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